



VIEWFORTH HIGH SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



Head Teacher's Welcome

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter.

2021 has proven to be another challenging year for us all, however the Viewforth High School community has risen to the challenge and continued to achieve success. In this newsletter we are delighted to share a selection of these successes and achievements as well as some of the wider curricular activities that have taken place. I'm sure you'll agree that the following pages demonstrate the continued hard work and commitment of our staff and partners and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them.

As ever, I am incredibly proud of our young people. They continue to display resilience and are coping well with the ongoing mitigations that are in place to keep our school community safe from Covid-19.



Head Teacher's Welcome Continued

Our Captains have been working hard to promote charitable donations and on Friday 17th December we had our annual 'Dress Up for Christmas Day' with young people and staff wearing Christmas jumpers, Santa hats, tinsel etc in exchange for donations to the Kirkcaldy Foodbank.

I'm delighted to let you know that we donated an incredible 1426 items to the Foodbank and a cheque for £202 – a fantastic achievement!



Senior Pupils

Our senior pupils have been preparing for their prelims which begin on Friday 7th January 2022. A reminder that you can find the prelim timetable along with the supported study timetable on our school website. I would encourage all pupils sitting assessment in January to spend some time revising over the holiday period to ensure they are in a strong position to achieve success.

Parents/Carers

Viewforth is dependent upon the support of our parents and carers in working with us to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour attendance, punctuality and school uniform; all of which help us to create a positive environment for learning and achievement. VHS is a school to be proud of and we want our public image to reflect the values staff and parents promote. Your ongoing support is very much needed and appreciated, thank you.

Many of our young people achieve success in lots of ways that are not connected to the school. If your child achieves something that we as a school can recognise and celebrate, please let us know.

Staffing

This term we welcomed the following staff:

Nicola Budge	Home Economics (returned from maternity leave)
Stewart Burnside	Pupil Engagement Officer
Deborah Bridgehouse	Pupil Support Assistant
Stuart Clark	Technician
Euan Connelly	Family Support Worker
Leona Fernie	Pupil Support Assistant
Aina Kucane	Pupil Support Assistant
Amber Paterson	Pupil Support Assistant
Ian Urquhart	Pupil Support Teacher
Melissa Young	YMCA Mentor

This term we bid a very fond farewell to:

Linda Barker	Head Cook
Debbie Wilson	Pupil Support Officer
Lisa Winters	Pupil Support Assistant

At the beginning of next term we look forward to welcoming:

Kris Fraser	Craft, Design and Technology
Michael Readman	English and Drama
Val Symon	MCR Pathways Co-ordinator

I would like to wish all pupils, parents, carers, partners and staff a happy, safe and relaxing holiday.



Take care, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



ART & DESIGN



Christmas Card Competition

This term junior classes explored a range of techniques such as printing, collage, watercolour, paper cutting and mark making to create their individual baubles. It was a difficult decision choosing only nine to feature on the school Christmas card as there were so many beautiful designs but we are proud to announce the winners are:

Skye Buchanan

Amber Fenelon

Wiktoria Szwankowska

Abigail Brown

Alex Grubb

Logann Varney

Evie Croy

Ben Harper

Bailey Whyte

Daniel Wardle

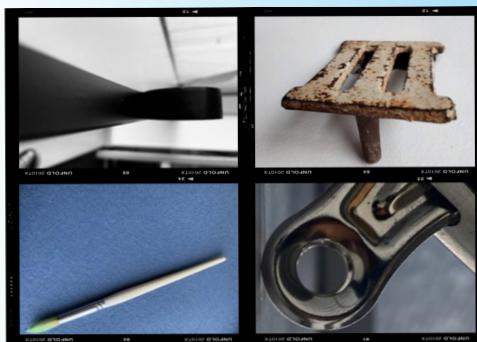
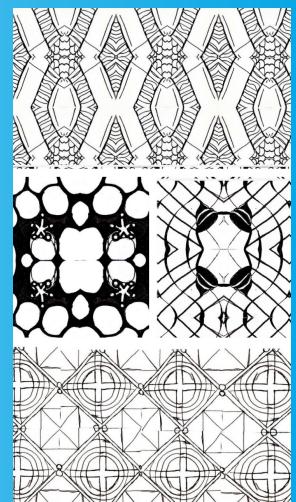
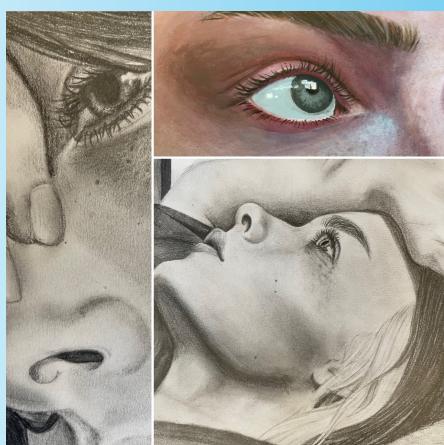
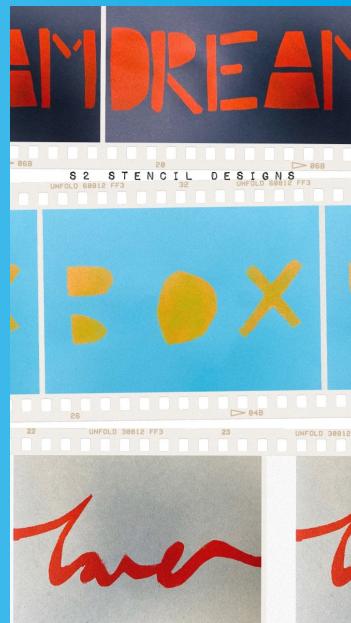
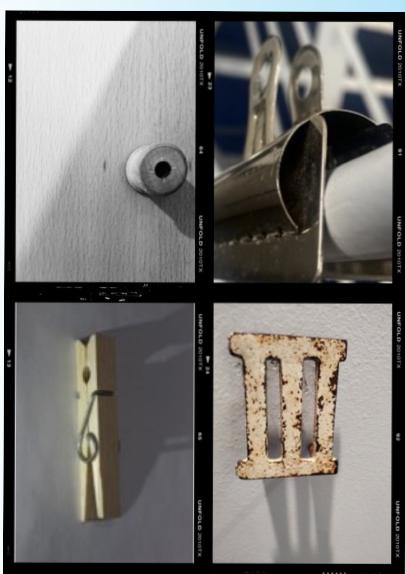




ART & DESIGN



We wanted to showcase some of the amazing work that is being produced in the department from all year groups and courses we offer:
Photography, Design (Graphics) and Expressive (Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture)





ENGLISH

The English Department introduced the idea of “Choices” for National Poetry Day this year. Pupils examined poetry by Caleb Femi and our very own Scottish Slam Poetry European Champion, Miko Berry. They then created their own poems with the theme of “Choices” and we were so pleased by the amazing creativity of all year groups! House points, prizes and certificates were handed out to our winners.

470
POINTS

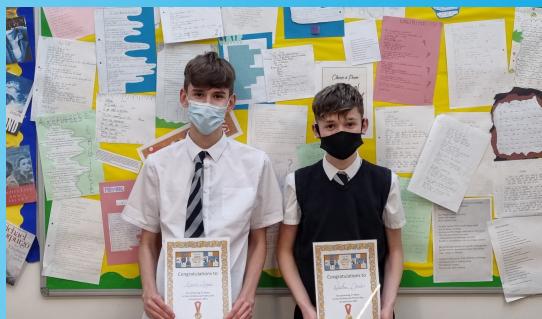
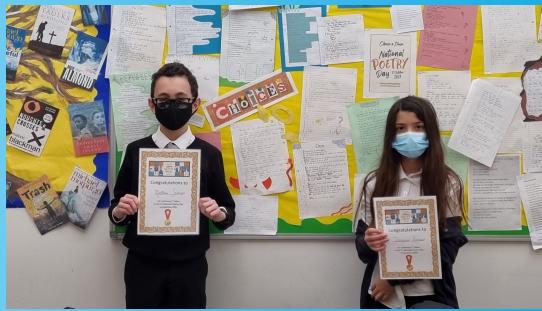
1 Craigendal

335
POINTS

2 Fidra

295
POINTS

3 MacGregor





ENGLISH

Here is a sample of the work that was submitted:

The Choice of Character

For never have I known a sweeter taste
Than thy spite and envy
As you marvelled at my grace;
Is it a choice to be so fine?
A diamond cup of rosy wine.
You call me vain, and I agree
But why should I be forced to flee?
I am not good, but I am smart
And my guile is a forbidden art.

I chose to be this way, you know.
A stray cat on its own.
You call me rude, I give a smile
But that's nothing, I could be vile.
And should I be, is for me to choose
The giant evil or the golden goose
I know myself and all my plans –
To feel the breeze of golden fans

It is on me to be this strong
To love myself is nothing wrong.
A narcissist, they say I am
Oh, that's a simple, foolish scam.

Narcissism is not a choice
I only choose to listen
to the voice.

In the dark I heard the whispers
They told me "Greatness causes blisters."
And I could go on and on for hours
About my merits and godly powers.
I know they laugh and that's all fine.
But shall I win they'll all be mine.
Their cries and tears
will my soothe my ears.
Beware, dear peers.

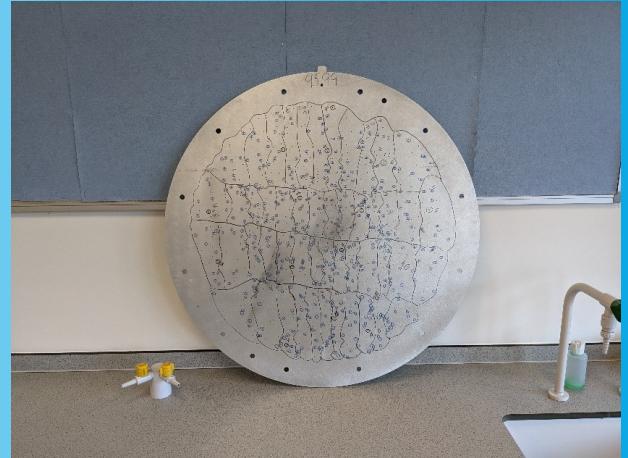
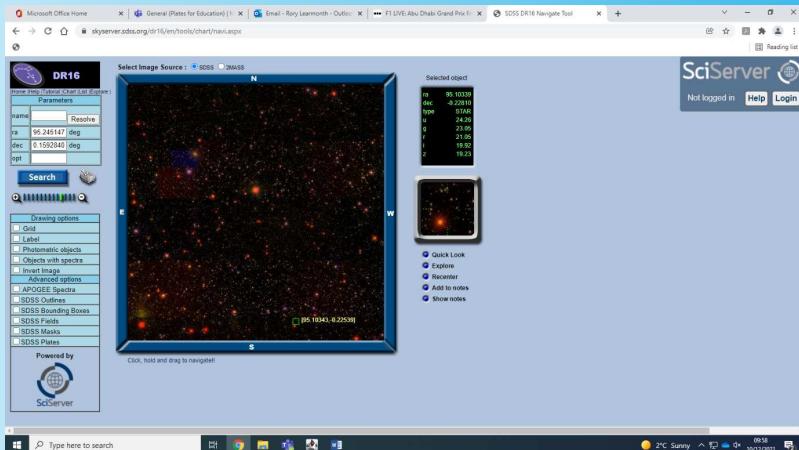
Well, I could choose a different path
To not unleash my savage wrath.
But I won't choose to live this way.
Kindness is weakness
And you shall pay.



PHYSICS

The physics department received an exciting piece of astronomy research, an aluminium plate with a map of the stars in the night sky. The plate had been used by the Sloan telescope in New Mexico, USA and was kindly donated to the school by St Andrews University.

Our S3s were the first to use the plate and the research data that came with it, hunting for different astronomical objects in the night sky. They then moved onto mapping the brightest stars on the plate and making their own constellations to go with it.





WIDER ACHIEVEMENT



Level 6 Emergency First Aid Qualification



The school work in partnership with F.A.S.T – First Aid Training School, who deliver the Level 6 SCQF Emergency First Aid at Work qualification to our S4/5/6 pupils.

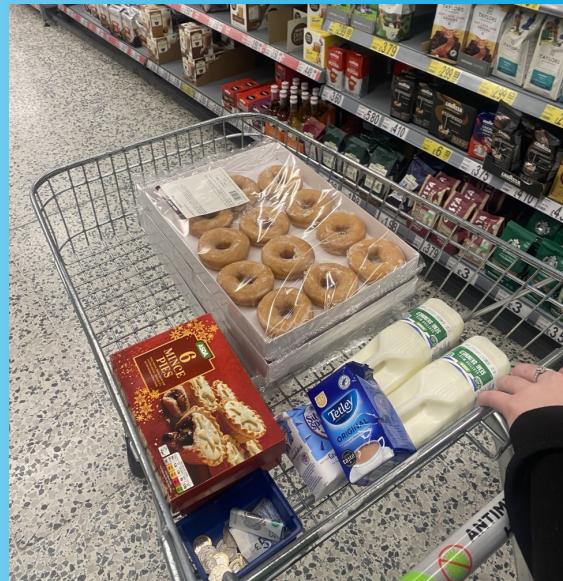
A total of 178 pupils took part across a week in November and successfully gained their qualification in this course! This is an amazing result for the school and the pupils are quite rightly very proud of their achievements.

Leadership Virtual Coffee Morning

Thanks to the efforts of some of the S5 Level 6 SCQF Leadership pupils, the staff were treated to a virtual coffee morning at the start of December. The group worked hard to collect orders from staff, purchase the essential items and put together the tasty treats for staff. These were then delivered to classrooms by their little helpers which was very well received!

The group did very well and raised a total of £110 which they have chosen to donate to Kirkcaldy Foodbank.

Well done to all involved.



Senior pupils delivering the items of food and cheques to The Kirkcaldy Foodbank



MATHEMATICS



Miss Stewart started a Thursday lunchtime puzzle and games club. Students challenge themselves by solving brain teasing puzzles which is a fun way of improving strategic thinking and reasoning skills. Puzzles are provided by the teacher, but students can also bring along their own questions to try to outwit their friends. Jigsaws and games of connect 4 are also on offer.



To foster numeracy and problem-solving skills, the Mathematics Department introduced a chess club this term. The Wednesday lunchtime club is organised by Dr McDonald and assisted by Mr Pullar. Thus far some beginners have joined to play for fun and the challenge. A few more enthusiastic individuals have requested and received tactical training on the theoretical complexities of the opening, middle and end game.

For example, there have been stimulating sessions about the King's Gambit, Scotch Game, and the Sicilian Defence. Pupils have already expressed an improvement in confidence and logical reasoning. With further investment confirmed, the club will soon benefit from computer software to help promote strategic thinking.

Hopefully, one day our school will produce players able to compete at a local and national level!



ACTIVE SCHOOLS

**sportscotland
activeschools
FIFE Young Leaders**

Beth Rintoul
Platinum Ambassador
Viewforth High School

My Aims as a Platinum Ambassador

As a platinum ambassador I aim to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in sport. I want to help people find a sport they enjoy and make sure everyone feels supported and comfortable to join in.

My Message to the Young People of Fife

"Never give up, when you feel like stopping think about why you started"

YOUNG LEADERSHIP PATHWAY

@FifeActiveSchools @FifeActiveSch

Beth Rintoul recently achieved the SCQF Level 7 qualification 'Planning, Design and Delivery of Training to Groups' through the Active Schools Platinum Ambassador Programme. Beth worked with other Platinum Ambassadors in the Kirkcaldy area to plan and deliver a Young Ambassador training day at St. Andrews High School during the summer holidays, which was attended by newly recruited Young Ambassadors in the area. Platinum Ambassadors were assessed on their delivery of this training day, and were then required to complete a Pupil Assessment Workbook to achieve the qualification. Beth has put in a huge amount of time and effort into achieving this qualification.

Congratulations Beth!

Chloe Leslie and Rebecca Renwick were selected as Our Girls Can Leaders for Viewforth, and both attended Our Girls Can training over the October break. The training looked at various areas including barriers to female participation in sport, session planning and delivery, and the Our Girls Can programme in Fife. The leaders are now using their knowledge to implement the Our Girls Can programme at Viewforth and encouraging female pupils to become more active. Next term they hope to deliver Our Girls Can sessions to VHS pupils, and conduct a survey with all female pupils to determine what sport activities they would like to see in the school. We look forward to seeing this area of work develop!





Viewforth High School pupils have achieved tremendous success working with Kirkcaldy YMCA's InSync Mentoring and Youth Work team over six months.

STEM Young Leaders

STEM Young Leaders Awards (SCQF Level 5) were completed and achieved by 7 pupils.



InSync Lunch Club

The InSync Mentoring lunchtime club started in September due to high demands and requests from the Viewforth pupils.

The club received a small fund from Youth Scotland's 'Big Idea' fund to buy resources and provide snacks during the lunch hour.

The club runs 4 times a week led by the InSync Mentoring team to support pupils, provide activities and give them a trusted adult to talk to during their lunch hour.

The club has been a great success with 78 pupils accessing the service (since mid September) and over 700 attendances to date.

Dynamic Youth Awards

(SCQF Level 3) were achieved by 26 pupils. All their portfolios received fantastic feedback from Youth Scotland and all passed with flying colours! Well done to all these young achievers.

S1 pupils: Daniel King, Kaitlyn Davidson, Mollie Crombie, Katie-Lee Wilson, Charley Machin, Cali Peebles, Liam Gaffar, Callie Cook, Leah Brown at Viewforth Youth Club, Gallatoon Hub for their Outdoor, Exploring and Nature Projects.

S1 pupils: Courtney Childs, Summer Walsh, Megan Wilkie, Darcie Swanson, Grace McFarlane, Chelsea Melville, Reece Gooderham, Lucy Curran , Angel Brockie-Moir, Brendan Godfrey, Nicole Newlands, Summer Hildersley, Olly Johnson, Mya Hill achieved their awards at the InSync Mentoring Transition Project and Kaitlin Flowers (S4), Owyn Davidson (S3) and Owyn Davidson (S2) achieved their awards with their InSync mentors.



MSYP Visit to Youth Club

VHS pupil Alexander Zlatev (S5) visited Viewforth Youth Club to talk to members about the Scottish Youth Parliament election and volunteer his time to help at the club. He took time to answer questions , provided information on how the elected pupil could help, support and advocate on pupils behalf and also took time to take selfies!



syp_azlatev Kirkcaldy, Fife ...
KIRKCALDY YMCA
SAFARI HUB

1/5

Liked by x and 40 others
syp_azlatev Yesterday, I had the pleasure of visiting the Viewforth Youth Club. It was a truly eye-opening experience as I got to know some of the young people in our community and the issues they care about. It was lovely and I am hoping to be back in the near future. With that said, there is still a lot more work to do and a lot more viewpoints I would like to hear as my aim is to represent everyone in our community as best as I can.
You should elect me not because of empty promises and random appearances but because I work hard, I get it done and I care.
VOTE ZLATEV!

1/5



PUPIL SUCCESS



Chloe Wilson (S5) has choreographed and coached budding 5 and 6 year olds in a group dance for NRJ Dance School. They recently achieved success at a competition scoring second place with their dance troop 'the off springs'. This is a great demonstration of leadership skills!

Well done Chloe!

Kian Shevlin (S4) has successfully trialled and gained a position in the Scotland Development squad for Ice Hockey.

Well done Kian!



Isla Gould (S4) has been representing Scotland in the Acrobatic British Championships recently. The intensive competition took place in Stoke and Isla and her team successfully managed to place 4th in the UK. What an amazing achievement.

Well done Isla.



DEPARTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT



The Department of Additional Support pupils have been working on an enterprise scheme with their teachers and the Art department to create Christmas cards and decorations. These will be sold within the school to raise money to buy resources the pupils need to enhance their experience in school and promote wellbeing. They have also honed their singing skills and learnt some Christmas songs that will be performed in front our lucky lottery winner!



A wishing tree was set up in the staff room; for a small donation staff can record their wishes and Christmas messages. The scheme links with the students Numeracy lessons where they have been practising numbers and handling money. Through the scheme, they are also being introduced to skills required to run a successful business: selling , interacting with customers and understanding margin and profit. They have already shown an aptitude as they sold no less than 35 items on our first day!

We are very proud of their hard work and endeavour.



Pupils have been developing their cooking and baking skills this term and have made a variety of dishes such as Hedgehog Bread, Gingerbread Skeletons for Halloween and Poppy Biscuits for Remembrance Day.

Pupils have also been working on their sewing skills and recently made sock snowmen using the skills they have learnt.

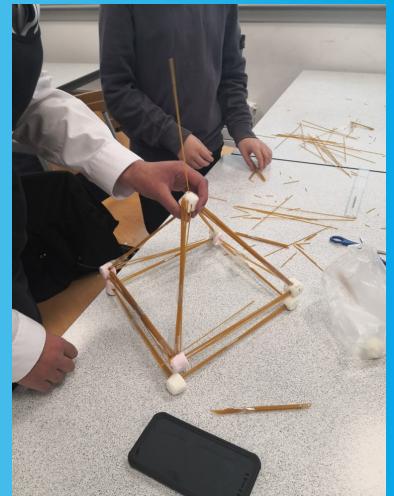


SOCIAL SUBJECTS

S5 pupils, Katrina Donald and Hannah Adie are representing the school on the virtual Lesson's from Auschwitz programme. They are learning about the experiences of a Holocaust survivor and are working on a presentation that they will share with fellow peers. This is an invaluable experience for the girls as they are able to hear directly from one of the last remaining survivors of the Holocaust atrocity. We can't wait to hear their presentation.



Our S2 Geography classes have been applying their knowledge about natural hazards and developing their understanding of how to build earthquake proof buildings. Great fun was had by all trying to build structures from spaghetti and marshmallows that could withstand an earthquake simulation.



Our S3 Criminology classes have been packaging and processing blood spatter (not real blood) as part of their understanding about the forensics process involved in criminal cases. This hands-on task was lots of fun and fortunately not too messy!





DRAMA



Our S3's have been working extremely hard this term on their Production Skills unit as part of their National 3 Qualification. Within this unit, students selected one of the following design roles; Lighting, Sound, Costume, Props or Hair and Make-up and created a character who had met an un-timely end. Pupils then produced a design that either showed how their character had died or emphasised the appropriate mood and atmosphere for their script. We've seen a lot of creative and gory designs that would be better suited to a horror film.

We can't wait to see what they will do next term!





MODERN LANGUAGES



S2 have been learning about different festivals in France and created a poster advertising several festivals that take place. They also loved to learn about food in France.
C'était formidable et superbe.

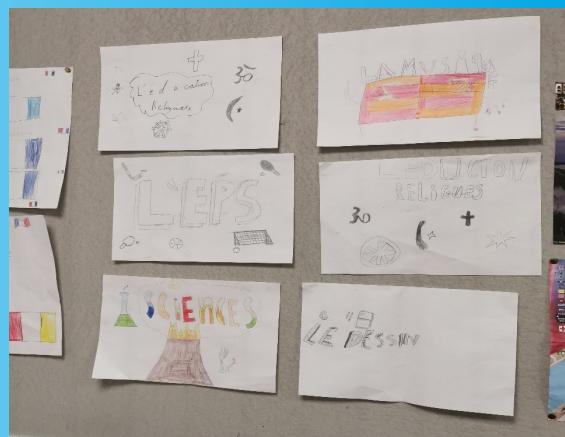


Our seniors loved to try different ways to revise everything they have learned so far and practice for their exams. They enjoyed various writing activities to help memorise writing parts for their exam, such as a running dictation. They all thoroughly enjoy using Blooket or Gimkit with the Among Us mode to recall the vocab.

Très bon travail tout le monde



S1 have been learning about school and what French pupils do at school. They have also created some posters about their favourite school subjects. C'est merveilleux.



S3 were focusing on new technologies and media. They loved to learn how to talk about their favourite social media and their favourite film. S3 French have started to study a movie "The hunchback of Notre-Dame" that sets in Paris.



The Language Ambassadors, along with other Christmas enthusiasts, helped to create our Christmas display. Seniors found how to say Merry Christmas in different languages. We have loved to see how they all worked together.
C'est super et magnifique !
Une super équipe !





HOME ECONOMICS



S1 X-mas Decorations

This term, S1 have been working on a sewing and textiles unit, they have used the skills learnt to make a felt Christmas decoration. There were some very creative decorations and some good sewing skills demonstrated by pupils.



National 3 Practical Cookery

National 3 Practical Cookery got into the festive spirit recently when making Gingerbread Reindeer which were almost too good to eat!



National 4/5 Practical Cookery

Pupils have been working on their practical skills this term and have made a variety of dishes. We are pleased with their progress and look forward to seeing their skills develop further next term. Some of the dishes pupils have made include Cajun chicken, pork loaves, lemon meringue pie and vegetable rosti cakes.



NPA Bakery

We have started a 'Baker of the Week' competition with our Bakery classes. Here is one of our first winners with a festive focaccia

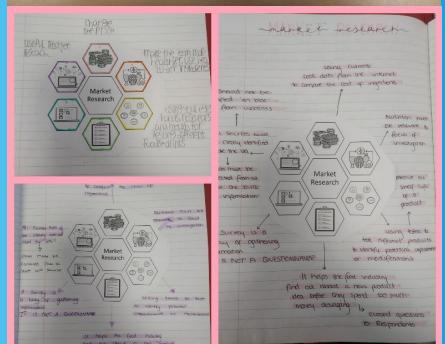
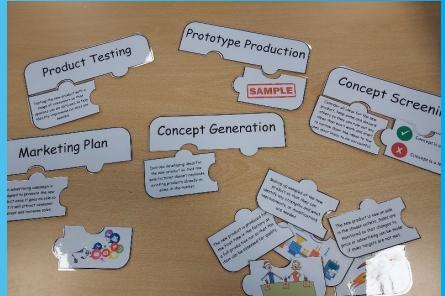


S2 Beeswax Wraps

S2 have been working on a packaging unit and we have been looking at alternative packaging to plastic. Pupils have made beeswax wraps using beeswax from here in Fife and pupils were excited to take them home and try them out.



BEESWAX FOOD WRAPS



National 4/5 /Higher HFT

Senior Health and Food Technology have been learning about Food Product Development this term and have been using various methods of retrieval practice to test their knowledge and to help with their revision.



POSITIVE POSTCARDS

Awards of Positive Postcards

We have been delighted to host our second Positive Postcard Awards for this session. These postcards are awarded for young people who have demonstrated consistent effort and good attitude throughout the term. This is demonstrated through the number of merits they have gained from their teachers across all their subjects.

Merits are gained each period for:

1. Hard Work (trying your best, not giving up, perseverance etc.)
2. Good Behaviour (being polite, respectful, kind)
3. Outstanding Work (going above and beyond expectations)
4. Contribution to Lesson (asking questions, giving answers, helping others, working with others well)
5. Excellent Homework (on time and outstanding effort)



S1 Pupils receiving their Positive Postcards



Pupils from our Department of Additional Support receiving their Positive Postcards

This event gives the school the opportunity to recognise the everyday efforts of young people in school. Congratulations to all of the Positive Postcard recipients.