

# Live Online Lessons to Over 1000 Learners!

*On 31 January and 7 February, the Edinburgh Learns Digital team ran the first of several planned live online lessons. The lesson was aimed at Second level learners with 1:1 iPads and introduced them to the process of designing an app for their community.*

In the first part, pupils were taken through brainstorming ideas and sketching a design for their app. The session was led by Seáneen Horan who showed learners how to use different tools on their iPads to achieve the desired results.

The follow-up second lesson allowed pupils to create a working prototype of their app. Classroom teachers supported the in-class activities and over 1000 children took part!

The Edinburgh Learns Digital team's next live online lesson will involve creating locations in Edinburgh using Minecraft Education Edition. You can find out more about the team's lessons and upcoming CLPL opportunities for staff on their website <https://edinburghlearns.digital/>

**Author Dave McKee**  
QIEO (Digital Learning)

# Dalry Primary School Celebrates the Year of the Rabbit

## Xīn nián kuài lè! Happy New Year!

*Dalry Primary School's Confucius Hub has been running within the Tynecastle learning community since October 2017. In September 2022 we welcomed Yujing Ding from Tianjin on a two-year cultural*

*exchange. Yujing works in the primary schools within our learning community.*

To celebrate the Year of the Rabbit we entered the Chinese New Year poster competition which was run by the Confucius Institute for Scottish Schools. The competition was open to all Scottish primary schools, and CISS were delighted to receive nearly 600 entries, almost double 2022's entries!

There were eight winners of the CISS Chinese New Year 2023 poster competition, and I am absolutely delighted to report that our learning community won four of the eight prizes. Huge congratulations to Swara Shirke, Ayush Ayra from Dalry Primary School, Rosie Hutchison, Craiglockhart Primary School and Krish Velmurukan, Balgreen Primary School. We also received an honourable mention for our runner up Aaliyah Deepak Krishnaveni. The final decision was based on the creativity of the design and the use of Chinese language and characters. Each winner received £50 of Amazon vouchers.

**Lesley Laidler**  
Principal Teacher, Dalry Primary School



# FIRST LEGO League Competition

*A team of young people from Gorgie Mills School attended their first ever FIRST LEGO League competition this week. Organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and hosted by Edinburgh College it was a hotbed of STEM learning within this exciting, mission-based robotics game.*

This season's theme was **Superpowered** and proved an excellent way to explore ideas about renewable energy and how our young people can reimagine a better future.

Eight teams from seven Scottish schools competed and the atmosphere was electric with the young

peoples' ideas and determination. Our team's LEGO robot is called BOB and through BOB our young people were able to explore and put into practice their engineering and coding skills. One young person from 'Team Gorgie Bob' reported that 'it was a new experience and I learned a new way to use programming'.

Above all else it was the team spirit that was permeated throughout the event with everyone cheering and rooting for each other, even when things didn't go to plan there were shouts of 'Great job!' and 'You can do it!'.

Whilst not getting first place our young people returned to school with a special 'Judges Award' for continuing to improve throughout the day. Keen to share their good news with the school, the young people did a lap of honour around the classrooms and proved that smiles are indeed contagious.

Well done Team Gorgie Mills, we're super proud of you. #WeAreGorgieMills

**Keith Miller, Headteacher  
Gorgie Mills High School**



FIRST LEGO League Competition



# Regional First Lego League Competition

On Wednesday Towerbank sent a team of 10 P7s to the regional First Lego League Competition at Edinburgh College.

This is an international STEM competition involving coding and building a robot to score points, a research project, robot design awards and core values judging.

Towerbank built a working model of a circular hydro electric scheme from Arthur's Seat to Portobello that incorporates a water slide.

Towerbank beat all the other teams (mostly High Schools from Glasgow and Falkirk) and are now off to the UK finals on Saturday 22 April in Harrogate.

They will compete against up to 80 other teams from across the UK.

The reason they are wearing false moustaches is that I told them to expect competition from teams that might have beards so they arrived prepared!

**Alasdair Friend, Headteacher  
Towerbank Primary School**



# Carrick Knowe Food Growing Initiative

*This year we received a grant for sustainable food growing. This was used to purchase seeds, compost, and equipment to help grow food on our school allotment. We were also given tomato seeds and growing containers via the Grow Strong! Tomtastic initiative.*

Over the Spring and Summer months, we grew a great variety of vegetables. Pupils from a number of classes were able to take a tomato plant home,

and the spare ones were grown in our poly tunnel. In the Autumn term, we had such a good tomato harvest that most pupils were able to make tomato salsa. In addition, our harvested potatoes were sized and the yield analysed by the P4 classes. Beetroot also grew well, and pupils were able to develop cooking skills using these. We also have a number of fruit trees, and apples and plums were also picked by pupils and taken home. Finally, we donated our cooking apples to two local care homes who were able to make apple pie for the residents.

Our school continues to focus on our food journey and we have recently received Food for Thought funding which has helped us purchase new cooking utensils and resources.

**Margaret Pincock and Catriona Iley**





Carrick Knowe Food Growing Initiative



# Pilrig Park School Welcomes Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP

*We were delighted to welcome Mr Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employability and Training to our school on Tuesday 31 January.*

The Minister met with our senior pupils to hear about how our partners support them to achieve positive destinations post school. He learned from our young people about the skills and opportunities we offer here at Pilrig Park School. Mr Hepburn heard about a selection of employability skills our pupils are currently

learning as part of their senior phase curriculum including salon skills, gardening, and hospitality. Edinburgh College links and how they help to promote further education pathways into employment and training, was also a topic for discussion during our pupil voice session with the Minister.

Mr Hepburn heard from our partners, staff and the Leadership Team about the multi-agency approach that the school has developed and how this greatly supports our young people achieve positive destinations. The visit was an excellent opportunity for us to share our experiences and most importantly for our young people to express what they think about leaving school and the opportunities offered to them, including any challenges they may face.

A big thanks to all our young people, partners and staff in helping us to make this such a productive and successful visit.

**Keith Mackay, Depute Head Teacher  
Pilrig Park School**





Pilrig Park School Welcomes Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP



Pilrig Park School Welcomes Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP



# Personal Achievement Through Drummond Partnership with Citadel Youth Centre

Drummond Community High School works closely with The Citadel Youth Centre, using Pupil Equity Funding to employ the services of a youth worker to support wider achievement opportunities for young people. During the course of last session, a number of young people took part in groupwork and individual work which in turn resulted in them gaining several awards including the following offered by Youth Scotland:

- SCQF 2 Hi5 award (26 young people) – an introductory personal development award
- SCQF3 Dynamic Youth Award (16 young people) – achieved through 1–1 work as well as three young people leading the school’s approach to period poverty and period dignity.
- SCQF 4 Youth Achievement Award (1 young person)

A number of young people also secured wider achievement awards in the following areas:

- Be internet Citizens (12 young people) – a course on media literacy, critical thinking and digital citizenship, with the aim of encouraging young people to have a positive voice online.

- Duke of Edinburgh (5 young people) – 3 completed Bronze awards, 1 Silver and 1 Gold.
- Saltire Awards (6 young people) – these were achieved by volunteering within Drummond Community High School and Citadel Youth Centre.

The following case study highlights the success of the awards programme:

One pupil who has required support throughout their move into foster care during lockdown has embraced almost every opportunity given to them through Citadel including volunteering, groupwork, Dynamic Youth Award and Youth Achievement Award as well as a Duke of Edinburgh Award and attending youth groups, employability and mental health support. They have now progressed from school base 1–1 support and access further support as required at Citadel Youth Centre.

The attached photographs show Megan Wright, Darwin Russell, Amy Wood and Cristian Nasri Ghali receiving their Dynamic Youth Award certificates at assembly in February 2023.

**Claire O’Brien, Citadel Project Worker (c/o Drummond Community High School)**



# Rights Respecting School Visit

*Roseburn visitors; Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive UNICEF, Michael Chalmers, Director Children & Families, Carola Eyber, Senior Policy Advisor Children's Rights, Shelley Coyne Empowered Young People Policy Manager, Olivia Dowler-Penn, Philanthropy Partnerships Lead, Gerry McMurtrie, Senior Professional Advisor RRSA, Fatoumata Drammeh Political Affairs Officer, Jen Myddleton RRSA Strategic Lead.*

The aim was to discuss the impact of RRSA, importance of children's rights, and links to health & wellbeing.

P7 House Captains, Isla, Lola, Emily, and Molly, met our visitors, briefed them on health & safety, before

bringing to assembly. The tech team, Xander and Zac expertly managed the power point. Each class shared key learning moments from our Gold Rights Respecting School journey. Our visitors shared their delight at being in a school with confident individuals and effective contributors.

The Rights Respecters Team met our visitors, sharing views and responding to questions. A school tour with the House Captains followed, then a meeting with the Equalities Team. After coffee (and cake), our visitors discussed, how the school planned, implemented rights, made health & wellbeing links, and impacts on children and school community.

Our visitors were impressed with our pupil voice, 'Rights' journey, enthusiasm, and commitment to ensuring 'rights are lived and breathed at Roseburn' – a proud moment for all.

**Natalie Borrowman**  
**Head Teacher**  
**Roseburn Primary**



# The Royal High School

## Junk Kouture World Final Experience

*Junk Kouture is a sustainable fashion competition for young people aged 13 – 17, where the competitors have to make their designs out of 100% junk materials, inspiring innovation, raising awareness about global issues and allowing young designers to showcase their creativity. As part of our Academy classes Sidal and I chose the Art departments Junk Kouture Academy.*

We chose our theme because around the time we began to create our design there were many forest fires around the world, which made us think of all these beautiful rainforests being destroyed and along with them the animals who live there. That's where our design name 'Exitium Flore Regina' comes from, as it's Latin for destruction of the flower queen. Our design reflects this by the front of the

design symbolising the beauty of the rainforest, with the bodice of our design being inspired by parrots and the skirt representing the flora of the rainforest, whereas trailing behind is the train made of shredded cardboard; along with the flames, it represents the rainforests being slowly burned away, whether caused by wildfires, or through the manual burning of them.

The competition was in two stages. We were amazed that we won a place into the London final, this was sadly postponed last minute, then eventually made online and streamed on YouTube. Neither of us could believe it when we watched it live online and found out we had won a place in the world finals to represent the UK. Making it through to the London final was already incredible, but actually winning a trip to Abu Dhabi and to compete in Etihad Arena was just a whole other level of incredible!

The competition was hosted in Abu Dhabi. Sidal and I went with Mrs Black from the Art department. There were 54 teams from all over the world competing for the Junk Kouture Young Designer of the Year award, we attended a captivating talk about the history of the competition and a run-through of what the next few days would enlist of. We were treated to a trip to Warner Brother's World, the largest indoor theme park. The next few days were busy, filled with



rehearsals, repairs of our design and meeting the other competitors. But we managed to squeeze in a trip to see the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Mosque the morning of the big show, it was definitely a once-in-a-life-time kind of experience.

'For me, the highlight of our trip was the fashion show. Everyone's designs and performances were awe-inspiring, and the atmosphere was just buzzing all night with energy and the cheers from the audience. Being a team member, I was in the front row so I was especially able to see the fine details on the designs. But of course I was waiting for Sidal to come on stage, to show off our design 'Exitium Flore Regina'. And show it off she did, with so much confidence! It was amazing seeing our design on stage, illuminated by all the lights, as well as knowing that all the hard work we put in was worth it in the end and

that people from all over the world were able to see our design.' – Rebecca

'For me, it was a once in a life time, unforgettable experience. I have always loved fashion and to actually be able to do something in that industry was an amazing opportunity. As well as raising an awareness for a social issue meant so much for me as I love and care about the environment. The atmosphere there was just amazing, meeting with new people and seeing other designs was just awesome. Being the model wearing our design on the catwalk was just amazing. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into the design and I am just really grateful that it paid off. There is just not enough words to describe how much I loved the experience.' – Sidal

**Rebecca and Sidal**  
**The Royal High School**



## Community Sport Hub Developments

### YMCA, Leith Rugby – Ukrainian Project

As part of our new city wide Community Sport Hub Plan, we enable physical activity community impact projects. One of our new weekly Leith Community Sport Hub programmes is partnering YMCA Edinburgh with Leith Rugby to support Ukrainian families. Young people participate in sport and outdoor play utilising Leith Academy sport grounds where parents get a space to socialise and connect in Leith Rugby Club's clubhouse.

### Ripple Basketball Project

Leith Community Sport Hub is being an enabler to a support community impact projects. Leith Community Sport Hub have formed a relationship with The Ripple Project based in Lochend/ Restalrig. The Ripple project have identified a number of their young people who cannot afford to pay for activity but really enjoy basketball. We have made this happen. Every Friday at Leith Academy, we provide a basketball playing space at Leith Academy which is free in partnership with Active Schools. The basketballscotland Foundation (Charity arm to the national governing body for basketball) have provided some free equipment and will be offering some coaching to these young people.



Community Sport Hub Developments





# Care-experienced Pupils Flourish in Volleyball Partnership Project

*As Active Schools Coordinators (ASCs), our success often depends on the quality of partnership working across schools, departments and community organisations. A recent project highlighted the tangibly positive outcomes of good collegiate working for vulnerable young people in greatest need of focussed support.*

Alex and Taylor (names changed for safeguarding purposes) are two care-experienced young people with ASN (autism, dyslexia and mental health) who had previously not taken part in any extra-curricular sport or physical activity and had limited engagement with PE. They became known to the ASC thanks to a piece of work to establish better links with Guidance and Support for Learning (SfL) colleagues across the six James Gillespie's cluster schools. This partnership helped the ASC to build a database of 'priority pupils' who would receive reserved spaces in extra-curricular school sports clubs based on referrals from their Guidance/SfL teachers.

The ASC met with Alex and Taylor to discuss their potential interests, one of which was volleyball, so the ASC arranged 'priority places' to ensure their participation in the James Gillespie's High School club run by their CSH partner NUVOC Volleyball Club. Since joining they have become enthusiastically consistent attendees and have really started flourishing! Alex and Taylor even invited another friend to join volleyball club – a female pupil who had also previously not participated in sport. Taylor bounced up to the

ASC in the corridor the other day and said they were going to join NUVOC Volleyball Club outside of school and hoped to play competitively for the team one day.

With their increased confidence, Alex and Taylor have asked about volunteering and the ASC is now planning to support them in delivering a volleyball club at their old Primary School, Royal Mile, whose learners are among those most in need of extra-curricular recreational opportunities in the cluster. There will also be a transition benefit to Royal Mile pupils who will see former pupils returning to the school in young leader roles.

The biggest celebration is the positive change in Alex and Taylor. Their friendship circle has increased and their general demeanour is more upbeat. They feel really invested in the volleyball at JGHS and are keen to continue growing as young people and volunteers.

The ASC is grateful for the ongoing support of school colleagues and community partners in helping to continue creating possibilities for the young people who need them most.

# Edinburgh Primary Schools Sports Association Update

*Primary Schools Sports Association (EPSSA) is delighted to return to a full calendar of events for the school year 2022–2023. For the majority of our pupils, it has been the first time that they have been able to represent their school at a sporting event, competing against other pupils from across the city. All pupils have approached the events with a positive mindset and displayed good sportsmanship and respect throughout – well done to all our young athletes!*

We are pleased to offer our popular Cross Country, Sportshall Athletics, Football, Netball, Basketball, Rugby and Interscholastic Sports events, with this year also seeing the introduction of new Beach Volleyball and Mixed Netball competitions. A highlight for me has been the return of events to the newly refurbished New Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium. This stunning sports complex offers the perfect base for our pupils to sample their first experience of sports competition.

This year has also seen EPSSA affiliate itself with sporting organisations from across Scotland including Scottish Volleyball, Netball Scotland, Edinburgh Rugby and City of Edinburgh Netball Club amongst many others. Our strong links with Scottish Disability Sports continue to develop and we look forward to offering a range of inclusive events to our large Interscholastic Sports event in May. For more information regarding any of our events please get in touch.

**Graeme Anderson**  
EPSSA Coordinator



# Using Parkour to Support Motor Skill Development in Children with ASN

## Active Schools – Parkour at St Crispin’s

*Parkour has frequently been shown to support building confidence and motor skills in children who struggle to engage in competitive learning environments which makes it particularly suitable for children who have ASN.*

Following on from positive feedback received from teachers and parents in mainstream Active Schools opportunities, we decided to take a next step and develop Parkour based sessions for children who require a significantly modified learning environment in the Special School Learning Community. This pilot was done in collaboration with Active Schools coach, Kirsten Altenbach, who over recent years has focussed on developing her skills and knowledge base working with children with ASN including

training and shadowing PE within the special schools.

With the support of PE and support staff at St Crispin’s we delivered a 5 week pilot project teaching basic Parkour skills using movement songs and incorporating jumping, balancing and vaulting.

The pupils engaged really well with the sessions and enjoyed the playful approach applying the skills they had been introduced to through parkour.

Having parkour delivered at St Crispin’s was extremely beneficial for our young people. The benefit of having an expert deliver lessons focusing on important skills such as balancing and jumping was brilliant for the pupils physical and mental wellbeing. Rory Grant PE Teacher St Crispin’s.

Due to the success of the project Active Schools will expand this opportunity to involve the wider Special School Learning Community.



# The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU)

## Servicing of Cycles at Edinburgh Special Schools



Throughout January 2023, staff from the Council's Bangholm Outdoor Centre have serviced over 80 cycles at the following Special Schools in Edinburgh: Rowanfield, Kaimes, St Crispin's and Pilrig Park.

The work has resulted in more children in our schools being able to use cycles for a variety of purposes ranging from Bikeability cycle training to fun cycle sessions during the school day.

**Ann O'Hagan, Head Teacher at Pilrig Park said:**

'I cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us. It is very much appreciated. We are now in a position to get Bikeability happening in the school as a result of your support and for that I am very grateful.'

**Sarah Dickinson, Depute Head Teacher at St Crispin's also commented:**

'Thanks so much for all the excellent work that was done yesterday. I believe everything went really well and I'd also like

to thank staff for coordinating everything and making sure all of the bikes were looked at and stored correctly afterwards.'

**Cliff Smith, Outdoor Learning Development Officer at Bangholm reports:**

'On behalf of the Bangholm Outdoor Centre/ SOLU I am delighted to work with our Special Schools to get their bikes back on the road. It gives me huge pleasure knowing the kids can get out and enjoy cycling.'

**Key contact: Cliff Smith  
(Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk)**

## Lowland Leader Walking Qualification

SOLU via the Bangholm Outdoor Centre in Edinburgh has for many years delivered various hill walking qualifications on behalf of Mountain Training Scotland. <https://www.mountain-training.org/about/structure-and-governance/mountain-training-scotland>

SOLU's training programmes allow the Council to build capacity and develop the breadth and depth of outdoor learning across the City. Regarding numbers, 2023 is shaping up to be one of our best yet. There is a training course planned for the 25–26 March with a couple of places left and an Assessment on 25–26 February that is almost full.

The Lowland Leader award is an ideal qualification for anyone that wants to lead groups of people in some of the outstanding countryside around Edinburgh and beyond.

**Key contact: Cliff Smith  
(Cliff.Smith@edinburgh.gov.uk) for further information and to explore booking onto the programme.**

## Outdoor Learning Support for Ukrainian Young People

Since the beginning of November, SOLU via the Bangholm Outdoor Centre has been supporting the Young People who are hosted in our schools as refugees from the conflict in Ukraine.

Our programme aims have been based around enhancing the young people's experiences, promoting positive mental and physical wellbeing and fostering a sense of connection to nature in their host country.

The newly rebuilt Bangholm Outdoor Centre has acted as the hub for our Tuesday and Friday programmes; pupils from Leith Academy and Trinity and Victoria Primaries have come to Bangholm for on-site activities and as a base for exploring the City's greenspaces by foot and bike. Groups have also accessed local venues such as Alien Rock for climbing and bouldering.

On Wednesdays our instructors have travelled to Craigmillar to deliver bike-based adventurous activities to young people at Castlebrae Community High School and Castleview Primary School. We've been delighted to work alongside partners from The Green Team and Water of Leith Conservation Trust to deliver these programmes, and this has led to a greater richness of activities for the young people to take part in, including cooking a traditional Ukrainian breakfast dish on an outdoor fire (I can confirm that this was extremely tasty!).

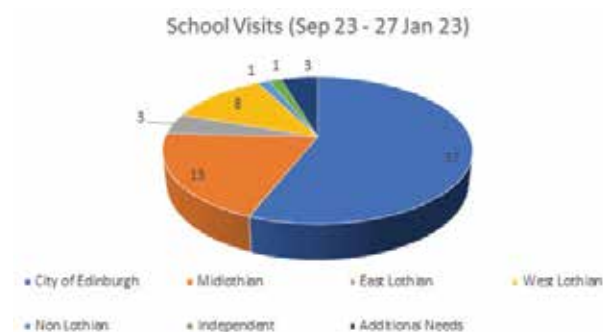
**Key contact: Andrew Bagnall**  
([Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk))

## The Risk Factory

Between 22 September and the 27 January, the Risk Factory has welcomed pupils from 65 primary/special schools comprising 2,452 pupils and 279 staff/parent helpers.

Feedback from teachers has been very positive with many expressing how good it is to be able to visit again.

Schools that attended were split as follows:



Between now and the end of June, a further 84 schools are booked.

All visits to the centre are delivered by our volunteer team. Their numbers had reduced following COVID, however, we are working with the Council's media and web teams and are about to launch a new media campaign aimed at increasing our volunteer base.

Currently, we have 35 fully trained volunteers, with a further two completing their training and another about to start. Anyone interested in volunteering will be encouraged to get in touch and come and see what is involved. No skills are necessary as full training is provided.

Lothian Buses who have been long-time supporters of the Risk Factory are very generously replacing the half bus they donated when we first opened with a new double decker. This scenario looks at safe travel and antisocial behaviour on buses including the throwing of stones. The new bus has been cut in half and wrapped and we are currently looking at dates with them for the old one to be removed and the new one to be moved into position.

**Key contact: Caroline Wilson**  
([Caroline.Wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Wilson@edinburgh.gov.uk))

## Broughton University Partnership (UP) Programme

The Broughton UP programme is a targeted intervention initiative aimed at improving outcomes for learners living in our lower

SIMD areas who have the potential to do well academically with the aim of reducing the attainment gap.

The specific aims of the programme are to:

- \* Improve the attainment and achievements of learners living in our lower SIMD areas.
- \* Improve the confidence, self-esteem and self-efficacy of these students.
- \* Raise the aspirations of the targeted students.
- \* Support the participants into a positive destination.

The programme was introduced in session 2014 – 2015. It involves collaboration between teachers, learners, parents and local University partners to deliver an ambitious programme of activities including: the provision of basic equipment; study guides and past papers; a mentoring programme; confidence-building activities and an annual residential experience at our local Universities.

Our University partners are Napier University, Heriot Watt University, Queen Margaret University and Edinburgh University. Our partners have been instrumental in the design and delivery of the programme. In addition to supporting with University campus visits and residential experiences, they deliver workshops and one-to-one support for our students in school.

The programme works with pupils from S1 through to S6. The school have tracked the attainment of the students who have participated in Broughton UP and indications are that this work has had a positive impact on their attainment and on destinations.

Staff have now decided to bring the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) into the programme for this year's S3 Broughton UP group. The group meet for one period a week with their Broughton UP teacher. For the first 6 weeks of this academic year, staff guided the group through

the 3 sections, taking them to try squash (for free) thanks to Edinburgh Sports Club, helping them to find free and cheap opportunities in our community, getting their profiles started and getting them into the habit of entering details into eDofE on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, the group will have 10 minutes at the beginning of every lesson (that they are in school) to update their profiles and staff will be on hand for some additional one to one mentoring for any pupil that is struggling.

Expedition training will commence in the spring during their timetabled period. The group have already taken part in an intro into DofE excursion in the Pentland hills, which they loved. They didn't even seem to mind the mist! Their training and expedition will be during school time in May.

We know that cost can be an obstacle for participation in DofE so the school plan to run this at zero cost to the participants. They can do this due to the kind help of the DofE Resilience fund, by using outdoor qualified school staff and Lifelong Learning staff to run expeditions so that we have no staffing costs and by using our DofE savings in the school account to pay for additional costs.

Moving forward, the school's plan is to offer Silver and then Gold DofE levels to those interested in the group as they progress through school. Less support will be timetabled as they get older due to the additional time required for study and university help but we hope that the skills and good habits regarding profiles that they learn in S3 will prepare them for a more independent approach in S4–S6. In addition to this, we wish to start the Bronze DofE Award with each new S3 Broughton UP group each year.

**Key contact for DofE: Fraser Robertson (Fraser.Robertson@edinburgh.gov.uk) who can also put you in contact with the relevant Broughton High School staff.**