



Albyn School

Tartan Design Competition

I am delighted to launch our competition to design a unique tartan for Albyn School that represents the history, heritage and values of our School. The winning design will be made into a year round kilt to replace the current summer and winter kilts as well as being used in a range of other ways.

Although all girls wearing a bespoke kilt in a tartan of their choice, is a long-standing Albyn tradition born out of post-war rationing, in our uniform review conducted in May last year there was some clear feedback on the winter kilt from both pupils and parents, with the key areas of concern being:

- the cost of a bespoke kilt and, because of this cost, only being able to have one kilt.
- the lack of a single community identity due to having hundreds of different tartans
- the additional expense of having both a summer and a winter kilt

It was for these reasons that the decision was taken that, from August 2024 (or as soon as possible after that), there would be a year round kilt in a single tartan to be designed in an open competition.

Please study the brief that has been put together below as well as following the submission requirements carefully if you intend to enter the competition.

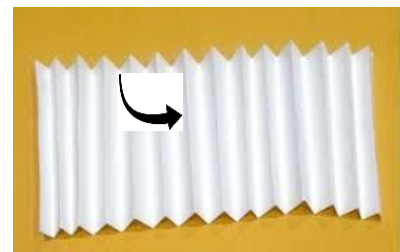
The competition is open to all current Albyn School pupils and parents, as well as Former Pupils, parents of FPs and other friends and supporters of the School. Entries will be judged by a panel comprising of members of Albyn School staff, FPs and other industry experts. We will work with the winner to turn their design into reality.

We hope that everyone across the Albyn community will be enthused and inspired to design something that epitomises Albyn, and leaves a lasting legacy for decades to come. Happy designing!

Stefan Horsman
Headmaster
April 2023

Submission requirements:

- Please submit a paper copy of your design. You may also wish to submit a second copy pleated/folded to represent how the design will appear as a kilt pleat. If submitting your entry electronically you may wish to indicate how your design would be folded,
- So that each entrant can be identified, please write your name, class (or year of leaving Albyn if an FP) and date of birth, clearly on the back of each design or on a piece of paper that is securely attached to your design.
- If you are not currently a pupil at Albyn School, please also add your email address, telephone number and your link to Albyn School, eg current parent, former member of staff etc.
- Both designs should be accompanied by your statement of justification. Please hand these in, in a sealed envelope or poly pocket. Entries should be placed in the box at Reception.
- Entries can also be emailed to tartandesigncompetition@albynschool.co.uk or posted to Albyn School, 17-23 Queen's Road, Aberdeen AB15 4PB.
- If you are submitting your entry digitally it should be submitted as a pdf or jpeg file.
- **The competition closes on Thursday 1 June 2023.**



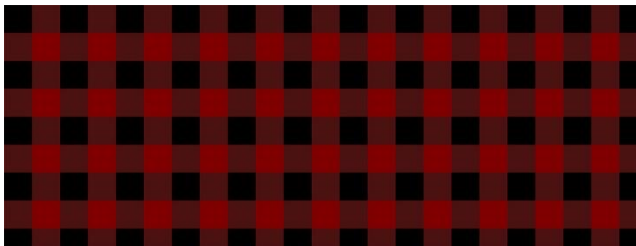
What is Tartan?

Tartan is a woven fabric consisting of a pattern of criss-crossed horizontal and vertical bands, which can be in multiple colours.

The earliest known tartan in Scotland can be dated to the third or fourth century AD. In other parts of the world, tartan cloth has been found dating to approximately 3000 BC. Virtually everywhere there was woven cloth, people created tartan designs. Yet only in Scotland have they been given such cultural significance (Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center Inc., 2022).

Repeating stripes of colour across the weft (the width) and the length (warp) of the fabric cross over each other to form different hues of colour where they meet, giving tartan its distinctive look.

For example:



However, you can also choose to separate colours which overlap by using alternating threads, like below:



Can you see the difference? When green overlaps blue, we can see alternating blue and green stripes.

The repetitive pattern of lines on tartan does not change throughout the whole length of the cloth. This is the 'sett' pattern, which is usually 12-15cm and repeats over and over.

Designing a Tartan

When designing your unique tartan, you could think about the following approaches:

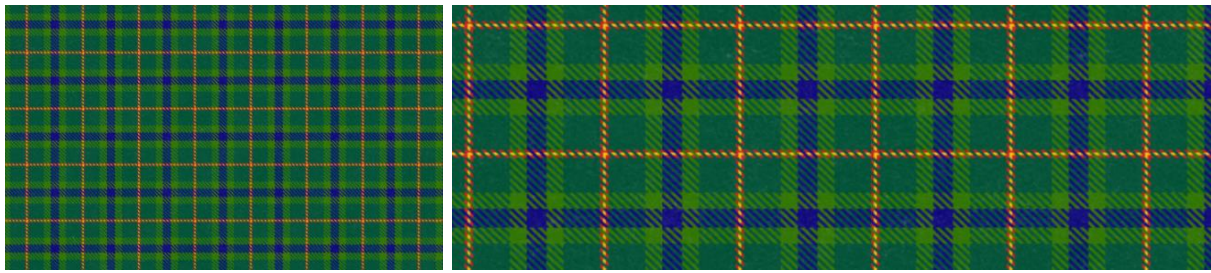
Number of colours based on theme. Example:

There are 5 letters in the word 'Albyn' so you might decide to use 5 different colours that represent the school.

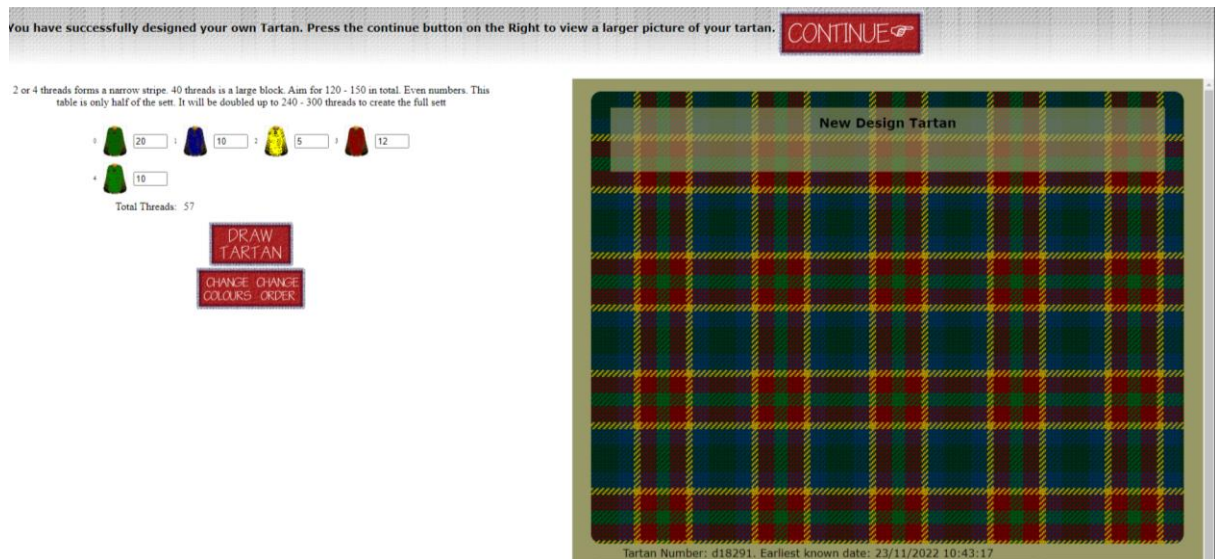
Number of threads per colour. Example:

- You could choose to use dark green (Albyn standard uniform colour) and the four Clan colours (blue, red, yellow and emerald green).
- You could apply a number of threads to each letter of the alphabet (A=1, B=2, C=3), so the word Albyn would be **1, 12, 2, 25, 14**.
- You could then decide which letter to associate with each colour and repeat your vertical stripes using this formula. You then do the same horizontally, overlapping your vertical pattern.
Dark Green = 25, Red = 1, Blue = 14, Yellow = 2, Emerald green = 12

Below is an example of this formula when entered into a tartan design website.



Or you may decide on a random thread count for each colour...



Design Brief

Things to consider:

- The winning tartan design and resulting kilt, will be worn with the current green blazer, white shirt, green tie and black tights or black kilt socks, so it will need to complement, or 'go with' these current items of uniform which will not be changing.
- The design could draw on colours that have significance to Albyn School and its history. Things to consider include:
 - the green blazer and the braid trim around the edge of it.
 - the green striped tie.
 - the four Clan colours and the tartans that exist for each of those clans already (Douglas - blue, Forbes - yellow, Gordon –green, and Stuart - red).
 - the Albyn School heraldic badge which is blue and red.
 - the colours of the women's suffrage movement (votes for women) which was a significant group at the time of the school's early history and it is thought that the green blazer is linked to the suffragette colours. The colours of this movement are green, white and purple, where green represents hope, white represents purity and purple represents loyalty and dignity.
- Designs may be hand-drawn or digital
- Submitted designs must come with a designer's statement justifying the meaning behind the design.

Helpful websites:

<https://clan.com/tartandesigner>

<https://houseoftartan.co.uk/interactive/weaver/index.htm>