

Welcome to you all here tonight, students, parents, councillors, staff and the wider community. When I look around I feel so proud to see our students who have worked so hard and have achieved so much. You deserve to feel proud tonight. This pride is not only shared with parents but also with staff.

I want to start off with a statistic that started me thinking about education. As we live longer we now are estimated to spend only 2 Per cent of our lives in school. A few of us here may be relieved that it is so short but the main message I feel is that we must make this short time a positive experience for all of our students. Education we all know is so important, Nelson Mandela states Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.

What is a positive experience in education? Yes it is about qualifications but it is more than this. In Scotland and in Drummond we want to provide the young people with skills that enable them to cope in an ever changing society. What are these skills? As CFE states skills for learning for life and skills for work and yes at Drummond these skills are and will continue to be embedded both in and out of the classroom.

Over the past year we have moved to a faculty structure and I would like to share with you not only some of the highlights in each of these curricular areas but the vision for next year, I believe that it is good to reflect back but in life and in education it is always important to look forward.

Science Highlights

Christmas X Carbon Compound competition

9 students achieved the John Muir Discovery award

Looking forward to delivering Environmental Science and including Pilrig Park pupils in this new and exciting course.

English

2 departments have been brought together, English and Modern Languages, who share a passion for the power of language and their ambition for ALL learners who pass through their doors.

Looking forward to building opportunities to work collaboratively, to develop the next generation of qualifications and to continue to be sector leading in Literacy across Learning.

Maths

Numeracy across learning continued to develop, we saw the very successful Pi day. We were all impressed with Mr Steels Pi T Shirt. And the excitement of hunting the Pi in the playground in PE. One of our adult learners commented to me that she wished Maths had been as much fun when she was at school. Looking forward we wish to continue to involve our learners in numeracy for life.

Expressive Arts

In Music we had our first Winter Warmer concert by BandWagon weekly mixed ensemble group. We are going to be lucky tonight to hear them play.

Group of S1 participated in Voice in a Million at the Playhouse. In Art 2 pupils accepted into Art College and fantastic Partnership working with SNIPEf where our pupils in S3 worked on Canvas to provide art work for their offices. Cont'd

Thank you to SNIPEf for their continued support and the lovely reception yesterday when the 8 pupils delivered their work to their offices. I was so proud of our young people and our dedicated staff and the superb high standard of Art work.

In Drama we are looking forward to the production of OLIVER next week. Our Vision for next year is to continue to develop individuals who are creative in every walk of life.

Social Subjects and RME

Highlights of the year

Edinburgh SI tour

Scotland the Game and the collaborative working with business education Great Scot competition. The moving remembrance day assembly led by senior pupils. Cont'd

Two senior pupils visiting Auschwitz and their assemblies to junior pupils on their return. Our first geography Field Trip to the Scottish parliament. Looking forward, the department are excited about delivering the new courses to our S3 students and preparing them for the new qualifications in the senior phase. We want to continue our partnership working and learning in and out of the classroom. Eg. Our senior Philosophy students will be attending a meet and greet with the Dali Lama in 2 weeks time.

Health and Well being

Healthy Today Happy tomorrow

Partnership working Edinburgh Leisure Active Schools. A very successful and entertaining cluster dance show. In the junior school there is a focus on pupils participating in the less traditional sports and using the wider community eg Portobello Beach and Inverleith Park Students have enjoyed these experiences and this is evidenced by the very high participation rates. Cont'd

Inter house continues to grow as does the participation in extra Curricular - Highlights include £1300 raised for Sport Relief, Staff versus pupil basketball for Children in Need and the Health and Well Being Transition event. In FCT we were part of the cluster technology event and pupils had a great time making their Olympic theme bag for life Skills for work. Hospitality courses continue to lead many pupils on to a positive destination and we were lucky to sample their food at the highly successful senior community event.

In Personal Social Education we saw the interdisciplinary delivery of the healthy steps project Partners such as Street work Fast word have delivered in PSE. S2 pupils have gained first aid certificates. Our seniors participated in the Youth Philanthropy Initiative. The winning team raising money for their chosen charity. Judges were so impressed by the quality that our winning team preformed to the other 22 secondary schools. Cont'd

Our new S5 have already started on this years YPI project. Looking forward HWB want to continue to have learners engaged in learning and in return select the correct options for a healthy lifestyle.

Technologies

Staff and students have worked together to develop new and dynamic learning experiences. We look forward to our new curriculum for excellence while raising awareness and skills in all areas of business and the technologies.

During this year at the pupils' suggestion we introduced a senior achievement tie. It is great to see our students, both junior and senior, wearing them with pride. Through our WAO we have seen great intergenerational work continue with Porthaven Care Home, Fairtrade going from strength to strength, students completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Citrus Saturday to name but a few.

Look forward this Sunday we have 30 girls participating in Race for Life for raising valuable money for Cancer Research. Please support our Pink Ladies by coming along and cheering us on this Sunday.

In all 7 curricular areas we see partnership working at its best and in turn this improves our learner's education. The school is the heart of a community and without students' parents and staff working together we cannot meet our learners' needs.

The parent council have continued to support the school and the recent race night raised £700 - thanks to all parents for their continued support. Since February we have had our own school based policeman for half a week - PC Greig Stephen has been a great asset and I refer to him as super cop. Again he has been overwhelmed by the support of students and parents

We have made great improvements over the last year and we will continue to do so over the sessions to come. I firmly believe that our job is to raise the bar for all of our learners. There is good analogy between attainment and a Flea jumping. A flea can jump 3 feet but put a lid on a jar and it will only jump inches. We must take that lid off the jar because we want all our young people to reach their full potential. I do believe our young people have the best opportunities provided by a dedicated staff. I thank all staff teaching and non teaching staff for this dedication over the past year.

Looking forward, I wish our leavers every success in life and please remember to stay in touch. I also wish those pupils returning an enjoyable and productive next session.

Just remember to let us all make the best of that 2 percent of our learners lives in education. I would like to finish with another inspirational quote from Nelson Mandela...It's not where you start but it is how high you aim that matters for success.