Columba 1400

Dunfermline High School Partnership

Columba 1400 Leadership Academies allow young people to discover their own values and how these can help them realise their true potential in education, work, life and community. Columba 1400 adopt a holistic approach to working with young people which also involves key adults in their lives who participate alongside them.

This year, once again, S2 pupils were given the fantastic opportunity to apply to be involved in the Columba 1400 values-based leadership academy. Pupils applied to be part of the programme and 16 pupils were successful in being selected to take part. We have an amazing team of young people involved this year and every, single one of them has gained a fabulous experience so far.

In February, 16 pupils and 3 teachers from our school went to Skye for 5 days to take part in Columba 1400, a leadership academy that helps young people build confidence and realise their true potential. Some of the activities we did were Search and Rescue, Visual Explorer, and other team activities. These activities used teamwork, creativity and perseverance. We built self-esteem, confidence improved our leadership skills.

In the words of our young people:

"It was a really good leadership experience"

"An absolutely brilliant experience to help confidence"

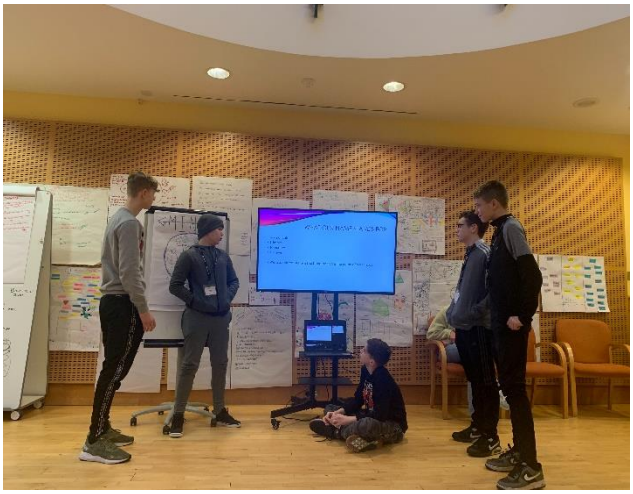
"Very fun and I became a better decision maker"

The Programme

The programme is split into 3 stages.

Stage one involved pupils and staff coming together to with Columba staff for a series of workshops to build relationships, to learn about the Columba values and to consider what values were important to them individually. This involved many group activities and a values walk where we went out into nature and discussed what values were important to us all and why.

Stage two involved the team going to the amazing Columba 1400 facility on the Isle of Skye. A long, but well worth it, journey. Skye was an amazing experience for everyone involved. We got the opportunity to work in groups to reflect on our values and to use our values to develop leaderships skills. It was brilliant to watch our young people grow so much in confidence over the course of the week. Activities involved taking part in a search and rescue event, problem solving activities, delivering presentations and thought-provoking discussions about our own successes all whilst focusing on the Columba values of Awareness, Focus, Creativity, Integrity, Perseverance and Service.



Stage three is currently in process now that we are back in school and our young people are currently looking at how to use their leadership skills to create meaningful change in our school community.