



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

July 2019

S3 Photography portfolio and introduction of Higher Photography

This year S3 pupils have been exploring both the creative and technical aspects of photography. They have developed their understanding of light, compositional rules and the visual elements, which equips them with the skills needed to take effective photographs. They have also been developing their ICT skills by exploring a range of editing techniques using an image manipulation programme and their own devices. To support their practical photography work, they have completed online visual research and have been introduced to the work of famous photographers.

"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera."

— Dorothea Lange



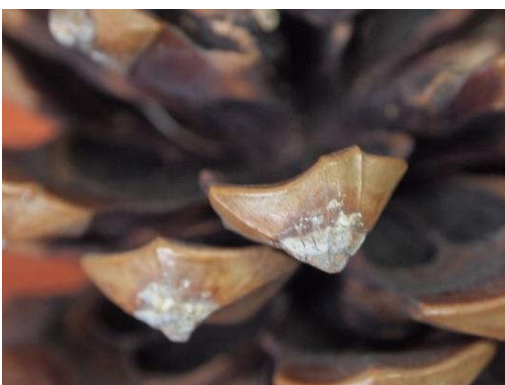
Tracy Graham, Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts, shared some of the beautiful photographs produced by S3 students. She is delighted to announce that the school will introduce Higher Photography as a new subject next year.



Follow on Twitter @FirrhillArts

This year we are excited to be presenting the Higher Photography course at Firrhill High School. This will be a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop their creative, technical and analytical skills. Pupils enrolled on the course will first develop basic camera techniques using digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras before planning and completing their own personal photography projects.

Well done to the S3 pupils who have worked hard to develop photography skills and created these images!



To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."

— Elliott Erwitt





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Outdoor Learning

Mr Boyd described the Outdoor Learning activities being completed by S2 pupils: "pupils have explored Craiglockhart Hill and local woodland and completed activities like river dipping, environmental art, poetry in the woods and more prosaic litter picks. They have successfully completed the John Muir Award whilst working with the Edinburgh Green Team where pupils took part in local tree planting."



Mr Boyd explained that, before going on an S3 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition, the pupils take part in an extensive training programme which includes map reading, navigation, first aid and emergency procedures. Pupils also learn how to pitch and care for a tent. S6 pupils completing their S6 Gold Duke of Edinburgh award prepared for the expedition element of the award. Mr Boyd said that the highlight was working with the Green Team at Penicuik House, cutting back and burning the rhododendrons.

S3/S6 Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Thanks to Firrhill teachers for organising outdoor learning. Well done to all pupils who took part!



Ellie Crisell
@EllieCrisell

Incredible young people - this is so moving. 🥳 Congratulations on your award Kira & all the other amazing Young Citizens 2019 @RotaryGBI #YoungCitizensAwards2019

Simon McCoy @BBCSimonMcCoy · 3d
Earlier I spoke to inspirational @RotaryGBI award winner Kira Noble, who told us her extraordinary story. Kira has faced the rare and aggressive cancer Neuroblastoma since she was just eleven-years-old. #AfternoonLive #R...



Simon McCoy
@BBCSimonMcCoy

Earlier I spoke to inspirational @RotaryGBI award winner Kira Noble, who told us her extraordinary story. Kira has faced the rare and aggressive cancer Neuroblastoma since she was just eleven-years-old. #AfternoonLive #RotaryYoungCitizen #PeopleOfAction



Rotary Young Citizen Award Winner

Kira Noble S5 recently won the Rotary Young Citizen Award and was interviewed on BBC television by Simon McCoy. Despite battling Neuroblastoma cancer, since she was 11, Kira, who is now 16 years old, has campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness and help others facing illness. She was given the award in recognition of her courage and the amazing compassion she has shown others, despite the challenges she continues to face herself. An amazing inspiration and achievement!



Well done Kira, for winning this award!



Aud Noble
@audnoble

So sorry that @Kiranoble3 and I couldn't join you all at the conference today for #RotaryYoungCitizen awards @EllieCrisell. Thank you for your kind words re Kira. Huge congratulations to all the incredible winners 🥳



ROTARY YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD 2019
Ceremony to be in Nottingham on Sunday, 12th May



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S3 Hockey Club



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On 13 May, a lovely sunny afternoon, pupils from the S3 Hockey Club met to train for 1½ hours, despite the season being finished, to stay at the top of their game! The Firrhill Hockey Club is a successful parent-run club which hires professional coaches and organises matches. Hockey is a great way to keep fit and learn new skills, and can also lead to participation in the school Sports Tour - a fun trip which combines sports, travel, competition, sightseeing and theme parks!

The Hockey Club is open to all year groups. For more information, please email Firrhillhockey1718@gmail.com. Your enquiry will be forwarded to the team for your year group.



Thanks to the group of dedicated parents who organise and run Firrhill's amazing Hockey Club!



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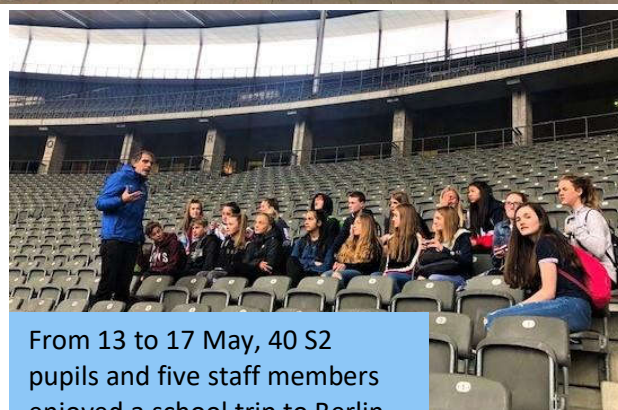
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Follow on Twitter @MfLfirrhill

Berlin Trip

The anticipation had been building up for months, with all the meetings and the chat, and the day was finally here! We arrived at the airport at 7.00 am. Everyone was tired, but excited. Then we checked in our bags and went through security, which was pretty painless! The flight went smoothly, and when the pilot said we were ten minutes away, I looked out at the city below. It stretched as far as I could see and it was huge! We got out of the plane, left the airport, got on to the coach and soon arrived at our hostel, where we settled in to our rooms, then got ready for our walking tour. The tour took us all over Berlin, past statues and rivers and many magnificent cathedrals. We walked past the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, an art exhibit, the university and the empty car park where Hitler's bunker once was. We were then led to a Holocaust memorial. It was made out of stones, all the same shape but different heights. It was an emotional experience and one I will never forget. Although the city was filled with history, it felt so modern and cultural. We then came back for a nice meal and went back to our rooms to prepare for the next day. Overall, it was a great day and a perfect introduction to the city. (George Thorpe)



From 13 to 17 May, 40 S2 pupils and five staff members enjoyed a school trip to Berlin.



On Tuesday in Berlin, everyone was very excited - we were going to the Olympic Stadium. We got the tram and U-Bahn to the stadium, where we met our tour guide. First, we went into the stadium and sat on the seats. The view was incredible and it was huge! We then went inside to look at the changing rooms (used when there were football matches on). After that, we went to sit on the expensive seats which would have been reserved back then for Adolf Hitler. We also went to visit the Olympic Bell Tower, which was right next to the stadium - it was amazing! We even got to go up it and see the giant bell inside it, although the best part was the view from the top. You could see the stadium directly in front, and it made it look much smaller! After we came down, we went to a café to get something to eat. I had a *Currywurst*, and it was really good. We then got a chance to go to the gift shop - it had some really nice stuff, but it was very expensive. Overall, Tuesday was a great day, and one of my favourites. (Anna Widdowson)

On Wednesday morning we had a coach ride to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. It was very sad, learning about the horrors which prisoners had to face - although it is really important that people still go there to visit and remember what happened. We saw the dormitories where prisoners slept, the chambers where the prisoners were executed, and the ovens where their bodies were burnt.

We then got on a coach to the city centre to have lunch in a food court, which was very nice. Afterwards, we walked to a large park where Ms Thayne led us through a fitness workout, before we headed to the Mall of Berlin. There was a massive slide from the very top floor all the way to the bottom! Once we had all had a go, we set off to go to the Diner - we walked a very long way and saw a lot of the city. The Diner itself was really cool, and all the food was delicious. After briefly returning to the hostel, we got the tram to the Alexa Shopping Centre. It was absolutely enormous (and very confusing), but crammed with loads of good shops. I am sure most people left the centre with their purses considerably lighter. (Stella Small)



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Berlin Trip (cont'd)

On Thursday, unfortunately, it rained for most of the day. In the morning we went on a boat tour along the River Spree. It seemed as if there were more canals in Berlin than in Venice (or Scotland)! The food on board was really good. We had pizza, nachos, waffles and ice-cream, although it was just after breakfast! We then went to the DDR museum, a museum about what life was like in East Berlin. My favourite part was the virtual reality dress-up and driving experience. It was really interesting, and we learnt lots. In the evening we had *Schnitzel*, a traditional German food. After that, we went bowling and we had a lot of fun; Mr Cameron was rubbish at bowling! (Kirsten Buchan)



Friday was a sad day because we had all had such an amazing time in Berlin and no-one was really looking forward to going home. We packed our bags, tidied our rooms, picking up the many sweet wrappers, and spent the last few minutes in and out of other people's dorms. On the coach to the airport, we laughed about all the best moments of the trip and reflected on how we had all become really close and how we are now all best of friends. (Mackenzie Di Nella)

During the trip, the pupils and staff walked an average of 8 or 9 miles per person per day, this contributed a significant number of miles to our "Match the Miles" challenge total - for both the pupils' and the staff teams - very well done!

Thanks to the Firrhill Modern Languages staff for arranging this educational trip to amazing Berlin.





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School Grounds

Mr Rory Murray and the Nurture Group are working hard to create a vegetable plot at the rear of the school. First came the back-breaking work of removing turf (which started in March). The turf will be recycled by a local community project, then top soil will be added. The vegetable plot will finally be edged with treated sleepers. The pupils are looking forward to planting and growing vegetables!

Thanks to the Nurture Group for their hard work in the school grounds.



An alternative way to create a vegetable plot without removing turf, however, is to cover the grass with cardboard or old carpet and then simply add at least 30 cm of topsoil and cover with mulch – less hard work and equally effective!



The school has several bird feeders and a supply of fat balls – which were bought with Parent Council funds – some of which have now been relocated to more suitable places. Mr Murray's Nurture Group has been refilling the feeders to help to attract more birds to the school grounds.

It is great to see the school grounds being cared for and developed for educational purposes and also to promote biodiversity.

15 LIFE ON LAND



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



"School grounds" is one of the topics we are working on for our Eco Schools Green Flag Award – along with "Global Citizenship" and "Litter". Any pupil interested in joining the Eco Committee should see Mr McCord!



The planters by the main entrance needed a bit of care - a few plants had died and have now been replaced. The planters are looking very good, but they require maintenance: feeding, weeding, watering and mulching. Parent/carers are welcome to help pupils and staff with gardening tasks!

