

JUNIOR DUKE AWARD NEWSLETTER

END OF YEAR ROUNDUP



15 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Our fabulous Patron, Gordon Bulloch, has now visited the founding school, Hutchesons' Grammar in Glasgow for 15 years (missing one year for COVID)!

Pupils and staff welcomed him to their celebration and he chatted to all of the Platinum completers before awarding them with their well-earned certificates.

We enjoyed hearing how one dad had learned how to use the washing machine at the same time as his 11 year old daughter! Every single one of the pupils had chosen the challenge of



learning how to wrestle successfully to get their bed sheets back on their beds! Most had learned how to cook a hot meal from a recipe and thought it was the most delicious dinner they'd ever tasted. Most had learned to use public transport independently to go into town and they all felt they had become more independent through working on their choice of challenges.

It was a hot, sunny day and, as a gift, Gordon was given a fully-loaded super-soaker water pistol so, after the certificates had been safely stowed, everyone was sprayed!

Even many of the teachers enjoyed being cooled off!

NO BREAK EVEN WITH A BREAK!



It was so good to see that, even with her arm in a cast, there was no holding back young Martha, a Year 5 girl from Dubai International Academy Emirates Hills!

She baked bread and planted an avocado tree from a stone (or do you call it a pit?)!

Thanks for sending in the photos!

COFFEE MORNINGS GALORE!

Thanks to all the Principals who give time to the completers by organising coffee mornings for them to share their experiences with you and other successful Dukers!



NEW BARISTAS

A relatively new skill for Gold Mini Duke (age around 7) is to learn how to make a cup of tea or coffee...SAFELY. Parents around the world are enjoying being brought hot drinks by their children! There is a whole new generation of capable baristas in the making!

We are very clear in the Gold Mini Duke booklet about how to stay safe whilst working with boiling water!





ADMIN (THE IMPORTANT BITS)

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY

Every summer we take time to look at each Award and value the feedback from all schools. This is the time to let us know if there is a particular challenge that is less popular than others. We continually look to improve, update or tweak the challenges ready for the next year.

Please fill out the survey by clicking here:

[juniorduke.com/evolve](https://www.juniorduke.com/evolve)

(You will need to know some details about the different levels)

DIGITAL BADGES

There will be a range of digital badges available in the resources section of our website which you will be able to use on your school social media posts as well as on your website and on your Junior Duke wall display.

REVIEWS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

We are always looking for reviews and real life stories from all Junior Duke Award schools. These help us in marketing the Award and sharing with new interested school leaders. It would be great to include your school on our social media, website and next newsletter.

Please click on this link to submit your school's story:

[juniorduke.com/reviews](https://www.juniorduke.com/reviews)

STAFF MOVEMENT

We are aware that each academic year, staff may change roles and schools. Many of you have already reached out to say you are taking a new role and would like to start the Junior Duke Award at your new school and have kindly introduced the staff member taking over the Award at your present school. Please ensure the Google form is filled out which will help us contact the relevant people.

Please let us know of any staff movement by clicking here: [juniorduke.com/moving](https://www.juniorduke.com/moving)

ORDER DEADLINES

There is no **HARD** deadline for orders. However, it works well to get things up and running right at the start of your school year to give pupils as much of the year as possible to successfully complete their challenges.

Orders can be submitted through the website shop or, if you have difficulties, email dawn@juniorduke.com and I shall place it for you.



For Southern Hemisphere schools running a Jan 2024 - Dec 2024 calendar, orders can be submitted anytime before you break up for the summer holiday.



SOFT deadline for UK and Ireland session 23/24 - 21st September 2023.



SOFT deadline for northern hemisphere International orders 23/24 is 23rd September 2023.

NEW WEBSITE

Over the Scottish summer, we have been making some upgrades to our website. We look forward to relaunching our new website soon and hope you will notice a few differences! This will hopefully be easier to navigate.

www.juniorduke.com

CONTACT INFORMATION



General enquiries

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Award Founder

dawn@juniorduke.com

www.juniorduke.com



KNITTED SQUARES

Huge thanks to the many children (and their parents and grannies) in the many schools around the world who have learned to knit! This year, Dawn has received enough squares to be made into three full blankets! They will be posted off to South Africa where 'knit-a-square' will darn them into blankets so that orphaned or vulnerable children can stay warm.



MOST OUTSTANDING – SENIOR DUKE

It is always hard to pick out an outstanding individual from thousands but, upon viewing the evidence submitted on the Senior Duke Portal this year, we wish to make special mention of Max Hamilton-Done.

He has submitted outstanding evidence in every single challenge.

His parents are delighted to see how well he has learned to clean the bathroom!

Accompanied by his dad, Max took charge of pitching the tent and cooking dinner over an open fire for them both and made sure to leave no trace.



Comment from dad: A tired but triumphant boy returned from the woods, and I really think he learnt a lot about the minutiae of camping (the tidying up after oneself, the cooking times of different foods, the importance of woodland loo etiquette etc) and I think this experience has helped his independence and confidence significantly.

This entire Senior Duke experience has done wonders for Max's knowledge of life skills and his confidence in himself, we are both so glad he took up the challenge.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

FOBISIA

ESTABLISHED IN 1988

(Federation of British International Schools in Asia)

In March 2023, we met with the FOBISIA community at their annual leadership conference in Bangkok. It was great to connect with school leaders who are already using the Award and to have the opportunity to showcase it to new schools.

It's exciting to hear that in 2023/24 there is already interest from a huge number of FOBISIA schools joining the Junior Duke community.



The Council of British International Schools (COBIS) leadership conference saw schools from all around the world meeting in London during the Coronation weekend. A huge warm welcome to new schools from all over the globe!



(Association of International Schools in Africa)

Proud to be affiliate members of the Association of International Schools in Africa, we are planning to join the AISA conference later this year. There are already a some schools in Africa offering the Junior Duke Award to their pupils so here's hoping more schools see the benefit and would like to follow suit.

The Award is already offered by schools working in over ten different curriculums. From IB to British, American to Cambridge.

OUTSTANDING WORK

For the first time, we asked teachers to look at completed journals and choose which of them were the school's 'most outstanding'.

Teachers chose their own criteria and it has been really joyous to see scans of those pupils' favourite pages. They really are 'wow!' Keep them coming please.

REVIEWS



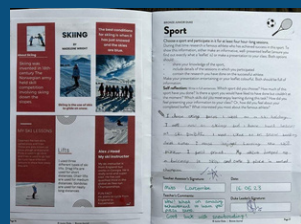
WHAT TAKING PART IN THE JUNIOR DUKE FELT LIKE THIS YEAR

MADELEINE WRIGHT

AGE 7, BRONZE JUNIOR DUKE AWARD

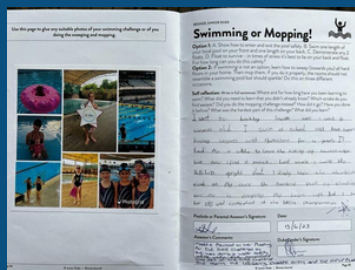
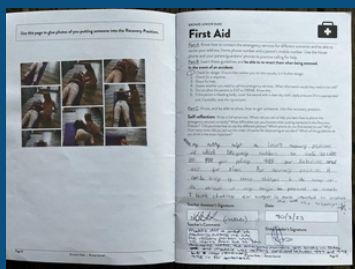


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Madeleine Wright
Aged 7



WHAT TAKING PART IN THE JUNIOR DUKE FELT LIKE THIS YEAR

ELIKA INMAN

JUNIOR DUKE LEADER - KENT COLLEGE

"What a busy year it has been at Kent college with our Junior Duke Programme!! We have seen a record breaking amount of pupils take up the award, from FS2 to Years 8, and our children have been extremely busy completing these amazing life skill awards.

Across all year groups, I have been delighted to see children mastering real life skills such as shoe lace tying to memorising emergency numbers, how to avert disasters and even how to knit and sew, amongst many other things. This programme, not only provides children with life skills but also enriches their worldly awareness and of the environment in which they live.

Children have been able to transfer these skills, not only to their home environment, but also to support their work at school.

It has been a great privilege to watch these children grow and develop completing the Junior Duke Award. The support and enthusiasm from parents has been phenomenal and I am proud of each and every student that has taken part and who has successfully completed the award. I am sure that the skills they have learnt will be incredibly useful in their future."

Good luck to you in your new school, Ellie!

LINKING UP OUR COMMUNITY



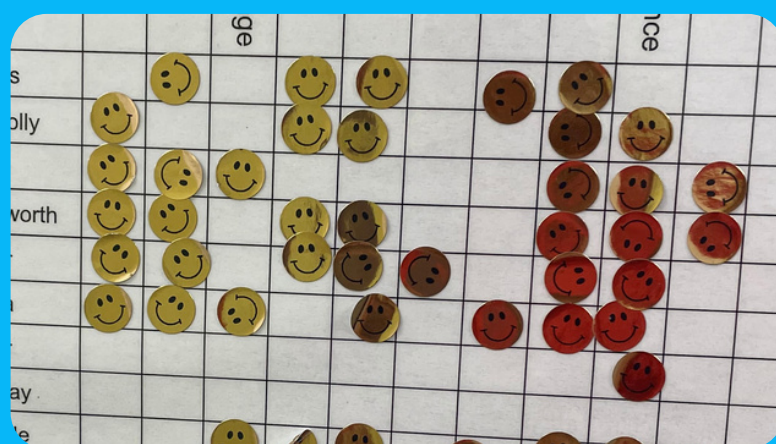
We will be launching our global Junior Duke virtual competitions later in the year. It is our intention this academic year to have some world wide competitions in which all member schools will be able to take part.

The format for these will be a 24 hour window to complete the challenges. We will have a virtual leaderboard and will give schools and, most importantly, the children, the option to compete internationally with a range of life skills.

DOT SHEETS

Top marks to George Watson's College in Edinburgh who were first to send in photos of ALL of their dot sheets.

Knowledge of which challenges are most and least popular are crucial to the development and evolution of the Award each year.



JUNIOR DUKE JOHN



The Junior Duke Award is about providing children with new opportunities to improve their life skills, grit and determination. Therefore, when the opportunity came to sponsor John Pendergast, an 18 year old gap year student who was cycling from Cairo to Cape Town to raise money for charity, we jumped at the chance. Below John writes about his adventures and how having valuable life skills and a 'can do' attitude opens up a world of possibilities.

This time last year, I had just finished my A Level exams. I was predicted top grades, and planned to read geography at university. In the end, I was just short of the grades that I needed.

I set about earning money as a bagpiper, and, in October, signed up to take part in the Tour d'Afrique 2023. A frantic period of planning and training followed, and, on the 14th of January, I set off from the Pyramids of Giza to cycle 5,400 miles from Cairo to Cape Town.

The chaos of Cairo preceded long, relatively uneventful days through the Sahara Desert. The traffic picked up as we entered Sudan; notably convoys of coaches that would hold their line as they blasted past us at high speed, leaving us with no option but to dive off the road. Beyond the constant begging and bartering of the North African cities, the small desert communities introduced us to the famed African hospitality. The locals were always intrigued by our journey and would welcome us with open arms. I shall treasure such encounters for the rest of my life.

Due to the conflict in Ethiopia, we had to fly from Khartoum to Nairobi. After a month in the desert, arriving in Kenya was like entering a paradise. I shall never forget my first African rainfall, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania; the smell as the baked ground reacted to the first water for months; the crackle of the thunder and lightning across the twilight sky, and of course the inevitable flooding of my tent. It came as relief when, further on in my journey after a wet passage through Malawi and Zambia, it became exceedingly dry again as we entered Botswana; a country dubbed 'The Elephant Highway' for it boasts the largest elephant population in the world.



Namibia was eagerly anticipated as the toughest section of the expedition. 60% of the roads in Namibia are unpaved.

These roads were covered with a thick layer of sand and corrugation, which did nothing for the integrity of my stomach; I suffered repeatedly with illness throughout the expedition, and was suffering from a severe bout of vomiting in Namibia.

South Africa was like a 'best of' collection, with all of the major challenges of the expedition condensed into the final 1000 km; this added to the immense feeling of achievement when we rolled into Cape Town on 22 April.

My older brother, Andrew, has Down's Syndrome and Autism. The Elsie Normington Foundation is constructing the Haven Centre; a place for young people with special and complex needs to attend for respite care. This expedition presented itself as the perfect opportunity to raise vital funds for this charity, while following in the footsteps of my grandfather who, 70 years ago, walked from his home in Scotland to Cape Town and back, a journey that took him five years.

Throughout my journey, I was sending Junior Duke HQ videos of me completing some Junior Duke challenges needed in real life. I lost count of how many punctures I had to fix! These weekly videos were edited into short films and shared with the Junior Duke schools. I would love to think that some of these children may have been inspired by my expedition to go on their own adventures. Many 'Junior Dukers' have also completed their own fundraisers for the Haven Centre and I am so grateful for all of their hard work and help. I would be grateful for any further donations which can be made by following the link below and, if you would like to see the videos, you can see them if you scan this QR code (scroll to the bottom to watch from the start!):

[HTTPS://WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/JOHN-RAISE-FUNDS-FOR-BUILDING-THE-HAVEN-CENTRE](https://www.gofundme.com/f/john-raise-funds-for-building-the-haven-centre)



