



# Focus on St David's High

French penpals arrive

## Rolling out the welcome mat to nos visiteurs Francais!

WRITTEN BY GERALDINE LUCAS

In January, S3-S6 pupils from St David's High School warmly welcomed their 38 French pen pals and four teachers from the Lycée Camille Corot in Lyon.

Over the past three years, links between the two schools have grown stronger and stronger due to regular communication via handwritten letters between them. Students have made further links with each other through social media in their free time.

They were excited to meet each other in person for the first time and it was an excellent experience for all.

The French pen pals were given a tour of St David's, led by our senior students, before sharing their presentations about their pre-visit perceptions of Scotland. This was followed by a competitive, bilingual team quiz on Scottish culture, a game of charades and rounded off with a traditional Irn-bru and shortbread.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed and St David's has received great feedback from the French visitors about our school.

St David's intends to maintain this link which gives our pupils a chance to use their French regularly, apply it to real life and write with a real audience in mind. This has truly enhanced their writing skills, motivation and their cultural awareness. À bientôt!



St David's students with their French counterparts.

Environment

## Extra-curricular group goes green



The students involved in the Eco-Group

After a year of hard work the St David's High School Eco Group achieved the Eco School Scotland Green Flag Award.

The group have carried out a variety of activities such as litter picks, growing herbs, picking brambles, making a tasty crumble, a visit to the Highland Show

and making pinecone bird feeders. The group also received a certificate from the RSPB for taking part in their Big Schools' Birdwatch.

Recently the group were also involved in a visit from Keep Scotland Beautiful who provided a 'Climate Ready Classrooms' workshop for some of our pupils.

The students really enjoyed this event and learned a lot about sustainability and how we can do our little bit to help.

In the spring, the group aims to carry out another litter pick around the school campus and the local community. We think that small positive steps will help to make big long-term changes.

Young Musician

## Musical masters reach the final of Rotary contest



St David's musical maestros

Six talented St David's pupils took part in the local heat of the Rotary Young Musician competition in Dalkeith in January.

This was the first round and St David's Ceri-Ann Townsend placed first in the instrumental category, while Sarah McCleod took the top spot and Nicole Baird the third for the singing category.

Following their local success, Ceri-Ann and Sarah continued onto the Area Final

with fantastic results - Ceri-Ann placed first and Sarah Second.

Now the two girls will move on to competing in the district final, which took place on February 23 in Heriot-Watt University. We sent our greatest support and encouragement for the remaining finals.

Ceri-Ann will be continuing her musical studies in Cardiff and Sarah will be studying musical theatre. Look out for them on a stage near you!

School shorts

### A trip into history

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation, two senior students, Robert Frame and Holly Beveridge, visited Auschwitz to learn about its role in the Holocaust. The excursion broadened students' knowledge about the Holocaust and the camps. This meant they could share their knowledge with others on returning to Scotland, thereby ensuring this part of history is not forgotten and to prevent such atrocities from happening in future. Our senior ambassadors created an informative lesson for S1. Holly and Robert said the moment that stuck out most was entering the rooms full of shoes and hair removed from the prisoners. Seeing this brought home the reality of the sheer number of victims and the reality that the victims were all living, breathing people, rather than just a statistic. The pupils said: "From this experience we will take away that each individual involved was a human being and that each role played a big part." The English and History departments have also been raising awareness of the tragedy of the Holocaust through a cross curricular unit of work taught to all S2 students.

### New base opens

This academic year, St David's opened the door to its Nurture Base. This space provides an attractive, safe and structured environment equipped with resources designed to support students' well being, promoting the school's ASPIRE values. Pupils practise social skills that are fundamental in helping them access mainstream classes.

### It all adds up

The Maths department challenged St David's students to put their skills into action. For Maths Week, students answered numerical questions relating to each subject and the maths department worked with HE to create truffle boxes. Watch out for the P6 numeracy transition event in the near future!