



**In this edition we
have a review of the
2016 session.**

Wester Hailes Education Centre News

HRH Duchess of Cambridge Visit

Lewis Paterson, Acting Principal, was delighted to welcome HRH the Duchess of Cambridge to Wester Hailes Education Centre on Wednesday 24th February to visit the Art Room studio. During her visit, HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, Patron of the Art Room, met Art Room students, practitioners, friends and supporters of The Art Room and members of the school and wider community.

Her Royal Highness said she was thrilled to be able to visit The Art Room. She was most impressed by all that she saw and was extremely touched by the warm welcome she received. Lewis Paterson said of this special occasion *“Wester Hailes Education Centre was extremely proud to welcome HRH The Duchess of Cambridge to mark the special partnership with The Art Room. For our students and the wider community, the visit was an important occasion to showcase the work we are engaged in to improve the lives of our young people and our endeavour to support students both in WHEC and in the wider community. Since The Art Room opened in 2014 we have seen the benefits the sessions have had for individual pupils. This has been achieved through the close working partnership with our Guidance Staff and Art Room practitioners”*.



At Wester Hailes Education Centre we believe it is important to celebrate the achievements and successes of our young people and staff. I hope you will enjoy reading this round-up of our many achievements and activities over the past session.

In taking over the role as acting Head Teacher my aim is to work with staff and students to enable them to realise their potential and to secure successful outcomes for all, regardless of ability or background. A wonderful positive ethos exists at all levels of the school, where students take on fresh challenges and responsibilities every day and truly thrive.

I value the opinions of our parents and carers and hope that we will continue to work together in partnership to further improve this excellent Centre.

‘Together we are succeeding’ - Lewis Paterson - Principal (acting)



Career Ready Programme

We are pleased to announce after two years of being involved in the Career Ready Programme a number of pupils graduated at Perth concert hall. Career Ready is a programme of study for 16-19 year olds, that sits alongside students' school course work. It is delivered by employer volunteers who provide master classes, mentoring, workplace visits and internships to help our students compete with the best in the country. Pupils have been working with a business mentor who has supported them throughout the 2 year course to increase their employability skills, well done to our fantastic students! We also like to thank our business supporters - Royal Bank Of Scotland, Lockheed Martin, Citi Banking, Scottish Water, Edinburgh City Council Creative Learning dept, Diaego and Student Awards Agency Scotland. Well done, you are now Career Ready!

Author, Lari Don visits the School Library

We were delighted to welcome back to Wester Hailes Education Centre, Scottish author and storyteller, Lari Don. Joining S1 students, from our Chapters Book Group, were our cluster Primary 7 pupils and their teachers. Lari delivered an extremely lively and interactive author session.

Pupils, from Clovenstone, Canal View and Sighthill primaries, shared fantastically, imaginative plot and character ideas! Lari stayed behind to chat with our S1 Chapters students, offering them advice on writing stories as well as signing postcards and books. This was an exceptionally positive event on which to break for the February holiday!



Rainforest animals visit WHEC

One of the natural regions that our S1 students have recently been studying is the rainforests of our world. Thanks to funding from WHEEA, we were able to host Zoolab into our classroom who brought a variety animals for our students to study. All S1 students were given the opportunity of handling the animals and learning more about their natural habitat and how they have adapted to it.

Edinburgh University Widening Participation Programme

Our S1 students, taking part in the Edinburgh University Widening Participation programme, joined students from Leith Academy and Liberton High School on a visit to the Scottish Parliament. After a brief tour of this fascinating and beautiful building, the students were tasked with creating a short "top go" animation to encourage young people to use their VOTE, participate in democracy. The students had the privilege of working in a superbly, equipped Committee Room, located on the top floor of the Parliament building, where the views were stunning.

The ten or so S1 students have only two more university, experience afternoons to complete - The Royal College of Surgeons and The Edinburgh University Vet School. Thanks to Dr Neil Speirs for organising the opportunity for students from these three schools to visit so many University Faculties and enabling the young people to get to work with and know each other better.





Cool Down Crew

A group of our students recently took part in a course called Cool Down Crew which was hosted and delivered by Liberton Fire Station. The students completed various exercises with the fire station staff and also explored risk taking behaviour and how to deal with the resulting situations. On completion of the day's successful training the students were commended for working well together and were presented with a Health and Safety certificate.



Show Jumping Success for Student

One of our S2 students Chelsea has written a report about her exciting equestrian hobby. Chelsea has three ponies all registered with the Edinburgh Pony Club and takes part in show jumping



events and competitions representing the school at national level. Chelsea recently qualified for the Pony Club National Dengie Finals to be held at Addington Manor Equestrian Centre, Buckinghamshire on 2nd April which is a fantastic result and we wish her good luck!

"I am a 14yr old amateur equestrian. I currently have 3 horses which I regularly compete. One of my horses is called Zak, a 15.3hh show jumper. Another is Indie, a 14.2hh show jumper but is mainly used for Pony Club activities, and finally I have Joey, he is a 13hh show pony who is registered with the British Show Pony Society.

Zak is currently registered BSJA - The British Show Jumping Association and is a part of NSEA - The National Schools' Equestrian Association with the school. As the school is joined with the NSEA I get to represent WHEC in show jumping competitions.

On the 6th February we attended a show at Blue Ridge Equestrian Centre representing WHEC. This was where we were placed 1st in a class of 52 people!"



Senior Awards Ceremony

Our senior awards ceremony took place on the 24 March and we were very fortunate to have professional rugby player, Damien Hoyland as guest speaker.

Damien gave an inspirational talk encouraging students to believe in themselves and to aim high. Damien then presented the awards to year groups S4, S5 and S6.



Creative Cakes

Students in this year's creative cakes class produced a variety of designs; from cakes for a child's birthday, to superhero cakes and even one with a make-up theme. All 9 pupils completed a rich fruit cake, along with a planning booklet recording chosen decorating techniques. The standard of skills demonstrated, effort, commitment and creativity was excellent.

Well done, all!



Evelyn Pennycook Award

The Evelyn Pennycook award is given in memory of our late Youth Worker who worked tirelessly for the young people of Wester Hailes. The first recipient of this award is John Fairly who has worked with community education and citizenship in the school over the last 4 years. John has engaged in gardening projects, bike club, lunchtime youth clubs, over night exploration trips and sports clubs. He has been an excellent role model to others in the community spending much of his time helping others and is a worthy winner.

Blair Drummond Safari Park

As part outdoor learning in the Stirling area, all S1 students recently visited Blair Drummond Safari Park. It was a lovely sunny day for the visit and greatly enjoyed by all.



World Book Day 2016

World Book Day is a national charity that celebrates books and reading. Here at Wester Hailes Education Centre, we believe it is essential that our students are encouraged to read for pleasure. To celebrate this year's event, many of our students were keen to recommend books they have enjoyed as "good reads", to their friends, classmates and younger students across the school. World Book Day is celebrated across the UK on the first Thursday in March. All young people, below the age of 18, are entitled to receive a £1 book token to spend at a participating book shop. These shops can be found in Prince's Street, at the Gyle, the Fort or Cameron Toll Shopping Centres and in the Centre Livingston.



Battle of Bannockburn

S1 students were recently given the opportunity to visit the site of the Battle of Bannockburn. They were all warmly welcomed to the visitor centre by the staff and former WHEC student, Scott McMaster, who is the manager and the National Trust for Scotland's internal specialist on the Wars of Independence. Our students greatly enjoyed the 3D battle simulation, discussion of the tactics used and trying on armour and weaponry. A highlight for many was taking part in an interactive battle game led by the Battlemaster, which included a demonstration of how Scotland triumphed in 1314.



S1 Chapters Book Group

S1 Chapters book group visited the school library for a storytelling / pair and share reading session with our Rainbow Crèche toddlers. Our eager S1 students took their reading responsibilities very seriously as the Library became abuzz with groups of keen youngsters sharing the fun of nursery rhymes and story books!