



Produced by the Parent Council

Firrhill News

June 2019



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S1 Paris Trip Ethan Johnstone & Flynn McGregor, 2D2

On Monday 13 May, 40 S1 pupils arrived at Edinburgh airport at 11.00 for a 13.25 flight to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. After settling in to our hostel, we walked to the Montparnasse Tower where pupils used their French skills at the café and in the shop. There was an incredible view, and we saw the Eiffel Tower light show.

The next day quickly arrived and pupils were up and ready to go to the Stade de France. We had a tour around the stadium and got to sit in the players' changing room! In the afternoon we enjoyed a lovely boat trip on the River Seine in the sunshine. We finished off our day with a game of bowling.



During the trip, the pupils and staff walked on average 8 or 9 miles per person per day this contributed a significant number of miles to our "Match the Miles" challenge total!



The next day Firrhill went underground at the Catacombes. We thought the experience was exciting, but a little claustrophobic and spooky! After that, we travelled across Paris to the beautiful Sacré Coeur Basilica, where we had some free time. We bought crepes and got our caricatures done. That night we had a terrific meal at the Hard Rock Café.



Everyone was really looking forward to Disneyland Paris on the Thursday. We arrived for the park opening at 10.00 and spent the whole day there. Pupils had free time in groups and went on all the rides – the favourites were Space Mountain and Thunder Mountain. On Friday, our last day, we had a bus tour of Paris with our guide Mrs Lambert. In the afternoon, we relaxed in the sun in the beautiful Jardin du Luxembourg and ordered ice creams in French! On Friday evening it was time to head home. We arrived in Edinburgh about 11.30 pm tired but happy.

Thanks to the dedicated staff team who organised this exciting educational trip to Paris!



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Congratulations to Rachel
on her fantastic success!

Orienteering Success

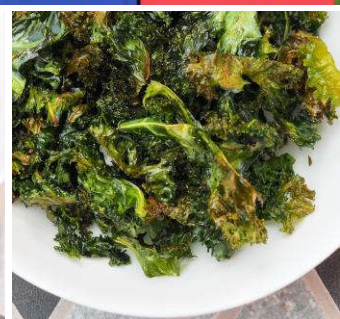
Rachel Brown, S5, has had another fantastic year of orienteering successes. Over the Easter weekend she attended the Jan Kjellstrom International Festival of Orienteering held in the South of England. This is the largest British multi-day orienteering event, with almost 5,000 competitors of all ages from 27 different countries taking part. She won both the Sprint Race on the Friday and the overall trophy for W16. She then went on to retain the W16 British Championships Trophy in Yorkshire. As a result, she has been selected to compete as part of the British team at the European Youth Orienteering Championships in Belarus at the end of June.

Rachel is a member of Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club for more information about the club, please email: esoc.org.uk ESOC recently provided orienteering sessions for S2 pupils at Firrhill as part of its "Healthy Hearts" day and it regularly arranges orienteering events around Edinburgh if anyone is interested in giving it a try.



Kale Crisps

These are a tasty and nutritious snack. Simply toss the kale in olive oil, then cook at 180 °C for 15 minutes until crisp. Remove from oven and enjoy. Share your best recipes in *Firrhill News*!





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Watersports News

Claire Denvir (pictured right), a talented canoeist, competed for Scotland in the World Cup Slalom Races in Krakow, Poland in June. Claire qualified for the finals on both days of racing with placings of 5th and 6th on respective days.

She was competing against paddlers from across Europe and USA, and in temperatures above 25°C, which are not usually experienced by paddlers in Scotland! Great effort by Claire.

Michael Denvir, 6A2, (pictured below, right), has been selected as a reserve for the GB C1 U18 team for the World Championships, following a series of selection races at in London and Nottingham.



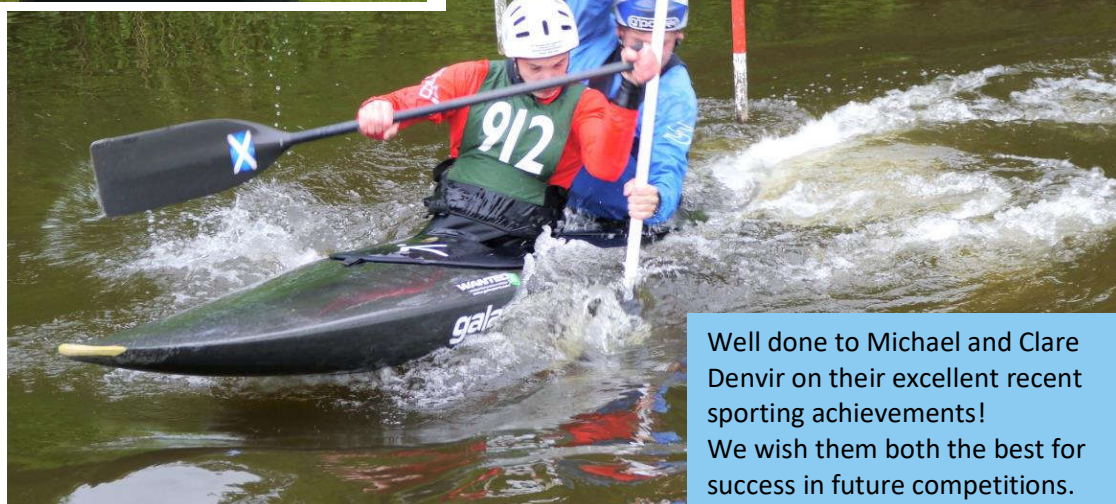
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Due to his strong performance in these races, he was also invited to take part in the GB Olympic selection races in London. Competing on a world class, white water course, alongside GB World Champions and Olympic medallists was a great honour for Michael. Although Michael did not expect to be selected, his placings of 11th and 13th out of 18 reflected his place in the top C1 paddlers in the country. Very well done, Michael!



In the Scottish Schools Championships in June Michael retained the Scottish Schools C2 Title – he paddled with another partner (photo right) as his sister Clare was in Poland. Great job!

Both Claire and Michael are members of Forth Canoe Club in Edinburgh, which offers a range of summer courses for young people and children from beginners to more advanced paddlers - anyone can apply at <http://forthcanoeclub.com/>



Well done to Michael and Clare Denvir on their excellent recent sporting achievements! We wish them both the best for success in future competitions.



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Young Philanthropy Initiative



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Firrhill has participated in the Young Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Scotland initiative since 2008-2009 and it was one of the first schools to be involved. YPI is skills-based, allowing young people the opportunity to choose and learn about a cause they care about so that they can pitch on its behalf, aiming to win a £3,000 grant to help the good cause continue its vital work. Pupils are encouraged to get involved with their chosen cause, where possible. The YPI programme originated in Canada and was adopted for Scottish schools by Sir Ian Wood. The Wood Foundation charitable trust continues to support this valuable programme.

The 2019 Firrhill YPI finals were held in late March. Eight S3 teams participated in a keenly contested event and presented their chosen cause, watched by pupils, staff and representatives of the charities involved.

Judging was a difficult task, given the high standard of presentations and the compelling cases put forward by all the teams. However, in the end, Conal Chrystal, Lucy Flockhart, Beth Moffat and Rosa Dunbar-Jones (pictured below) won for their pitch on behalf of Brain Tumour Action. This worthy cause now benefits from the £3,000 prize won on their behalf. The runners up were Poppy Bertram, Lucy Robertson, Reyhan Denali, Skye Harrison and Zoe Valentine for the charity Action for Children. Well done to all the teams for their hard work and efforts! Thanks too, to the Firrhill staff who supported this worthwhile initiative.



Firrhill RSSA
@firrhillsrsa

Massive congratulations to our Braidlaw S3 pupils winning £3000 for Brain Tumour Action as part of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. Such a great showcase of pupils championing local charities. 🎉👏@ypi_scotland #RRSA #UNCRC Article 13: Freedom of expression 🗣️

Congratulations to the Braidlaw S3 pupils on their win for Brain Tumour Action!

Orla's Hockey Success

Orla Roberts, S1 has been successful in being selected to represent the East District Under 14's 2019 Girls Hockey team for the Scottish Inter Districts Hockey tournament held in May 2019. Orla successfully went through three trials before being selected for the training squad which, after weeks of intense training, was whittled down to a squad of 18. Orla currently plays for the Firrhill S1 2018-2019 team as well as Edinburgh Hockey Club.



Well done Orla and every success for the future!



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Hair Show Extravaganza



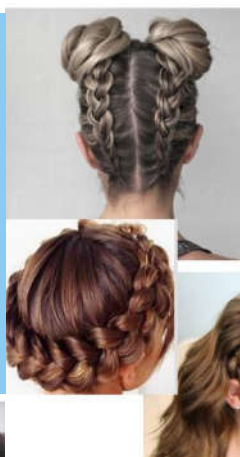
Follow on Twitter @FirrhillArts

On 7 May a Hair Show extravaganza was held at the Firrhill hair salon, with hairdressers from Firrhill, Portobello, Holyrood and Castlebrae High Schools all taking part. Our judges were all from prestigious salons in Edinburgh. The students all made a styleboard showing current trends in hair and fashion, which were then reflected in the final image. Using the images, the students practise new skills and the styles which are portrayed on their boards. Once the students had practised the new skills, they then created the wonderful unique styles seen in the show.

Firrhill students Logan Storie, Hollie Gallagher and Hannah Fletcher came 1st, 3rd and 4th in the Hair Show, and Courtney Knight came 6th. The event, which was judged by industry professionals from Charlie Millar, Cheynes Hairdressing, Glamour Hair and Beauty, Bryony Quate Hairdressing and Harlequin Hair Salons. Well done to everyone involved for their achievements in impressing these top hairdressers.



Very well done to all 40 pupils who took part and created such amazing hair styles! Thanks to Jackie Lamont, hairdressing tutor.




Logan Storie



2nd Place
Morgan Hewitt

4th Place
Hannah Fletcher



Hollie Gallagher
3rd Place



The winners were as follows:

- 1st Place – Logan Storie (Firrhill)
- 2nd Place – Morgan Hewitt (Portobello)
- 3rd Place – Hollie Gallagher (Firrhill)
- 4th Place – Hannah Fletcher (Firrhill)
- 5th place – Jade Thomson (Castlebrae)
- 6th place – Caitlyn Gibbons (Firrhill),
- 7th place – Taylor Huth (Castlebrae)
- 8th place – Ellis McGinty (Holyrood)



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Art Exhibition

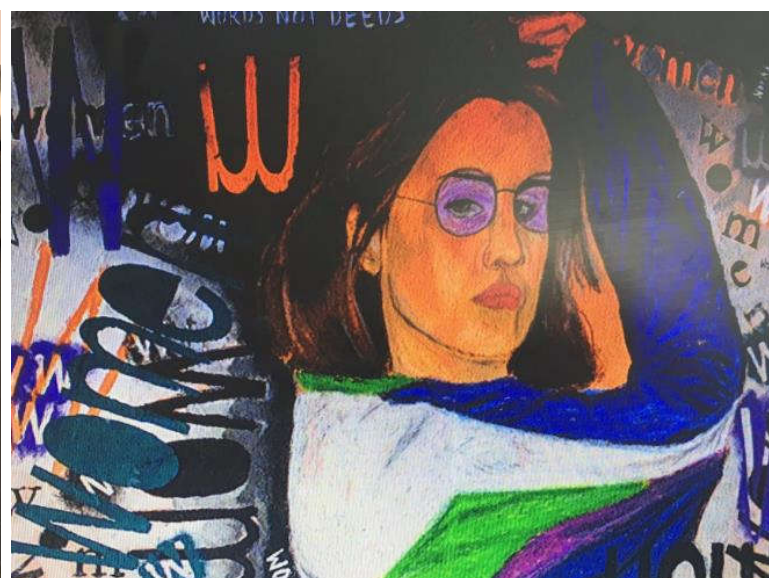
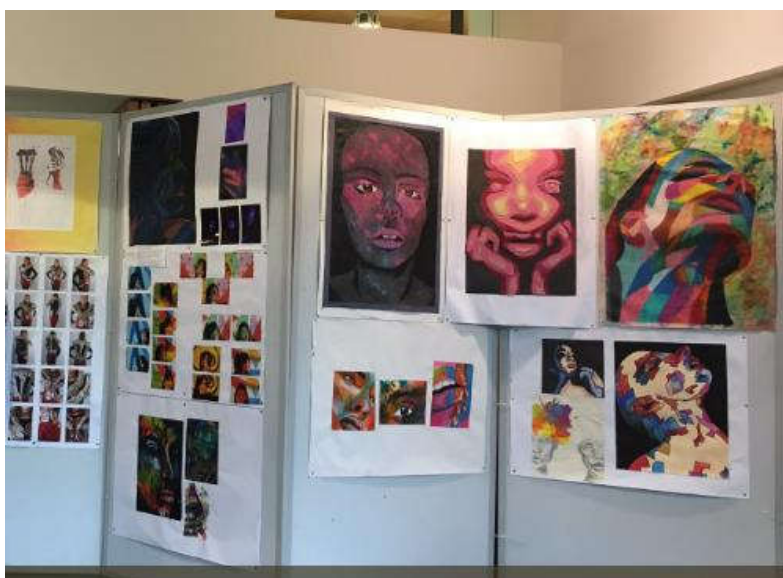


Follow on Twitter @FirrhillArts



Well done to all the talented artists who exhibited work!

On Friday, 10 May, the Advanced Higher Art students opened the private viewing of their exhibition which was kindly hosted by Colinton Parish Church from 13 to 16 May, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. The 17 Advanced Higher students' work covered an amazing variety of topics from portraiture to photography and fashion design. The school is very proud that eight S6 students from Firrhill High School are embarking on degree courses in Art & Design next year.





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Parkour club



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The Parkour Club is a popular S1 & S2 after-school club where the special skills are taught by a professional teacher.

The Parkour Club takes place on Mondays from 3.45 - 4.45 pm. All welcome!



Well done to the pupils who are learning these new skills!



For further information please contact rory@accessparkour.com

PTA fund a new Noticeboard



Thanks to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for funding a fantastic new noticeboard for the foyer. It has castors so can be moved to other locations if required, and is currently being used to display issues of *Firrhill News*.

Volunteers are needed to produce *Firrhill News*. This worthwhile task was previously done by Carolyn Hargest, parent (who can no longer continue this voluntary work as her youngest daughter has left school). Please email firrhillpc@gmail.com if you can help.



Music Exam Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who recently passed Trinity/ABRSM music exams:

Carys Dunn	Saxophone Grade 8
Lewis Kerr	Trumpet Grade 6 (with distinction)
Mhairi Buchan	Clarinet Grade 6 (with merit)
Ben Brown	Jazz Trombone Grade 5 (with merit)
Matthew Liddle	Saxophone Grade 5 (with merit)
Alicia Shek	Violin Grade 5
Amelie Colvin	Clarinet Grade 4 (with merit)

Stella Small	Saxophone Grade 3 (with distinction)
Rory Kerr	Trumpet Grade 3 (with distinction)
Oliver Martin	Trombone Grade 3 (with merit)
Richard Allen	Clarinet Grade 3 (with merit)
Charlie Fraser	Violin Grade 3 (with merit)
Kirsten Buchan	Clarinet Grade 3
Ruairi Parkinson	Cornet Grade 3
Orla Roberts	Cornet Grade 3

Well done to the musicians on their exam success!



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“Match the Miles” Challenge

From 13 to 17 May Firrhill took part in The Adventure Syndicate’s “Match the Miles” Challenge. Last year it was purely a cycling challenge, but this year the organisers broadened it to be an activity challenge where any physical activity counted, 10 minutes of physical activity were taken to be equivalent to 1 mile, and any miles walked were doubled! Firrhill’s Interdepartmental Learning (IDL) week combined perfectly to enable lots of pupils and staff to participate in the “Match the Miles” challenge. The challenge encourages pupils to be more active and aims to help them adopt a healthier lifestyle – encouraging walking instead of catching the bus, using Fitbit apps to promote physical exercise and going on an outdoors adventure, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Everyone at Firrhill enjoyed the challenge, and it was great to be outdoors in lovely weather! Contributions to Firrhill’s impressive final total of miles included: football, walking, running, parkour, hockey & cycling. A big thank you to all who took part in our success in winning the challenge!

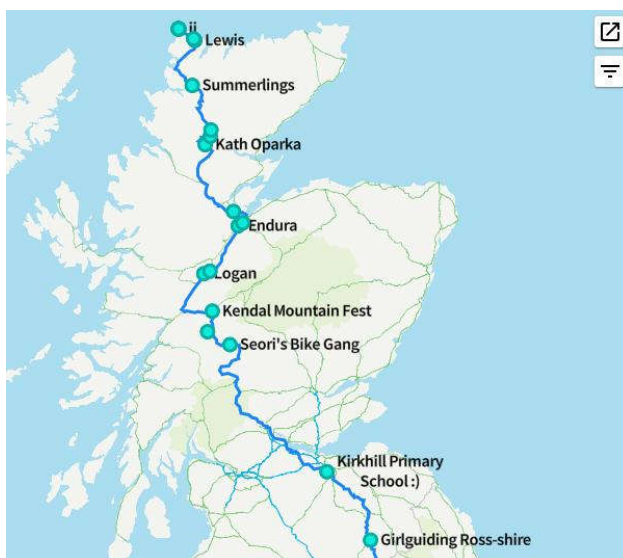
SCHOOLS CATEGORY

1. Firrhill High: 15,329 miles
2. Millburn Academy: 5116 miles
3. Dingwall Academy: 3152 miles

WORKPLACES (of over 15 participants)

1. Firrhill High Staff: 2708 miles
2. SEPA Dingwall: 1116 miles
3. SASA: 654 miles

Congratulations to all the pupils and staff who contributed to Firrhill’s 15,329 miles total for pupils and an impressive 2,708 miles for the staff team! An outstanding result and a dedicated team effort by all – very well done!



Leaderboard	
#1	Firrhill High School 15329 Miles
#2	Millburn Academy 5116 Miles
#3	Dingwall Academy 3152 Miles
#4	IRA 2791 Miles
#5	Firrhill High School Staff 2708 Miles
#6	Shawlands Academy 2220 Miles
#7	Culloden Academy Pupils 2125 Miles

Every year Adventure Syndicate directors Lee and Jenny ride south in a straight line for five days #southbound and encourage schools, workplaces and individuals to “Match the Miles”. This year, from 13 to 17 May, they were riding 500 off-road miles, from Cape Wrath (the most north-westerly point of the UK) to the English border. Although Lee and Jenny focused on encouraging 10 schools across Scotland (which they were working with prior to the challenge), to increase their levels of active travel to and from school, this year they also opened up the challenge to workplaces, clubs and individuals.

The Pipe Band Club

The Firrhill Pipe Band Club meets after school every Monday in the hall at Firrhill High School. Pupils from the cluster schools and Firrhill come together to learn chanter and bagpipes with our piping tutor Mike Pretsell. In previous years, the school has entered the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Competition, and our pupils play at various school and community events.



Well done to the pipers who are working hard and progressing!

We are always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested in learning to play the chanter and pipes, please contact Dawn Alsop (Chairperson) on 07719568951.