



St David's High School

1 Cousland Road Dalkeith Midlothian EH22 2PS

0131 654 4702
0131 663 1826
StDavids_hs@midlothian.gov.uk
@St DavidsHS
stdavidshighschool.co.uk

Headteacher
Mr D MacDonald

Depute Headteachers
Ms K Lewis
Mrs K Williamson

26 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Summer 2018

The end of the school session is almost upon us and I am sure all pupils and staff are looking forward to a well earned summer break. As ever it has been a frantically busy summer term with students involved in a whole range of trips and activities from cake-making to kayaking, from the Cairngorms to Swaziland. Sometimes the best learning can take place outside the classroom and with the help of our @StDavidsHS Twitter Photo Competition, it has been especially pleasing to look back over the many and varied opportunities that have been on offer over the course of the year.

If you do not yet follow us on @StDavidsHS then you can have a look over a small selection of the photographs and activities on the school website at www.stdavidshighschool.co.uk.

Among all of these activities, the highlight of the year for many would have to be the school's production of 'Sister Act, The Musical'. What a triumph of teamwork, leadership and talent to produce such a fantastically joyful series of performances from pupils and staff.

Of course the term started with the SQA exams and once again it was good to see our senior students respond so positively to the challenge. Let us hope and pray that they get the good news they deserve in August. Many of the fifth and sixth years will have very clear ideas of where they see their future and know exactly the qualifications and skills required, but others will need help and guidance to plan their next steps. In this regard we are delighted to have established a partnership with Edinburgh University to deliver a whole range of career insights for all of our pupils. The seniors have already been to the University to get a taste of student life and we look forward to building this relationship over the course of next year.

The new timetable in June also saw the introduction of our new guidance structure with two rather than three houses. After much debate and a combined staff and pupil vote, we now have St Cecilia House and St Nicholas House. Mr McKenzie and Mrs Oliver will work with Mrs Williamson to look after Cecilia pupils and Mrs Gardiner and Mr Martin will work with Ms Lewis for Nicholas pupils.

This is always a time of great change in any school and staffing is no exception, with the inevitable reshuffling that accompanies appointments, promotions and retirements.

This summer we have three colleagues who have decided to retire from teaching. Nothing too remarkable in that you may think, until we consider that between them they have given 98 years of service to St David's High School! It is extraordinary to think how many young people have benefitted from the care, compassion and support of these three wonderful colleagues. For Mrs MacNamara, Mrs Glen and Mr MacPherson teaching has been a vocation, not simply a job. Their lifetime of commitment to doing the very best for their pupils deserves our utmost respect and gratitude. We wish them and all our leavers, staff and pupils, the very best for their futures beyond St David's.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 20 August 2018.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D MacDonald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

D MacDonald
Headteacher