

A View to a Hill



Welcome to the Firrhill Newspaper! It has been a year like no other, with many obstacles, not least the pandemic, to negotiate. However, in true Firrhill spirit, the school has still managed to keep going regardless and our staff and pupils have many achievements of which to be proud! We hope you enjoy reading about some of these - and you may learn some interesting facts on some more diverse topics too!

Poppy Bertram

Articles Include:

- ❖ Head Boy and Girl Interviews
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Get to know our Head Boy and Girl

At the start of the year, a new Senior Student Council was elected by Mr Hamilton. Lewis Kerr and Reyhan Denli were elected as our head boy and girl last year. I interviewed them both to get to know them a little better and see what they have been up to this year.

Firstly, let's get to know our head boy and girl.

What is your favourite colour?

Reyhan: Pink.

Lewis: Gold.

What is your favourite food?

Reyhan: Manti- "a truly delicious Turkish dish".

Lewis: Steak.

Who is your favourite teacher?

Reyhan : "Mrs. Clegg, she reminds me of myself. She likes to get everything done, I relate to her a lot because she's a right feminist."

Lewis: "I couldn't possibly pick a favourite - it must be because I'm so spoilt for choice!"



Now, lets find out what they've been doing this year.

What was the process to becoming Head Boy and Girl?

Lewis: "Firstly, we had to hand in a written statement about why we thought we would be a suitable fit for the Senior Student Council. Then, those successful were invited for an interview with a panel- consisting of Mr Hamilton, a teacher and two younger pupils. A set of questions was given for me to prepare and there were a number of follow up questions. Mr. Hamilton then made his decisions a few weeks later."

Reyhan: "I was actually off due to personal reasons, and Mr Hamilton phoned my parents to speak to me and offer me the role of head girl, which was a real privilege."

What is your biggest responsibility as Head Boy and Girl?

Reyhan: "To make sure I am voicing everyone's opinions, I am representative, and I am a great role model."

Lewis: "Setting a good example for others in the school."

What is your biggest achievement so far as Head Boy and Girl?

Reyhan: "Successfully carrying out the Student Council meetings. It's been great to have more focused chats with smaller groups of people. I love hearing the innovative ideas of pupils and striving to make positive changes."

Lewis: "Developing good relationships with other schools, teachers and parents. We have made positive relationships with other schools such as Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's and are able to collaborate about pupil voice and other issues."

If you could change one thing about the school what would it be?

Reyhan: "It's going to be cliché, but the toilets and the water fountains. I think it's essential but I know the Senior Management have this on their priorities list."

Lewis: "I would change the attitude of certain individuals to the school's wellbeing. Why- because it can cause an unproductive environment for others."

Why did you want to be on the Senior Student Council?

Reyhan: "Firstly, I felt really strongly about pupil voice and I felt like I could handle the responsibility of transferring pupils' ideas to make active change. Secondly, as a female, I want to make sure that all young women in the school know they can make a difference and there is equality in the school."

Lewis: "To give back to the school and to hopefully make a difference to other students. I think that through the Senior Student Council it has been extremely insightful to learn how to work collaboratively together and learn how to get on with other people and hear other people's views."

How do you ensure that the views of the students are being listened to?

Reyhan: "I am a strong advocate for pupils making petitions and voicing their own opinions within the school. So, if you feel strongly about something, start a petition and bring it to me! But apart from that, if anyone has anything that they want to raise, I will make sure that it is brought up at our Senior Student Council meetings and I will make sure that I do not leave the meeting without an answer."

Lewis: "By staying connected with students in the school and having conversations with teachers about what they observe or have been told."

What advice would you give to younger pupils in the school?

Reyhan: "Don't be influenced by others and do what you enjoy. Take part in various extracurricular activities and make sure that you ask for support when you need it."

Lewis: "Be your own person and follow your own interests. Don't let other people's opinions stop you from being yourself."

What's your favourite thing about Firrhill?

Reyhan: "I like how diverse and inclusive the school is. As an ethnic minority, I've never felt misplaced in the school. The school is so welcoming for everyone from all backgrounds, ethnicities, and genders."

Lewis: "The opportunities the school has given me and the Firrhill community."

Lastly, is there anything you want to tell the rest of the school?

Reyhan: "If you can be anything, be kind to others and respect your teachers and peers and accept everyone the way they are. Make sure to find a balance between your studies and your life- but know your priorities. School should be enjoyable but also taken seriously as it can be regretted in the future if not."

Lewis: "Know that you can make a difference. Always do what is right and do what you believe in. Remember that kindness always comes back and everyone has the capability to do greatness."

Beth Moffat

International Women's History Month 2022: 'Hope and Healing'

The aim of Women's History Month is to celebrate the achievements of women, past and present, that have so often been undermined. It is celebrated officially in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia annually on 8th March, the day recognised since 1911 as International Women's Day. The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975. The very beginnings of this internationally recognised month can be traced back to the city of Sonoma, California. In 1978 the local school district planned and executed a Women's History Week where students took part in various educational tasks like essay writing. The success of this was recognised by the other local districts, and in 1987 the American Congress officially recognised March as the official Women's History Month, something now celebrated in many countries across the world.



The theme of this year's Women's History Month, as appointed by The National Women's History Alliance, was "Women providing healing, promoting hope", aiming to recognise the achievements and sacrifices of the women who have protected, and will continue to protect, the wellbeing of thousands during the global pandemic, and the women who have provided both healing and hope throughout history. Rosa Parks is an example of one such person worthy of much admiration and gratitude and has become an important figurehead and role model for women of colour. In 1955, this strong American woman of colour kickstarted the Montgomery Bus Boycott when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Undoubtedly, she played a key role in the de-segregation of the States, setting a precedent for other countries to follow.

International Women's History Month enables us to learn about and reflect upon just how far women have come in their fight for equality and recognition- something definitely worth celebrating!

Jessica Begg



Art Mural at Braidburn Valley Park

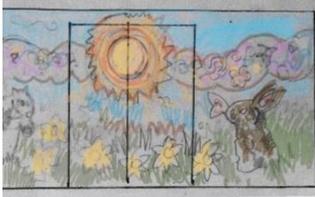
On 14th December 2021, S6 pupils from the Advanced Higher Art class were thrilled to be given the opportunity to collaborate with Chris Rutterford, one of the UK's top artists and visionaries, in making a Mural for Braidburn Valley Park. The old electrical substation, once an eyesore, was to be transformed into an artistic masterpiece.

The S6's had a wonderful time, producing some outstanding pieces designed in just three days! Their mural designs, following the themes of traditional Scottish Celtic design, nature and wildlife, were impressive. Chris selected several pieces which particularly stood out: of note, Sean Corrigan's inspiring illustration featuring foxes and trees, encompassing the themes perfectly. Chris described this as a "brilliant job". Various striking paintings of wildlife adorn the external walls of the old building, including rabbits, hedgehogs and an eye-catching owl.





Designs by Sean Corrigan and Chris Rutterford:



On Tuesday 22nd March, the Mural was finally completed. The S6 pupils involved were invited to be photographed by the press, alongside the Mural. The official opening of the Mural took place on the 2nd of April with Chris Rutterford on hand to answer any onlookers' questions, the Mural itself looking glorious against a backdrop of blue sky and sunshine.



LGBTQ+ History Month

Here at Firrhill High School, this February our wonderful Art department and lovely staff members took part in celebrating LGBTQ+ History month, raising awareness of the LGBTQ+ community's past, present and future endeavours. Several fundraiser events and activities were organised in order to raise money for charities affiliated with the LGBTQ+ community.

What has Firrhill been doing to raise awareness and raise money?

Throughout February, the Art department and staff were involved in a number of activities ranging from:

- Creating rainbow tote bags and tie-dye masks.
- Teaching lessons about LGBTQ+ History Month in PSE classes.
- Staff doing a fun run on Purple Friday.
- Creating an educational poster display to be showcased in the LRC

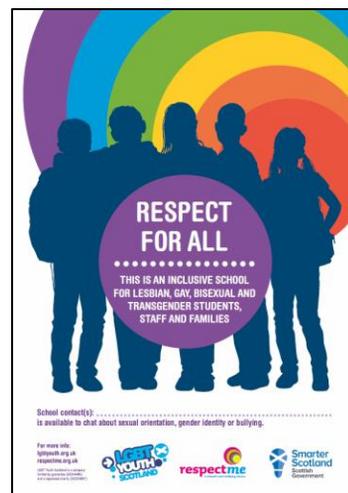
Friday 25th February was an opportunity for pupils and staff to help create visibility for LGBTQ+ History Month by customising their clothing with purple accessories in support of the LGBTQ+ community.



Interesting Facts on LGBTQ+ History

- Denmark became the first country to legalise same-sex unions in 1989, while the first to legalise same-sex marriage was the Netherlands in 2001- since followed by 29 other countries.
- In 1791, France became the first country to decriminalise homosexuality. Today, all but 69 countries have followed this, some of the most recent additions in the last few years being Angola, Gabon, and Botswana.
- Non-binary legal recognition was introduced in Malta in 2017 and Uruguay in 2018
- In 1988 Sweden was the first country to introduce anti-discriminatory laws based on sexual orientation. Now, 57 countries provide broad protection against discrimination and 81 countries provide employment protection based on sexual orientation.
- On Saturday June 27, 1970 the first ever LGBT pride parade took place in Washington Square Park, USA.
- Section 28 was a legislation put in place by Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in 1988, banning the "promotion of homosexuality" in schools. This ran up until 2000 in Scotland and 2003 in England and Wales.

Society has come a long way in recognising the equal rights of the LGBTQ+ community, and here at Firrhill we pride ourselves on our inclusive and supportive community where we are all equal and respect each others' values and beliefs.



LGBTQ+ Awareness Walk

At Firrhill, teachers celebrated and raised awareness for LGBTQ+ history month. Miss Neilson, one of the PE teachers, helped organise a walk, with teachers including Mr Rahimian, Miss Wallace, Miss Gilbert, Mrs Barnes, Mr Bailie and Ms Gilruth and her dog! The teachers walked from Flotterstone, across the Pentlands, covering around 6km in total.

The walk took place on Purple Friday: the 25th of February.

Purple Friday takes place on the last Friday in February and is named after the purple stripe on the Pride rainbow flag, symbolising spirit. It is an integral event as it allows young members of the LGBTQ+ community to feel supported all year round. In order to celebrate Purple Friday, many pupils wore purple badges, lanyards and many other purple accessories. It was extremely encouraging to see such a fantastic turnout at Firrhill, with so many students embracing the occasion and wearing purple.



Book Reviews: Written by First Years

The Hobbit - by JRR Tolkien

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* is one of the best known and best loved fantasy books. First published by George Allen & Unwin in 1937, *The Hobbit* has been translated into over 50 different languages and sold well over 100 million copies.

This is a far more light-hearted tale than *the Lord of the Rings* and introduces to the world the unforgettable Bilbo, Gandalf, and Gollum. *The Hobbit* is a book that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. Authors from J.K. Rowling to David Gemmell class it as inspiration for their own work (they copied him).

This is a book full of adventure, heroism, song, and laughter, featuring landscapes like The Shire that the hobbits inhabit. But soon the Shire is left behind and Bilbo, our reluctant hero, encounters dwarves, elves, goblins, eagles and wizards as the party passes through Rivendell, The Misty Mountains and Mirkwood on their way to the Lonely Mountain, to take back treasure stolen by the great dragon, Smaug.

What is a hobbit? Well, a hobbit is rare and shy of the Big People. They are a little people, about half our height, and smaller than the bearded dwarves. Hobbits have no beards. There is little or no magic about them, except the ordinary, everyday sort which helps them to disappear quietly and quickly when large, stupid folk like you and me come blundering along, making a noise like elephants which they can hear a mile off. They are inclined to be fat in the stomach; they dress in bright colours (chiefly green and yellow); wear no shoes, because their feet grow natural leather soles and thick brown hair like the stuff on their heads (which is curly); have long, clever brown fingers, good-natured faces, and laugh deep laughs.

Overall, I enjoyed *The Hobbit* more than any other fantasy story simply because of its ability to draw you in. Everything about the story goes back to simple themes from a simpler time. The real temptation for Bilbo throughout his adventure is his desire to return to the pastoral home of the Shire. I would rate this book a 4.5 out of 5 stars and it is definitely worth your time.

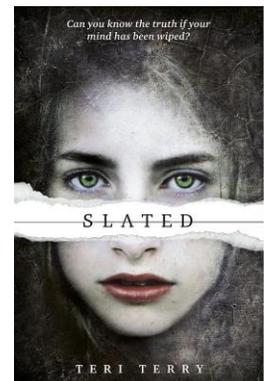
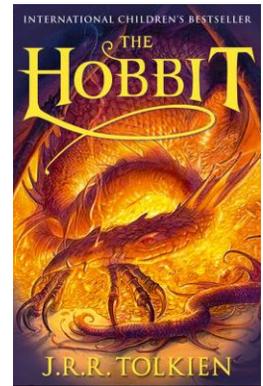
Lucy Dunlop 1A2

Slated - by Teri Terry

Slated is an award-winning debut trilogy and was published on the 3rd of May, 2012. This book has many unique and exciting kicks, twists, and turns to it in many ways. The book is about a girl called Kyla, who is 16 years old and forgets all about her slightly dangerous past. Due to what happened in her past life, the government is saying one thing, but is it the truth? This book is mysterious, dangerous, and thoroughly enjoyable. *Slated* has a sequel, called *Fractured*, which is out in shops. The sequel is just as good as the first.

Both these books will keep your seat on the edge of a cliff! Join us reading for more exciting adventures!

Olivia Moffat 1A2



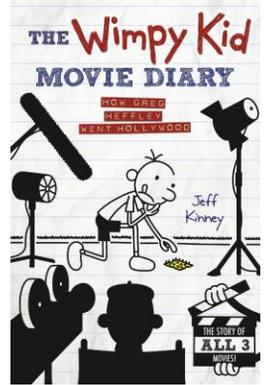
Book Reviews: Written by First Years

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Movie Diary – Jeff Kinney

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Movie Diary is a book about how the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movies were made. Ranging from little decorations like newspapers on the walls, to massive things like casting and production, it really shows a fun but informative analysis on how movies are made, including the friendships along the way.

The movies are based around the books, with a Hollywood twist. The first one is about Greg (the main character) trying to be the cool kid at school while trying to avoid his childish friend Rowley. The second movie is about him trying to earn his older brother, Rodrick's, respect. Finally, the third movie is about him trying to earn his dad's respect so he can play video games. The movies follow a simple, but entertaining, storyline for all ages.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes movies and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*; it is very informative for what it's about.

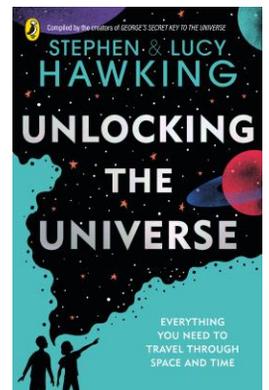


Jack Allen 1A2

Unlocking the Universe – Stephen and Lucy Hawking

This book is very interesting in my opinion, as I am into astronomy. It gives out lots of information, ranging from basic science to complicated theories. Although there may be some parts where you lose interest, it is a great book as it can help you learn about stuff like galaxies and planets. It has a good variety of subjects, all related to science: different ones like physics, to chemistry, up to ecology and biology.

I very much recommend this book to people who enjoy science as much as me. It's a fun, educational book and I read it almost every night. It has around 400 pages so you will be able to read it for a while. I definitely recommend this book.



Chloe Lumb 1A2



Trees: The *Root* to our Net-Zero Emissions Target

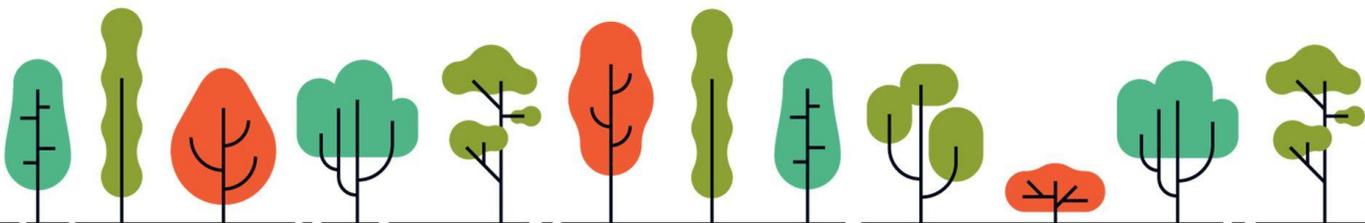
As you may be aware, the Firrhill Eco committee has recently planted five new trees behind the school. As well as increasing natural beauty and biodiversity, these trees will benefit our physical and mental health whilst working hard to keep the planet healthy.

Trees are essential for human wellbeing: providing oxygen, shielding us from pollution and strengthening our communities. The Amazon rainforest alone produces 20% of the world's oxygen with its 16,000 varieties of tree. As well as helping us breathe, trees act as a barrier, shielding urban areas from solar radiation and absorbing dust and pollutants. Just one tree can take in up to 1.7 kilograms of harmful substances every year, helping to keep the air fresh. Next time you're walking through a park or forest, take a deep breath and imagine what your surroundings might look like without the trees keeping the air clean. Research has shown that green-spaces have the power to reduce blood-pressure and anxiety. It's no wonder, then, that community pride has been found to be stronger in urban areas with plenty of trees. This is because they provide educational opportunities, bring people together to enjoy nature, and develop a sense of community individuality.

On top of their direct benefits to us, trees also play a vital role in our attempts to slow the effects of climate change. As they grow, trees absorb CO₂, storing it in their wood and keeping it from damaging the atmosphere. One hectare (about two and a half football pitches) of trees, can lock over 400 tonnes of carbon in their roots and the soil. Imagine how the world would benefit if we really focused on planting as many trees as we could? If 1.5 million hectares of trees were to be planted, the UK could reach its target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This would increase our tree cover from 13% to 19%. Although this may sound like a huge amount of space (about the size of Wales) scientists have been able to map out areas all across Europe where forests could be cultivated without damaging agriculture or communities.

So, what can you do to help us protect these amazing plants? A very easy way to help is to install Ecosia as your chosen search engine. Ecosia invests 80% of its profits to projects working towards increasing biodiversity, offsetting climate change and, primarily, planting more trees. They have funded reforestation in areas with extremely vulnerable ecosystems such as Brazil, Uganda, and Indonesia. To aid the growth of trees in the UK and help us work towards net-zero by 2050, you could donate to the National Trust's 'Plant a Tree' initiative. An online donation of £5 will allow their team to plant one new sapling, bringing us one step closer to our climate goal. The Green Angels program (open to girls aged 12-18) offers opportunities in environmental volunteering such as planting new saplings or caring for existing trees. As a bonus, this program is a perfect way to volunteer for your Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh award whilst making new friends and caring for the environment. Finally, if you are going into S6 next year, you could sign up for the eco committee and continue their amazing work in increasing biodiversity and protecting the environment right from our school grounds.

Catherine Bruce



A Perfect Spring or a Different Spring?

23 March 2020. At home in front of the TV watching the Prime Minister utter some words that would get firmly embedded into the national psyche - "Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives". OK, so this is new.

No school for a while. A new thing called Zoom. Longer daylight and the most perfect sunny days.

Shops closed and no travel. Exercise permitted once a day. Need to make the most of that.

Memories of being walked up the Pentland hills and along the Water of Leith in my pushchair when no more than a toddler. Now reconnecting with that and doing one of the few things permitted during lockdown.

Sun, warmth, exercise, the most amazing views and developing a new connection with family. Feeling something quite deep and really quite profound.

Mid April 2020 and another crystal clear day. A walk to Harlaw Reservoir. The step count was high that day but more important than that was the pure and unadulterated peace and quiet. Sat with my sister and dad we all were silent drinking in the beauty of the place and the moment.



Fast forward two years and I still enjoy a walk and the "me" time that it provides. I can, of course, do more now. I can go to school, have a sit in Costa and plan a trip to the sun this summer with my friends. Beyond that - University.

Like everyone I know I won't forget the Spring of 2020. Perfect it certainly was not but I did learn from it and made the most of it. There was personal tragedy and loss for a lot of people. I stood outside on the Thursday evenings (8pm) and I clapped. In between that I got used to Zoom and I got my Nat5's under my belt and I walked and I breathed and if I shut my eyes now I am taken back to those sunny days.

Poppy Bertram



You won't find this on Match Of The Day!

We've all heard of football and rugby, hockey and tennis; but what about the lesser known sports? Those that are rarely publicised? I've researched three non-traditional sports to give you an idea of what you're missing.

First up, floorball. Floorball is similar to uni-hock, which we've all played in PE. It's a mix between ice hockey and field hockey, played indoors, popular in Scandinavia and increasing in popularity across central Europe. All players except the goalkeeper use a stick comparable to that used in ice hockey. Floorball has the same contact level of field hockey with the speed and movement of ice hockey. The game tends to last for 60 minutes with three 20 minute periods and is relatively fast paced. As well as being an excellent form of aerobic exercise, floorball benefits from simple rules and relatively cheap equipment. Teams from around Scotland compete in the National floorball league, played in Perth at Caledonia House: participating teams include Edinburgh Unicorns, Fife Lightning and Hawick Hawks.



Edinburgh unicorns, pink, playing against Hawick Hawks, (purple)



Holyrood Hippogriffs team

What would an article about non-traditional sports be without including a fan favourite: quidditch? You might have heard of this one from JK Rowling's 'Harry Potter' series, but did you know you can actually play muggle quidditch? This involves the chasers moving the 'quaffle' down the field by running or passing it between each other. The defenders throw 'bludgers' at the opposing team's players to temporarily knock them out of play. The

keeper defends their team's hoops and prevents the other team from scoring. Oh, and it's all on broomsticks, of course. Fancy a go at it? Holyrood Hippogriffs train for the University League at the Meadows in Edinburgh twice weekly and are one of the oldest quidditch clubs in the UK, formed in 2011. New members are welcome! In 2020, the Hippogriffs first team came 3rd in the Northern Cup.

Finally, Korfball: a Dutch game similar to netball and basketball, each team consisting of eight players of either gender. Korfball is played within a rectangular court, each team's players split into either attack or defence. After two goals, the attackers become defenders and so on. The court contains two zones, each with a Korf- similar to a netball goalpost but larger, and with no net. During play, various actions are prohibited including touching the ball with your leg or fist, moving with the ball, knocking the ball from the opponent's hand or blocking their pass. You cannot shoot from a defence position or be in your attacking zone for longer than 25 seconds without touching the Korf or scoring a goal. Edinburgh City Korfball Club, founded in 1995, are six times Scottish champions. They have around 40 active members who train outdoors at Inverleith Park on Sunday mornings. Prior to covid, they trained indoors at Wester Hailes Education Centre. The first three sessions are free if you fancy giving it a go!



Edinburgh City Korfball Club, red

Admittedly, these unusual sports sound like fun; however, I don't know about you but I think I'm sticking with the classics! The PE department at Firrhill has an amazing range of extra-curricular sports clubs on offer. For example, Miss Neilson runs a netball club for S1-3 in the games hall on Thursdays after school. In addition, Mr Walkinshaw runs the S1-3 basketball club and Mr Monaghan the S1-3 football club. Firrhill has similar opportunities for seniors and all years can attend hockey, badminton, cheerleading, athletics, basketball, tennis and football throughout the week. The Firrhill PE extra-curricular timetable is available at reception, on the Firrhill PE twitter page (@FirrhillPE) and in the PE department.

However, if you're still not inspired by the range of sports Firrhill has to offer, perhaps you may be able to convince Mr Walkinshaw to set up a quidditch team!

Beth Moffat

Firrhill Word Search

M	T	I	H	P	E	S	R	U	O	C	N	O	C
O	S	S	O	S	I	I	M	L	A	F	S	I	Y
D	I	R	A	E	I	R	L	L	W	I	N	O	A
E	R	R	A	S	C	L	R	O	I	R	O	M	E
R	F	S	U	L	L	I	G	A	P	R	I	A	A
N	A	C	C	N	O	Y	F	N	R	H	T	T	R
S	Y	I	I	N	C	O	R	F	E	I	A	H	S
T	L	E	S	S	K	R	L	S	O	L	R	E	N
U	B	N	C	A	E	O	M	A	A	L	T	M	E
D	M	C	R	F	R	U	T	O	R	T	S	A	E
I	E	E	N	C	S	E	H	E	T	E	I	T	T
E	S	T	C	P	U	P	I	L	S	R	G	I	N
S	S	H	A	L	L	W	A	Y	O	L	E	C	A
S	A	U	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	I	R	S	C

- OFFICE
- CANTEEN
- MODERN STUDIES
- ENGLISH
- HALLWAY
- FIRRHILL
- LOCKERS
- ASSEMBLY
- MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCE
- ASTROTURF
- HISTORY
- PUPILS
- CONCOURSE
- REGISTRATION
- ART

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3476837/>

Exams and Studying: Tips and Tricks

Beginning preparation for SQA examinations can be a daunting task for many pupils entering their senior phase at Firrhill: even pupils moving into S3 can feel the impact of the stress of beginning National 4 and National 5 courses. The most important thing you can do is try to relax and if you're feeling stressed you can talk to a teacher at school, or even better your classmates, because it is more than likely they feel the same way as you!

The most important thing is to not leave all your studying to the last minute. If you begin revision early you will reduce feelings of stress and anxiety and ultimately be better prepared for exams or prelims. To help with your time management, you should create a study timetable, set out which topics need the most work and calculate how much time you can spend studying on each of them. Remember, doing a little each day will show better results than last minute cramming.

There are many different methods of revising. Some are more effective than others and different people may prefer different study techniques. It's important that you don't spend time re-writing or reading over notes, as it isn't an effective method of learning, and many students can find this boring and tedious leading to a lack of motivation to study. You can make flashcards of important definitions or quotes you need to know for the exam: this allows you to test yourself on the course material.

A lot of teachers have extra sessions after school or during lunchtimes where pupils can go to study or for extra help. Creating a study group with your friends where you can test each other is also an effective method of revision. Using the Pomodoro technique, a simple method to balance focus with deliberate breaks, to study can also be effective. First, plan your tasks and how much time you need to complete them. A Pomodoro is 25 minutes of focused work with a five-minute break, so plan around this. After you have completed four Pomodoros take a longer break. This method has been proven to increase productivity and make it easier to concentrate.

Remember, your best is all you can do. You cannot control what will be in that exam, you cannot control the outcome, but you can control your work ethic and attitude towards it. Remember to relax and take a break and to not beat yourself up about grades or marks. Well done for all your hard work so far and good luck!

Jessica Begg



Preparing for the Future

Upcoming exams, preparing for university, or starting a job after leaving school can be daunting. In order to keep a level head and stay calm there are a few things that may help, like doing your **RESEARCH**. It sounds boring but doing research on what you are considering doing can bring you clarity and help you discover what you are most passionate about, enabling you to pursue a career or lifestyle which you will enjoy.

STUDYING can also help, especially if you are going to university but are unsure of which course you would like to apply for. Getting as many good grades as you can offers you more opportunities for when the time comes to submit your application: you will have a greater choice of courses and will be less likely to have extra conditions to meet in your sixth year- so you can have a less stressful and more enjoyable final year at school.

However, grades aren't everything that universities look for. **TAKING PART IN A CLUB**, whether it is a drama or sport club, can really boost your personal statement improving your chances of being an ideal candidate for the university course of your choice. At Firrhill there is a diverse range of clubs and new members are always welcome. Participating in such clubs will boost your social skills through meeting new people as well as improve your team-working skills.

Another way to learn new skills and improve your personal statement or **CV** is by getting a **PART-TIME JOB**. This will give you a bit of financial freedom from your parents and demonstrate that you are committed and hardworking, which any future employer or university would view as desirable traits. This will also give you a taste of what is to come in later life, giving you more time to prepare for the real thing.

A further piece of advice- and one that is often forgotten- is to **MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF**. Do something you find relaxing: go see a movie, read a book or pursue a new interest or hobby. Do things that you enjoy whether you see any academic benefit from them or not. You need time to focus purely on what makes **YOU** happy. Recognising and demonstrating this should be viewed positively by any future employer or university.

Without doubt, preparing for this next stage in your life is best done with good forward planning, starting this further down the school. I am confident that, should you follow even some of my advice, not only will you be better prepared for life beyond FHS but you will better enjoy your time at school also!

Science club



Book club



Hobby club



Drama club



Math club



History club



Holly Davidson

Newspaper Committee

I would like to thank everyone on the Newspaper Committee for their outstanding efforts and dedication, contributing towards the success of the newspaper. To all those in S5 and S6 who are leaving this summer, on behalf of the Newspaper Committee, we wish you all well.

Poppy Bertram

Main Editor: Poppy Bertram

Deputy Editor: Catherine Bruce

Current Events Editor: Amber Fearn

Art Director: Natalia Zlobecka

Business Manager: Viki Gelle

Advertising: Sabrina Chung

Photographer/Photo Editor: Firdaus Shazad

Reporters:

- Beth Moffat
- Holly Davidson
- Jessica Begg

