

Major championship coming up for budding pipers

Edinburgh schools set to take centre stage in just three weeks

The countdown is on for 121 schools set to compete in one of the nation's biggest piping and drumming events.

In less than a month's time, thirteen schools from the Edinburgh will blow up a storm at the [Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championship \(SSPBC\)](#), with Balerno High School, Craigmount High School, Dean Park Primary School, Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools, Fettes College, Forrester High School, George Heriot's School, George Watson's College, Merchiston Castle School, Ratho Primary School, St Augustine's RC High School, The Edinburgh Academy and Tynecastle High School all participating.

Entries are also now officially open for the competition's coveted Eilidh MacLeod Endeavour Award – an award honouring the young Manchester Arena attack victim from Barra, who would have turned 18 this month.

The Championships was launched in 2013, as part of a nationwide drive by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) to revive dwindling access to the instruments across schools – despite evidence of multiple positive benefits.

Alexandra Duncan, Chief Executive of SSPDT, said: "The Championships are a huge day in the piping calendar and after a long break due to the pandemic, we are sure it will be a very special return next month.

"Playing in pipe bands can improve so much more than just

musical skills for young people and the Championships next month are a major celebration of that.

“As the big day gets closer, we can’t wait to welcome more than 120 schools to what is always an incredible, music-filled celebration.”

Featuring 81 performances across the day, the event will be hosted by East Ayrshire Council and see pipe bands, quartets and freestyle ensembles go head-to-head at the William McIlvanney Campus in Kilmarnock on 12 March 2023. Expert judges will adjudicate eight categories, ranging from Debut to Novice Juvenile.

The Championship is independently organised by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT). It carries the support of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) but is not a RSPBA competition.

SSPDT believes that every pupil should have the chance to learn the pipes and drums on the same basis as other school instrument tuition.

The national charity was formed with the belief that pipe bands are much more than a musical pastime; they develop life and employability skills and attributes such as teamwork, shared and individual achievement, resilience and perseverance, self-confidence, camaraderie and a sense of discipline and dress.

For more information on the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships, visit <http://www.thechampionships.org.uk/>

For more information on the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust, visit www.sspdt.org.uk



****Pics Free to use****

Pictured Preston Lodge High School

Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Championship, William
McIlvanney Campus, Kilmarnock



****Pics Free to use****

Pictured St Columba's School
Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Championship, William
McIlvanney Campus, Kilmarnock

