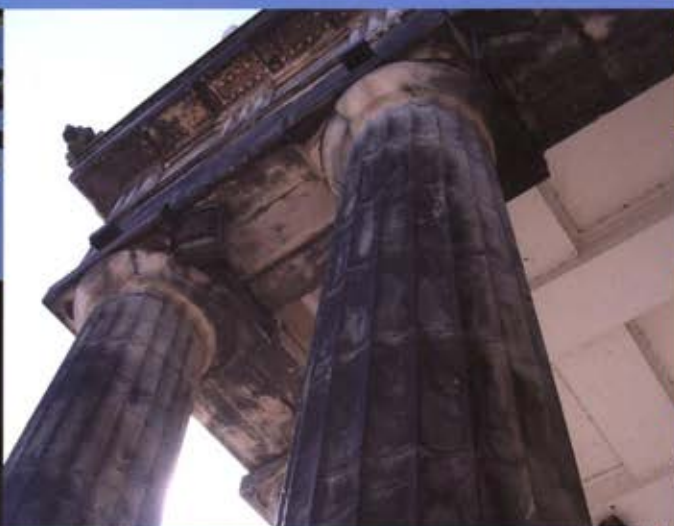


HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE



REVIEW 2005



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the High School Review 2005. I hope this year's Review gives you a flavour of the busy life of our school; the participation and achievement of so many of our pupils in all kinds of activities. As editor of this magazine, I am informed of much that is taking place in clubs and in departments and seeing just how enthusiastic our pupils are in what they do is one of the real pleasures of the task. I trust that you too will enjoy reading about our pupils and our school community.

Mrs J. Phillips, Editor



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS:

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HOUSE CAPTAINS 04/05

RECTOR'S REPORT 2005

Earlier this session the Scottish Executive produced its Curriculum Review which was the outcome of the national debate on the future of education in Scotland. The review is entitled "A Curriculum for Excellence", and the aim is to enable all young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

In the SQA examinations in 2004 there was an increase on the previous year in the overall pass rate at Higher and in the number of 'A' passes. An impressive 55% of Advanced Higher passes were at 'A'. I must mention the outstanding performance of Catherine Jung, this year's Deputy Head Girl, who gained the top mark in Scotland in Higher Chemistry and in Higher History and Toby Davies, of last year's Form 6, who produced the best investigation in Advanced Higher Chemistry.

Our curriculum provision is under constant review and one of the great successes of this session has been the introduction of a structured programme throughout the entire Junior School for the delivery of ICT. At the other end of the School, the SQA qualification in ICT and the PC Passport has been introduced and next session enrichment courses in Form 5 in web design, digital art and photography will be added to our existing menu. Advanced Higher Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies and Higher Philosophy will be introduced and the new course in Managing Environmental Resources which has been run as a pilot project will become a permanent option at Higher. One of the special features of the School is that we offer both Primary and Secondary education. This session the curricular links between the two have been developed further, particularly in the learning and teaching of

language, with close co-operation between Upper Primary staff and the English Department in the Senior School. That work will continue throughout next session and beyond as one of the main strands of our Education Strategy Plan, which has been the subject of discussion this year involving all staff and members of the Board's Education Committee. There are so many ways in which that is reflected in the life of the School. On one level, it permeates all we do on a daily basis. The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to flourish with 99 pupils participating this year. Mr Gordon Ross, appointed earlier this year as an Outdoor Education Instructor, has taken over responsibility for the organisation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. His rôle is, however, wider than that and he will be developing other outdoor education opportunities in both Junior and Senior School next year and beyond.

The Charities Committee, comprising staff and pupils under the Chairmanship of Mrs Susan Williams, has with the generosity of the School community raised over £11,000 this year through non-uniform days and other events including the very successful Junior School talent show held at the end of the session. I cannot ignore the achievement of an individual in raising money for the Maggie Centre - Mrs Woodman's sponsored sky dive was, she assures me, a never to be repeated experience!

To these activities can be added the efforts of our Rotary Interact Club, many school musical events and many individual contributions in seeking to support worthwhile projects both at home and overseas.

Confident individuals, effective contributors? that can be said of all pupils who have participated at every level in the wide range of activities offered in the School. It has been an

...RECTORS REPORT

outstanding year for school sport, athletics, netball, hockey, soccer, swimming and rugby.

Our Junior School netball teams have continued their winning streak: L7 winners of the Dundee Winter League for the second year in succession, winners of the Summer League and the Kennedy Cup for the third year running and the L6 team successful in the Miss Ward Trophy for the second consecutive year.

Soccer and curling are not sports automatically associated with the School. For the first time in many years, a team was entered in the Scottish Schools Curling Championship. In soccer, the School team reached the quarter-final of the Independent Schools Cup and four members of the team played district level soccer.

In both girls' and boys' hockey we have had Midlands level representation.

In athletics and in swimming achievements and successes at school, local, national and international level, including new records, are too numerous to mention.

"LAST YEAR I REPORTED ON THE 1ST XV'S SUCCESS IN REACHING THE FINAL OF THE SCOTTISH SCHOOL'S CUP AND I CAN REPORT THAT THEY REPEATED THE ACHIEVEMENT AGAIN THIS YEAR."

Although defeated, the entire team won the respect and admiration of all who were present and no one more so than Richard Vernon, the team Captain and, deservedly, man of the match. Alan Dymock is also to be congratulated in being the first ever High School pupil selected for the Scottish U-19 team while still at school.

I must also mention the U-15 side who reached the semi-final of the cup and who cruelly lost out on a place in the final although undefeated in the competition.

I want, however, to put on record that all pupils who regularly take part in sport - and they can be reckoned in hundreds - and who turn out regularly to train and to represent their school every Saturday can be proud of what they do and what they contribute to the corporate life of the School.

School musicians contribute in so many ways from concerts and recitals to appearances at charity events. I was personally extremely proud of them when our Senior Choir was invited to open the 2005 meeting of the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference held this year in St Andrews. What their feelings were at appearing in front of hundreds of head teachers I can only imagine!

Among the many other musical events I would highlight, the F1-F3 Girls' Choir who performed in the Centenary Rotary Concert here in the Caird Hall and School pupils will be performing with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and the National Youth Choir and others participating in both the

training orchestra and training choir during the summer.

"Once Upon a Christmas", "Gold", "Oliver"; the three major dramatic productions of this year have left the audiences and the participants with many happy memories. Above all they are team events with those on stage and backstage working together and supporting each other.

Music, sport, drama are part of the fabric of school life. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of staff in these departments and of many other staff throughout the School as well as the involvement and support of parents, we could not maintain such a wide and varied programme.

Of course, there are many other activities in debating and public speaking this year High School pupils won the Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee Universities Schools' Debating Competitions and also the Ross Cup which is a competition to find the champion of champions. Finalists in the St Andrews University/Courier Debating Competition, finalists in the E-SU Public Speaking Competition and runners-up in the Oxford Union Debating Competition have all contributed to another outstanding year for High School Debating and helped to keep us firmly in the forefront of top debating schools not just in Scotland but in the UK.

Another area where we have a tradition of success is in Mathematical Challenges. This year's competition for UK Mathematics Challenge was the best ever for Junior entrants with 46 participants of whom 22 achieved Gold awards. In the Scottish Maths Challenge, Steven King was the first pupil from the School to be awarded full marks for both sets of questions.

The Combined Cadet Force, under the command of Major Colin McAdam, continues to flourish and was given a complimentary report by the Inspecting Officer in the Bi-annual Inspection carried out earlier this year.

What I have given you is merely a summary of some of the many activities in which High School pupils participate each year.

"I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION MUST GO FAR BEYOND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CLASSROOM OR THE LABORATORY. OF COURSE ACADEMIC LEARNING IS IMPORTANT BUT IF WE WISH TO EDUCATE THE WHOLE CHILD THEN EVERY OTHER ASPECT OF SCHOOL LIFE IS IMPORTANT."

The overwhelming majority of pupils participate in some activity many of them in several. There are, however, some who do not. Compulsion is not the answer but there is a challenge for us in attempting to ensure that all our young people can participate in and gain from some kind of activity.

We have set out, therefore, to raise the profile of what we have chosen to call the Co-Curriculum. That is, all aspects of our educational provision beyond the classroom from school trips, to clubs, sports, and so on.

Mr Richard Toley was appointed to a new post, Head of the Co-Curriculum, earlier this session. Already you will be aware of our weekly Co-Curricular news which is produced by the pupils. We ran Co-curricular Fair at the start of session and a Co-curricular Union has been established to which all activities are affiliated and which is open to all pupils. Its function will be to co-ordinate activities and give support to new ones.

In due course we hope to include pupil participation in co-curricular activities in our reporting process and to establish for every pupil a profile of their involvement throughout their school careers.

For education to flourish requires the appropriate environment, facilities and resources. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their unswerving support of investment in the School. Last summer saw the refurbishment of L1 classrooms and Junior School toilet accommodation and this will continue this summer with L2 rooms and surrounding corridors. The upgrading of toilet accommodation will be undertaken in Bonar House where two new classrooms and History Department Base were created last summer. The final phase in improving our Science laboratories will conclude this summer with the refurbishment of the Form 6 Chemistry laboratory. This is the last of eight laboratories which have been upgraded over the last four years. A start is to be made to modernisation of the Home Economics Department.

I THINK WE HAVE ALL BEEN AMAZED AND PLEASED TO SEE THE MAYFIELD SPORTS CENTRE TAKE SHAPE SO RAPIDLY. THIS IS THE LARGEST AND MOST EXCITING PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE SCHOOL IN RECENT YEARS.

I am delighted to announce this morning that its opening will be marked in June 2006 with the Mayfield Festival: A Celebration of Sport and the Performing Arts. It will involve the entire school community, particularly the pupils, and will cover five days of celebration commencing with the first night of next year's school musical, "The Sound of Music" and culminating with a family day incorporating our traditional Sports Day with many other activities indoors and out of a sporting, musical and dramatic nature.

As a school I believe we can be proud of what we have done in the past and continue to do. For the High School, standing still is not an option. This is no less true in the marketing of the School than in any other aspect of school life. It is gratifying

that so many parents still wish to educate their children in the High School but demographic trends are showing a significant decline in the number of school age children over the next ten years. That poses a challenge for us which I am confident we can meet.

WE SHALL BE PUTTING EVEN GREATER EFFORTS INTO MARKETING THE SCHOOL AND IN THE COURSE OF NEXT SESSION WILL APPOINT AN ADMISSIONS SECRETARY TO OVERSEE ALL PROCESSES RELATING TO ENQUIRIES AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES.

The High School of Dundee Foundation, which seeks to raise money for bursaries and for resources, is just four years old and has achieved a great deal thanks in no small measure to the enthusiasm of its first Chairman, John Mountford. Mrs Sheena Leadbitter, formerly a Deputy Head in the Junior School, has taken on the rôle of Chairman, and is already bringing a new vigour to the task of fundraising. In August/September a telephone fundraising campaign will take place when recent former pupils, including some of this year's Form 6, will make telephone appeals to former pupils of earlier generations. This approach has been extremely successful for universities and the High School is the first school in Scotland to use the same approach.

This session, I, together with the Chairman of the Parents' Association and Mrs Leadbitter, will host a series of informal social gatherings for new High School parents and for existing parents. Parental involvement in the life of the School is essential and we are fortunate in the commitment and interest shown by so many parents. I have always enjoyed a useful working relationship with the Parents' Association and offer my thanks to Mrs Heather Graham, the outgoing Chairman, and my best wishes to Dr Dougal Adamson, her successor.

Nothing which we achieve could be done without the professionalism of the staff and the willingness of so many to go the extra mile. The janitorial staff, support staff in Science, ICT and Reprographics, administrative staff in the School Office and in the Bursary, Junior School auxiliaries, medical auxiliaries, catering staff along with the teaching staff are part of the High School team and I thank them all for their work and for their support.

Sixteen new colleagues have joined the School since last June and seven others have left in the course of the year. At the end of last session, Mrs Eileen McMurray, one of our Junior School Auxiliaries, retired after 17 years service. Also retiring after 15 years is Mr Dave Ramsay, one of our Janitors. We said farewell to Miss Maggie Muntz of Modern Languages who

left to take up a post at Beaconsfield School. Congratulations go to Mrs McCabe and Mrs Mclean who have successfully completed a formal qualification for Classroom Assistants. I wish to express my personal thanks to my secretary, Mrs Reekie and to my senior colleagues; the Deputy Heads of both Junior and Senior School, to the Bursar, Mr Sharp, and to Mrs Woodman and Mr Tinson, the respective Heads of the two schools. This year, I have had two deputies, Mr Leckie who retired at Christmas and Mr Tinson who has completed two terms. I thank them both for their support and wish Mr Tinson good fortune in the School.

To the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs goes my appreciation for their continuing interest in the School of today and of tomorrow. Again the Senior Prefects and the Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies have provided excellent leadership to the pupil body.

Successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, effective contributors; these aims are not new for us; we seek each year to give our young people these opportunities. I would say to our recent leavers that I hope you feel that, as you leave us, you can build upon what we have tried to provide. To the rest of the pupil body, who have returned for a new session, all of you will be able to contribute once more to the excellence of the High School of Dundee.

Mr A. Michael Duncan

THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE OLD GIRLS' REPORT

At the 73rd Annual General Meeting held on Monday March 7th in the Eastern Club Staff Room, the following office bearers were elected:

President:	Mrs Linda Stirling
Vice President:	Mrs Alison Patterson
Junior Vice-President:	Mrs Carolyn Joss
Secretary:	Mrs Caroline Sim
Assistant Secretary:	Mrs Miriam Rennett
Treasurer:	Miss Maggie Stewart
New Committee Members:	Mrs Lorraine Daly Miss Morag Stalker

The Old Girls have had a busy and varied programme during 2004-2005 under the Presidency of Mrs Linda Cunningham. We held a very successful Car Boot Sale on 18th Sept 2004, in the playground, raising approximately £3300 for the Mayfield Sports Centre Development.

The Old Girls were kept busy again on Sports Day (June 2004) serving tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and cakes and selling strawberries and sweets.

We again joined with the Old Boys to host the Annual Leavers Barbecue at Mayfield on the last day of the school term. An enjoyable evening was had by all giving the Leavers a chance to learn a bit more about what the opportunities joining the Old Boys and Old Girls can offer them.

The 6th Old Girls' Golf Outing was held in August at Strathmore Golf Club. Jen Petrie was the winner of the Old Boys' Trophy. This year's competition is to be held on 7th August at Strathmore - it is hoped that some new competitors will participate on this occasion. The 16th Annual Golf Match against the Old Boys, for the Petrie Quaich, was held on Sunday October 3rd over the Rosemount Course, Blairgowrie. Sad to say, the Old Boys were victorious - some changes required on the handicapping for next year! !

Due to the success and favourable reports from the previous year's dinner, it was decided to hold the Annual Reunion Dinner again in the Ustinov Room, Bonar Hall on Saturday 13th November 2004. About 90 ladies attended the function and were entertained by a most interesting and amusing talk by Mrs Pauline Stott, former GB Ladies Olympic Hockey Captain and current member of staff. This year's dinner is to be held on Saturday 12th November 2005 in the Ustinov Room, Bonar Hall to which we hope a large number of Old Girls will attend.

The Old Girls are still running the Thrift Shop. The aim of the shop is to facilitate the sale and purchase of second hand items of school uniform and sports equipment. Dates and details of opening times will be intimated in newsletters to parents.

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE TRUST APPEAL FUND

The Trust Appeal Fund was established in 1971 for the purpose of supporting the School. At present, the value of the Fund is standing at just over £1,000,000. After consultation with the School, the Trustees are pleased to report that they are, in the year ahead, to provide funding of £54,500 to assist in the refurbishment of the Advanced Chemistry Laboratory, the upgrading of one classroom and teaching base in the Home Economics Department, the acquisition of new furniture for L2 classrooms and in the provision of outdoor education equipment.

The Trustees were saddened to record the recent death of George Linton, who, as a co-opted Trustee, made a valuable contribution to the work of the Trust Appeal Fund over many years.

Currently the Trustees appointed by the Old Boys Club are Robin Winter, Kenneth Murray, Stuart Graham and Andy Walker; the Trustees appointed by the Old Girls Club are Margaret Stewart, Alison Stevenson, Sally Mearns and Jane Cumming and those co-opted, having an interest in the School, are Fred Sieber and Bill McFarlane-Smith.

If you would like to make contact with the Trustees or would like to make a contribution to the Fund, please contact any of the following:-

Chairman: Margaret Stewart (Tel 01382 738436)

Secretary: Jane Cumming (Tel 01382 229222)

Treasurer: Robin Winter (Tel 01334 656666)

Jane Cumming
Secretary

July 2005

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Old Girls' Dinner:

Saturday 12th November 2005, Ustinov Room

Old Boys/Old Girls' Ball:

Friday 30th September 2005, Piper Dam

Annual General Meeting:

Monday 6th March 2006, Eastern Club Staff Room
(Old Girls)

We would like to extend a warm invitation to all Old Girls for all the above functions - a large participation would be great!

Caroline Sim (Honorary Secretary)



FORM 6



L7



PRIZE LIST

HIGH SCHOOL
OF DUNDEE
REVIEW 05

04/05

JUNIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

Prize for Guitar:	Duncan Strachan
Prize for Brass:	Siobhan Strathearn
Prize for Woodwind:	Siobhan Chien
Prize for Chanter:	Cameron Harrow
Old Girls' Prize for Piano:	Katie Sadler
Marshall Prize for Recorder:	Callum Strachan
Leng Medal for Singing: Prize for Strings	Kirsty Mitchell
Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing in L7:	Tristan Leicester
Ties for International Recognition:	Kenneth Drysdale David Jones
Robbie Prize for Public Speaking:	Ruth Batchelor
Stark Cup for Public Speaking:	Sarah-Jane Lothian
Russell Trophy for Chess:	Martin Lockley
Special Prize for Chess:	Benji Walker

SENIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

D Arnot Shepherd	
Travel Scholarship:	Sarah Joy Matthew Hagan
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble:	Guy Ballantyne Christopher Barclay Eilidh Clark Stephen Fraser Nicola Summers
T E Porteous Prize for Guitar:	Rob Madden
Leng Silver Medal for Singing:	Boy Matthew Powrie Girl Shakira Roberts
Leng Gold Medal for Singing:	Scot McIntosh

Larg Prize for Woodwind - Open:	Rhona Crichton
Larg Prize for Brass - Open:	Christopher Barclay
Larg Prize for Strings - Open:	Annie Ning
Larg Prize for Vocal - Open:	Esther McMillan
Larg Prize for Piano - Open: Larg Prize for Organ	Kirsty Lowe
High School Quaich for the Best All-Round Instrumentalist:	Jennifer Watson
Ties for International Recognition:	Aman Bailwal Nuala Black Callum Bowie Scott Clayson Catriona France Bob Mitchell Craig Wallace Greg Wilkinson (re-award) Eilish McColgan
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	(re-award) Laura Brown
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	(re-award) Alan Dymock
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	Colin Goudie
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	(re-award) Judith Kilgallon
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	Daniel Levison
Games Merit Scarf and Tie for International Recognition:	Maria Thomas

SENIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

Games Merit Scarf
and Tie for
International Recognition: (re-award) Richard Vernon

Andrew K Paton Memorial
Prize for All-Round Sporting
Ability in Form 2 Boys: Allan Drysdale

Chris Rea Prize for Games
in Form 3 Boys: Scott Clayson
Craig Wallace
Girls: Shona Watson

P Gordon Grant Trophy
for Games: Colin Goudie
Richard Vernon

Simon Newton Memorial
Trophy for Commitment
in Music and Sport: Jennifer Watson

Intermediate Chess Club
Trophy and Prize: Liam Eyles

Beckingham Trophy and
Chess Club Prize: Conor Ogg

A S Drummond Prize
for Reading and Public
Speaking in Forms 1-3: Jilly Vannet

London-Angus Association
Trophy for Reading
and Public Speaking &
G H Philip Prize for Reading
and Public Speaking: Lea-Jane Birse-Stewart-Bell

Old Girls' Trophy for the
Inter-House Public
Speaking Competition: Wallace

Rorie Trophy for the
Inter-House
Debating Competition: Lindores

Dennis J Paterson Prize
and Trophy for the
Best Speaker in the
Inter-House Debates &
Cambridge Gavel for her
Contribution to Debating: Catherine Jung

Old Boys' Club Prize for
Creative Writing in
Forms 1-3: Robert White

Block Prize for Creative
Writing in Forms 4 to 6: Robbie Ferguson

JUNIOR SCHOOL (ACADEMIC)

Dr Rita Forrest Prize for Art: Boy: Cameron Milne
Girl: Katie Sadler

Hutton Prize for
Environmental
Studies in L7: Callum Leese

L6 Merit Prizes: Jennifer Allan
Ruth Batchelor
Donald Campbell
Sarah Jane Dent
Sarah-Jane Lothian
Joanna Tait

L7 Merit Prizes: Lauren Clayson
Mike Harley
Tristan Leicester
Anna Mackenzie
Katie Sadler

John McLennan Prize
for Proxime Accessit: Cameron Milne

E M Stewart Prize for Dux
of the Junior School: Siobhan Chien

SENIOR SCHOOL (ACADEMIC)

FORM 1

Merit Prizes: William Arnott
Aman Bailwal
Suzy Boath
Helen Coleman
Lindsey Docherty
Lewis Foggie
Fabliha Hussain
Jennifer Lothian
Jordan McLaren
Alex Montgomery
Meriel Young

Florence Whytock Memorial
Prize for Dux of Form 1: Rachael McLellan

Alexander Mill-White Prize
for All-Round
Ability in Form 1: Fiona Allison

FORM 2

Merit Prizes: Amy Bryan
Marianne Dobson
Jenni Hagan
Josh Ivinson
Rachel Jones
Ewan MacMillan
Kirsty McEwan
Erin Middleton

Neil Fraser Cup and Prize
for All-Round Ability
in Form 2 - Boys: Matthew Powrie

Prize for All-Round Ability
in Form 2 - Girls: Lauren Pringle

R S L Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 - Boys: Iain Kennedy

R S L Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 - Girls: Sarah Acheson

FORM 3

Merit Prizes: Claire Barclay
Robin Cessford
Eilidh Firth

FORM 3

Merit Prizes (cont): Ruth Foulis
Caitlin McDonald
Fiona McHardy
Annie Ning
Jilly Yannet

Jane Spiller Prize for
Dux of Form 3: Christine Reid

FORM 4

Merit Prizes: James Black
Steven Boath
Caroline Bruce
Nicholas Bryan
Douglas Dorward
Russell Hall
Ciaran Lamont
Fiona Smith
Kirsty Watson

R S L Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 4 - Boys: Andrew Blake

Edinburgh-Angus Club
Prize for Dux of
Form 4 - Girls: Laura Treece

FORM 5

Baker Trade of
Dundee Prize: Sarah Joy
Lucy Lyburn

Jane Rae Prize for
Home Economics: Yvonne Dawson

Richard Beaton Prize
for Practical Cookery: Paul Scott

Graeme Adamson
Prize for Drama: Victoria Adams

Isabella Hunter
Award for Art: Susan Bennett
Mandy Hon

Prize for Higher RMPS: Helen McBryde

Prize for Higher
Modern Studies: Emma Johnson

Prize for Computing Studies: Andrew Black

PRIZE LIST

04/05

University of Dundee Prize for Excellence in Economics:	Jenna Bradley	J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics - Girls,	
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Classical Studies:	Siddharth Rajkhowa	Robert Biggar Prize for Geography, Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Physics, Caroline S Low Memorial Prize for Dux of Form 5 - Girls:	Mary Reid
Merit Prizes:	Neil Crosby Anni Dong Jamie Foulis Eleanor Geddes Stuart McGrath Emily Pringle	FORM 6 J Torrington-Bell Prize for Dux in Art:	Freya Smaill
James Stevenson Memorial Prize for German & Consulate General's Prize for German:	Emma Robertson	Prize for Dux in Classical Studies:	Iain Gray
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Spanish & Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Best Pupil in Higher Grade Music:	Esther McMillan	W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics:	Neil Bryden
James Stevenson Memorial Prize for French: Merit Prize	Sophie Thomson	Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French :	Susan Liu
E M Stewart Prize for English: Merit Prize	Ailsa Murray	Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography:	Glen Christie
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for History & Eiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Modern Languages Merit Prize:	Mairi Cunningham	William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (Geography):	Andrew Todd
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Latin & Glenday Award for Biology Merit Prize:	Lucy Doogan	Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science:	Katherine Matthew
J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics - Boys & Sandy Wardlaw Trophy and Book Prize for Chemistry Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5 - Boys:	Steven King	Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics:	Alistair Bowie
		Spankie Quaich for Technological Studies:	Ian Campbell
		Caird Prize for Higher Business Management, William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (English):	James Reid
		Prize for Higher Physical Education, Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Girls:	Julia Bruce
		Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Boys:	[equal] Richard Vernon [equal]
		Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Boys, T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry:	[equal] Colin Goudie
		Dott Prize for Dux in Music, Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology:	Kirsty Lowe



REPORT FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE OLD BOYS' CLUB

Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for Dux in Modern Studies,
W E Crichton Prize for
Dux in Spanish: Fiona Gibson

Alan Hall Prize for
Higher Technological Studies,
W E Crichton Prize for Dux
in Computer Studies,
Dott Memorial Prize for
Dux in Mathematics: Baldur Karlsson

Low Memorial Prize for
English and Latin,
William Laird Prize for
Scottish Studies (History),
Sir John Leng Trust Prize for
Dux in History, Armitstead
Trust Prize for Dux in English,
Edinburgh-Angus Club
Prize for Dux in Latin: Catherine Jung

Dr John M Morgan Prizes
for Service to School - Boys: John Clark
Donald Paterson
Justin Roberts
Richard Vernon

Bain Prizes for
Service to School - Girls: Christine Jardine
Catherine Jung
Kirsty Lowe
Iona Tough
Joanna Wright

Inter-House Shield for the
Champion House: Wallace

Erskine Prize for Head
of School - Boys: Colin Goudie

Lowson Prize for Head
of School - Girls: Iona Friedberg

Harris Gold Medal
and David Gray Book
Prize for Dux of School : Catherine Jung

Report for the High School of Dundee Old Boys' Club

This year the Club celebrates its 75th Anniversary having been formed in October 1930.

At the Annual General Meeting in November 2003 Mr Jim Wallace was elected President of the Club and Mr Sandy Hutchison was elected Vice-President. Annual Dinners are held in Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. These are well attended and it is by attending these dinners that former pupils are able to maintain contact with school friends and colleagues and learn of the continuing progress of the School.

The Club is also active with a number of supporting activities during the year. Annual competitions take place in golf, fishing and curling. There is also an annual golf match against the Old Girls' Club.

Our now traditional barbecue for school leavers was held again in June this year; the first chance pupils get for a flavour of what the Club can offer.

In September of this year we are holding a joint function with the Old Girls' Club in the course of which it is hoped to raise some funds for the Mayfield project.

The Club believes that it is important for the wellbeing of the School that links are fostered and maintained with former pupils, and the Club endeavours to achieve this in the most enjoyable way with its programme of events each year.

Details of Club membership and any of the Club's activities can be obtained from the Secretary: Mr Nick Barclay, 50 Castle Street, Dundee DD1 3RU
nbarclay@thorntons-law.co.uk

The Parents' Association has raised its profile considerably this year, including the innovation of having individual photos of the committee displayed in the Main Reception Area. The Rector has also given us a regular slot in his Newsletters.

A number of committee members attended the School Open Day in November to talk to prospective parents and pupils. It was great to see so many of our pupils taking part, showing pride in their school. The event was well organised and attended.

This year we decided to supply refreshments prior to the L1-3 Nativity Play and also provide an opportunity for parents to meet socially. Although numbers attending each day were not large, it seemed to be a worthwhile exercise.

In March, the Bags2School fund-raiser was well supported and we raised the sum of £327. Thank you to all who contributed.

The AGM was held in May and this was followed by an interesting and informative talk from Mrs Leadbitter in her new rôle as Chairman of the Foundation.

In June, the annual Book Sale ran smoothly, enabling pupils and parents to sell on their old books and hopefully save some money. Once again, the PA served refreshments at the Gardyne Theatre during the Senior and Junior School productions. We made a good profit and this will be put towards the regular donations that we make to the school. This year we donated £2000 split between the senior and junior schools.

During the year the PA has made a valuable contribution to the school community. Over the past session, we have met regularly with the Rector and members of the Senior Management Team to discuss concerns and suggestions raised by parents as well as general school matters.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and pupils for their support throughout the year.

Heather Graham

FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN PASSES THE BATON AT MAYFIELD

The High School of Dundee passed an historic milestone on Wednesday 18 May when it appointed a new Chairman for the High School of Dundee Foundation.

Sheena Leadbitter took up the post at the Foundation's Anniversary Reception held at Mayfield Pavilion. Sheena is only the second person to hold the post since the Foundation was set up in May 2001. The reception also included a presentation by Rector, Michael Duncan, to outgoing Chairman, John Mountford, in recognition of his work over the past four years. Sixty guests attended the event.

The Foundation's function is to raise money for bursaries, as well as funds for equipment and facilities at the School. Since the Foundation was established 93 children have been awarded a bursary from Foundation funds, which have varied between 20% and 100% of the tuition fees.



Left to Right: Outgoing chairman, John Mountford, Susan Mountford, Michael Duncan, Sheena Leadbitter.

Mrs Leadbitter, formerly Deputy Head of the Junior School said: "I'm delighted to have been asked to perform this rôle and I'm looking forward to continuing the Foundation's work raising funds so that children from a mix of social and cultural backgrounds will benefit from a High School of Dundee education. Mayfield Sports Centre, due for completion next summer, is only the start of an on-going programme of developments at the School, so continual fundraising is essential."

MAYFIELD SPORTS CENTRE

Mayfield Sports Centre is rapidly taking shape. Construction work, which began last November, is progressing well and is ahead of schedule thanks to the relatively mild winter.

Our photographs show the current stage of development. A visual record of progress can also be viewed at any time at www.highschoolofdundee.co.uk from a link on the home page.

The exterior of the building is due for completion this summer with work on the interior expected to take another year.

Funds are still actively sought and all donations, large or small, regular or one-off, are gratefully received. The School still needs to raise a minimum of £500,000 to meet the building costs. The costs of equipping the large gym, smaller gym, dance studio and fitness suite are provided below. Anyone wishing to donate funds for or contribute to the equipment costs is asked to contact the Development Office on 01382 220056. The cost of items ranges from £37 for a volleyball net to £20,000 for a cardio machine.

Equipment Required	Essential £s	Desirable £s
Large Gym	23,409.47	3,290.00
Smaller Gym	17,002.25	1,269.00
Fitness Suite	914.15	31,948.25
Dance Studio	1,087.35	
	42,413.21	36,507.25

Progress!



FOREWORDS

HEALTH SERVICE CAREERS PROVE A SUCCESS AT DUNDEE EVENT

Over 100 school pupils from across the country made their way to Dundee last Friday to attend an event which aimed to alert youngsters to the wide range of clinical career possibilities in the health sector.

Pupils and teachers from eleven schools attended the conference entitled 'More than Medicine' at The High School of Dundee on Friday 10 June. The event was organised by the Independent Schools Careers Organisation and was supported by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and The High School of Dundee.

Speakers from a variety of different strands within the health sector gave presentations on possible careers in their area. Speakers included: cancer expert Professor Nora Kearney, Director of the Cancer Care Research Centre and Professor of Cancer Care at Stirling University; Karen Young, physiotherapy lecturer at Robert Gordon University and Rosemary Parr, director of pharmacy with NHS Education for Scotland. The event was introduced by NES chair Ann Markham.

Event organiser Joan Smith, Scottish Director of ISCO said following the event:

"I AM DELIGHTED WITH THE OUTCOME OF 'MORE THAN MEDICINE'. EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED, INCLUDING MYSELF LEARNED A GREAT DEAL AND I AM SURE THAT ANY PUPIL WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT AND WAS PREVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE HEALTH SECTOR WOULD ONLY HAVE HAD THEIR AMBITION FUELLED BY THE SPEAKERS. MY THANKS GO OUT TO THE SPEAKERS, WHO ALL MADE SUCH AN EFFORT AND WERE VERY INFLUENTIAL, TO NHS EDUCATION FOR SCOTLAND WHO HAVE SUPPORTED, THIS RIGHT FROM THE INITIAL CONCEPT, AND TO THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE WHO HOSTED THE CONFERENCE SUPERBLY".



Photograph: School pupils Taylor Wylie and Alison Leckie from The High School of Dundee, Amy McGowan, Christopher Rudd and Adrian Wigdrowitz from Monifieth High School and Lindsey Hunter from George Watson's College are joined on The Dundee High School entrance steps by (l to r): Joan Smith, Scottish Director of ISCO Careerscope, Karen Young, Robert Gordon University, Professor Nora Kearney, Director of Cancer care Research Centre, Colin Allison, Rector High School of Dundee, Ann Markham, Chair, NHS Education for Scotland and RoseMarie Parr, Director of Pharmacy, NHS Education for Scotland.

FINALIST - BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

For the second year running, the School was a finalist in the category of Business in the Community at the Tayside Business Awards, held in April. Entering the awards brings into focus how much the School contributes to the local community, both financially and through other means.

Playing an active role in the local community is an end in itself and not something the School has previously sought to measure. However, for the purpose of the Tayside Business Awards, an indication of the financial contribution the School makes each year was required, in order to give the judges and an indication of the seriousness of the School's commitment to the local community.

Below are some of facts and figures used in the presentation:

- The bursary scheme enables an average of 100 pupils every year to benefit from a High School of Dundee education. Fundraising allows the School to contribute £400,000 a year to the Bursary Fund.

- Pupil-led fundraising activities, which benefit many local causes, raise a minimum of £15,000 per year.

- THE VOLUNTEERING WORK OF BOTH PUPILS AND STAFF HAS A DIRECT, POSITIVE IMPACT ON MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY LIVE. A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE TIME THEY FREELY GIVE EQUATES TO A 'CONTRIBUTION' OF APPROXIMATELY £140,000 PER YEAR.

- Community groups are given access to the School's facilities for a nominal charge to cover janitorial costs.

If charging commercial rates, the figure would be in the region of £27,000 each year.

- The School supports the local economy by providing employment for 190 staff and using the services of local companies wherever possible. The annual wage bill plus the cost of contracts with local companies is £7,500,000.

The grand total of the School's activities which benefit the local community is therefore over £8,000,000 each year.



FOREWORDS

DUNDEE HIGH SCHOOL FP RUGBY CLUB, END OF SEASON REPORT: 04/05

Another season drew to a close with the Club's annual pilgrimage to Murrayfield, this time for a Cup Final thriller against Boroughmuir that went to the wire. It was almost the perfect icing on a mixed season for the Club, as both 1st and second XV's missed out on promotion. The 1st XV were hamstrung early in the season with a catalogue of injuries and unavailable players and couldn't call upon a full squad until after Christmas when they had left themselves too much ground to make up.

It has to be said that a Borders hoodoo also played its part and not just on the road, as Kelso took advantage of an over-confident Dundee to record an early season upset at Mayfield. Games like that, plus losses at Edinburgh Accies and Berwick, were salutary lessons that even Scottish Cup Finalists have to play every game as though it's against table-toppers.

However, the league campaign was proved to be a frustrating misrepresentation of the FP's quality, as the 1st XV swept aside all-comers to reach their second Cup Final. GHA, Aberdeen, Hawick and Stirling all fell to Dundee and it took all of Boroughmuir's professional experience to subdue finally the Mayfield side at Murrayfield, as once again they belied their underdog status and showed that the gap between Premier 2 and Premier 1 is not the gulf that some suggest. All credit to Lindsey Graham who was asked to switch to stand-off this season, then stepped into the captain's boots on the pitch when Colin was unavailable, and has proved to be a success in both roles.

Coach Ian Rankin paid the club the ultimate compliment by turning down an offer to coach Glasgow Hawks and stay with the team he believes should be playing Premier 1 rugby. But next season he'll be working without two of the Club's favourite players, JJ van der Esch and Shannon Wilson. The Dundonian Kiwis have announced their retirement this year but will still be around to lend their support to our bid for promotion next year, the Club's 125th anniversary season. Also stepping back from the limelight, after several years' active service, are backs' coach, Bruca Beckett and Ken McKay.

The 2nd XV came tantalisingly close to promotion back to Division 2 but were let down by inconsistency of

player availability. It is crucial that a club with our ambitions have a strong and competitive 2nd XV with a core of players willing and capable of moving to and from the 1st XV and who appreciate that 2nd XV rugby is an opportunity to strengthen the 1st XV pool. Equally, 2nd XV players must be encouraged to attend training regularly and be available every weekend, so that there is a strong cohesive squad to take both sides back up the divisions. The time and effort put in by coach, Gus Robb, and captain, Jack Reavley, deserved better rewards and hopefully next season the undoubted potential of the 2nd XV will be realised.

Over the last 3 seasons the FP's have shown genuine ambition in their plans to take rugby in Dundee back to the highest levels and this year, supported by Stobswell RFC, our biggest project to date came to fruition in the shape of the Dundee Eagles and the funding of Recruitment Officer Colin Whittaker. With Sandy Hutchison at the helm, he and Colin assisted by 30 qualified coaches, have worked wonders mobilising schools and raising the profile of the game throughout the city. With kids from primary school to Under 16 involved next year, it's hoped that Hutch, Colin and their team will take the Eagles to even greater heights.

As usual we owe a debt of gratitude to all our sponsors, particularly Delson Contracts, West End Garage, Halbros, Thorntons and Highland Spring, and to everyone - who has worked hard behind the scenes to enable this season - to finish on such a positive note. Special thanks as always are due to the School for the excellent facilities at Mayfield and for the support of their staff - in particular during the Cup run, which necessitated a longer season than normal.

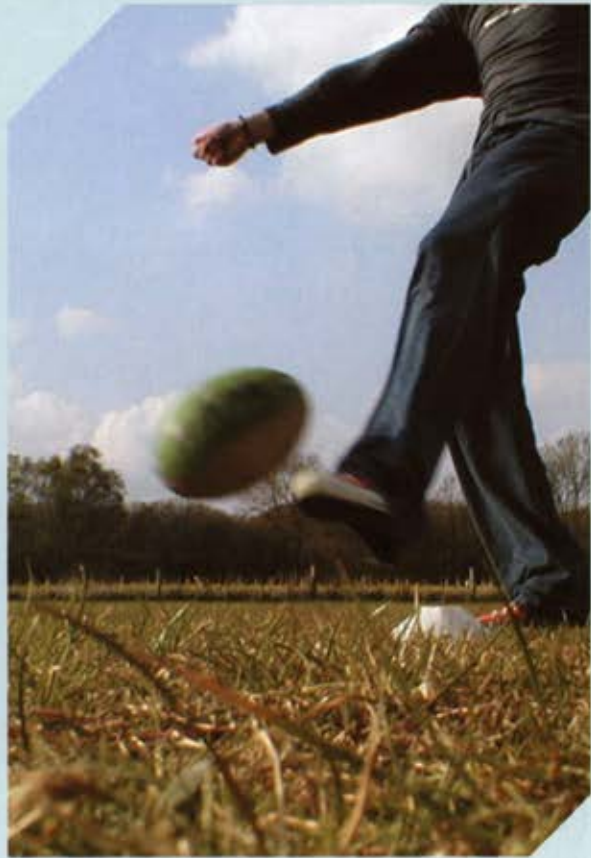
Sandy McDonald President



DUNDEE HIGH SCHOOL FP TENNIS CLUB

Dundee High School F.P. Tennis Club practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons from Easter to the end of August, when the school resumes after the summer holidays. At present, we do not have a team playing in the leagues. However, we do have the option of rejoining the leagues if any club members are prepared to form a team!

For further information, please contact Linda Stirling on 01382 459039



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RUGBY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN
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SANDY MCDONALD, DUNDEE HIGH SCHOOL FP RUGBY CLUB PRESIDENT

FOREWORDS

NEW ADDITIONS TO STAFF



Paul Tinson

Mr Paul Tinson joined The High School of Dundee as Deputy Rector (Head of Senior School) in January 2005, following management roles in the boarding sector at King Edward's School, Surrey (Deputy Headmaster) and Fettes College (Housemaster of Kimmerghame House).

He graduated with an MA degree from the University of Aberdeen and gained work experience as a Royal Marines Young Officer and in Sports management prior to embarking on a teaching career via Moray House. His current post represents a welcome return both to Scotland and the east coast for the family - Paul's three daughters are now happily settled in the Junior School.

Golf across the river in Fife is a key interest as are the great outdoors in general; however, the family equestrian hobby does make reducing the handicap somewhat tricky during the summer months.

Gordon Ross

Kayaking, mountain biking and hill walking aren't usually part of the school curriculum - but that changed this year when the School created a brand new post with responsibility for encouraging outdoor education and supporting co-curricular activities. Enter Gordon Ross as the School's first ever Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator and Instructor of Outdoor Education.

Gordon, originally from Melrose, holds a degree in Outdoor Education in the Community, and qualifications in Summer and Winter Mountain Walking, Sea and River Kayaking, Open Canoeing, Climbing and Mountain Biking. He is also a keen snowboarder and rugby player.



Mr Alexander Walker

We welcome Mr Walker as the new member of the Technology Department. He will be responsible for introducing Forms 1 and 2 to Graphic Communication and also for teaching the subject at Intermediate 2 level to Forms 5 and 6. He has acquired an impressive level of experience in many aspects of Technological Education in his time at Craigie High where he was a Senior Teacher.

Before entering the world of education, Mr Walker was involved in Production Engineering in several manufacturing enterprises in Dundee. He brings a keen eye for detail and the management of deadlines to the process of teaching communication through the medium of drawing.





Daniel Goodey

Daniel joined the school in August 2004 as Head of Philosophy and Religion. Prior to taking up this position he had taught at Strathallan School and Kilgraston School, as well as the four high schools in Perth. Daniel has studied Philosophy and Theology in the US, Ireland, and Belgium and Religious Education in Scotland - earning degrees and post-graduate certificates from San Diego State University, the University of Louvain (where he also worked as a philosophy tutor) and the University of Glasgow.

Before becoming a teacher, Daniel had worked as a technical author for an engineering company in Belgium, a law enforcement officer in California, and even a truck driver across the US! Soon after leaving law enforcement, he lived a religious life for two years which took him to Alaska and Zimbabwe.

Since taking up his post at the High School, Daniel has sought to expand the variety of subject material on offer in the department.

Michael Fotheringham

Michael joined the Biology department at HSD in August 2004. Although he spent the first few years of his life in Carnoustie, Michael grew up in Dunfermline. A graduate of Cambridge and Edinburgh universities he worked as a researcher in tropical diseases at Glasgow University for several years, before abandoning his tsetse flies to train as a teacher. Michael has previously worked at his old school, Dunfermline High, and at North Berwick High School.

During the year Michael has had the pleasure of registering a third year class, has inherited the school volleyball club and has overcome his fear of rucksacks to go out on expedition with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students.



Philippa Munton

After graduating from Loughborough University with a degree in Illustration, Philippa worked as an illustrator and also taught for a year in Wales before joining the Art Department in 2004. She has quickly established herself as a very committed and caring teacher who is eager to achieve the very best from her pupils.

Out of school, Philippa is a keen runner who can often be seen pounding the roads in North Fife and she is even considering running in the London Marathon next year! Her other hobbies include gardening and eating chocolate! Married to fighter pilot, Luke, Philippa has two children, Laura and Ethan, and is very much enjoying family life in her new surroundings.

This year Philippa helped with costumes for 'Oliver' and is keen to become more involved with extra-curricular activities in the future. We are sure that she will become a most valuable asset, not only to the Art Department, but also to the whole school.





Angela Wheatley

Angela was born in the Edinburgh area and was educated in Linlithgow. After school she studied at Aberdeen University and gained BSc (Hons) in Neuroscience. After "a fantastic time there", she moved south again to Edinburgh where she worked for two years before deciding upon going into teaching. The idea came "like a bolt from the blue" but proved to be the right decision for Angela. She studied for her P.G.C.E. (Primary) at Moray House College of Education in 2002/3 and her probation over, she made the decision to venture north again, but this time only as far as the Tay.

Angela has recently bought a flat in Newport which is slowly, but surely, being redecorated. Apart from slapping paint onto walls, she really enjoys walking, playing tennis and occasionally she can be seen limping her way around Newport in an attempt to stay fit- her words, not ours! She also continues to sample the social life around Dundee- to absorb the culture, of course! Occasionally, of a damp evening, she plays acoustic guitar and tries to sing along like Joni Mitchell [although she is sure her neighbours would say it's more like Phil Mitchell!!].

She has very much enjoyed her first year in the Junior School as the staff and pupils have made her feel very welcome.



Neil MacKinnon

In August 2004 Neil MacKinnon joined us as Head of Modern Languages. Originally from Campbeltown, Neil has travelled far and wide throughout Scotland during his career. Having studied in Glasgow, he began teaching in Stornoway and from there moved on to Shetland before returning to the mainland to posts in Lochgelly, Menzieshill and finally HSD. We trust that the Wanderlust has now left him and that the delights of Dundee will prove sufficient to keep him with us for some time!

Neil's main languages are French and German but he also flirted briefly with Russian and professes to speak Gaelic [although nobody has yet put that claim to the test!] This year, in addition, he decided to turn his attention to Spanish and was to be seen on May 25 sitting the Higher exam along with, and to the amusement of, the rest of the F5/6 contingent. Much of his swotting was done while accompanying the Spanish Exchange visit to Murcia so we await the results with interest! Foreign trips have been high on the agenda this year as Neil also accompanied the L7 trip to Paris. In his spare time, when he is not honing his linguistic skills, Neil is a bit of a fitness fanatic, fitting in regular visits to the gym and swimming pool. He is proving a welcome addition to the Languages Department, where his individual sense of humour is appreciated by both staff and pupils alike!



Felicity Ramsay

Born in Edinburgh and brought up in the small Angus village of Guthrie, Felicity attended the High school from 1998 – 2000. She then headed for the bright lights of Glasgow and it was here that she graduated from Strathclyde University. Felicity Ramsay then felt that four years was enough time away from the High School and returned to teach here in August.

In her spare time Felicity enjoys keeping fit and is often seen frequenting a certain Dundee Gym. This led her to take part in the 2005 Race for Life around Camperdown park which was the furthest she had ever run (apart from dashing around the shops!)

Felicity also enjoys going to the cinema- as long as the films don't finish too late and don't go on too long or she gets fidgety!

She has thoroughly enjoyed her first year at the High School, but watch out or she might try to sell you a tea towel.



Lee Mathewson

Lee was born and brought up in Inchtute, near Dundee, and attended Menzieshill High School. On leaving school she studied at Dundee University gaining a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Statistics. Unsure of her next move, Lee decided to take a gap year and travelled around Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, which she would recommend to anyone! After considering her options, she decided teaching was the career for her and enrolled for her PGCE at the University of Aberdeen. One of her student teaching placements was at the High School of Dundee which she obviously really enjoyed!

Her first job was at Grove Academy, where she taught for two years before moving to the High School in August 2004. Lee's first year has been busy but thoroughly enjoyable especially with her involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

In her spare time, Lee enjoys keeping fit and is a member of a local gym. She recently got engaged and we wish her well for her wedding in Spring 2006.

FOREWORDS

STAFF FAREWELLS



Philip M Leckie

The rôle of the Deputy Rector is a complex one. He is responsible for the day to day running of a school, and when all is going smoothly, it is taken for granted, but any hiccup, no matter how trivial, is rapidly brought to the Deputy's attention with the unspoken assumption that he will sort it out.

No two days are ever the same and, in the course of a day, a Deputy Rector could be involved in meetings with parents, staff, teaching and non-teaching, outside agencies, discussions in committees of the Board of Directors and, of course, seeing pupils, teaching and dealing with the Rector. Truly a varied and complex job which Philip Leckie carried out with total commitment.

He fulfilled that rôle from August 1998 until December 2004. It was a period of considerable change, both nationally and in the High School, and he contributed fully as we adapted to new curriculum demands, developing buildings and resources and dealing with a raft of new regulations and requirements.

Philip Leckie was educated at Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School where he gained colours in rugby and swimming. He gained an Honours M.A. in Economic History with Regional Geography from the University of Glasgow where he captained the University swimming team and was awarded a full blue for swimming.

After teacher training at Jordanhill College, he began teaching Geography at Paisley Grammar School becoming Assistant Principal Teacher of Social Subjects. In 1974, he moved to Lanark Grammar School as Principal Teacher of Geography and after eleven years in that post, was promoted to Assistant Head Teacher. In 1988, he returned to his old school as Assistant Rector before moving to Dundee.

Philip Leckie is a master of detail, a useful attribute in a Deputy Rector. As Health and Safety Officer for the School, his eye for detail was particularly valuable in ensuring that as an institution we had in place appropriate systems and guidelines.

But above all, he is a schoolmaster with a genuine interest in his pupils. Strict but fair, he would deal with pupils in an understanding and sensitive fashion and was willing to give a second chance to the recalcitrant individual. He was a regular spectator at Mayfield, on Saturday mornings, and supported the many school activities and functions each session.

After a lifetime in teaching, he has moved on to a new "career" where he can choose how to fill his days. It is a career which he is enjoying thoroughly and we wish him well.



1



2



3

[1] Maggie Muntz

[2] David Ramsay

[3] Eileen McMurray

Maggie Muntz

Sadly, Maggie Muntz, who has been with us for the past two years, has decided to move on to pastures new. Certain attractions of Glasgow were proving too much to keep her here in Dundee! She has decided to accept the offer of a position at Beaconsfort School in Bridge of Allan which will certainly cut down her weekend travelling time! Maggie has been a real asset to the Languages Department with her lively teaching style and natural exuberance. She has been a great hit with the pupils at all levels and has certainly contributed to their enjoyment of Modern Languages. Maggie will be greatly missed by both colleagues and pupils and we wish her all the best in her new post and a more settled life in the West!

Scott Phimister

In the course of this session, Mr Phimister left us to take up a position at Aberdeen Grammar. Though with us for a relatively short time, he was a valued member of his department, sharing with his pupils his enthusiasm for his subject and for volleyball! We wish him all the best in his new position

James Lamont

James leaves us after successfully completing his probationary year, he is heading up north to continue his teaching career. James has had a very productive year in school, being involved in lots of curricular and extra-curricular developments. He will especially be missed in the primary dept. where his rugby team came very close to being undefeated. The PE dept will certainly be a quieter place without him!! We wish him all the best.

David Ramsay

David's connection with the High School actually began 1965, when the firm he worked with was engaged in repairs and maintenance of the buildings, but it was 15 years ago that he joined the janitorial staff. David retired during the summer holiday and he will be exchanging his janitorial duties for the pleasures of his garden and enjoying his new-found extra time and a more peaceful life! We wish him well in his retirement.

Mrs Eileen McMurray

After seventeen years at Dundee High School Mrs Eileen McMurray is retiring from her position as school Auxiliary. She has been a stalwart of the Junior School and the ruler of the back playground bar none. We will miss Eileen's efficiency, energy and tremendous knowledge of all the details of High School life.

Eileen had been a Nursery Nurse for many years and came to the High School from the University playgroup. At first she worked part-time and also helped in the School Library. Married to Iain, she has three children and three grandchildren including baby Eleanor born in May this year. Eileen is a keen golfer and plays off a respectable 13 handicap. She is past Ladies Captain of Downfield Golf Club and intends to play much more golf in her retirement. She also hopes to spend more time with her grandchildren and going off on exotic holidays.

Eileen says she has made many friends at DHS and will miss the children. We wish her well. Happy golfing!

HIGH SCHOOL
OF DUNDEE
REVIEW 05

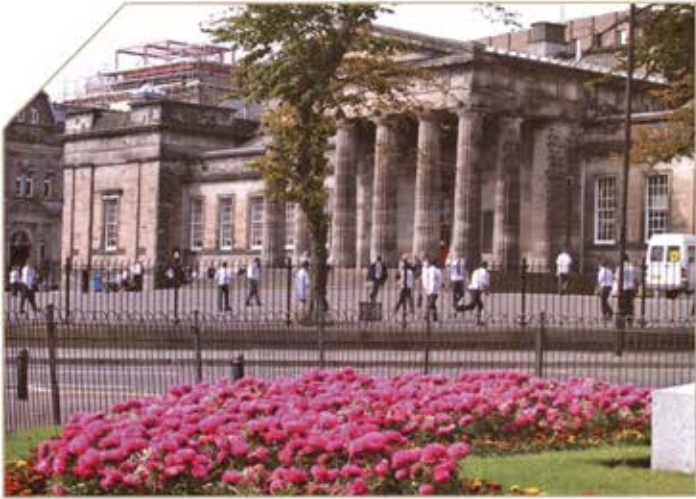


HIGH SCHOOL
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REVIEW 05





HIGH SCHOOL
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REVIEW 05





HIGH SCHOOL
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REVIEW 05



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ROUND THE SCHOOL

FORM ONE HALLOWEEN DISCO

Halloween 2004 was the night form 1 pupils could finally get their own back and scare the teachers who have been terrifying them since the start of the year. And it worked! With such creepy characters as Dracula, the ghost of Uncle Sam, mad scientists, witches, teachers (oops, we have just been informed that it was actually teachers, and not petrifying costumes as we originally thought!) and also the bloodcurdling High School Janitor even the sixth years had nightmares for the following week! With numerous games and competitions the evening turned out to be a scream in every sense of the word!

Although the form ones didn't quite understand it when Buffy the Vampire Slayer, a punk fairy and Adam Ant appeared ["what are you supposed to be... who?"] they did get involved in numerous dances with them, including renditions of (with exaggerated expression and movement a la sixth form) Music Man and Time Warp. Overall the evening was a brilliant success with many form one pupils going home with a number of prizes (and the sixth years going home with all the left over sweets!). Along with the frightfully fabulous fun we all had, we managed to raise around three hundred pounds for a set and costume fund for The Rock Challenge, a movement and dance show to raise awareness and funds for a number of charity organisations which help teenagers cope with the pressures and problems of drugs.

The teachers and janitors were absolute stars, helping decorate, chaperone and clean up as well as getting involved in some games too. The sixth years (even though we do say so ourselves) made a brilliant effort with costumes and getting involved in the dancing and games. However the party couldn't have happened without the number of form ones who outdid us all in costume, dancing skill (we were very upset not winning best dancer awards!) and overall effort and enthusiasm throughout the evening!

We wish all our new friends in form one the very best of luck for the rest of school (at least, in trying to get a party as good as their awesome Halloween party!).

Carla Boyd and Sam Croll Form 6

SCOTTISH BALLET

It was around this time last year when I received my letter from the Scottish Ballet saying that I had successfully gained a place as a Senior Associate of the company. I was absolutely amazed as I had never thought I was good enough to get in to it, especially as there were only five places for the hundreds that had auditioned from all over Scotland. It was such an amazing opportunity and I couldn't wait to go.

Being a Senior Associate means that I have to travel down to Glasgow every Saturday to dance. Usually I get the train at 7.50 then the tube then a 10 minute walk. It is quite a trek but is definitely worth it. After I arrive, the other boys and girls and I warm up and get ourselves ready for class. All the girls and boys are very friendly; as I have been a Junior Associate since L6, so I know a number of the other students already.

CLASS STARTS AT 10 AM AND USUALLY FINISHES AROUND 1PM. WE START OFF WITH AN EXHAUSTING BALLET CLASS FOR ABOUT 1HR 30MINS. AFTER WE HAVE A WELL DESERVED REST WE TAKE PART IN ANOTHER ACTIVITY SUCH AS, PILATES, MOTIVATION AND CONFIDENCE TALKS, FIT BALL CLASSES OR REPERTOIRE. ON ONE OCCASION, A FAMOUS BALLERINA CAME ALONG AND TAUGHT US DANCES FROM SWAN LAKE. THIS WAS FANTASTIC AS WE ALL GOT TO PUT ON OUR TUTUS AND SHOW OFF OUR DANCE SKILLS. I JUST LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!

By being a Senior Associate I have definitely learnt a lot. My dancing has greatly improved and I have made lots of new friends. It has also made me more independent and confident. Although it was a huge commitment and took a lot of determinations to practise my stretches and dances I still love it! Hopefully it will have helped me for the future and I am so glad that I have the chance to grab such an amazing opportunity!

Catriona Wilson Form 3

MUSIC

Every Saturday, since October, Form 5 pupil, Genevieve Murphy has made the trip through to Glasgow to attend classes at the RSAMD, where she studies piano, cello and composition.

"My Saturday is just like a normal school day, starting at nine o'clock and finishing after four, but instead of subjects, I do choir, then a period of orchestra, followed by theory class and finishing up with piano, cello and composition, one after the other. It can be pretty tiring!"

GENEVIEVE WAS ACCEPTED FOR THIS PLACE AT THE RSAMD, AFTER A SUCCESSFUL AUDITION AND SINCE THEN SHE FEELS IT HAS IMMEASURABLY HELPED DEVELOP HER MUSICAL APPRECIATION AND PERFORMANCE.

She recently composed a prize-winning piece of music, associated with a research project and Dundee University, part of an over all study of the effects of the Irish Potato Famine. Genevieve is now working on another composition on a similar theme, which will, she hopes, be performed by an orchestra at the RSAMD.



(1) Catriona Wilson

(2) Genevieve Murphy



2

ROUND THE SCHOOL

If I had known about the tremendous generosity and compassion of the whole Dundee High School Community earlier, I would have volunteered to be Chair of the Charities Committee years ago! What I thought would be a year of cajoling and coaxing turned out to be just the opposite: the pupils discovered that it is far more rewarding to give than to receive and everyone has certainly "dug deep" this session.

The year kicked off to an excellent start with the distribution of £1500 to five local and international charities, namely The Mary Slessor Foundation, Dundee Disabled Children's Association, Maggie's Centre, TCCL and Macmillan Cancer Relief. The Autumn Term is always busy with the Macmillan Coffee Morning, Staff Christmas card and the on-going sponsorship of Lea from the Philippines and Peter from Kenya. However, the highlight for pupils remains the doughnuts and hot chocolate sale after the Armistice Parade!

In an attempt to foster more pupil involvement, members of Years 5 and 6 have become Charities Prefects and I would like to take this chance to thank them all for their hard work throughout the session. They have contributed to the committee meetings and used their persuasive powers to sell poppies, doughnuts, hot chocolate and red nose buns.

Other organizations in the school community have been very busy with a great variety of activities. Many hundreds of pounds have been raised by the Music Department - see the details below!

In response to the Tsunami Appeal in January, desperate measures demanded a quick response and a non-uniform day for the whole school was rapidly organized. A staggeringly large cheque for £7000 was sent off to help the victims and their families in SE Asia.

WHILST FUND-RAISING HAS BEEN A LARGE PART OF THE WORK OF THE CHARITIES COMMITTEE, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS OTHER ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SUCH AS THE DONATION OF COMPUTERS TO BELARUS, HELPING BARNADO'S AND DISABLED CHILDREN IN ANGUS AND DUNDEE AND RED NOSE DAY BUN SALES.

Early in 2005, we received a plea from Dundee Disabled Children's Association. They are building a new children's centre and the soft play room needs to be equipped. So, with the success of the first non-uniform day behind us, we launched into another campaign to raise the money in June 2005 with another mufti day. The Junior School Council decided that they also wanted to hold their own Talent Show and Wow - what an amazing variety of skills and abilities were on display. Hot off the press, I am delighted to announce that we managed to raise the full sum of £3100 for DDCA!

Many thanks to all of you who pedaled, swam, painted, ran, whistled, skated, canoed, hula-hooped, baked, skied, juggled, rode and kicked for charity this year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the many charities we support and a massive thank you is extended to all who have been so generous.

Susan Williams and the Charities Committee.



- (1) Non-uniform day January 2005
- (2) Dundee Disabled Children's Association.
- (3) No doughnut is safe!

ROUND THE SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHARITIES 04/05

The Senior String Ensemble performed at the Tayside Health Board's Annual Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall. This concert raised £10,000 for Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children

A String Quartet played carols around the wards for patients at Roxburghe House.

Annual Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall raised £2,000 for charity. £1,000 was given to Dundee Disabled Children's Association and £1,000 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The Senior Choir and Senior Brass Ensemble performed carols in the Overgate Shopping Centre and donated £200 to the Tsunami Disaster Fund Appeal.

High School of Dundee musicians gave a concert in St Mary's Episcopal Church, Broughty Ferry, which raised over £500 for Barnardo's.

The F1-3 choir shared the stage with Nicola Benedetti, the National Orchestra of Scotland, Dundee Choral Union and the Dundee Schools' Symphony Orchestra at the Rotary Centenary Concert in the Caird Hall. This concert raised £12,000 for Dundee Disabled Children.

INTERACT REPORT 04/05

The Interact club enjoyed great success this session. The club continued its ethos of fund raising with an overflow of ideas and events, so much so there was not enough time to do all of them! However, there was a great emphasis upon the social aspects, perhaps arguably the most important characteristic of the club, which allowed members to 'interact' and thus create relationships between those whom may not have spoken too much in previous years. The club currently has around 25 members, who contribute and participate regularly in club meetings and activities.

The session kicked off with a visit to the Mercy Ship SS Anastasia, which is a hospital/aid ship, providing necessary health treatment and medication to those in Developing Countries. This trip allowed us to fully appreciate the need for fund raising, and how even a little amount can go such a long way, with the club making a considerable donation of £300.

This trip inspired us to participate in the Aqua Box project, which provides essentials required to survive natural disasters in Developing Countries. All members again were required to put considerable input in collecting and packing items; however, as soon as they were sent away not only was there a sense of relief but also pride as all the effort would allow someone to survive if a natural disaster struck. Hopefully, this is one thing which next year's Club will definitely continue.

Shortly afterwards, a committee was selected, and what better way to celebrate than shooting each other? With lasers that is! In an intense game of Zap Zone, where the mighty Greens dominated the lacklustre Reds, who was most enthusiastic? Only Mr Rennet, leading the charge, weaving in and out of the opposition; a definite sight to behold!

In addition, in line with the Club's close link to the Dundee Rotary Club, we embarked upon the challenging task of teaching foreign students to dance. Although, most could not understand our Scottish accents, they often managed to dance better than ourselves! Beginners Luck?!

Other fund raising ideas included the reintroduction of Scorpion Football. Considerable amounts were raised through this event, and enough controversy was caused to put Lee Bowyer to shame, with high flying tackles, brilliant goals, and shocking upsets.

Furthermore, the traditional Christmas car parking service in the playground for several weekends coming up to Christmas, was in full swing, generating vast sums of money, from parents, pupils and members of the public. The playground was nearly buzzing at all times, with a total amount of £550 being raised.

HOWEVER, IT MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FUNDS RAISED BY INTERACT WOULD BE USELESS UNLESS DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY AND THUS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR WORTHY CHARITIES. ALTHOUGH THE CHOICE OF CHARITIES WAS HARD TO MAKE, ALL MEMBERS WERE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CHARITIES THAT WERE CHOSEN. IT IS HOPED THAT INTERACT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR SUCH WORTHY CHARITIES AND CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR YEARS TO COME.

An Interact Report would not, however, be complete without thanking the people who have given a great deal of help to the club. Mr Rennet devotes a great deal of his own time to Interact events, as well as frequently having to put up with a lot of our more bizarre ideas, and his contribution cannot be underestimated. Likewise Gus McDonald, who provides an essential link between Interact and Rotary, must be thanked for his efforts. We hope that next year's Interact club will continue with a high level of membership, and contribute even further to Interact's work.

Ricki Solaiman (Form 6)

ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

September saw another successful Book Fair week. For the last four years the Learning Skills department have organised and run a book fair at the start of each new session. The Book Fair which takes over Baxter Hall provides a huge range of books from pre-school to adult. There is great support for the fair throughout the school. Junior school classes are encouraged to view the books with their teachers with the opportunity for parents to come to the fair after school. The English department staff assist with the running of the fair as well as visiting with their classes. The assistance of the school's librarians is also greatly appreciated! The school, gets 60% commission from the sale of books, which amounted this year to £1112,54. This sum is then used to provide resources for the Junior school, Library, English and Learning Skills Departments.

It is very encouraging to see our pupils so excited and enthusiastic about books, as well as our parents, without whose support would not make our annual book fair the huge success it is. Many thanks to all who supported the fair - and happy reading!



ROUND THE SCHOOL

TALENT SHOW





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Jennifer Robertson



Kirsty Morrison



Kirsty McEwan



Rachael Sinclair



Emma Scahill

Form 2

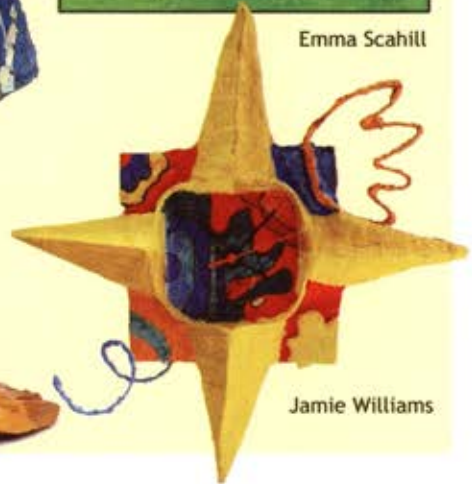


Paul McNulty

Matthew Powrie



Danny McGuff



Jamie Williams



Robert White



Amy Watson



Danny McGuff

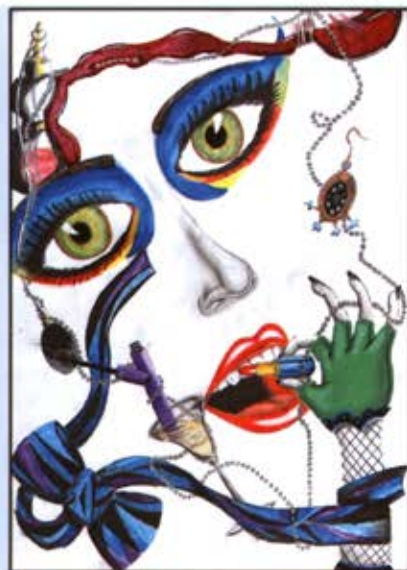


Angus Young

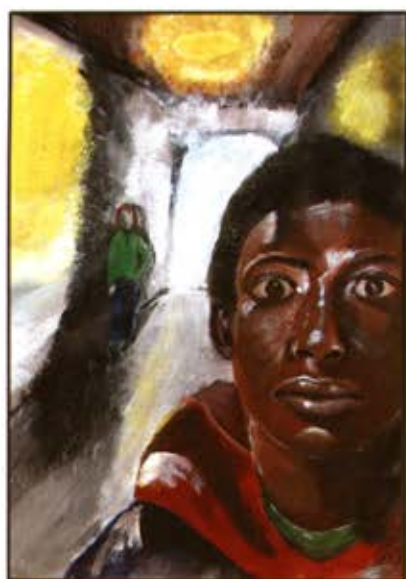
ARTWORK



Angus Miller



Rachel Clark



Shona Watson

Mhairi Kilpatrick

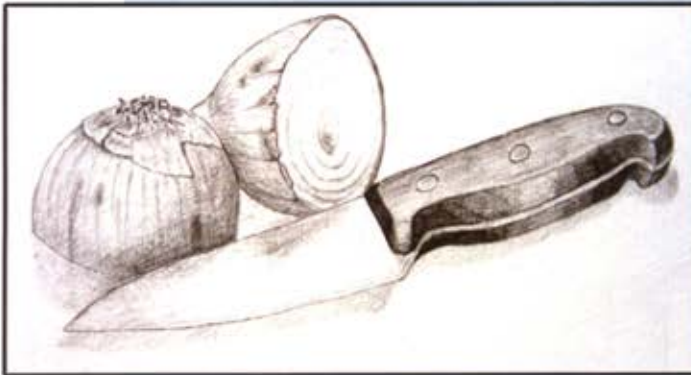


Form
3



Bess Innes

Form 4



Douglas White



Poppy Philip



Rebecca Wilkinson



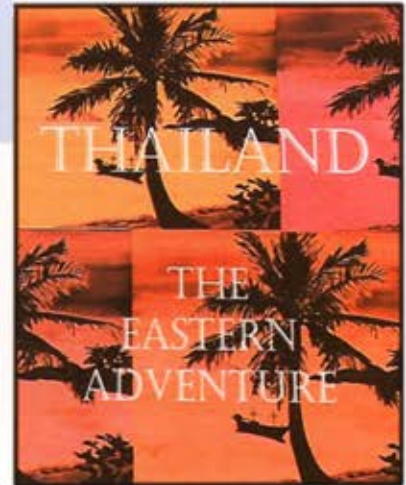
Melissa Pitcaithly



Rachel Robb



Georgia Dessain



Guy Ballantyne

Form 5



Susan Bennett



Katy Hannah



Rhea Thomson



Rhys Kerr



Sarah Kidd

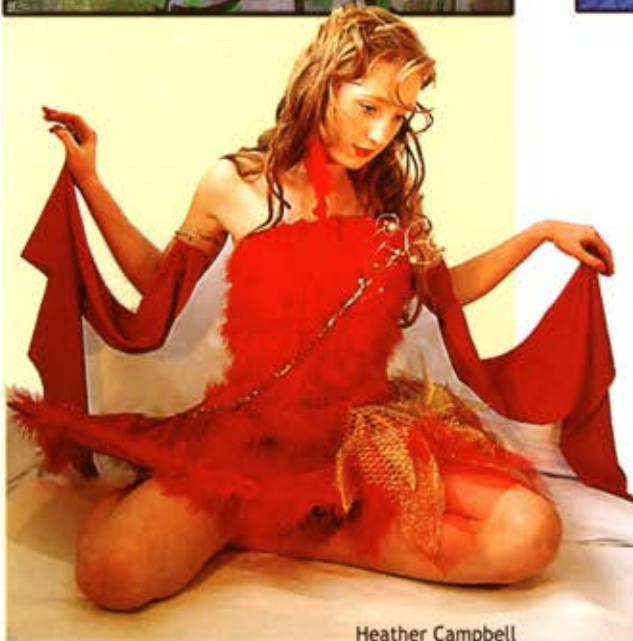


Mandy Hon

Rebecca McNeill



Jennifer Low



Heather Campbell



Rebecca Hobson



Freya Small

Form 6

LIBRARY DESIDERATA

"Go placidly amidst the noise and haste
And remember what peace there may be in silence,
As far as possible without surrender,
Encourage pupils to keep the noise down."



It's never quiet in the Library and this session has been no exception.

Interval in the Library and the usual influx of first year boys have staked their claim on the computers alongside last year's regulars. The study desks are home to dozens of pupils completing homework, discussing their reading or catching up after the weekend. The lounge chairs are occupied by gamers pouring over the latest copy of "GamesMaster" magazine or girls imagining themselves in a creation from the pages of the new "Vogue". The level of chatter is constant and, at lunchtime, if the weather is bad, it will be even worse. In between managing the hordes, Mrs Brown and I make time to go about our business. We love it!

This year, first and second year pupils competed in the inaugural "High IQ" quiz as part of the Children's BookWeek celebrations arranged by the Library. A field of nearly thirty pupils took part in the heat and were whittled down to five for the final, staged in Trinity Hall on a Tuesday lunchtime in October. Complete with microphones, buzzers and a black leather Master Mind chair, the four boys and one girl bravely answered general knowledge and specialist subject questions from MC Mr Wilson with a score kept by Mr Rodger. Finally, Iain Kennedy (F2) emerged with the title HSD "High IQ 2004". Well done Iain!

Meanwhile, Junior School pupils were busy designing mascots and reading books for their Reading Frenzy during October. Each book read was a ticket in a raffle draw of prizes held at the end of the Frenzy and prizes were also given for the best designers (Victoria Birks (L7) & Betty Henderson (L4)), best reader (Laura Strachan (L4)) and other class winners. In total, juniors read 2131 books during that fortnight and Mrs Brown and our F6 prefects can tell you that's a lot of raffle tickets to cut up.

Our Friday lunchtime Book Club was re-born as "The Reading Café" in October 2004 and ran until Easter 2005. Between fifteen and thirty F1 & F2 pupils came to the Library each week for craft, games and quizzes. Regulars say that highlights include the Christmas Party and the quizzes but will not reveal whose score proclaimed them to be a Nerd on our "Nerd or Not" day. That's right, no names, Waqas...

Four writers visited the School for the Library this year. In November, storyteller Bea Ferguson entertained L4 & L5 children with her tales and rhymes and action songs. June was a mini-Writer's Fest with three visits in one month: Edinburgh-based teen fiction author Keith Gray inspired F2 pupils to read and try their hand at creative writing; prolific non-fiction writer Richard Dargie had L7 rapt with attention to his tales of the artefacts he's dug out of "poo" at an excavation in the Lothian area; and all lugs were tuned in to the awfy weel-kent Scots author Matthew Fitt as he read some of his manky mingin rhymes for L6.

World Book Day 2005 in March was celebrated with a series of Book Slams this year. At intervals throughout the day, Form 6 pupils burst dramatically into junior school classes, slammed a book on the front desk, read a passage or a poem and then dashed out again. It's hard to say who enjoyed this most- the seniors or the juniors or even the teachers who were a breath away from berating these rude teenagers until they realized they had a Book Slam underway!

Our Library Prefects were very good this year and we enjoyed all the time they spent with us. We tried to take special advantage of their skills by assigning tasks- Andrew re-designed the Library website which will be launched in August 2005, Chris looked forward to reading to "his" L4 class in the Library each week and Robbie's artistic skills were always put to good use. The typewriter fell out of favour this year, but colouring-in remains as popular a job as ever and it was lovely to see Form 6 throw themselves into a task with such concentration. We always value the contribution our Prefects make - we miss them so much during study leave- and we wish them all well for the future.

The old session has barely finished and yet the new session is shaping up to be a busy year already. We look forward to more hustle and bustle alongside quiet reading, research and reflection in the Library in the new school year.

"With all its pcs, papers and well-thumbed books,
It is still a beautiful Library.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be well-read."



1



2

(1) Bookslam!

(2) The High IQ Quiz

(3) - (4) All hail Mrs Dakers!



3



4

ART DEPARTMENT

FORM 2 COSTUME DESIGN PROJECT

This year Form Two pupils completed a costume design project. Their design brief was to design a costume for a 'Lord of the Rings' character. At the end of the project we held an exhibition in Trinity Hall for pupils and staff to see. I was very impressed with the quality of work the pupils produced and we had costumes for characters as diverse as Frodo and Elven Princess Arwen.

The pupils not only designed and made the characters but also organised and managed their exhibition. The designs were inspired by the patterns and shapes in beetles and bugs.

Well done everyone!!!



Rob Madden, Form 2



Costume Designer Ngila Dickson's design drawings



Sonia Chima, Form 2

FORM 3/4 JEWELLERY LUNCHTIME CLUB

This is the first year that I have taken the Jewellery Club and it has been very successful. A group of 12 Form 3 and Form 4 pupils came every week without fail researching, designing and manufacturing pieces of jewellery. These pieces included armpieces, neckpieces and earrings.

Throughout this process, the pupils looked at work by famous jewellers such as Peter Chang and Wendy Ramshaw. One of these pupils, Rebecca Wilkinson in Form 4 said about the club:



Neckpiece by Rebecca Wilkinson Form 4



"IT WAS A LOT OF FUN AND I LEARNT LOTS OF NEW SKILLS SUCH AS CUTTING METAL AND SOLDERING IT TOGETHER. WE WERE ALSO TAUGHT HOW TO TEXTURE AND DOME METAL. I KNOW THAT ALL MY FRIENDS ENJOYED DESIGNING THEIR OWN WEARABLE JEWELLERY AND ONE OF MY FRIENDS, FIONA ASHFORD, WORE HER PIECES TO A WEDDING.

I WOULD DEFINITELY RECOMMEND THE CLUB TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO WALK DOWN THE STREET WITH AN INDIVIDUAL AND UNIQUE PIECE OF JEWELLERY THAT YOU DESIGNED YOURSELF.

MALES SHOULDN'T BE PUT OFF BY THE FACT THAT IT IS CALLED A 'JEWELLERY CLUB' AS THEY COULD MAKE CHUNKY ARMPIECES OR CUFFLINKS TO WEAR.

TO SUM IT UP I WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE CLUB FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE."

Next year the Jewellery Club will start again and it is hoped it will go from strength to strength!

Miss A Douglas

CLASSICS ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Classics department of the High School, working in conjunction with the Classical Association of Great Britain, once again organised a programme of academic lectures and events for the schools in the local area. It is our great fortune to be able to draw on speakers from a world class Classics department just across the Tay in St Andrews. But this year's highlight was probably February's presentation by Dr Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones from the University of Edinburgh. Dr Llewellyn-Jones moonlights as a film consultant and he spoke to us about his, and others, roles in the making of the film 'Alexander.' Our Form 3 students were given a few privileged pieces of information about Angelina Jolie, Colin Farrel, and Oliver Stone, along with some fascinating insights into the making of a Classical epic movie. Hopefully Dr Llewellyn-Jones will be able to return to tell us about the next film he is working on about the Carthaginian General Hannibal, starring Vin Diesel (!? ed.).

HADRIAN'S WALL

On Friday 24th June, Form 1 classicists visited Hadrian's Wall in Cumbria. The weather looked rather threatening as the bus headed south, but in a welcome turn of fortune, the rain held off as we made our way up to Walltown Crags and our first view of Hadrian's Wall itself. The wall is several feet thick and its height varies, depending on how much stone has been pilfered from it. Much of the building material used in this area over the centuries, has come from Hadrian's Wall itself, and so, in many parts the wall is only a few feet high. In the less accessible areas, however, the wall still stands well over head height.

We walked along this impressive section of wall, where it follows a ridge of hills, until we came to a turret which crowned the summit of one of the hills. The wall stretches for about 80 miles from the Irish Sea to the North Sea, forming the border between civilisation and barbarism during the middle empire. At mile intervals, there were little forts with gate houses all the way along the wall (these are known as milecastles) and between these there were turrets. Mr Meehan gave another typically evocative talk about the experience of serving on the wall and brought the old stones to life. We then headed down to the Roman Army Museum to learn more about the equipment and weaponry used by soldiers on Hadrian's Wall.

In the museum we were given a talk by a weapons specialist about the various merits and weaknesses of different pieces of arms and armour. Several volunteers were able to try on some authentic reconstructions of Roman equipment; and we were given graphic descriptions about Roman battle tactics and how the equipment was designed to complement these. It was then on to watch a film where CGI recreated the Wall as it was: we flew with the Eagle's Eye, observing the full length of this remarkable construction. There was another quick film about recruitment into the Roman army, and a brief chance to look around the rest of the exhibits, before we headed off for the fort and village of Vindolanda.

This is one of the most fascinating archaeological sites in the country, and we were fortunate enough to be given a quick report on the latest discoveries and work being carried out there by Dr Justin Blake, the chief archaeologist on the site. After this, it was time to do a bit of archaeological detective work, with a quiz specially put together by Mr Meehan. We had to identify various buildings by examining the remains for signs of usage. The quiz would be completed down in the valley where we looked at Roman tombstones and altars, and also the only surviving Roman milestone in Britain; and, inside the Vindolanda museum, we had the chance to read the actual letters sent home by Roman soldiers. It really brings the whole Wall area to life when you read letters asking for more pairs of socks because of the awful weather, or a request for larger beer rations!

DUNDEE REP THEATRE DAY

On the 28th of April, a group of third year dancers and higher Drama pupils made their way to the Dundee Rep Theatre along with four other schools. We were all to take part in a dance and drama performance later that day. After all gathering together with Mr Ilsley and Mrs. Drummond, we joined St. Johns, Montrose and Forfar Academy in the auditorium.

Our morning was to consist of intensive rehearsals along with Montrose Academy. We were all excited to find out what the other schools had to offer, and after seeing their pieces we were all starting to get nervous.

After negotiations with the lighting and sound crew we were all waiting anxiously to get into our costumes for the dress rehearsal if not only to see how our fellow dancers had customized their own outfits! Finally despite many costume switches and wardrobe malfunctions we were all on stage. Even though it was only a practice, nerves were running high, but luckily all ran smoothly.

Although we were all worn out from the mornings tiring rehearsals, we were ready for an afternoon of workshops. We rejoined Montrose Academy in a state-of-the-art dance studio. Our excitement was beginning to grow and even though we were anxious, the afternoon was much enjoyed. Everybody (including Mrs. Drummond!) joined in with the fun and energetic games which included opera singing (the boys were naturals) pretending to be animals and other humiliating but enjoyable activities. The afternoon was made even better by the Montrose group who were all very friendly and encouraging.

Before we knew it, performance time was upon us and, despite the excitement of before, it was nothing compared to how we were feeling by six o'clock. After a quick warm up session on stage, we were ready to get changed, and armed with accessories, make up and costumes we made our way to the dressing rooms. The noise levels were rising and shouts of 'quick, practice!' could be heard from all corners of the room. It was not long though until it was our turn to shine. As we got ready to go on stage, everyone was feeling panicked but also excited at the prospect of a whole audience waiting for us to perform. Soon enough, we heard the opening bars of our music and each group in turn took to the stage. Everything went well and the drama and dance pieces were a huge success.

The many weeks of rehearsals and meetings had been well worth it. Above the babble of 'good luck' to the other performers shouts of 'I want to do that again!' could be heard from our dressing rooms but, unfortunately for us, the day had come to an end.

The show had been a huge success and we all made lots of new friends. A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Drummond, Mr Ilsley and the Dundee Rep team for an extremely enjoyable experience and I am sure that we all wish we could spend every Thursday doing the same again.

Rachel Coleman F3



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

This has been a busy year for pupils in the English Department, with a number of excursions and workshops and some success in the field of creative writing!

Early in the session, F4 pupils joined their teachers to attend Dundee Rep, to see a performance of "Macbeth", followed by a workshop on the play which pupils found interesting and enlightening. The English department has forged new links with Dundee Rep's Educational Development group in the course of this year and this led to a welcome opportunity for further study of another F4 text, "Lord of the Flies", when once again pupils had the chance to participate in a study workshop. This followed the visit of a large group of F4 pupils to the Rep, to see a dramatisation of this famous novel.

Forms 5 and 6 made the journey through to Edinburgh on two consecutive Wednesday evenings at the end of October and beginning of November to see "Hamlet" and "The Crucible" at the Royal Lyceum Theatre. The general opinion of those who made the trip through to Edinburgh was that it was well worth the journey, as they enjoyed the performances on both occasions. In January, Form 3 did not have such a trek and had merely to walk to the DCA cinema to watch a matinee showing

of the latest film version of "The Merchant of Venice"! Once again, the response to the production was very favourable:

The Form 1 visit to the pantomime has become something of a tradition by now and in December, the whole of the form went over to St Andrews, to the Byre Theatre to see "Beauty and the Beast". This year, we will be venturing further afield, back to the Lyceum in Edinburgh to see a dramatisation of "A Christmas Carol".

Form 2 stayed closer to home this year. Although they did not attend any theatre events, they enjoyed a visit from the author Keith Gray, who talked about his work and encouraged pupils in their own writing. There are perhaps signs that the High School is indeed nurturing a number of aspiring writers. After

a modest success last year in the "Young Writers" Competition, we were encouraged to enter more poems and had a most gratifying thirty-four entries accepted for publication in this year's anthology, "Great Minds: United in Poetry", which features poems from young writers from across the whole of Britain.

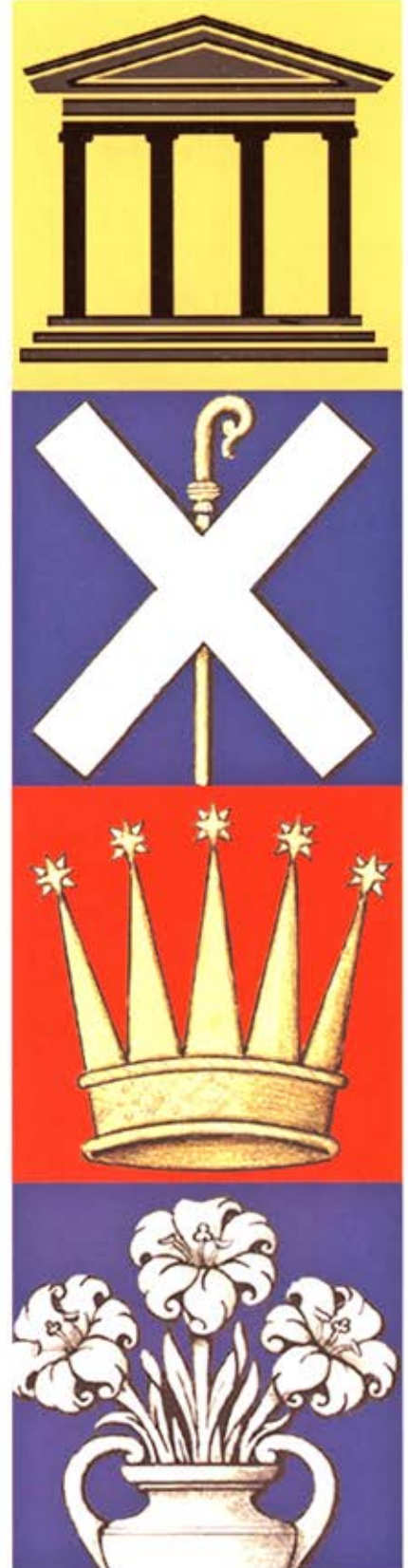


Some of the F2 and F3 pupils whose work was accepted for publication...



.....and some of our F1 poets.

The year finished with a very exciting new development for the English Department in that we will be working closely with the English Department of the University of Dundee, to enable Advanced Higher English students to attend lectures and, where possible, tutorials and to have lecturers from the university in to our classes to work with pupils. 2005-06 is the first year of this collaboration and teachers and pupils are looking forward to working with university staff in what promises to be an interesting and enriching experience.



GEOGRAPHY

FIELDWORK PHOTO ALBUM

IN THE COURSE OF SESSION 2004-2005, A TOTAL OF 288 SENIOR SCHOOL PUPILS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN FIELDWORK ORGANISED BY THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT. THIS YEAR, AS OUR REPORT, WE ARE SHARING SOME PAGES FROM OUR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS....

...WATCH OUT FOR THE REPORT ON OUR VISIT TO ICELAND NEXT YEAR!



[1] The Form 6 Advanced Higher class spent a weekend in September at Kindrogan House learning field work techniques.

[2] Form 3 get their first taste of Standard Grade fieldwork around Pitlochry and the Queen's View

[3] Form 4 enjoy a day studying glacial and river features in Glen Clova in September

[4] The Higher class spent a hugely enjoyable weekend in the Yorkshire Dales in March

[5] Form 1 have their first experience of Geography field work in Perth

BERLIN

WHAT CAN WE SAY?

Gutentastic!

Thursday 2nd June

After departing the school at 7 a.m. with The Claw, Huddo, Maxy and Wilso we soon realised we were in for a bunch of fits and giggles. Huddo was the first one to step out of line with continual gossiping on the plane – the air steward soon sorted her out!

We knew we were in for a treat when our shimmering hotel appeared through the trees. The 'air-headed barbies' picked up the first Mini-Dickmanns (chocolate marshmallows given out for lack of brain cells) as a result of locking themselves out of their Mickey-Mouse room... three times in an hour!

T- T- T- Tony ! - our Guten-Guideman for our stay in Berlin gave a smashing slide show, all about the Cold War and his experiences with Rudolph Hess, Hitler's Deputy Fuhrer. Can't wait for tomorrow's adventure.



Friday 3rd June

TONY'S MARCH. Six miles in 100 degree heat in black stilettos with The Claw - sounds like fun! We saw bits of East and West Berlin and the Wall that separated them. We also visited Hitler's Bunker and 'the Garden of the Dead', where the bodies of the leading Nazis were found by the Russians. We also visited the Reichstag, which was so much grander than we had imagined. David Copperfield made a guest appearance outside the Brandenburg Gate and Chloe made her claim to fame on National German News!

Fraser comments on the Gate itself...

**I WALKED AROUND BERLIN 36 TIMES TODAY
ALSO BLOWN AWAY BACK BY THE
BRANDENBURG GATE. IT'S NOT A WEE METAL
GATE, IT'S LIKE A PURE HUGE ARCH!**

For our evening entertainment we were shipped off to the Imax Theatre! We saw The Blue Nile - filled with Blueness and the Nile. Sooo good! No late night meetings - straight to bed like Tony ordered! (with at least a couple of blisters...)



Chloe, bowling...

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE REVIEW 05

Saturday 4th June

Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, Wannsee and the Olympic Stadium.

A very hard-hitting day for us all. There was complete silence as we walked through the Concentration Camp. We had learnt in our history lessons how badly the Jews were treated - those lessons were now being brought home to us. You could feel something in the camp - a very odd feeling. It gave us a clearer understanding and we are glad to have experienced it with our friends.....

The Olympic Stadium was sooo huge! As always, Tony was by our side and sharing his wisdom.



Sunday 5th June

Went to Potsdam. Fraser comments once more...

'There are no ancient pots in Potsdam. There isn't even a dam.'

For those who don't know, we saw the site of the Potsdam Conference and lots of beautiful palaces, wore giant slippers (to 'keep it clean') then back to the hotel for tea. Some of us were pretty tired so The Claw cuddled down to on the coach ride back. Aww!

The food in the hotel was 'generally superb' (Clarky) and in order to escape the bossy waitresses we had to make a swift exit.... down to the bowling alley!

Most of the guys were disappointed to be beaten by Bexxy, but Roisin did so badly that no-one was bothered (scored all of 16).

Monday 6th June

Our last day in Berlin and Clarky was so upset to be leaving that he hid his wallet in a dire attempt to stay - don't worry Clarky, we all felt the same! Feeling rather fragile after a late night we soon perked up with a visit to Europe's biggest department store - KaDeWe. We all bought gifts and goodies but a round of applause to Shorty for spending 50 euros on a yellow and blue hat. Renna's 129 euro jeans (Tommy Hilfiger) proved to be a real bargain!

With tears in our eyes we left Tony in Heathrow and couldn't thank him enough. Wilso was overcome with emotion when he received a large medallion we had bought for him and The Claw. To thank the gals, (Hudo and Maxy) we presented them with pretty necklaces that they're still showing off.

We arrived in Dundee and realised home hadn't changed, but maybe in some respects we had, because of all the amazing experiences that we had together.

Special thanks to the teachers and T-Unit for a Guten-Great time!



CATHERINE MAKES HISTORY!

One student at the High School of Dundee has found her place in the history books - by achieving the best mark in Scotland for her Higher History examination.

Catherine Jung, who has just completed form six and was last year's Deputy Head Girl, comfortably secured an 'A' with a percentage in the high nineties - the SQA does not reveal precise marks.

Catherine, who has had her achievement recognized with an award from the Scottish Association of History Teachers, was delighted and surprised by this recognition, saying, "I feel it is a great honour for my school, my subject and my family."

Catherine, also a successful debater, will begin studying Law at Cambridge this Autumn.

BURN HOUSE WEEKEND

Six of the UK's top historians have been bringing history to life for High School pupils at the Burn House, Edzell.

20 Advanced Higher History pupils received two days of intensive tuition on the American Civil War and Scottish Wars of Independence, as well as masterclasses on essay writing, source-handling and team building skills.

Tutors for the event include Professor John Hudson, Dr Rona Johnson, and Dr Norman Reid of the University of St Andrews; Dr Tony Parker of the University of Dundee, Dr Matthew Strickland of the University of Glasgow, and Dr Susan-Mary Grant of the University of Newcastle, as well as staff from the High School History Department.

Head of History, Ian Wilson, said: "The knowledge and skills that the pupils have gained will not only boost their performance in this year's exams, but will also help them to prepare for the rigours of University study ahead.

"All of the academics involved in teaching the course are very highly respected in their own field and I'm delighted that they have been able to find the time to help encourage the next generation of historians."

The residential break wasn't all work, however Students also put their skills of analysis and deduction to the test with a Murder Mystery evening.

The History department at the High School of Dundee has gone from strength to strength over the past year. Last year's best mark in Scotland for Higher History went to High School pupil Cathy Jung, and half of all other High School pupils to sit the exam gained an "A" grade. In addition, two Advanced Higher History students were accepted for Oxford, including Jamie Yule, who was highly commended in the prestigious Julia Wood essay competition for sixth-form history students.



MATHEMATICS

It has been a busy year in the Mathematics Department as usual with pupils from all years entering a number of different competitions.

Our pupils have again been given the chance to compete against able young mathematicians from other schools throughout the United Kingdom again this year when we entered pupils for the UKIMC and the UKJMC. Our results are shown in the table below.

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
UKIMC	12	20	12
UKJMC	22	17	7

Best in School for UKIMC - Kirsty Jones

Best in School for UKJMC - Josh Ivinson

The results for the UKJMC were the best we have ever had. Josh Ivinson qualifies for the Maths Junior Olympiad.

The Maths Challenge [Scottish] Competition produced the following results this year.

	JUNIOR DIVISION	MIDDLE DIVISION	SENIOR DIVISION
GOLD		Neil Dewar	Steven King
SILVER	Fabliha Hussain	Robin Cessford	Stuart McGrath
	Rachael McLellan	Lewis White	
		Claire Summers	
BRONZE	Gordon McNicol		



Left to right (back) Mr Middleton, Robin Cessford, Lewis White, (front) Claire Summers, Fabliha Hussain, Rachael McLellan

Steven King, who entered the Senior Competition, was the first pupil from the school to be awarded full marks for the two sets of questions which made up the competition. Those pupils receiving Gold/Silver Awards attended the ceremony at St. Andrews in June.

The Enterprising Mathematics National Final was held in October 2004. This year we excelled ourselves and made it through to the National final. The Maths team of Laura Treece, Neil Dewar, Annie Ning and Andrew Smart were 6th in the national Final of Enterprising Mathematics held at Glasgow. Sixty five teams took part in the competition. The team was accompanied by Mr. Middleton from the Maths Department.

Maths sans Frontiers

At the end of February this year, the school entered two teams in the competition 'Mathématiques sans Frontiers.' This was a team competition open to schools throughout Europe. It is the fifth time the school has entered this particular competition. Mr.A.Blackburns S5 and Miss D.MacDonald's S4 classes entered the competition which proved to be an interesting experience for the pupils. One of the questions had to be answered in a language other than English. This question gave the language enthusiasts a chance to show their skills. Though our S4 group failed to make it into the top ten, our S5 pupils made it into the top ten teams in their group and we wait to see if they have won a prize by achieving a place in the top three.

Both teams enjoyed the event which we hope to enter again next year.

After running the maths competitions for the last 13 years, Mr. Elgin has decided on semi retirement from competitions and is passing over the reins to Miss L. Mathewson who will take up her competition duties for the 2005-06 session.

Code :
 UKSMC - United Kingdom Senior Maths Challenge
 UKIMC - United Kingdom Intermediate Maths Challenge.
 UKJMC - United Kingdom Junior Maths Challenge.

Mr.D.Elgin

MUSIC

AS EACH YEAR PROGRESSES THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE MUSIC DEPARTMENT SEEMS TO BECOME BUSIER AND BUSIER. THIS SESSION HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION, WITH A VAST ARRAY OF PERFORMANCES GIVEN BOTH WITHIN AND OUTWITH THE SCHOOL.

In October a String Quartet performed a selection of music from the baroque era to modern day classics at the Lord Dean of Guild's Dinner in the City Chambers. Also that month a Chamber Choir, comprising the Senior Girls' and Senior Boys' Choirs sang an arrangement of Scots Wha Hae at the opening of the HMC annual conference in the St Andrews Bay Hotel to an appreciative audience of around 400 Head Teachers from the UK and abroad. In a slightly more informal context, in November, the Jazz Combo performed at the High School of Dundee Old Boys' Annual Dinner. On the previous evening, there was a combined Music and Drama Department outing to 'Mama Mia' in Edinburgh which was enjoyed by all.

As a result of a review of Senior School Assembly last session a High School of Dundee Hymnody was published and is now used each week at Morning Assembly. It includes a range of modern music, hymns and songs as well as the more traditional and is proving to be popular with pupils and staff alike.

The Open Morning is always an important occasion and the Senior String Ensemble performed in Trinity Hall and a String Quartet in the foyer of the Margaret Harris building, entertaining our visitors and prospective parents and pupils.



Once again the Annual Christmas Carol Concert in the Caird Hall was a great success, enjoyed by a large audience. Taking part were over 300 pupils who had worked incredibly hard to make it a seasonal night to remember. There was a feast of music from the school choirs, the Concert Band and various instrumental ensembles. The school's String Orchestra accompanied the Community Carols. We were delighted to make charitable donations to Dundee Disabled Children's Association and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

For the seventh year in succession, the Senior String Ensemble featured in the programme at the Tayside Health Board's Annual Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children. In addition, the Senior Choir and Senior Brass Ensemble sang and played Christmas carols and songs in the Overgate Shopping Centre, raising money for the Tsunami Appeal. In the final week before Christmas, the String Quartet played carols to patients at Roxburghe House. A well earned rest was definitely in order over the holidays!

Earlier in the session, we were delighted to take delivery of a brand new Yamaha C2 pianoforte. We are very grateful to the High School of Dundee Trust Fund Appeal for making this

possible. The dedication of the piano was held in January with a piano recital featuring Stephen Armstong, Avril Evans and Mary Neave, our three piano instructors, as well as Kirsty Lowe, F6. This recital was performed before an invited audience of Trust Fund directors, pupils, parents and staff. The following week, 25 piano students of intermediate to advanced standard had the opportunity to play the piano in a second recital which was enjoyed by large and enthusiastic audience of parents and friends. The concert progressed through the 4 main stages in the development of music from the Baroque Era to Present Day and proved an excellent platform for our aspiring pianists to perform.

In the annual Leng Silver Medal Competition, Kirsty Mitchell, L7 won the Junior Competition while the Senior Girls and Senior Boys' Competitions were won by Shakira Roberts, F3 and Matthew Powrie, F2 respectively. The High School was well represented by pupils at the Leng Gold Medal Competition in the Music Centre in April and congratulations go to Scot McIntosh, F3, who lifted the Gold Medal in the Boys' Competition with his rendition of Johnnie Cope.



Thistle Brass from The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama visited us in March to give a master-class. The quintet worked with all our brass pupils in various ensembles and combined with them to give an excellent evening concert performance to pupils, parents and friends. This occasion proved to be a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to receive instruction and advice from these dedicated young professionals.

A number of Brass pupils also entered the Perth Music Festival and performed extremely well in their individual classes. Guy Ballantyne and Sarah Crichton were first and second respectively in the Advanced Classes, while Siobhan Strathearn and Calum Walker won each of their Intermediate Classes. Calum Strachan was placed first in the Beginner Class while John Sampson and Peter Vannet came first and second respectively in the Elementary Classes. Meanwhile, in the Arbroath Festival, Duncan Strachan and Graeme

Smith were placed joint second and Rajiv Nanthwani third in the under 13's Guitar Class. Only

one mark separated the top three places and as a first attempt at such a competition these pupils are to be congratulated.

The Annual Senior Music Competition took place in March, adjudicated by Mrs Jean Melville, Head of Music at High School, and Mrs Fiona Mitchell, Acting Music Organiser, Midlothian Council. The standard of performance at all levels was extremely high, with a large number of performers taking part. The High School of Dundee Premier Quaich, for the best vocal or instrumental performance in F5 and F6 was awarded to Jennifer Watson, F6 while the Southgate Ensemble Prize was won by a Brass Ensemble comprising Stephen Fraser, Eilidh Clark, Nicola Summers, Chris Barclay, all F5, and Guy Ballantytne, F4.



Our Form 6 Music pupils provided us with over two hours of wonderful music at their April concert. Performances were given by SQA Higher and Advanced Higher pupils and also those working towards Free Standing Units in Performing. The concert also included a track from each Sound Engineering pupil's CD, giving us all an insight into what they do throughout the session. Well done everyone!

On a Sunday evening in April, pupils performed a varied programme of solos and ensembles at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Broughty Ferry, raising a substantial amount for Barnardo's from generous donations given by the appreciative audience. We are grateful to Reverend Breaden for suggesting this platform for some of our smaller ensembles and soloists to perform.



Three days later, following the success of last year's joint Spring Concert, the Caird Hall was the venue for both the Junior /Intermediate and Senior Concerts, which were presented back to back, providing over three hours of splendid music. The programme represented sixteen extra-curricular groups that rehearse regularly throughout the session. The evening once again met with critical acclaim and was a superb reflection of the dedication of instrumentalists, vocalists and staff within the Department.

The Junior Music Competition took place in May and featured a wide variety of classes from Beginner up to Grade 4 and included, for the first time, Chanter classes. Also in May the Form 1-3 Choir and the Senior String Ensemble had the great honour of being invited to perform at the Rotary Centenary Concert in a packed Caird Hall in aid of Dundee Disabled Children's Association. We were delighted to share the platform with violinist Nicola Benedetti, who won BBC's Young Musician of the Year Competition in 2004, and pupils had the chance to meet and converse with her after the interval. It was a memorable evening for all and great experience.

It is now well on in June and we are looking forward to the Junior School production of 'Gold' which takes place at the Gardyne Theatre and also the Annual String Soiree in the last week of term. At this event various string groups will perform a variety of different pieces including Bach's Double Violin Concerto in D minor and the Theme from 'Schindler's List' by John Williams. Also playing with the Senior String Ensemble will be Kirsty Lowe who will perform the second movement of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 2 and Jennifer Watson who will perform Monti's Czardas. At Prize-Giving staff, pupils, parents and friends will have the opportunity to hear the Form 1-3 Choir perform part of the Chilcott Peace Mass; the piece that they sang at the Rotary Club Centenary Concert in May.

Congratulations are due to Catriona France, F5, who was successful at auditions and has been invited to join the National Youth Choir of Scotland while Esther McMillan, F5, was selected once more for the Training Choir. Jennifer Watson was successful in her audition for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Lucy Neville, F4, Eilidh Firth, F3 Jilly Vannet, F3, Mary Reid, F5, and Christine Reid, F3, are attending the National Youth Training Strings and will be auditioning for the National Youth String Orchestra of Scotland.

On a staffing level, we welcomed Mrs Anne Spalding as our Bagpipe and Chanter Instructor and Mr Martin Dibbs as Percussion Instructor, replacing Miss Kate Openshaw. Mrs Shirley Magill returned part time from Maternity Leave in November, after the birth of her son Aaron. Ms Val Brown took up her position as part time Music Administrator and has, at times, both felt bombarded by the sheer volume of work and amazed at the variety of musical activities on offer at High School. Mrs Alison Dowall commences her maternity leave at the end of the session, with baby Dowall due on 17 July. We wish her and her family all the very best and look forward to welcoming Mr Jason McAuley who will instruct her pupils during her absence.

Another session, another inevitably long Music Report! Who knows what 2005-2006 will bring? One thing is for sure, there will be plenty of music ringing from the rafters of the Margaret Harris Building and spilling over into the larger School Community and Dundee as a whole!



STRING SOIREE

On Monday 27th June, an audience of parents, pupils, staff and friends of the school were treated to outstanding performances from some of the school's musicians in a concert held in Trinity Hall. At the end of the evening, members of the audience were full of praise for the pupils, who played a varied programme, from Klezmer Music to Handel and Bach. "Absolutely glorious" said one member of the audience. Solos played by Jennifer Watson and Andrew Bell were stunning, while Kirsty Lowe's solo on piano was, as ever, accomplished and sensitive.

THE SPANISH EXCHANGE

On 7 June 1995 a group of F3 pupils from the High School of Dundee set out in nervous anticipation for Spain on the first exchange visit with San Pablo CEU in Murcia. The story of how our relationship with San Pablo came about is long and complicated but suffice it to say that it all began with a chance encounter by the then Assistant Head Teacher Mr David Holmes, half way up the Pyrenees in his caravan!

Since that first visit 10 years ago, the exchange has gone from strength to strength. The programme has been fine tuned by both schools to provide a mix of cultural activities (Scottish castles and Spanish cathedrals!) and fun activities (Spanish beaches and Scottish putting!) and HSD pupils have come back every year enthusing about the warmth and generosity of the Spanish people and the brilliant time they have had. Friendships have been made that have lasted far longer than the 10 short days spent together initially and some FPs are still in contact with their exchange partners and visit them regularly.

San Pablo is a school very similar in some respects to our own, in that it is an independent school taking pupils from pre-school age to school leaving age but it is also different in many ways. It is a far more modern school, having been founded a mere 30 years ago, and unlike our own school, the campus is in the heart of the countryside with the majority of pupils arriving each day in one



Musicians playing at the String Soiree



Murcia

of the fleet of school buses! San Pablo pupils rave about our city centre location and all the obvious attractions that it brings but their location means there is no shortage of space. The school recently made use of some of this space to build a superb new swimming pool which is the envy of the visiting Scots. Possibly one of the greatest differences between the schools is that pupils in San Pablo begin to learn English in Nursery school – on our daily journey on the school bus Mr Mackinnon and I were regular targets for authentic practice by children as young as 5!

Murcia is a far cry from the tourist resorts that many people encounter on holiday visits to Spain and during the exchange pupils have the chance to experience things that are a bit out of the ordinary. This year we were treated to an official reception in the Town Hall, which was filmed and shown on local television. We were able to observe a Spanish dance class at the local dance academy and also visited the historic cities of Cartagena and Caravaca de la Cruz. Of course the Spanish climate makes it possible to include a couple of visits to the beach and we also sampled the delights of the theme park of Terra Mitica, although it has to be said that the pupils derived more enjoyment from that experience than the staff!

When the Spanish pupils come here in September they not only visit the well known sights of Dundee such as the Discovery and Sensation and learn a bit about Scottish history on trips to Glamis, St



The Dance Academy

Andrews, Edinburgh and Stirling but are also treated to a taste of school life in Scotland. They attend Assembly and are astounded by the formal atmosphere and model behaviour of our pupils! They try their hand at Drama and Scottish Country Dancing, Maths, Art and Home Economics. Learning how to make shortbread may be fun and a new experience for them but, for the boys at least, an even greater learning experience is finding out that they are expected to tidy and wash up at the end!

The 21 HSD pupils who took part in the exchange this year enjoyed themselves every bit as much as the first contingent in 1995. There may have been nerves and apprehension as our bus set out from the school on May 14, there always are, but as ever the pupils this year came home unanimous in their enthusiasm for Spain and full of the experience they had had. They can't wait for the Spaniards to come in September. It seems unbelievable that it is 10 years since the first exchange took place. We would like to think that it will continue for many years to come!

Mrs L Swankie

And finally some impressions from the pupils who went to Spain this year.....

At the start....

- "I woke up late and got more nervous as the day wore on"
- "I was so nervous about the whole experience. The idea of it all was really daunting"
- "After a not so speedy check-in free of our incredibly heavy shoe-filled suitcases we went for a quick dash round the duty free"
- "When we arrived I was quite nervous, but not as nervous as the girls who all screamed and went hysterical"
- "The journey was filled with worry and excitement, excitement because we were going to Spain and worry because we were staying with someone we had never met"

Murcia

- "The city of Murcia was what surprised me. It was much bigger than I expected and very Spanish! It was influenced very little by tourism"
- "Luckily for the girls the shops were of a very high standard and in plentiful supply"
- "My flat was a stone's throw from the shops which was fantastic"

The school

- "The most impressive thing about the school was its swimming facilities. Scott Clayson (future Olympic gold medal winner for freestyle 100m!) looked on in amazement"

...THE SPANISH EXCHANGE



"Possibly the most boring shop in the world...and it's in Murcia!"

- "The school had really cool sports facilities but it seemed a bit too hot to do sport"
- "They had 15 school buses!"

The excursions

- "The day was so hot that even the sand was burning the soles of the feet. It would be nice if that happened on Broughty Ferry Beach"



Beached Mermaid....

week went on, moving from museums to beaches!"

- "We were let loose in "Zara" for a "quick" shop - which helped to put a smile on my face" "We tried haggling in the street market"
- "We had a trip to Caravaca de la Cruz, one of the three holy cities in Spain. The church and castle at the top of the city were breath taking"
- "Friday's trip to Terra Mitica was the highlight of the holiday. We raced around the park attempting to fit in the highest, fastest and scariest rides we could into the few hours we had" "I still can't believe some of the rides we went on"
- "My favourite part was the beaches -in Torrevieja we went on pedalos and in La Manga we swam all day"
- "We pedalled around for an hour which was probably the most terrifying hour of Mrs Swankie's life"

The Food

- "I tasted paella with rabbit for the first time and probably the last, as it wasn't much to my liking"
- "Mrs Swankie bought us Churros which she had told us about in class. They were delicious!"
- "For breakfast we had the most delicious thing in the entire world which was called Churros"

- "Scott persuaded me to eat snails. Not a good experience!"
- "The tortilla was great"
- "I watched Curro's mum make the paella. It was excellent."
- "I'm glad I didn't have to have a lot of meat from the pig's leg in the kitchen"



Time for a bacadillo!

- "The packed lunches we were given were huge but it was alright as Mr Mackinnon was normally there to finish all the food!"
- "The chorizo was not appreciated by anyone apart from Mr Mackinnon who was a daily scavenger"
- "I tried loads of new things like chorizo and Spanish omelette"
- "Not so welcome was the fish, squid and potato stew which was a new experience and not necessarily a pleasant one"

The people

- "I liked every single one of the Spanish people."
- "The people are a lot more laid back"
- "We quickly bonded with our Spanish partners."
- "My host family were very kind and generous and helped me to fit in"
- "I got on really, really well with my partner and we had a great laugh"
- "Although very nervous (in fact absolutely terrified) I found that the Spanish people were very kind and desperate to make us feel at home" "I hadn't expected to make such good friends"

Communication

- "Communication wasn't really a problem as we overcame the difficulties via charades/Spanglish."
- "... after a few minutes, I was speaking fluent Spanish to him"

- "Most of us seemed to cope fairly well with the language"
- "In class all the listenings are pretty normal speed but in Spain everyone spoke so fast"
- "The hardest bit is vocabulary as you tend to run out of things to say"
- "I went to bed full up because I didn't know how to say 'No thank you, I'm fine' and so I had to eat everything they offered me"
- "I was unable to recollect any of the Spanish I had learned, except from the ever useful 'si'. It never ceases to amaze me how I could last an entire night on 'hola' and 'si'"

España es diferente

- "I had dinner at 10.30pm which was very late for me"
- "It surprised me how quickly you can become accustomed to the Spanish way of life"
- "At 5.15pm I noticed the temperature was 32o C"
- "Strangely enough the thing that I most missed was the rain"
- "A kiss on each cheek can be quite disastrous if you are caught off guard as I soon found out having head-butted many people"
- "Barcelona had won La Liga against the favourites Real Madrid. The celebrations were like nothing I had ever seen before"
- "The thing I missed from Scotland was good milk"
- "I really got a feel for the Spanish way of life"
- "They never seem to stop in Spain"

...and by the end,

- "The Spanish Exchange was the most enjoyable school trip I have been on and I would tell all the F3 of next year to go"
- "I have had such a wonderful time with the family and was made to feel so comfortable with them. It is funny to think I was so nervous and terrified and now I don't want to leave" "I had an absolutely brilliant time and wish I could go again"
- "We just can't wait till September to see all our newly made friends again and show them what life is like in Dundee"
- "I definitely recommend the Spanish exchange. It's a good confidence builder and new experience. Defo the best school trip!"



STAFF NEWS

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Recent In-service Training for HSD staff included a session on Independent Learning. One member of staff who clearly is an expert on the subject is Mr MacKinnon, Head of Modern Languages, who recently sat his Higher Spanish as an external candidate in the school. Knowing his exam was to take place on May 25, he readily "volunteered" to accompany the Spanish Exchange which was due to return the day before. Having been self taught (with a little help from his Spanish teaching wife!) Mr MacK took every available opportunity to study for his exam while he was away, eschewing all distractions and engaging the most unlikely people in conversation. Mrs Swankie made sure he had plenty of speaking practice, positioning him every day on the bus beside the Spanish guide! By the time this magazine is published the SQA results will be out, and our "independent learner" will know if his efforts have paid off! Judging by the photos he deserves at least a Band One!



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Day 1

We arrived at Burn House early on Friday morning, full of anticipation for the weekend ahead. After a quick tour of the House and, of course, one of Mr Rodger's legendary PowerPoint presentations, we split into our groups (the Unicorns, the Deer, the Owls and the Lions) for the afternoon's activities. Our mission was to save the beautiful Princess Gertie by collecting tokens from completed tasks!

It was time to break the ice with some team building challenges and to begin our mental warm-up for the marathon quiz at night. We spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing in the garden and perfecting our croquet skills under the watchful eye of Mr Toley. The gong sounded at 7pm for dinner and then it was off to the lounge for the quiz. After a tense battle between the Owls and the Unicorns, the Unicorns prevailed! Go Unicorns!!

Day 2

We were up bright and early, ready for another day of competitive challenges beginning with a sports tournament. Special mention must go to Rehnuma Farid and Alice Cannon for their particularly shocking croquet skills - or lack of them! In a Wimbledon-esque tennis battle, Mairi Cunningham and Steven Fraser gave the Owls the lead, moving them one step closer to saving the Princess.

The final event of the tournament saw members of each team competing in a jousting competition. This event proved to be particularly popular and left the teachers in fits of laughter.



After lunch we launched into another round of team building activities and the competition heated up as teams vied for the all-important tokens. Several of these activities involved getting rather wet (soaked in fact) and special thanks are due to Mr Rodger for providing the water slide!

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was the acting out of plays, based on the popular fairy tales, performed by each group. These somewhat unusual adaptations provided fascinating viewing and the Owls' performance of the three pigs (featuring Ned Pig, Camp Pig and an Oscar-winning performance from Lachlan Young as Posh Pig) reduced Mr Toley to tears!

Day 3

This was it - our last chance to collect those tokens before making our attempt to save Princess Gertie. All the teams threw themselves into the morning's challenges which included an obstacle course, building a shelter and, of course, tree hugging! Yes, we literally had to hug a tree - no prizes for guessing which teacher came up with that idea! We took a well earned lunch break to prepare ourselves for the final



INSIGHTS DAY 2005



challenge. With the tension building, all the teams gathered for the last time. With a grand total of 40 marbles, the Owls had a clear advantage but the remaining teams were full of determination and enthusiasm.

Our task was to carry water in wellies (whilst wearing them!) to a container and then move our whole team across 'the dangerous swamp' to save Princess Gertie. At first the Owls were flying ahead but with great teamwork, the Lions and the Unicorns made superb progress.

After a very tense few minutes, the Lions successfully crossed the swamp and saved the Princess, with the Unicorns coming a close second. But alas, our time at the Burn was almost over. After the presentation of prizes and certificates, it was time to head home to Dundee.

As well as a team bonding experience, more than anything else, the weekend was brilliant fun and we all had a fantastic time. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the teachers involved as well as the staff at Burn House who made us so welcome.

Ailsa Murray



On Monday the 13th of June Form 5 took part in an 'Insights Day' as part of Induction Week. The day was aimed at providing us with information about ourselves and the sort of people we are before we enter our final year at The High School or, indeed before entering life beyond school.

We started off the session by randomly collecting a number of different coloured cards from around the room and then had to swap them until everyone felt that they had the four cards which accurately described their character. From the chosen four we then had to choose one card which we felt was the most accurate. The colour of this chosen card showed what sort of person each person thought they were – a "green" or thoughtful and caring person; a "yellow" or cheerful person; a "blue" or analytical person or a "red" or team – leading person.

It was then time for the second activity – juggling! This was something which we all thought would be impossible to learn in five minutes and for most, that thought proved to be correct. Callum Bannister however, proved to be a bit of a pro! What was taken away from this activity was how each person felt they most effectively gained new skills – either by quietly following written instructions or by listening and actively learning with others. We then had to consider the results of this activity in deciding what "colour" of person we were and pick up a cap of this colour.

It was then time for the truth. Who were we really? Our personal profiles were handed out. These told each of us whether we truly were a red, yellow, blue or green person which caused a mad rush to the table of caps for a number of changes. The personal profiles had another important purpose for us – we could all use the information in them to fill in our personal statements in our UCAS forms – something which we must all fill in before our departure from the High School.

Overall the day was an enjoyable one which concluded with everyone leaving with an increased knowledge of themselves - and of course a cap!

Report by Katrina Hamilton.

And what did the participants think?

The juggling and the hats were a big success, though the jokes could have been better!

- "It was great to see yourself from a different perspective and to get to know yourself better. It was good identifying my strengths"
- "A friendly, easy-going experience- taught me lots about myself"
- "Thanks for the hat!"
- "The profile was spookily accurate and interesting."
- "The profile was really interesting and accurate. The juggling was fun."

And was there any part of the day the pupils thought could have been better?

- "We didn't get to keep the juggling balls!"

SPORTS DAY 04.06.05





THAILAND

Rachel Sinclair, now in Form 3, went to Thailand last Christmas, not quite knowing what to expect and found a beautiful country, full of surprises and contrasts.

The day for our journey to Thailand loomed closer but though this sounds odd, I wished it wouldn't. Something about this country made me reluctant to visit a place with such rich differences.

On our arrival, we learned about the devastating tsunami which had occurred and though it had not affected the area at which we were staying, the grief and shock was shown widely. People showed fear of sailing, in case of another disaster similar to the recent one and there was little celebration on New Years Day.

While in Thailand we visited the elephant sanctuary which is a home to many elephants, which would cease to survive if it weren't for their "masters". The elephants previously transported timber from the forests of Northern Thailand down the rivers. Masters were men from the age of 12 upwards who protected an elephant through its life. The elephant would remain with the same master so it became familiar with him and was able to trust him. This elephant sanctuary was like a little village in itself, surrounded by fields of elephants. Not one was locked up or chained in. Bananas were available so you were able to feed the elephants. I was fortunate enough to get the chance to go swimming in the murky lakes with the elephants, to later find out, the water was dirtier than the River Thames!

Thailand is celebrated for its beaches and we planned to visit the beach for ourselves. Vibrant colours and a variety of aromas overwhelmed me as I stepped out of the open taxi on to the beach. But where was the sand? The sand was covered completely as far as the eye could see with multi coloured umbrellas. The Thai locals ambled along the beach selling their wares. Everything was on offer from massages to fried

lobsters. A few of the unusual foods I tasted were sticky rice, yams, purple rice cakes sweetened with sugar cane and deep fried locusts.

Another highlight was a trip to the local zoo. The animals had enormous surroundings to live in and very few were caged up. There were countless crocodiles in the crocodile farm. They lay basking in the sun like pebbles on a beach. A hair-raising hour was spent feeding the crocodiles using a rod. When they snapped the fish off the end, a great deal of strength was required to keep your feet on the ground.

ANOTHER NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME WAS WHEN A STRIPY BUNDLE OF FUR WAS PLACED ON MY LAP, AND A BABY'S BOTTLE FULL OF MILK WAS HANDED TO ME. THE BABY TIGER SUPPED UP THE MILK AS IT DOZED OFF TO SLEEP.

Thailand is a shopper's paradise. I thought all my Christmases had come at once. Stalls lined the streets and no price was fixed. I soon learnt to barter! Whether you wanted the "real thing" or the fake, everything was available.

The Thais are very devout Buddhists and everywhere you glanced there were beautiful ornate temples. Thailand is a country of contrasts and poverty was as much in evidence as wealth. We were fortunate enough to be staying in a friend's villa but from the window we were able to see a family living in a corrugated shack with no facilities.

What started as a holiday which filled me with trepidation evolved into an adventure I will never forget.

Rachel Sinclair F2

[1] Elephant Sanctuary

[2] Crocodiles galore!

[3] Buddhist temple





CHINA

Erin Middleton, now in Form 3, recently made a fantastic journey to China to meet her mother's cousin, who worked in the Eastern International Language Institute located in the World Trade Center in Qingdao. While there she also visited Beijing, and Xi'an. Here are extracts from her account of this amazing expedition:

One of the most vivid memories I have of this holiday is standing in the middle of Tian'anmen Square. There was just so much to take in. There was something important on every side. The Great Hall of the People, The Museum of the Chinese Revolution, The Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, The Qianmen Gate, The Monument to the People's Heroes and directly ahead of us was the gate to the Forbidden City. It was breathtaking. Also, looking back on it and thinking about the history of the square it becomes almost unbelievable to think I have stood there myself.

However, our holiday was almost over before it began! On the way to our hotel we took a taxi from the Airport as there was quite a long distance to travel. There is a law that no foreigners can drive in the country, which we thought was due to the confusion of which side of the road to drive on and the fact the signs were in Mandarin. During this taxi ride we found out the truth: the drivers, taxi drivers in particular, seemed suicidal. At one point the driver veered from the hard shoulder on the correct side of the road to the third lane of oncoming traffic, where a large truck was heading in our direction. It was a near miss. After this we were rather surprised to learn that China has one of the lowest averages of fatalities caused in road accidents.

We did many things on our holiday, leaving little undone. In Qingdao we had our pictures taken in traditional dress, viewed the plans for the 2008 Olympic water sports events and saw the Cherry Blossom Groves in full bloom. In Xi'an we went to see the Terracotta Army, created for Emperor QinShihuang who

was the first Chinese Emperor of a united China and our guidebook was signed by its author, went to an old temple and market in the Muslim Quarter. We went into many art shops, saw a famous Buddhist Temple and saw an enclosed, traditional house with an art gallery, Puppet Show and Tea Shop where you get so much tea it is actually possible to drown yourself in it, and are also taught the many ways of pouring tea.

In Beijing there was a large number of things to see and so we tried to make the most of our time there. We visited the Summer Palace or Yiheyuan, with the Marble Boat, Kunming Lake and the Long Corridor which is 728 metres in length and contains pictures from ancient legends, fairy tales and fables, the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, the Han Dynasty, the Three Kingdom Period, the Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, the Tang Dynasty and many others. We visited the Great Bell Temple with the famous Yongle Bell and Dragon Bowl, The Great Wall, The Ming Tombs with the Spirit Way, Beihai Park, reputedly created by Kublai Khan and containing the Five Dragon Screen, the Qianian Hall and Imperial Vault of Heaven in the Temple of Heaven, The Lama Temple, also known as Yonghe Gong and, of course, the Forbidden City. The Forbidden City was amazing being mainly made up of the Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Hall of Middle Harmony, the Hall of Preserving Harmony, Palace of Heavenly Purity and Imperial Gardens. Of course, even this erstwhile home of Emperors shows signs of modernization. The proof of this being a "Starbucks", conveniently placed between the Palace of Heavenly Purity and Imperial Gardens. Typical!

Finally, there is one more noteworthy location, in my opinion. Hard Rock Café, Beijing, with the two famous slogans, "Love All, Serve All" and "Save the Planet", along with the logo in glowing letters above the door, along with another phrase. "No Drugs. No Nuclear Weapons.". Well, that was certainly...interesting. Anyway we went in and enjoyed our meal, with a live band playing and a company of robed Buddhist Monks sitting nearby!

WHERE IN THE WORLD

HOME FROM HOME: RUSSIA

Fifth form pupil, Madina Howard describes her recent visit to a fascinating city.

In 2003 St. Petersburg celebrated its 300th anniversary. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, this magnificent city has witnessed many of the major events of the last century. I do believe it to be the most beautiful and interesting city on Earth!

All the buildings in St. Petersburg are ingeniously designed and constructed. The colours of these wonderful buildings are very varied - on many streets you could quite easily see blue, pink, yellow, green, orange and white houses enchantingly side by side. Nothing is overlooked - many are perfect down to every last exquisite detail of window ledge or drain pipe. Built on a complex series of canals and waterways, Peter the Great had Venice in mind when commissioning his architects and engineers. Indeed, St. Petersburg is often referred to as the 'Venice of the North'.

I certainly don't take for granted that my parents' apartment is on the embankment of the River Moika and almost directly opposite the Yuspov Palace where the notorious Rasputin was only finished off once he had been thrown in the river's icy waters, after surviving being poisoned and shot. There is so much fascinating history all around that you can't help but be immersed in St. Petersburg's rich culture and heritage.

By chance for weeks before my last visit, I noticed in the Metro - the newspaper I read everyday on my way to school - a feature under the title 'Hidden Gems of the World', dedicated to a bar called The Idiot (named after the novel, by Dostoevsky, of the same name). The Idiot is located just a couple of hundred metres down from the Yuspov and our apartment on the embankment of the Moika. When I am in St. Petersburg I often frequent The Idiot with friends and family and indulge in a rich

hot drink of melted chocolate. With the bar being in a cellar, it has vaulted ceilings and is very atmospheric. This makes it one of the most popular bars in St. Petersburg with Russians and foreigners alike.

COMING OUT OF THE IDIOT AND GOING BACK HOME CAN BE EVENTFUL AS IT ENTAILS CROSSING THE RIVER WHICH WOBBLER AS YOU WALK OVER. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK ACROSS THE RIVER THIS YEAR AS IT WASN'T AS SOLIDLY FROZEN LIKE IT HAD BEEN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WHICH SEEMS TO ME TO BE A SIGN OF CLIMATE CHANGE. HOWEVER I DID NOTICE THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH - OR DRUNK ENOUGH - TO CARVE THE WORD 'RAP' INTO THE ICE AND LEAVE THEIR SHOES AND BEER BOTTLES BEHIND.

In complete contrast to this low culture I often visit the Hermitage when I'm there, but it's so big that still after numerous visits, I haven't even seen half of the extensive and diverse collections it houses. Another favourite haunt of mine is The Marinsky Theatre, which is only a short minute's walk away. On this most recent visit to St Petersburg, I went three times. It is hard to resist the chance to see the finest ballet in



the world perform for your delight -especially since the seats in the VIP box are so close to the stage that sometimes you believe you could touch the ballet dancers as they fly through the air. My favourite ballet was undoubtedly The Nutcracker. Performed on the morning on the 31st of December to a full house. I couldn't help but be amazed by the huge talent I saw on stage - most of the performers were children as young as ten who attend a world renowned ballet school. Watching these brilliant youngsters made me deeply regret my decision to quit my ballet lessons when I was younger. However there was certainly a spring in my step and an added elegance to my composure when I left!

I hadn't been without resentment when I heard of my parents



plans to go to our second home over the whole of the Christmas holidays. I was disappointed that I wouldn't be able to party with my friends into the early hours of New Year's Day, and would have to settle for dinner at my mother's best friend's house instead. This year with the champagne flowing and presents being exchanged and the aged patriarch of the family singing very moving songs (Rule Britannia and Flower of Scotland to name just but a few!) it proved much better than I expected.

The memories of my last visit to St. Petersburg at Christmas were also off-putting. The winter in the city in 2002 was one of the coldest in decades. It was certainly the coldest winter I had ever experienced with temperatures falling to lower than -20 degrees Celsius almost on a daily basis. Of course it was lovely to behold the city covered in a thick, crisp white blanket but when I couldn't open my eyes because the cold had glued my eyelashes down to my skin I felt it was just too much for me. It was so cold that when we went on a trip to the coast it was possible for me and my brother to race each other across the sea. This time, luckily for me, the weather was a lot 'warmer' and I had a mink fur coat to keep me warm and snug!

I learn a lot every time I go to St. Petersburg; more about the language, culture, city and way of life there. I pride myself on being half-Russian and so it is very important to me to continue extending my knowledge of the city. It brings out a hunger in me to learn about its history and sample all the cultural delights it offers. I enjoy spending time in St. Petersburg as I feel truly at home there. It is certainly a place I recommend anyone to relish and explore.

[1] City on the Neva

[2] An icy River Neva



2

INDIA

Sixth form pupil, Sohini Mukhopadhyay, when she was in form 5, visited the Thakurpukur Cancer Care Centre, centre while she was in Kolkota, India. Here she gives her impressions of the centre

Thakurpukur, 'the lake of the gods', was 300 years ago a small hamlet ruled by the British India Company. Now it is the campus of an extensive cancer hospital. Hundreds of cancer patients come to this hospital every year to receive treatment. Patients of all ages arrive from near and far; from the countries of Bangladesh and Nepal, and from small villages like Kiarana, nearby. Seeing this centre made me think of Dundee, and the 'Maggie's Cancer Centre', a beautiful building with many different facilities which helps cancer patients and their families to accept and move on from the diagnosis of cancer and I couldn't help but draw comparisons between the two centres.

Thakurpukur Cancer Care Centre has a caring and friendly atmosphere. There are many modern facilities in cancer care treatment for patients of all ages. The campus is divided into emergency, geriatric, and paediatric wards. There is also a toy train which runs from the entrance of the campus to the children's wards, for the younger patients and their parents. There are facilities for a member of the patients' family to stay overnight with a bed and meals. The wards are very clean and



the children's wards have air conditioning to keep them cool, as outside the temperatures reach 35 to 40 degrees Celsius. Also, doctors and visitors are required to take off their shoes in order to maintain the cleanliness of the wards and to avoid infection from occurring. All this is impressive, yet terrible difficulties remain....

I CAME BACK TO DUNDEE, SCOTLAND TO MAKE MY COMPARISON WITH THE MAGGIE'S CANCER CENTRE BESIDE NINEWELLS HOSPITAL. THIS CENTRE WAS MUCH SMALLER BUT INSIDE IT WAS BEAUTIFUL.

THE BUILDING CONSISTED OF TWO FLOORS, WITH A MODERN LOOK FOR BOTH. THE BOTTOM FLOOR HAD A KITCHEN, LOUNGE/MEETING ROOM, LIBRARY AND A RELAXATION ROOM. UPSTAIRS WAS ANOTHER WARM AND HOMELY LIVING ROOM. THIS WAS VERRY COMFORTABLE AND I WAS ASKED TO SIT AND TALK TO PEOPLE IN THE KITCHEN.

Here, I learnt that the patients and their families could attend various relaxation courses run by professional therapists, which could assist them to carry on their lives as normal. The cleanliness and the artistic yet modern features surprised me as they were so different to the Thakurpukur Cancer Care Centre. The library was at a corner with a desk and chairs with a bookcase filled with books and leaflets separated into different sections for different cancers and problems. It was beautiful and everything was very organised. It was so different from hot and dusty Thakurpukur.

Or was it? Thakurpukur might struggle against the poverty which affects its patients and the Maggie Centre could be bigger and its facilities perhaps made available to more sufferers, but both centres are staffed by committed people who care about alleviating the suffering of their patients and improving the quality of their lives, however long or short that might be.

(1) Thakurpukur

(2) The Maggie Centre



CREATIVE WRITING

SENIOR SCHOOL

The following nine poems are small selection of those entered for the Young Writers Competition and published in Great Minds, United in Poetry volume II.

... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Simple things such as silvery raindrops
Are what I like the most.

Long, lazy lie-ins on Sundays;
A mother's inviting hug;
The rhythmic tick of a clock in a silent room; and dappled light.

The warm touch of summer sun on sand-covered skin;
Laughing till my tummy aches;
And dancing till my feet give in;
The moist earthy smell after a shower of rain;
The delicate flap of a bird's wings;
The snuffle of sleeping babies and puppies,
And intertwining clouds in a picture-perfect sky.

The deep rumbling of thunder from all around;
The rustle of leaves in towering trees;
A flat stone skimming on a still lake
And warm breath hazily covering a starry sky on a clear night;
The smell of clean, crisp sheets
And dew droplets enclosed in flower petals.
The more I think the more simple things I come to like.
What about you?

Roxanne O'Fee 3A11

SNOW

The snow lies thick
Upon the grass,
A glittering carpet,
A silvery mass.
Like jewels embedded
In a cloth of velvet,
The world lies asleep
Under this wintry blanket.

Aisling Goodey 2A11



FEELING IS BELIEVING

Things which mean the most to me:
The dancing smoke as you blow out a candle,
Its charred aroma mingling in the air.
Watching flames flickering and the tingling as the
orange glow
Reaches your skin.
A kindly, reassuring smile from a friend
And the tight embrace of a caring mother,
The Christmassy bouquet of red apples and oranges,
Cloves and hot fruit punch.

Clear bubbles flowing downstream like sailing boats
on the tide;
The smell of newly cut grass, whispering trees in the forest
and riding my bike in the rain.
Cold marble against the skin, musty rafters and
cool autumn breezes;
The satisfied feeling as curled, crispy leaves
crunch underfoot,
And the lacy frost on silver, sleeping leaves.

The warmth from within as you laugh heartily
And the contentment after an inspiring conversation
with a friend;
Colourful bright light shining through stained-glass
windows;
Beads of water draped across the spider's web
And the serenity of walking through an overgrown, forgotten
garden;
The inner peace as I pain and the calm after a deep
sigh.

Silence,
Watching moths and dragonflies flying low at dusk;
Cool fresh linen on a close summer's evening;
The buzz as you receive a prize and being praised for
achievements, big or small,
Feeling the sun on your face and watching the
shadows dance;
Hearing someone say, "I love you."
These experiences mean the most to me.

Victoria Sinclair Beat 3L11

THE SEASONS

The seasons start with colourful spring,
Pink buds and newborn lambs.
The sense of new everywhere,
And on the breeze a scented calm.

Now we're at brilliant summer,
The time for sea and sand,
Where children laugh and splash and dash
Through the waters, hand in hand.

Next we come to rusty autumn,
When leaves begin to die,
But children still are skipping round
As falling leaves drift by.

Lastly we come to wolfish winter
Its bark as harsh as its bite!
But fun is still all around in the air
During a hard fought snowball fight!

Alistair Brown 2WA1



GROWING UP

As each day goes by
I keep on growing up.
Every day I try and try
I cannot slow down the years.

Have my moody teenage years
Taken over my childhood joys?
Will I ever run or cheer,
Skipping along a sandy path?

When I grow older,
Will I shudder and groan?
Will my hair shrivel and turn to stone?
Will I remember the joys and pains?
Will I long to live my life again?

Jenni Hagan 2AI1

THE LONE SKIER

The sun rises gracefully and slowly,
Stretching lazily over the mountain peak,
Quietly beckoning.
Heavily laden white, snowy trees
Glisten brightly on the icy slopes,
Quietly beckoning.

Zip, zip, zip, weaving neatly through the trees,
Wind gusting and rushing along the plain,
Pace quickening.
Whizz, whiz, whiz, going faster and faster still,
Torrents of cold air clawing and swirling,
Pace quickening.

The gully looms, lonely and perilous,
Enticing with its frightening, alluring charm,
Silently mocking.
Teetering nervously on the narrow edge,
The gully inviting, laughing triumphantly,
Silently mocking.

Zip, zip, zip, plunging downwards to its depths,
The gully taunts, swallows and sighs,
Deviously annoying.
Whizz, whizz, whiz, dropping further and further still,
The angry gully ferociously awaits more prey,
Deviously annoying.

The mountain rests, the lone skier reflects,
The day ends peacefully and happily,
Quietly receding.
The sun sets gradually behind the mountain peak,
Colours fade gently from yellow to red to blue,
Quietly receding.

Stuart Mires 2WA1



ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE

An end to worldly troubles
Or
A beginning to a new existence?
A void of darkness, nothingness,
The fate of one and all that live;
Destiny: inescapable, inevitable,
No matter fortune, no matter fame
Calling all into the same.

Life, once bright, is growing dim,
He now calls the essence to him,
Extending a hand, a welcoming embrace,
Accepting the death he now comes to face.

Erin Middleton 2WA1

WAR FLOWER

Scanning across the barren lands
Of the Iraqi war
A commentator spreads the word
Which depresses us even more

"Fifty children were killed today
In a suicide attack."
Just a taste of horrific scenes
That go on in Iraq

Scanning across the empty hills
Of Iraq lands gone sour
So small but brave and true and grave
Dares poke a tiny flower

Oh small and timid
Mild and needy
Shows its face to

The rich and greedy

How can a thing so pale and small
Dare show its face in the Iraqi war?
And as more people die, innocent, by the hour
There will always remain a tiny war flower.

Kirsty McEwan 2AY1

Kirsty was invited to submit this poem to the US edition of the Young Writers Anthology The Sweetest Thing, in which it was duly published.

DOWN AT THE GRAVEYARD

... Phantoms frolic,
Coffins creak,
Wolves whisper,
Spirits speak ...

... Witches cackle,
Monsters moan,
Tombstones tumble,
Gremlins groan ...

... Wind whispers,
Mummies mumble,
Dogs howl,
Ghosts grumble ...

... Serpents slither,
Demons dance,
Am I staying?
Not a chance ...

Fabliha Hussain 1LI2



THE HOUR THE SKELETONS RATTLE

When the rain falls and the wind blows,
When the darkness overlooks the cattle,
When the Devil's trident swiftly rose,
That's the hour the skeletons rattle.

When the bats do fly,
When silence is broken by a witch's cackle,
When the wolves do cry,
That's the hour the skeletons rattle.

When you hear the eerie groan,
When voice in your head do prattle,
When you wish you were not alone,
That's the hour the skeletons rattle.

When pounding beats drum in your heart,
When nightmares end in a bloody battle,
When suddenly you wake with a start,
That's the hour the skeletons rattle.

Suzy Boath 1AI1



THE SHIPWRECK

The Elizabeth Rose drifted with ease across the tranquil sea as the wind's serene whisper echoed through the pleasant atmosphere. The scorching sun blazed down from the clear, sapphire sky as I dozed happily by the steering wheel. The soothed and relaxed sea rocked to and fro peacefully. The weather was beautiful and calm. As my small boat drifted innocently through the lush sea, I drowsed happily and dreamt of my one-man mission to cruise around the world and make it back to Scotland unscathed. The sea was a beautiful place as the gentle wind brushed past my face. I stood at the steering wheel in excitement as I thought of the great achievement that lay before me whilst I experienced the extreme attractiveness of the sea.

Without warning, the clouds began to shroud menacingly and a veil of darkness passed over the emerald sea. There was a long, ominous silence. The dark, gothic sky stirred disturbingly, and then billowed like a mighty giant. The rain descended in showers like gun shrapnel falling from the sky. I could hear the strangled cry of the wind gathering in the bitter atmosphere. My stomach churned with apprehension as I witnessed the gathering of a storm on the horizon. The agonizing sea then wrenched in fear and the Elizabeth Rose drifted in unease across the swelling, blackening ocean.

There was a sudden illumination across the daunting sky as a streak of intense lightning lashed out like a giant lance. The wind's ear-splitting shriek streaked through the air like a malicious banshee and the translucent moon sailed like a silver galleon across the satanic sky in a wreathed in mist. I

gazed in terror as the Elizabeth Rose entered the dark, black night. The sea was deserted and quiet like a surreptitious animal waiting to ambush its prey. Suddenly, the Elizabeth Rose veered violently and sent me crashing into the bow of the boat. My head throbbed vigorously in pain. I writhed in fear as I began to contract an awareness that a treacherous storm was about to unleash its full fury.

The sea crashed savagely, spurred on by the wind's shrill cry of amusement. The fiery rain lashed, cascaded, needled and slashed at the Elizabeth Rose. The raucous sky was cloaked in darkness snarling and screaming cold-bloodedly like a starved animal ripping up its prey. Rolling in from the tidal sea, the vast waves were curling, tumbling and exploding as if trying to batter the boat to pieces. The turbulent sea pounded and thrashed against the boat as it veered violently out of control. I was awestruck at the immense power of the sea. The wind screeched, loud and deafening, as it unleashed its full intensity on the Elizabeth Rose. She swayed and crashed into the cold, icy water. The foul aroma of death drifted through the air. It was a grim night. I could perceive the persistent din of lightning overhead from the overcast sky, constantly rumbling and screaming like a madman. The rain constantly knifed the boat, whipping it and stabbing it restlessly. The typhoon wind gnashed its giant teeth and bellowed vigorously like a siren, warning me to go back. The savage waves smashed into the Elizabeth Rose like a herd of giant, black horses galloping, rearing and bucking. The phantom sky overlooked me sinisterly as I was bombarded by the sea, wind, rain and waves which made my frail craft plunge and tumble into the vast sea. My chances of survival were

CREATIVE WRITING

severely low as I constantly fought against the extreme turbulence from the sea.

Suddenly, the boat swerved intensely and smashed into the dark sea. The waves tried with their might to wrestle the Elizabeth Rose down to the deep, murky depths of the sea as it laid intent on annihilating it. The wind hurtled and hauled its target, thrusting it violently off course as it howled like an animal of the night. The boisterous sea lunged and rolled into the boat with a gigantic explosion. We were slammed about vigorously. Frantically, I caught glimpse of the immense damage that the storm was inflicting on the Elizabeth Rose. The right side had severely deteriorated whilst the sails were extremely worn. The rudder had snapped also making it awkward to control. I watched in horror, aware that I would experience a harsh, cruel, unpleasant death out at sea. I shed tears as I thought of my family whom I would never see again. Although my chances of survival were scarce, I still had the opportunity to fight on for my survival and for my desire to see my family again. Desperately, I hastily attempted to fix the rudder. Disaster! As my mind was occupied with thoughts of horror and despair, the boat approached an immense wave. I could see the bow of the boat pointing towards the dark sky.

Suddenly, the Elizabeth Rose rushed down the gigantic wave and plunged deep into the callous sea. As the boat was compacted down by the sea's awesome turbulence, crippled like an injured child, it was smashed into pieces. I was alone in the bitter, black sea whilst the waves constantly tried to drag me down to a watery grave. I gasped for air like a stranded fish. I tried to scream for help but all that came out was a strangled gurgle as the seawater gushed into my mouth. The sea tried to swallow me up as I fought desperately against the strong current. In the distance, I could see something white bobbing on the surface of the water. Once I was close enough to meet it, it appeared to be the debris of the destroyed ship. I grasped it and simply floated aided by the buoyancy of the debris. Every thing was pitch-black. As I felt the cold water chilling me to death, I slowly drifted off into unconsciousness.

I woke with a sudden fright. I was on a deserted island. By some miracle I had managed to cling to some wreckage and make it to the shore of a mysterious island. I found myself lying on a white beach consisting of several exotic trees beautiful and lush. The trees gently swayed from side to side in the quiet wind. Although the circumstances were extremely hazardous, I was relieved to have survived. I leaped in my joy and excitement. I was alive! The island was scarcely populated apart from its animal inhabitants. There were plenty of exotic fruits such as coconuts and red bananas on which I was likely to survive on. Despite this major factor in my survival, I was still stranded on the island with few supplies and I still live here to the present day, waiting to be rescued by a passing vessel.

Adam Reid 1L11

Some chilling stories from F1 & F2

ON THIN ICE

David Higson came to the red brick council estate when he was eight. Motherless, he looked after himself most of the time except when his dad returned from scraping a living down the mines.

It was a year later and his dad was the first from the mines in the race to the unemployment office. David helped, when he could be bothered, and considered himself not as low as the other children he hung around with. He went to school three days a week, only stole lunch money and didn't smoke or drink. The reason, he supposed, he didn't smoke or drink was the lack of money to do so.

Now he threw a snowball and ducked behind the wall he and Paul had hastily constructed. A snowball hit the wall and sent icy shards down the neck of his jumper, using the term 'his' very loosely, almost as loose as the enormous jumper was on him! When the snowball fight had started, Joanne and Charlie had been lucky and were on a spot with gravel under the thin layer of slush that passed as snow. Any direct hit on David and Paul, the 'Mutt', would cause a small sharp stone to graze their skin.

He glanced across at the short broad build of Mutt and nodded to him. They leapt from their positions but, instead of charging, Mutt turned and hurled a snowball, a good one that he had been saving, into David's face. He crumpled and curled up as the others came close to pelt him with snowballs with stones in them. As he lay there, shivering and shielding himself from the snow thrown by his 'friends', he wondered why they never threw stones, always stones in the snowballs.

Charlie, the leader of the group, held up his hand to signify the end of the battle and helped David up. David looked at Charlie, his head bare as he defiantly wore no hat in the bitter wind, and felt an unfamiliar feeling of gratitude towards him. Then he saw Charlie's hand behind his back and braced himself for the cold snow in his face.

This time Joanne helped him up and didn't grind ice into his face. Nobody mentioned the blood on his face and shirt but Mutt said, "Hey, we better get going." Charlie grinned widely and said, "Oh no we don't, David's got to cross the lake." Mutt, Charlie and Joanne had already crossed the ice over the pond in the park ten metres away. David shifted his gaze and scratched his gaunt cheeks in an attempt at nonchalance.

"Chicken, Chicken!" shouted Mutt.

"Shut up; if David is too wuss to walk he won't."

With a wink that David didn't see, Joanne said, "If he doesn't want to, don't force him." She turned her back and grinned wickedly. She was intelligent and manipulative, though for some reason, she let Charlie run the group.

"No but-," said the Mutt dumbly.

A quick jerk of Charlie's head stopped him. They all turned their backs on David but didn't move. Then they heard a slight whimpering and turned to see David taking his first cautious step.

Despite the December wind, David was sweating profusely and they could see the fear in his pale face. He looked very alone, susceptible to the harsh wind and hunching his skinny shoulders against it.

Charlie felt a quick flicker of heat as Mutt lit a cigarette but his heart remained cold and on his face was a sneer. The ice squeaked with the second step and David was shaking uncontrollably. Cold puffs of air could be seen in front of him. His heart was thudding, trying to break out of his chest. He was breathing rapidly and sweat beaded along his nose.

The old trainers on his feet slipped and, for one second, like the water below his feet and froze. He swallowed loudly and advanced fearfully and deliberately. After what seemed like an age, his foot landed in the slush on the other side of the pond. He grinned and closed his eyes for a moment, rejoicing in his glory.

Triumphantly, he started around the lake but Charlie jeered, "Come back across the ice, you girl."

David shook his head but cautiously stepped once again onto the ice. Joanne shouted, "Slowpoke, hurry up!"

Mutt added, "Yeah, I gotta get home." David was halfway across the ice

when they turned their backs and began to walk off.

Joanne was the first to turn at the noises. First there was a sharp crack then a dull thud. She saw, surrounded by a rapidly growing pool of blood, David with his left arm twisted awkwardly underneath him and his head slumped. Charlie saw her gaze focus on David's face, then he watched as she screamed and ran. He turned to see a grotesque mask of pain and horror on the boy's face. It looked as if he had slipped and held out his arm, which had slid under him. His mouth was open in a scream frozen as he had been winded and then heard the crack of his skull against the hard ice. Turning with a sneer of distaste, Charlie turned and walked home.

Even as he approached, Mutt saw lines appearing around David's head. Then, as he stepped closer, the ice cracked and David rolled into the freezing depths. Taking a final draw on his cigarette, Mutt grunted and dropped the dog end into the water.

As he walked away, he saw the dead boy's pale face bang against the ice, frozen for eternity.

Gordon McNicol 1A11



The Short-cut

The lane was deserted, unusual for a Friday night. I looked at my watch nervously. 7.10pm. Sophie said 7pm, so why wasn't she here? Maybe she was always late for things? I didn't really know her that well. She only started at my school on Monday. There were three houses on the lane that faced a large grassy field, on the other side of the road. No lights were on in any of the houses, but most people were probably at the bonfire in the village, I remembered reassuringly. Every now and then, little gusts of wind whipped my scarf onto my face. 7.15. Where was she? I pulled my scarf tightly round my neck as I shivered in the cold night air. Suddenly, the sickly, yellow moon vanished behind the clouds. The wind stopped. I heard something moving towards me. It shuffled across the ground. My heart thudded inside my chest, as the figure advanced on me.

'Sorry. You been waiting long?'

I let out a sigh of relief as I recognised the voice as Sophie's. 'Er, j... just since seven,' I said hesitantly.

'You ok?'

'Yeah, I'm... I'm fine.'

'Ok then, we'd better get going.'

We walked to the end of the lane and I turned the corner to continue down the unmade track to Hartsworth but I was instantly stopped by Sophie. 'Where are you going? It's too late. If we go that way we won't get there till at least 8pm.'

'How else will we get there then?'

'Across the moor.'

'Are you joking?' The look on Sophie's face told me she was deadly serious. 'I'd rather we just went this way,' I whispered, pointing down the track.

'You're not scared are you? We're already late. We don't have a choice.'

'Well if you'd been here on time...'

'Ok, ok, it's all right if you don't want to come any more, I'll go myself', Sophie broke in angrily.

'I never said...'

'Hurry up then!'

We walked in silence. The long sweep of moorland between the lane and the village of Hartsworth was engulfed in a thin blanket of damp fog that swirled around our legs on that chill November night. The ground was already wet with dew that made grass stick to my trainers.

'Why had I let Sophie talk me into this?' I thought angrily. I recalled our conversation yesterday, She said that she had friends in Hartsworth who were having a fireworks party. We could go. I had stupidly agreed. She said she wanted me to meet her friends.

I found myself walking about two metres behind Sophie, so I quickened my step to catch up with her.

'Can we walk more slowly?'

'No! I said we would meet them half way,' she snapped.

Why was she so desperate to make good time? We were only going to be five, maybe ten minutes late.

'How many are there?'

'How many what?'

'Friends.'

'Two,' she answered absently.

My face felt damp from the fine wisps of fog. As I stumbled on in the semi-darkness, I began to feel uneasy. Questions with unpleasant answers were creeping into my mind. What if Sophie decided to stay at one of her friend's houses; I would have to walk home alone.

Sophie stopped so suddenly that I almost ran into her back. She turned and smiled but her eyes were dark and cold. 'You can go now,' she said flatly.

'What!' I exclaimed, 'You can't leave me here!'

But she turned from me and I watched her step towards two girls who had appeared about three metres away.

'These are my friends,' she said with her eyes fixed on the girls. The three of them linked arms and turned and walked towards Hartsworth.

Almost instantly, all three were swallowed by the fog.

That was four weeks ago and I am told that I am making a good recovery. I know that I am lucky to be here - people die from hypothermia. Today they put up a Christmas tree at the end of the ward. I helped to tie on the baubles and draped it in tinsel and then I read the old newspaper packed into the box.

I stared in disbelief at the yellowing sheets. It seems that ten years ago, three girls my age died on Hartsworth Moor. They had got lost on their way to a bonfire party. They died of exposure.

Liusaidh McClymont 2A11



LIVING HELL

Warm, muddy water seeped through Douglas's boots as he struggled through the thick clumps of undergrowth. Why had his motorbike broken down in such a place? Rannach Moor. Living hell. He had read about walkers freezing to death on the moors and he was quite keen to find some warmth.

He stumbled off, looking for some shelter, but there was none on offer. He studied his crumpled map. The map showed that he was in the middle of nowhere, but it was old, so he could be anywhere. Water started to splash onto the map so he folded it up and stuffed it in his pocket. The rain got heavier, but he could not see anywhere that would be sheltered, so he sat down on the damp heather, huddled in his jacket. Suddenly, he noticed a faint orange glow not too far off. He decided to head for it.

As he walked, grass and heather got caught in his boots, and seemed to be dragging him back. His socks were sodden and with every squelching step he could feel the water being squeezed into his boots.

As he drew nearer he could make out tents and he could see shapes moving around. His mind flooded with relief. Maybe the campers would let him rest for the night. As he went even nearer, he started to get quite cold and his breath was vaporising before him.

At last he reached the camp. It consisted of two tents and a flickering fire. He wondered what the shapes moving about must have been.

'Hello?' he called, but there was no answer.

He inched up to one of the tents and started to unzip the door. He stopped abruptly. He could hear a faint whispering; he was sure it was coming from inside the tents. He unzipped the tiniest crack and peered inside. There was no one inside. He began to wonder about what the whispering might have been, but his thoughts were intruded by the rustle of heather behind him.

He tensed himself, fear gripping him. Then, suddenly, he spun around, ready to face whatever was behind him. There was nothing there. Adrenaline rushed through him and he noticed frost was covering him like a shroud.

It was now dark, and he couldn't see much. He noticed a torch beside one of the tents and he picked it up and switched on. It had been pointed on the tent and when it had been turned on he had to stifle a scream. He could see a hunched figure inside the tent. He knew he had to run, now. So he ran.

He ran as fast as he could across the heather. He heard the tents being unzipped and a loud swishing noise as the figure ran through the heather. The torch was still on, but he stumbled and fell into the frosty heather and it went out. His heart was beating like a drum as he clambered to his feet.

He could sense that whoever or whatever was stalking him was very close. He could smell its putrid stench and it almost caused him to vomit. Without the torch, he had no idea where he was going but he kept running. Suddenly, he tripped over something massive and metal and there was a loud clang. Dazed and confused, he sought frantically to figure out what it might be. His motorbike! He had forgotten all about it. But there was no hope now. It had broken down and the monster was going to get to him before he could even try and start it. He thought it was unfair that he didn't even have a chance, and kicked out at his motorbike. To his amazement, it spluttered into life. He scrambled to his feet and heaved it up off the ground. He swung his leg over it and he accelerated as fast as the bike could manage. The engine screamed in agony but it started to go forward. Douglas could feel the cold fingers of his pursuer clasp at his jacket but as the bike sped off he could feel them slipping off and a thump as the owner of them hit the ground. Adrenaline coursed through Douglas's body and he sped over the bumpy track and off into the night.

Robert White 2WA2,
winner of the Old Boys Creative Writing Prize

CREATIVE WRITING

FIRE

Fire is a ravenous tiger,
Hunting everything in its path,
Searching, searching, searching.
Having no mercy for innocent creatures,
Prowling around in silence.

When the smoke clouds up and covers the sky,
He flashes his teeth and moves in for the kill,
Spreading terror and panic.
Nothing stopping this indestructible monster,
Its strength and power defeating all.

But in the morning when the battles over,
When all the damage has been done,
He lies down to rest for another day,
Breathing gently and slowly,
Hardly making a sound.

Caroline Milne 1WA2



LIFE

Life is a flower,
On one magic day it bursts open,
Showing its beauty to the world,
So small, so small, so wonderful.

It grows, grows,
And grows with beauty,
So delicate and free,
So beautiful, so beautiful, so alive.

As it ages, as it dies,
Its once glorious petals wrinkle,
Its luscious green leaves begin to fade,
Slowly, slowly withering.

Then on one fateful day,
Its petals wilt and leaves drop,
And slowly disappears,
Shrinking, shrinking until it's gone forever.

Rachael McLellan 1AY1



THE WIND

The wind is a mighty wolf
Stray and savage
He prowls as he chases his tail all day
And follows the sweet scent of blood.
He grinds and clashes his teeth.
The mighty wolf wind snarls
Waiting for the moment to strike.

And when the night is pitch black
And the trees soar from side to side
He thrashes and crashes against the houses,
Rapping on the moonlit door.
He hurtles viciously at this prey
with enormous gnashing teeth.

But in the summer
When the sky is bright
And evergreen plants blossom
He lies with soulful eyes
Letting out a little whine.
He goes to rest with nothing but a long despairing sigh.

Adam Reid 1LI1



NIGHT

Night is a black bird
Stalking around
He lurks in the fir trees
And settles and roosts between the chimney pots
He hoots and chirps
As he flies.

And when the sun cracks through
And the moon,
Gone from sight
He hides away from the big bright blue
Not to be seen until four.

But on special days like Halloween
Night is ready to take control
He spreads out his big black wings
And takes to the open sky.

Vanita Nathwani 1WA1

SPRING

Spring is a young Maiden,
Who runs around a field,
Scattering flowers behind her,
She hops and skips in circles,
Laughing and giggling,

And staring up at the sky,
She sits on a log,
And sings a lullaby,
She lies and falls asleep,

And enters her own dream world,
Which is peaceful and calm,
She then slowly drifts away leaving a trail behind her.

Katy Rodger 1LI2

A selection of F6 creative writing

PRECIOUS EARTH

A collection of corroding cars corrupts the cool air,
Choking the poor, helpless veil that shields mankind,
Revealing the true cost of consumerism.
Cruelly, our consciences gnaw angrily away
At the harsh facts of modern life.
Apathy lingers lazily, casting its ruthless spell
Smothering people with its languid breath
And melting into the petrol soaked atmosphere.

The acid stabs and penetrates,
Its sharp tongue spitting
Cold specks of bitter showers,
Vicious remarks pierce the polluted air,
Masking irony and satire.
For it is we who wield the brutal instruments,
Our knives which brandish
And inflict the stinging pain.

Sharp pangs of remorse
Shudder and ripple through those
Who curse the snaking streams of urban vehicles
Pelting out their poison,
Ignorant of the wounds wielded
By their gasping, panting vapour.
The poised pendulum is ready to wreak
Hysteria and hope
On the precious earth.

Lucy Boyd 6LI2

WINTER BEACH

The weak weeping of the wailing wind
Whips the shivering shore
As fizzy foam and sea spray lament the bleak scene,
The pale sand mourns and mopes.
A withering twig is tossed –
Brutally scoring the impressionable sand.
The gaunt remains of wilting vegetation
Are cast against the anaemic sky background.

Moaning muddied waters swirl viciously,
Consuming the products of the vast vat
Of ongoing oceans, revealing
A sharp shard of grey glass,
Which glints and winks in the winter sun.
Timid trickles of drizzle tenderly touch
A rugged cheek, bitten by the sharp, cruel
Grip of the whimpering wind.

Sadly, the sombre scene succumbs
To human pursuit –
Shiny packets and faded bottles
Blot the naïve landscape,
Modern means having made their presence
In the most innocent of places.

Lucy Boyd 6LI2





The following two poems are from a collection by Alistair White, called 'Condition'.

FOETUS

I have no word – my eyes are of
Stones, two coral screens of dark.
I have no form but warm space
And endless mass of flesh.
And a number, all but forgotten –
A black mass in my brain, hidden in
The sheet of coma I was bundled through.

I am Blind Ice in black warmth.
I am clean blood in sleep.
I am monstrous and small,
I am meek and thankful.
Ah, but still, powerless or no,
Blind and starved of dream, I am God.
I am new.
Pure in all my filthy organs,
Clean as a crystal blueprint.

Blood my air, sleep my only hunger,
And free time, and free of Death.
Of Death! For I am he who wieldeth
A white sword. I am nothing.
I am new.

TAKING LEAVE

He had left the world well alone, such was
His duty. He was a man of habit,
A slave, perhaps. A poor child trapped in sleep.
A spot of ginger shadowed his chin whilst
Propping up a pipe that wailed for more.

He clawed absently at a stain on his wrist,
Stood, looking at a phone
And a window.

"It is summer, now," he remarks, and sits
Back again in tumultuous torpor; He
Is a catherine wheel of fruitless hope.

This man once loved.
He has sat with kings and princely men, read
Poetry to dying gods, pouring wine for prophets.
Lord, See his heart!
See his eyes!

Turn not away, for
The devil cometh with greasy paws
To wipe guilty lips. Ave Maria.
He cries for help.

This is the end. Tired lips too old
For a final smile fold like a paper plane.
He is glazing slower than most, but
Gnarled fingers slip and slide down the black cloak.
He clasps at nothing.
And then, quite suddenly,
He is nothing.

CREATIVE WRITING

ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES

The scene begins in some kind of interview room; there is a table and a chair at either side. At one side there is a skinny, flustered looking man: he is Mr. Lovejoy, a teacher and member of the guidance staff at a high school. The door opens and a boy walks in.

Mr. Lovejoy: Oh Dan. Cheers for coming. Hi. C'mon in and have a seat.

Daniel: Its Daniel, thanks. *(He takes a seat.)*

Mr Lovejoy: Right, yeah sorry Danny-boy. *(He says with a smile. Danny winces.)* OK, now I don't want you to feel worried or that you're under pressure, but do you have any idea why you've been called here today? Any idea at all?

Daniel: *(Blunt, disinterested.)* I have no idea at all *(mimicking Mr Lovejoy's last sentence.)*

Mr Lovejoy: Uh...Ah...ok then I'll let you in on something- but just 'cause I consider us as mates OK? *(Danny winces again at the word 'mate'.)*

Daniel: Right, go for it.

Mr Lovejoy: Yesterday morning Mr Rogers, the greenkeeper, came across some ...ah.... cigarette butts behind the cricket clubhouse. Now, I want to make clear that no one is pointing any fingers at who did what, or who smoked what where, but there is considerable evidence to suggest that you may know something about this ...ah...ah, uh... incident. *(A few seconds of silence follow.)* Danny.

Daniel: Yeah?

Mr Lovejoy: Well do you know anything that could help us get to the bottom of it? Remember now, I am, in essence *(chuckling.)*, a 'teacher', *(he makes quotation marks with his fingers,)* but I also like to think I'm an approachable kinda' guy that you lads can talk to. I can remember what it was like to be fifteen y'know! *(He gives Daniel a wink. Danie llooks away.)*

Daniel: Seventeen.

Mr Lovejoy: *(With solemn sincerity, seeming almost sarcastic.)* Seventeen. I'm sorry Dan. I didn't mean to diss' you. But really can you help us in any way?

Daniel: Ok, I'll have a think. *(He gets up to leave.)*

Mr Lovejoy: *(Quickly)* Look Dan, why don't you sit down and we can have a proper chat? Would you be comfortable with that?

Daniel: *(Turns around slowly. Still standing.)* What would you like to chat about Mr Lovejoy?

Mr Lovejoy: *(Sighing)* The incident we were discussing just a minute ago.

Daniel: Yeah, I had a think about that, I can't remember anything.

Mr Lovejoy: Look Daniel, I don't want this to turn into a negative situation. Let's just start over how about that? Are you comfortable with that? *(Daniel nods, trying to suppress a grin.)* OK Dan, what can you tell me about the cigarette butts found behind the cricket clubhouse?

Daniel: *(He speaks quickly, with a hint of irritation, almost immediately after Mr L finishes.)* I saw the green keeper smoking there just this morning. He saw me and said that if I told anyone he'd kidnap me and keep me in the school basement and beat me and things because I'm a "conceited little b---". *(He mimics the quotation marks Mr Lovejoy made earlier. A few seconds of silence pass. Mr Lovejoy looks despairingly at Dan. Dan stares back.)*

Mr Lovejoy: Ah...well Daniel, I don't mean that I doubt you in any way, you see..... but that is a very serious allegation to make against a member of the staff. Now tell me again what he said. In your own time.

Daniel: *(Nonchalantly.)* Kidnap. Torture. Conceited. B---. Then he shook his hedge trimmers at me in a menacing fashion.' *(A pause.)* A very menacing fashion.

Mr Lovejoy: Goodness Daniel I would have thought you would have said something sooner instead of bottling it up like that. It doesn't help

anyone, least of all yourself. Dear oh dear. That does not constitute 'rolling with the punches' so to speak. Oh dear, this has probably harmed you deeper than you can tell right now. Could you repeat to me exactly what happened and I'll take a note. *(He bends to get a pad of paper out of his bag. Daniel calmly takes a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket and begins to smoke.)*

Mr Lovejoy: *(Still rummaging in his bag not noticing yet.)* Now what were his exact actions Daniel? Take your time; I'm aware this may be invading your comfort zone. *(He looks up and realises.)*Oh no. *(The words choke and stutter and come out as a weak whisper. He stares at Daniel, speechless, his mouth open.)*

Daniel: Well just like I said, I was on my way to chapel, for prayers you see, and I saw him smoking. *(He takes a drag of his cigarette.)* I tried to avoid confrontation but he came at me in such a menacing fashion I just froze where I was. Then he threatened me with kidnap and torture. Then I went to chapel. Then I went to lunch. Then I was called here..... *(Mr L still staring.)* Did you get all that? *(A moment passes. No one speaks, Daniel continues to smoke.)*

Mr Lovejoy: You ...you've ...oh...oh, OK, I see. Right. Fine. Good, if that's how you want to play it. *(His voice is getting more strained and agitated.)* You've just lost a friend mister. That's right, I'm sure your parents will have some comments to make about this.

Daniel: My parents are dead, Mr Lovejoy. *(Daniel takes a long draw on the cigarette. Mr L's angry expression fades to horror. Daniel blows out the smoke in Mr Lovejoy's face.)* Nah not really, actually; they're just fine. I think it's me with the problem. Or you. Or maybe both.

Mr Lovejoy: Daniel, I am going to get up and go out of the room. *(His voice gets louder and more strained.)* I am going to stand outside for a minute and when I come back in those cigarettes will be gone and you are going to re-think your

attitude..... mister. Have we got that?
(Daniel stares back at him.)

Daniel: *(Mimicking Mr. L)* Could you repeat to me exactly what you just said and I'll take a note. Would that be within the boundaries of your comfort zone? *(Mr Lovejoy's body droops and he now just looks defeated instead of angry.)*

The second scene opens in what seems to be a staff room. Teachers mill around with mugs of coffee, some are comforting Mr Lovejoy. He sits almost slumped on a chair staring bleakly at the table in front of him. Mrs Baker and Professor Lowe sit on either side whilst Mr Sharp reads a newspaper occasionally smirking at the other three.

Mrs Baker: *(Speaks with a slightly frantic Irish accent.)* Look, Peter, in my experience once in a while you come across one or two who are just beyond help. *(She makes her hands into fists and shakes them gently in front of him.)* No-one can do anything to help. No-one. Not you, not me nor anybody else. *(A pause.)* No-one. *(Mr Sharp stifles a laugh, pretending to cough. The other three do not notice.)*

Prof Lowe: *(Slow spoken, a deep, placid voice.)* Yes.....mmm.... I'd have to agree... on all accounts. I have taught the boy in the past. I found him to be quiet and rarely disruptive yet I have always kept my eye on him. Now I know why. Interesting....

Mrs Baker: Goodness. I can feel myself getting so.... *(She searches for a word)* angry just thinking about it. So damn angry. Uh! Peter I just don't know how.... how...uh! Tell me, did you use the 'Tenderness Acceptance Respect and Friendliness' approach? *(Mr Lovejoy looks up at her briefly as if brought suddenly out of a trance, then looks back at the table. He nods his head weakly.)*

Mr Lovejoy: *(Almost inaudible.)* Yes T.A.R.F never failed me before. *(He pronounces T.A.R.F as a word.)*

Prof Lowe: Yes *(Mulling it over.)* I don't think any.... of us would know what to do in such a circumstance.

Mr Lovejoy: *[Still staring.]* He just turned my good nature against me. I mean he played me for a complete idiot.

Prof Lowe: Hmm.... maybe not...maybe not an idiot. More a sap. *[He nods his head slowly]* Yes, more of a sap. *[Mr love joy looks at the professor helplessly. Mr Sharp grins behind his newspaper.]*

Mrs Baker: *[Has been counting back from ten several times. She reaches one, still breathing deeply, and composes herself.]* Whatever went on in there he will pay the price. *[Her voice gets louder]* Oh yes. He will pay. Here have another cup of tea to calm yourself. *[She pours it and sits it next to Mr love joy's first cup, still full.]* Did I hear you correctly that he was in a non regulation sweater and had defaced the badge on his blazer? Such defiance! Such defiance... *[Trailing off slightly.]*

Mr Lovejoy: All, I suppose, we can do is pray for the sheep that have wandered so far from God's flock. *[He takes a deep sigh. Mr Sharp is now grinning uncontrollably.]*

Mr Sharp: *[Impulsively, with a straight face.]* My goodness, you're right Peter. May I?

Mr Lovejoy: Well I didn't quite mean ...uh...ah...I suppose it might be appropriate if you would...

Mr Sharp: Bless you. Mrs Baker, Professor Lowe, please feel free to join in. *[They hesitate but Mr Sharpe begins anyway. They all bow their heads except Mr Sharpe who raises his right hand and tilts his head back slightly.]* Lord *[A pause]* we ask of you to guide your lost sheep and other wandering farm animals down the footpath of righteousness. You are the feedbag of love and forgiveness. We are but animals, reap from us the milk of our love for you... For which there is no sell-by date. A-men. *[There is a silence in the room as the group sit up.]*

Mr Lovejoy: *[Embarrassed.]* That was nice, thank you, Mr Sharp.

Robbie Ferguson 6A11, winner of the Bloc Prize for Creative Writing

THE ENTERTAINER

On the corner of Prince's Street and Hanover,
A busker smiles to the stiff passers by,
His frozen hands grip a battered old guitar,
As his eyes tell a story of a million miles away.
You see years of standing on cracked up pavements
For the dirty cast-offs of someone else's loose change,
That's never quite enough to buy him what he really needs.

The worn out strings sigh yesterday's theme tune
Of broken windows and broken homes,
Yet his eyes, lined with cold nights and unfulfilled dreams,
Still look to another morning as a new day.
And as the sky turns pink he spits in fate's eye,
Picks up his guitar and leaves his godforsaken alley
To serenade you to your offices on the better side of town.

Standing against the crushing tide of inevitable,
He sings to your golden briefcases and designer shoes,
Smiles from the rut, out of which he can never climb
And sticks his head out to entertain the fortunate,
Who look through him to the stress of paperwork, mortgages
And the worries of secure living.

Katrina Patrick 6AY2

SECRET KEEPER

To gaze at the wandering hills is to look at the
centuries gone by. To see the history of years gone by,
see the history we walk in. What secrets doth the
mountain keep?
Of battles bloody and grim? Of secret lovers nigh?
To keep the history of years gone by.

Hear the pounding of battle, feel the feet of
Warriors, those Fir Bolgs sent to banish the ancient
Tuatha Da
Danaans. How you witnessed their demise. You cannot tell.
Is it in your cavernous hollows in which they now seek?
Is it you who hold them safe and true?

Did you hold the key to the secret holding of love? Were you
the resting place of such many tragic loves? Like a vault
you kept the
love affair alive the secret, you keep, forever fades from
memory as the
years go by. Never once reminding, never telling.
The hope you keep alive, the love you hold true!

To wonder what has been spoken, whispered
Sweet and coarse. What secrets do you keep,
oh mountain? There you stay, for all eternity looking on,
never judging. The follies of mans' secrets you
cannot tell. Sitting there for yesterday,
tomorrow's day!

Rebecca Hobson 6AY2

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CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Co-Curricular Activities have gone from strength to strength this year with a Murrayfield appearance for our Rugby boys, much admired Winter and Spring Concerts in the Caird Hall, the highly acclaimed production of "Oliver Twist", CCF camps and numerous Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

However, this does not give the full story of pupil involvement as almost 50% of our Senior School cohort is involved in three or more activities a week and a staggering 88% do at least one activity a week. During the course of the year the newly established Co-Curricular News has advertised individual pupil success as well as drawing attention to the numerous trips and activities going on in clubs, societies and academic departments.

Many of our established clubs have continued to flourish with Christine Reid and Lauren Pringle reaching the Final of The Courier Debating Competition, Senior Debaters Catherine Jung and Neil Dewar winning a whole host of competitions including the champion of champions' Ross Cup and Conor Ogg in awesome form for the Chess Club.

Pupils have also played a vital part in developing new activities with Lewis McNicol elevating the profile of Curling by leading the School team into competitive action for the first time and Iain Kennedy building a loyal following in the Warhammer Society. Staff have also been active in identifying new activities with "Rock Challenge" led by Mr Illsley and Mrs Drummond, Flag Football with Mr McKellar and Croquet with Mr Toley.

Outdoor Education provision has been enhanced this year with the appointment of Mr Ross as a full time specialist, the continued success of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (with a record number of pupils participating across the Award levels) and the CCF offering increased opportunities in pursuits such as climbing and kayaking.



(1) In training for camp ...

(2) Warhammer

(3) Xplorers

Finally, this year has also seen the birth of the pupil led Co-Curricular Union. This organisation is an inclusive body that aims to support and enhance new as well as existing activities. With the high level of support it has received thus far from pupils, the future for co-curricular activities looks very bright indeed.



3

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The award is available at Bronze, Silver and Gold level. The standard entry is F3 for the Bronze Award, F4 for Silver and F5 for Gold. Each level comprises Service, Skill and Physical Recreation. For Bronze level you are committed to 3-6 months involvement for each section progressing up to 6-12 months each for Gold. In addition to this all levels train to become self-sufficient for a final team expedition in the summer. The Bronze hiking expedition is over 2 days, the Silver 3 and Gold 4. Gold participants have an additional one week residential.

To successfully complete each section of the award participants must be self-motivated and determined to overcome the many challenges they will undoubtedly encounter. In the Service, Skill and Physical Recreation sections pupils are encouraged to find their own subject of interest which they hope to enjoy and benefit from. From the outset participants are allocated into groups and assigned to a member of staff for classroom based work.

The award is best known for the expedition element, the donning of fully laden rucksacks to walk through remote glens, clouds of midges and the inevitable mixed weather. This year the challenge was taken up by 99 determined pupils. The first practice expedition was a spring visit for 3 eager Gold teams to the Cairngorm Mountains. We enjoyed favourable conditions and all participants stood proudly on the summit of "The Devil's Point" one of Scotland's Munros - only 283 still to complete! We were fortunate to view a Golden Eagle fly close by and thankful that Lewis McNicol stepped over the camouflaged poisonous adder curled up on the path.

Expeditions continued throughout the summer term. The physical effort involved can be exhausting and for those with blisters painful. What was a delight to see though was the gutsy determination shown by those faced with the greatest challenge. Everyone deserves to feel very proud of their superb achievements and I look forward to seeing many progress to a higher level next year.

Further details on the award can be found on www.theaward.org or by speaking to Mr G. Ross the Award Officer for the High School of Dundee.



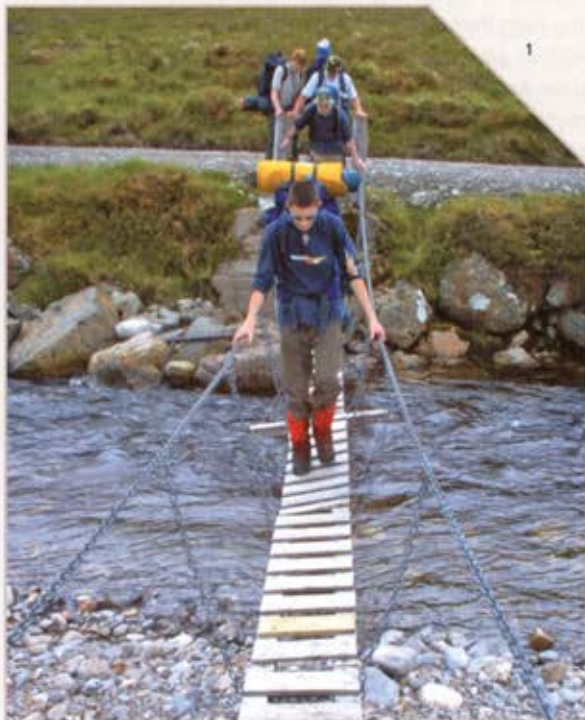
[1] The expedition

[2] Participants of the expedition



2

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



(1) Crossing the bridge

(2) You meet the nicest people on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition!

(3) Enjoying the view



DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

FOUR TROPHIES AND A NEARLY...

Every year in modern debating, it would seem, is busier than the one before. In recent years we have treated our regular readers to statistics involving minutes of speeches delivered. This session teams involving 12 pupils took part in 15 external competitions involving 13 evenings, 3 days out of school, 4 Saturdays and 3 full weekends. Speeches 201. Minutes at lectern 1117. And the best figure of all? Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee and the Ross Cup – we have 4 trophies to show for it.

Cathy Jung FVI and Neil Dewar FIV participated in 11 major tournaments, with Neil, still a 'baby' in FIV, also eligible to compete in two junior events. The only Scottish team to reach the Glasgow University Union final in October, they beat City of London Boys and Westminster, who had hopped on a plane for fun, to bring home the Lord Kelvin Cup. Two weeks later they won the Aberdeen Debater shield, with Cathy also named Best Speaker in the final. The week after that, over a very cold weekend in St Andrews, the English invaders took the form of Dulwich College, one of whose speakers came 2nd in the world in February, so we were not too upset to concede the final to them. However in March at the Oxford Union, out of an initial entry of 260 schools from all over the UK, Dulwich and Latymer Upper were very much the also-rans in a final at which the judging took an hour, so finely balanced were the teams from DHS and Heriot's. In the end the decision went 4-3 to our friends and rivals from Edinburgh, so we chalked that up as a "Nearly" and rejoiced that the Oxford trophy had remained north of the border for the 5th time in 6 years.

[1] Rachel Jones F2

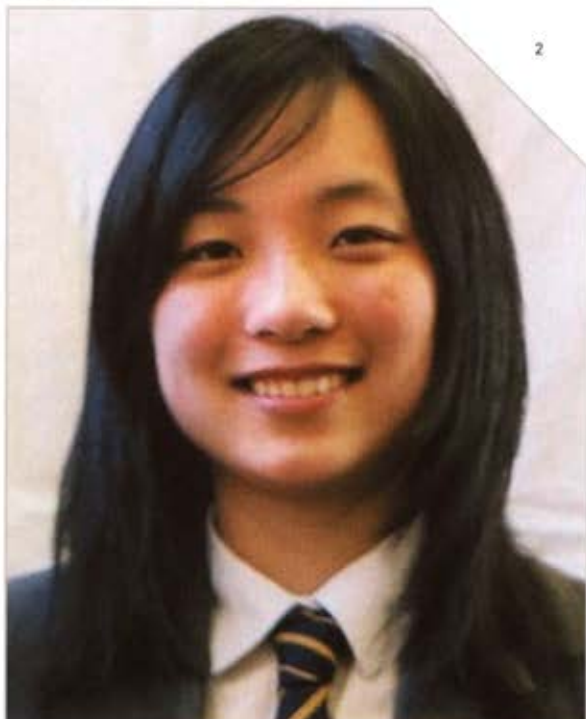
[2] Susan Liu F6



Cathy and Neil also competed in Cambridge, Edinburgh and Durham and with Susan very narrowly lost the final of the Northern Lights tournament. They reached the final of the E-SU Mace for the first time for DHS since 2000, but unfortunately the draw placed them against the weakest team in the Mace style of competition, which was to their disadvantage. The season concluded with a flourish, however, at the Ross Cup Champion of Champions debate in St Andrews. This was inaugurated two years ago by the Rt. Hon Lord Ross, a High School FP, and ours was the first name on the trophy. To general approbation Cathy and Neil scored a final triumph over the winners of the other Scottish university competitions, followed by a very enjoyable farewell supper together with the other debaters and coaches.

When Cathy was in FIV, she, Susan Liu and Katherine Matthew came second in the Scottish public speaking final. Ever since, Susan and Katherine have been our most loyal and supportive reserve team, and we are delighted that they too have a trophy with which to conclude their school debating, having won the Dundee University tournament in November and thereby qualified also to compete for the Ross Cup.

Meanwhile our younger debaters have been getting in lots of practice for next year. In October 3 teams travelled to Newcastle for the Northern Juniors, in which Christine Reid FIII came 6th on the tab (out of 104), a place ahead of Neil. Christine and Lauren Pringle FII competed in the Dundee, Cambridge and Durham tournaments, and, joined by Neil, reached the Scottish final of the E-SU Public Speaking competition.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

On the domestic front Cathy and Lauren won the House Debate for Lindores, and Susan, Christine and Rachel Jones FII, representing Wallace, were the victors in the Public Speaking.

The High School of Dundee maintained its place on the international stage as Mrs McGrath travelled to Calgary, Alberta, to the World Championships in February, where she was invited to judge all eight qualifying rounds and a quarter-final. Meanwhile our former debaters fly the DHS flag; at the final of the English Universities Mace it was remarked publicly that of the eight speakers on the table there were not only two Scots, but that they had attended the same school. In the end Gavin Illsley and his partner Nick (ex-Habs) for Oxford A, lost by one judge to Fiona Dewar and her partner Sebastian (ex-Winchester and Cambridge) for Lincoln's Inn. In April, it was a great privilege to be invited to the Scottish Parliament building to watch Seb and Fi go on to win the international John Smith Memorial Mace, even if it did feel a little odd to be cheering for England! Meanwhile Gavin has, on his terms, been having a bad year (!) – World and European semi-finalist and reaching no fewer than 10 inter-varsity finals, he has not actually won any of them....



1

The commitment required to excel at our high-powered but addictive and enjoyable hobby is quite nicely demonstrated by a vignette from Oxford Finals day. Breaking to the semi-finals, Cathy and Neil had 15 minutes in which to produce 7-minute speeches on This House would vote Yes in the UK referendum on the EU Constitution; and they were drawn 1st Proposition. Cathy calmly produced from her debating bag a 4" square cutting from The Economist last July, agreed that Neil would say x, y and z and she would say a, b and c, and they stormed their way to the final.

Any pupils who feel that have some competitiveness to spare, coupled with an interest in current affairs and a desire to shine at the lectern will be most welcome in Mrs McGrath's room on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes. No pressure, but we have a reputation to keep up....

[1] Christine Reid F3

[2] Cathy Jung and Neil Dewar

[1] Christine Reid and Lauren Pringle



2

YOUNG SPEAKERS' CLUB

The Young Speakers' Club complements the Senior Debating Club run by Mrs McGrath and a few of our older, more experienced members attend the Senior Club as well. We meet at 1.10 pm, on Tuesday lunchtimes, in the Robert Fergusson Building in Mr Durrheim's room, RF16 and the club is open to pupils in Forms 1 - 3.

Although we do a lot of public speaking and debating during the lunchtime meetings, popular alternatives such as "Just A Minute" competitions and quizzes are also part of our agenda. However, as well as the lunchtime meetings, the Club enters teams in various national and local competitions, which usually take place in Terms 1 and 2 during the evenings and these are an altogether more challenging prospect.

Once again, two teams were entered for the Lloyds TSB/ESU Scottish National Junior Debating Competition. The A Team consisted of Lindsey Docherty (F1) and Rachel Jones (F2) and they made it as far as the second round which was held up in Aberdeen at Robert Gordon's College. The B Team of Katy Rodger (F1) and Catherine Smyth (F2) also did well in this competition although they were narrowly beaten in the First Round. The motions in the competition were: "This House would ban smoking in bars and restaurants" and "This House Believes that America should ratify the Kyoto Protocol".

Also following last year's strategy, we entered three teams in the Schools Debating Competition sponsored by The Courier and CIOBS with officials provided by St Andrews University. During this competition, our teams debated a wide variety of motions from "This House Believes That Classics are more important than Computers" (one of the motions from the First Round) to "This House Would Perpetuate Civil Disobedience" (which was the motion for the Final).

THE TEAMS FOR THE COURIER DEBATES WERE:

- A Team** Christine Reid (F3) and Lauren Pringle (F2)
- B Team** Rona Leese (F2) and Liusaidh McClymont (F2)
- C Team** Rachel Jones (F2) and Conor Ogg (F2)

Our teams experienced some "turbulence" in the early rounds of The Courier as, on a number of occasions, debates were rescheduled at the last minute by the competition organiser, the St Andrews Debates Convener! Our B Team even discovered that they were speaking at a different place on the table owing to a mistake in the order paper, during the Second Round at Grove Academy. Congratulations to Liusaidh and Rona for keeping their nerve that evening and for turning in sterling performances despite the mix-up.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The A Team, Christine and Lauren managed to win through to the Grand Final of this hard fought competition and we all enjoyed the pomp and circumstance of debating in Lower Parliament Hall in St Andrews, but unfortunately they didn't succeed in repeating the glory of three years ago when Cathy Jung (then in Form 3) and Matthew Atkins won the competition. So far we've managed a first and a second place in this competition as well as a visit to the finals on four occasions so fingers crossed for next year.

In particular, the Form 1 pupils who entered these competitions are to be highly commended given the fact that they were competing against Form 3 pupils at each stage. As always, the motions for both competitions provided some fine lunchtime entertainment for the rest of the club as we thrashed out the pros and cons in preparation for the debates. I'm sure all our club members are looking forward to "crossing swords" across the floor of various debating chambers next session.



[1] Jilly Vannet F3, winner of the Junior Public Speaking Competition

CHESS CLUB

The Club meets on Monday lunchtimes at 1.10 p.m. in Mr Durrheim's Room (RF16) and pupils with a range of skills attend. There is also a Friday Chess Club at 3.30 pm as an option, although only a few came to the Friday meeting this year. The room is also used, informally, during other lunchtimes for chess players to get together and finish off matches.

Some of those who come to the Club are complete novices, some just want to play chess for fun while others take it more seriously and enter the internal and external competitions.

An even larger number of pupils entered two of the internal competitions this year. The Beckingham Trophy (open to F1-6) was won by Conor Ogg (F2) and the Intermediate Trophy (F1-3) was won by Liam Eyles (F2). Conor did particularly well to beat some strong opposition from older pupils. Although some players did not manage to complete all of their games before the exams started, Conor's win is undisputed as he won ten out of the eleven games he played. Sadly, the Girls' Trophy was not competed for this year.

ONCE AGAIN, WE ENTERED A TEAM IN THE TAYSIDE CHESS LEAGUE, WHICH WAS REINSTATED IN 2003. OUR BÊTE NOIRE FROM 2003-2004, THE BALDRAGON, TEAM BEAT US AGAIN, REPEATING THEIR SUCCESS OF LAST YEAR BY GOING ON TO WIN THE COMPETITION OUTRIGHT. PARTICULAR THANKS GO TO MATTHEW MORDENTE (L7) WHOSE EAGERNESS AND SKILL WON HIM A WELL DESERVED PLACE ON THE SENIOR TEAM!

This competition gives our comparatively young players the experience of pitting their wit and skill against older players from other schools and we will try to keep it going next session, although the change from a four to a six person team made things more awkward this year.

SWIMMING REPORT 04/05

This has been a good year for swimming with more pupils than ever coming forward to compete in local schools events and also District and National Championships.

Three pupils represented the school at the highest possible school level, swimming for Scotland at the Speedo WISE Home International. Judith Kilgallon (F5), Scott Clayson and Greig Wilkinson (both F3) travelled with the team to Wales for this year's competition in which Scotland finished third.

Qualification for selection for this meet had come from the Scottish Schools Championships held in January in Glasgow, where Scott and Greig won their individual events (13/14 yrs 100m Butterfly and 100m Breast Stroke respectively) and Judith was third in the 17yrs-and over 100m Freestyle.

The up and coming younger members of the school's swimming community displayed their talent to great effect at the Tayside Schools Championships in November 2004.

In addition to successes for the above three swimmers, a large number of pupils made finals and on occasion medal positions in their chosen events. (Girls: Eilidh Campbell, Marianne Dobson, Claire Stirling. Boys: Josh Rowley, Roonie Harrison, Matthew Powrie, Paul Adamson, Michael Adamson. A strong 12yrs and under age group Girls team won the 4 x/50m Freestyle Relay and the 13/14 yrs Boys did likewise.

The Schools Swimming Gala was this year held in January and was won by Wallace House.



(1) David Arbuckle & Neil Bryden

GOLF REPORT

The first competition of the year was run by the British Heart Foundation and was played over the Blue course at Kinross in April. In breezy conditions all our teams played well, the best placed being that of David Arbuckle, Neil Bryden and Graeme Black (all Form 6). They finished in bronze medal position, only missing qualification for the national final on count-back, a highly encouraging performance. Thanks are due to all those who participated for their enthusiasm, despite 5 hour rounds, and the substantial amounts that they raised for charity.

In the Dundee and Angus Secondary Schools Championships held at Carnoustie Burnside on a cold morning in May, our players performed well, without hitting the heights of last year. The normally sedate links showed their teeth as they were blasted by a ferocious wind. Our scratch team of David Arbuckle and Neil Bryden (both Form 6) finished 5th while our handicap team of Graeme Black and Calum McGowan struggled to come to terms with the conditions, with Callum putting 5 balls out-of-bounds in the first three holes. In conditions such as these it is vital to 'work' the ball and we hope they have learned from the experience.

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

When talent is combined with determination and hard work, success is almost bound to follow. That has certainly been the case for our two international athletes who left us at the end of last session.

Maria Thomas and Laura Brown have steadily worked at their craft to reach considerable heights and gain many honours along the way.

Having been in attendance for many of their successes, and indeed disappointments, the most striking observation that can be made is that both girls have shown that they have an abundance of fortitude and perseverance. There have been a few tears shed along the way but that merely sharpened their resolve to succeed. There can be no greater honour for an athlete than to represent their country; both girls have achieved this and now they will hopefully continue to improve and display the same dedication in senior athletics that has marked their progress in the junior ranks.

Scottish Schools Cross Country – 3rd place 2005

Scottish Schools Cross Country Internationalist 2003-2005

Scottish Inter District 3rd place

Under 20 UK indoors 3rd place 800m

Scottish Schools 800m 3rd place 2005

Scottish Schools 1500m 2nd place 2005

(1) Laura Brown & Maria Thomas

(2) High School of Dundee Cross Country 04/05



SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Laura Brown

Dundee Schools Cross Country Champion Form 2 to Form 6

2004 - Scottish Schools Indoor 300m **2nd**
Scottish U17 300m Indoors **1st**
Scottish Schools 300m **2nd**
Scottish Schools 200m **3rd**
Scottish U17 300m **3rd**

Selected for UK schools 300m (4th), 4 x 300m (2nd)
Selected for Celtic Games.

Maria Thomas

2003 - Scottish Schools 300m **3rd**

2005 - Scottish Senior Championships
400m **3rd**
Scottish U20 400m **2nd**
Scottish Schools 300m
Indoors Over16 **1st**
Scottish Schools 400m **3rd**
Scottish Schools 200m **2nd**

**Selected to run in the Norwich Union International
200m invitation race**

DUNDEE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT JUNE 2005

This year's Dundee School Sports was extremely successful once again.

Some personal performances were outstanding with the following athletes breaking or equalling Dundee records:

A group boys	Bob Mitchell	new 200 m record
A group girls	Maria Thomas	new 200 m record
B group girls	Eilish McColgan	new 800 m record
C group boys	Allan Drysdale	equalled 200 m record

In the overall tally of medals we won the following:

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Boys	34	11	12	57
Girls	31	17	7	55

Other personal trophies were:

The Allan Wells Cup which is presented to the most outstanding sprinter – boy or girl in any age group –
BOB MITCHELL

The DSSAA Middle Distance Cup which is presented to the most outstanding athlete – boy or girl in any age group –
EILISH MCCOLGAN

The Tayfreight Shield which is presented to the most outstanding thrower – boy or girl in the throwing events in any age group – RICHARD VERNON.



SPORT

The success of the Teams was outstanding this year with the school claiming 7 out of 8 trophies for the year groups.

D girls	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	Craigie HS HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Morgan Academy
D boys	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Lawside Academy Morgan Academy
C girls	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Grove Academy Lawside Academy
C boys	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Grove Academy Morgan Academy
B girls	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Harris Academy Craigie HS
B boys	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Menzieshill Morgan Academy
A girls	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Menzieshill Harris Academy
A boys	1st place 2nd place 3rd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE Lawside Academy Harris Academy/Menzieshill

WELL DONE TO ALL THE ATHLETES WHO PERFORMED SO WELL ON THE DAY.

ALSO A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF AND HELPERS ON THE DAY FOR MAKING THE EVENT SO SUCCESSFUL.

PE Dept

ATHLETICS

The Scottish Schools Athletics Championships took place at Grangemouth in June this year and the school was represented by a number of athletes.

In A Group Maria Thomas F6 won a silver medal in the 200m and bronze in the 400m, Laura Brown F6 won silver in the 1500m and Colin Goudie F6 won bronze in the 200m. Eilish McColgan F3 won golds in the C Group 800m and 1500m and received the trophy for the most meritorious performance by a girl in any age group for the 800m.

Mrs Hutchison

1ST XV RUGBY REPORT 04/05

The 1st XV 'probables' and 'possibles' travelled down to Lancaster for a pre-season 'tour' with the heavy burden of expectation on our shoulders. Boasting twelve of last year's Murrayfield Cup finalists, hopes of going one better were in the fore-front of our minds. The crop of players at Coach Beckett's disposal was undoubtedly capable of enjoying a most successful season. However his task along with captain, Richard Vernon, of moulding a team from a collection of 'pop stars' proved to be an unenviable one. That said, comfortable victories over Robert Gordon's College, Saint Aloysius College and the retention of the Madras Tournament Cup proved sufficient evidence that another trip to the national stadium was well within our grasp.

Unfortunately, we fell flat on our feet suffering demoralising defeats to both Dollar Academy and Edinburgh Academy – the players yearned to exact revenge on both teams as we all felt we had not justified our title of 'Cup Challengers'. Coaches and senior players alike searched tirelessly for the solution to our problems – perhaps, we all hoped, the fixture in Ireland would provide a resolution to our predicament.

The game against, and stay in, Limivady was a most enjoyable experience and appeared to have the desired effect as the team subsequently conquered each opponent in an unbeaten run which saw us race to the semi-final of the Cup with victories over Marr College, Strathallan School and Hutcheson's Grammar School in the previous three rounds. Only Merchiston Castle School stood between us and another crack at the final.

Following a weekend cancellation, the penultimate match of the premier Schoolboy Rugby tournament was switched to the 'Home of Scottish Rugby'. In a tense and closely-fought affair, perseverance and team unity gave us a 12-10 victory. We had reached the final for the second successive year!

It appeared as if fate had been on our side all along as Dollar, our arch rivals from last year, also found their path led to Murrayfield. The two heavyweights of Scottish Schoolboy Rugby would fight it out, once again, for the coveted prize. Backed by a vocal support, the team put every ounce of effort into the contest and indeed summoned the mental and physical strength to recover from a 10-0 deficit at half time to level the tie at 10 apiece going into the last quarter of a thrilling game. Sadly Dollar edged the match having converted a late penalty and surviving an onslaught on their line. We were grief stricken to have lost again but took consolation from our tremendous fans.

Regarding regional and national representation, congratulations must go to Malcolm Watson, Anthony Kent, Mark Clayson, Andrew Dymock, Colin Anderson, Bob Mitchell and Kieran Lamont for reaching Caledonia Under 16 Independent Schools. Further, David Arbuckle, Mark Robbins, Polok Islam, Paul Gibson, Ramsay Hall, Colin Goudie, Daniel Levison and Richard Vernon were all selected for the Under 18 Caledonia Independent Schools Team. Indeed, Colin, Richard and Daniel went on to play for Scotland Under 19's in the Rugby World Championships in South Africa.

Overall impressions of the year were inevitably tainted by our Cup Final defeat. However, as with all other High School extra-curricular activities, rugby is a welcome release from more rigorous academic studies and we would like to take this opportunity to thank coaches, parents and all other supporters for following us throughout the season. As far as next year's team is concerned, we only hope you enjoy the infamous 'Hill' sessions as much as we did!

[1] High School of Dundee 1st XV Rugby 04/05
Scottish Schools Cup Finalists 2005



RUGBY RECORD - FOUR PUPILS SELECTED TO REPRESENT SCOTLAND

Four pupils, all aged 17, represented their country in March at prestigious rugby tournaments.

Alan Dymock (17), a member of the Scotland Under 19 rugby squad, headed to South Africa to compete in the FIRA World Cup. (Alan is the first pupil at the High School of Dundee to play for the Scotland Under 19 squad whilst still at School.)

In the same week, Head Boy Colin Goudie, Deputy Head Boy Richard Vernon, and Daniel Levison, all members of the Scotland Under 18 squad, travelled to Wales to compete for their country in one of rugby's most prestigious youth tournaments - the Home Four Nations Championship. The trip was their second in less than a month, as the Under 18 squad had just returned from a match in France.

Bruce Beckett, head of PE said: "This year we have equalled our best record for the number of boys selected to represent their country. It's an amazing achievement to have so many of our High School rugby players representing Scotland, and I look forward to watching them put their skills to the test."

[1] Left to right: Colin Goudie, Richard Vernon, Daniel Levison and Alan Dymock



FORM 1 HOCKEY REPORT

This season has been a highly successful one for Form 1 hockey; the 'A' team drew only one game and lost one game, whilst the 'B' team played well throughout the season. We are happy to say that along with our old players we have had a great interest shown with some new ones joining too. Along with competitive games, we have had house matches, with Airlie coming first, Aystree second and Lindores and Wallace joint third. We played a captain vs. vice captain game which vice captain Rachel Clark's team narrowly won against the captain's team 2 - 1.

All in all, we have had a great year and we hope next year's games will prove just as fun and successful.

We'd also like to thank Mrs Hutchison and Mrs Stott for all their help and support.

Lindsey Docherty F1

FORM 3 HOCKEY REPORT

This year's hockey season proved to be quite successful. Even though both teams did not win all their games, we have definitely improved overall, with every aspect of our game developing. Individual skills have become better and pre-scanning and accurate passing have become more prominent, combining to give us a much stronger and unified side.

Not only that, but by the end of the season, the teams have had a better and more positive attitude and team spirit, thanks to never ending encouragement from Mrs Arthur and Mrs Stott.

Throughout the entire season, the defence proved they were very reliable and worked hard to keep the opposition at bay. The midfield in both teams worked well with the strikers, who on a number of occasions were unlucky not to score more.

Hopefully our good form will be continued into senior hockey next year. Well done to everyone, good luck - and a big thank you to Mrs Arthur and Mrs Stott and everyone else who has helped us!

By Claire Barclay and Shona Watson F3

FORM 2 HOCKEY REPORT

The 2nd year hockey season has been very successful with the 'B' team winning all their games and the 'A' team only losing the first fixture in the whole season.

Vicky Emslie, Sarah Low and Lauren Pringle have been selected for the Midland's Under 15 trials and the girls, along with Maud Sampson have also been selected for the Dundee City Council Mini Potentials group which is training over the summer.

All the players have enjoyed this season and really cannot wait for next season! Amy Watson, Libby Forbes, Maud Sampson and Annalies Smith would like to thank the players for their commitment and a great big thank you to our coaches Mrs Spowart and Mrs Stott.



SPORT

1ST XI HOCKEY REPORT 04/05

Our hockey session started off with a pre-season training day with Mr Nichol, Mr Gray and Marc Smith at D.J.S.C. where we were put through our paces with a variety of drills designed to get us fit and ready for the new season. Some found it a bit tough, but it was a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Our first few games started off well as we got several wins under our belt before suffering a few embarrassing defeats. Our team play was always improving, but our continual trend of not performing in the 1st half and putting in double the effort in the 2nd was beginning to give us a bad run of results, before a 5-0 win over Madras gave us the inspiration to go on a 4 game winning streak. In total we were 7 undefeated, with some top quality draws along the way, including an impressive 1-1 with Edinburgh Academy with Glen Christie in top form, saving a penalty and stopping a number of clear chances.

THE DEFENCE WAS INSPIRED AT THE BACK BY BIGGIE AND FRASER, BOTH PUTTING IN TERRIFIC PERFORMANCES WITH FRASER OFTEN RISKING LIFE AND LIMB TO BE GRANTED THE TITLE "SUPERMAN" BY AN OPPOSING TEAM.

Our season was full of high points, but we were always brought crashing down to earth when we got too cocky! Playing with a key member of our midfield missing, Thomas Thomson, we fielded 2 girls to play for us, against the strong, and arguably best team, George Watson's. The game was tough, with one player controlling their whole team and we were quickly 3-0 down at half time, but with some quick adjustments we had our defensive midfield genius, John, mark their key player, and he suddenly disappeared from the game. We scored 2 goals in quick succession and were controlling the game; the defensive line of Woody, Fraser and Biggie were holding out and nothing was getting through. Glen was pulling off stunning top corner saves and Chris pulled out a great save on the line. Yet sadly our comeback was thwarted when George Watson's received a short corner and the ball ended up in the top corner.

Another notable victory was our 3-0 demolition of Robert Gordon's away from home, goals coming from in-form captain Chris, winger Thomas and super striker Lee. Goals came from all positions, with Captain Chris often chipping in with wonder goals from just inside the area, and striker Lee grabbing more than his fair share with goals that ended up in the top corner from just inside the area; two 'tap ins' from a yard out.

In the Scottish cup we again went out on penalties, but not before a hard fought match against the previous year's champions Glenalmond. Everyone put in a 100% effort, even Blackie who turned up to every fitness session, much to the shock of everyone. The game was tough, everyone put in more than their fair share of running, but it was clear why Glenalmond were such a talked about team. We got to half time 1-0, but a kick response from the team saw us draw level. Finally the whistle went and it was down to penalties. The 5 penalty takers from the High School were: Chris, Biggie, Thomas, Nick and John. Chris and Thomas managed to slot their goals home, but with Biggie sending his ball over and Nick and John's being saved in style by the opposing goalie, we were left to rue missed opportunities and head home.

OUR NEXT CHALLENGE WAS THE 7S TOURNAMENT. WE FACED ROBERT GORDON'S AND GEORGE WATSON'S IN OUR GROUP. OUR FIRST GAME AGAINST ROBERT GORDON'S WENT TO PLAN; WE PULLED OFF A 1-0 VICTORY WITH BIGGIE AND WOODY HOLDING THE BACKLINE AND STOPPING THE OCCASIONAL COUNTER ATTACK.

The 2nd game did not go to plan; we suffered a 1-0 defeat to George Watson's and were left to the 3rd/4th place play-off where we faced Glasgow Academy. The team line up was all change for this match to accommodate the number of players we brought with us, yet we still managed to hold out for a 0-0 draw, and a prolonged extra time that remained goalless led to another agonising penalty shoot out. This time, Chris, Biggie and Lee stepped up. Chris and Biggie netted their shots and with Glen pulling off a stunning save it was down to Lee to secure us the match. Yet sadly there was no fairytale ending; all the confidence in the world still didn't help Lee's shot reach the goal and with the next two penalties we had lost and came a disappointing, yet respectable 4th.

Our team performed well throughout the season; everyone put in the hard graft and our performances showed this, despite some setbacks. Chris led well, and John put in some tough tackles to help strengthen our midfield, with Thomas often an outlet down the right side to create chances for our strike force. Other key performers were our striking sensations Lee and Michael who built on an impressive previous season to hand out key goals to our side. Our youngest member, Fraser, was the team's inspiration, and our rock at the back, along with

2ND XI HOCKEY REPORT 04/05

BIGGIE, WHO WILL BE A KEY MEMBER OF THE TEAM NEXT SEASON. BLACKIE WAS A KEY DISTRIBUTOR OF THE BALL FROM DEFENCE TO MIDFIELD, OFTEN STARTING QUICK ATTACKS WITH WOODY HELPING STOP THE OPPOSITION FORMING AN ATTACK ON US. NICK AND STEPHEN ALSO PUT IN GOOD SHIFTS IN THE MIDFIELD, WITH NICK'S CONFIDENCE AND SKILL GROWING AS TIME WENT ON. THE PLAYER OF THE SEASON WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE ROCK AT THE BACK, VICE CAPTAIN GLEN, NOT ONLY FOR HIS BRILLIANT GOALKEEPING SKILLS BUT HIS CONTROL OVER THE DEFENCE LED TO LESS RATHER THAN MORE GOALS AGAINST US.

Overall we had a good and enjoyable season. We must thank Mr. Nichol for coaching us for the past number of years and Mr. Gray, Marc Smith, Mr. Wood and Mr. Gibson for giving up their free time to aid us at training and games. A special thanks to Mrs. Stott for giving up a number of afternoons to give us some more advanced training.



We have had a very impressive season with some incredible results along the way. The goal tally was 67 for and 45 against with most goals scored by our star striker Kulwinder. The season got off to a great start with a winning streak of 9 games. We were seemingly unstoppable, thanks largely to our impressive team dynamic and positional discipline. Unfortunately the opposition in the 10th game put a stop to this by scoring some lucky goals before we had a chance to waken up after the bus journey, however in the second half the team gave a good account of itself, forcing the opposition onto their own 25 for the majority of the second half. Only time constraints prevented a glorious victory. With one of the best and most spectacular misses of the season coming from El Capitan the game was lost but our spirits were still high. We should have won but alas Bowie had a bad leg and we had two goals disallowed so really we were the moral victors. To be fair it was without a doubt the best game of hockey the seconds played all year.

From that moment on we pulled together and remained undefeated for the rest of the season. Losing one game in SEVENTEEN is a pretty respectable achievement, brought about by our magnificently outstanding team, ranging from the fortress-like defense of Elliot "the mongoose" Mason, and Lavan "the tiger" Sriskandakumar. Inspiring midfield starring Steven "the author" King, Tom "The Special One" Ogden, Emyln "Jackhammer" Pounder, Andrei "3000" Paul. Completing the magnificent midfield was winger and show off Dani "pretty boy" McKillop. The strikers scored an amazing number of goals but were always hungry for more. Phil "the complainer" Gentleman and Kulwinder "can't score to save himself" Chima never stopped complaining throughout the season yet managed to score an obscene amount of goals. Last but not least Chris our ferocious goalie, always willing to scream helpful advice.

In summation, it was a very good season winning lots of games with awesome teamwork.

Well done to everyone who took part in the glorious victories and commiserations for team members who lost that ONE game. Good luck to future 2nd XI teams and hope you can achieve the same incredible season that we enjoyed.

GO TEAM!!

04/05 SENIOR HOCKEY REPORT

Season 2004-05 opened with a hugely disappointing defeat to The Mary Erskine School. After this we knew that we had to focus on team work and basic skills if we were going to improve.

Safe in the knowledge that things could only get better, the team performed well at the Madras tournament – with creditable performances against Strathallan, Madras and Wade. As well as an opening to our goal scoring, the tournament proved to be a much needed confidence boost.

Our good form continued with well played victories against Albyn, St Margaret's, Bell Baxter and St Leonards. With our recent very encouraging results, confidence was soaring!

The October holidays meant that it was our turn to make the ferry crossing over to Northern Ireland for our annual match against Limavady. It was on the journey to Limavady that our team nutritionist introduced us to our staple food for the year - "Rocky Road".

Although the High lost the game 5 – 1, it would be fair to say that the score did not reflect the effort put into the game by the girls. Despite the result, the trip was enjoyed immensely by the Team. The PE Department must be thanked for organising the fixture and giving up their time in the holidays.

In the Midlands Knockout Cup our success of a 3 – 0 win against St Leonards which... well took us to the 2nd round, was short lived. Dollar Academy (eventual winners of the Cup) stepped out at D.I.S.C defeating us 4 – 1 thus knocking us out of the competition.

We did, however, get another chance against Dollar after the Christmas break. Excellent team work (and perhaps the grass pitch) got us the 3 – 1 win that we wanted against our rivals. The Dollar game was arguably one of the most exciting games of the year with our Vice Captain, Julia Bruce, scoring a hat trick (one of the goals coming from a penalty stroke) and Pammy 'Hardcore' Reid managing to pick up a green card!

Towards the end of the season the team participated in two Sevens tournaments (Heriot's and Watson's). This was a new experience for the majority of the players who all gave a creditable performance.

Overall the 1st XI produced a range of performances over the season. Nevertheless, 40 goals were scored in total – 9 of these coming from our top goal scorer (for a second year in a row) – Laura Brown.

The second XI was also very successful this year. The number of players taking part this year was the most promising part with over 25 players getting the chance to play on a Saturday morning.

Lead brilliantly by Siobhan Mannion and Tani Abedin, the team was always well prepared and enjoyed the games and the attendance at practice each week was also excellent with the use of D.I.S.C astro turf pitch making a difference over the winter months.

Each game, Siobhan and Tani awarded 'Player of the Match', which was great for the team spirit and well done again to all the winners.

On behalf of both teams, I would like to thank the PE Department, in particular Mrs Stott and Mrs Hutchison, who put a tremendous amount of time into the team.

Thanks for making school hockey so enjoyable – your coaching was much appreciated.

Ann Knox F6

TENNIS REPORT 2005

Because of the good turnout on the Thursday practices, the senior teams had fun and a successful season. Unlike previous years the sun has surprised us and we have not had one cancellation this year! This enabled us to put out teams against Morrison's, Kilgraston, Dollar, George Heriot's and St Leonard's. Not only were these games enjoyed but the majority were successful, as we won three out of five matches.

The house matches deserve a special mention as they were popular events. In the end, with a great effort from everyone (players and supporters) Airlie won the Senior event, Lindores the Junior event and Wallace won the Boys' matches.

Many congratulations to Megan Hunter F5 who won the Girls Senior Championship. She then went on to secure a 3rd place in the Glenalmond mixed doubles tournament with her partner Paul Scott F5. Colours have been awarded to Julia Bruce F6 (re-award), Mairi Cunningham F5 and Megan Hunter F5. The junior teams, 1Yr VI and 2Yr VI, also won the majority of their fixtures. Attendance at practice has been excellent with the numbers often as high as 27! All players are to be applauded on their enthusiasm and commitment to practice. The 3Yr squad were smaller in number but were a 'quality' group, eager to play and improve. They were unfortunate in that two schools could not provide opposition at the last minute; however the 3Yr team enjoyed the remainder of their fixtures.

The Junior Championship was a hard fought competition between many talented players. Joanna Reid F2 emerged the winner, but congratulations also to all who participated in this exciting competition. The Primary Championship produced a nail biting final between Cara Davidson and Hannah Sampson, both L7. Many excellent rallies and winning strokes made for a most enjoyable match with Cara coming through the stronger player on the day!

Finally we would like to thank the PE department for all the time and effort they put in to the teams and thank Mr Paul McGhee of The Schoolwear Shop for supplying the senior teams with kit.

Julia Bruce (Captain) & Anne Knox (Vice-captain)



SPORT

SENIOR BOYS FOOTBALL 04/05

The second year of competitive senior boy's football began brightly under the captaincy of Ross Campbell. An emphatic 9 -1 victory over Forfar in the Scottish Cup ensured that there were high spirits in the camp and hope for another successful season. David Arbuckle and Amir El-Bakary made early bids for top goal-scorer with two goals each in an impressive performance.

The spirits remained high as we began our main football commitment in the Scottish Independent Schools' Cup Competition. The competition organises the competing schools into three regional sections. Each region's teams compete in a league format, with the top two teams in each league qualifying for the national knock-out stages. Our fixtures in the Northern Section began with a tough 5 - 3 victory at home to Queen Victoria School and a convincing 6 - 0 thrashing of St. Leonard's in St. Andrews. The early victories took the team to the top of the regional league for the first time in the school's history!

However, as the weather turned cold with the arrival of winter, the team's performances also became frosty. An uninspiring 2-0 home defeat to Carnoustie in the Scottish Cup meant another early end to our Scottish Cup campaign. The disappointing period continued as the team dropped off the top of the league table following a 5 -3 defeat away to group favourites, Dollar

Academy, in the Independent Schools' Cup. Despite the defeat, the school's youth policy seemed to be paying dividend as fourth year pupils Scott Campbell and Colin Anderson made their debuts.

FIXTURES RESUMED IN DARKEST JANUARY, HOWEVER THE TEAM LOST ITS INSPIRATIONAL CAPTAIN, ROSS CAMPBELL TO A BROKEN ARM IN AN INCIDENT THAT ONLY ROSS COULD BE INVOLVED IN! RAMSAY HALL TOOK ON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TEAM FOR THE REMAINING FIXTURES OF THE SEASON. A CREDITABLE DRAW AT HOME TO GLENALMOND INSPIRED BY THE EFFORTS OF RHYS KERR, PUT THE TEAM BACK ON TRACK FOR QUALIFICATION TO THE KNOCK OUT STAGES.



The visit of Gordonstoun to Riverside in February would be a crucial turning point in our campaign. The drama was typical of the up and down season that had been unfolding as Gordonstoun charged to a 2-0 half time lead. Some tough talking at half time from Captain Hall, followed by an early second half penalty converted by the captain seemed to jolt the team into action. With the desire to succeed in the competition, the team turned the game into a 5-2 victory, which took the High School to the verge of qualification to the latter stages of the competition.

The schools' place in the final stages was secured with a 3-2 victory over Strathallan. Glenalmond secured first place in the group having scored one more goal than the High School in second. However, a tricky tie at home to eventual competition winners Heriot's of Edinburgh was too much of a test, and defeat ended our campaign for this season.

A ROLLERCOASTER OF A SEASON ENDED WITH THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FIRST INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' INTER DISTRICT COMPETITION. AMIR EL-BAKARY, RHYS KERR, RAMSAY HALL, DAVID ARBUCKLE AND GRANT ROBERTSON WERE SELECTED TO PLAY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT FOOTBALL SIDE.

It has been an exciting season for football in the High School. The enthusiasm for next year is already gaining momentum and hopefully we can build on the successes of this year's team.

G. Fyall



1ST YEAR AND 2ND YEAR NETBALL REPORT

The 2nd year girls team had a successful season only losing narrowly to Harris at the Dundee Schools Netball Tournament which resulted in them receiving a silver medal.

The 1st year girls also had an outstanding season and were unbeaten in the Dundee Schools Netball Tournament where they won the shield and a gold medal.

Many thanks must go to Miss MacDonald in the Maths Department for all her help with the 1st year girls this season.

Mrs M J Arthur (PE Department)

KILGRASTON SCOTTISH SCHOOLS EQUESTRIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again the High School entered the Kilgraston Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships held at Gleneagles Equestrian Centre on 24th April with a team in each of the three age groups. Kicking off the proceedings were the senior team who performed superbly, finishing fifth in the combined training and second in the show jumping. This was a magnificent performance by the senior team considering they were competing against another fifteen schools and with only three team members, due to a late withdrawal.

The Intermediate team was also handicapped by a late withdrawal and they narrowly missed out on the prizes, but did perform very well in a field of thirteen teams with Caroline Foubister especially impressive in the dressage. Full credit must also be given to Rosie Morgan who despite only being in L7, competed in the older section.

Bringing up the rear were the Juniors, who for the first time ever were all pupils from the Junior School. They acquitted themselves superbly in a field of sixteen teams and enjoyed the whole experience.

Special thanks must go to the pupils and parents for putting in so much effort for the day, as well as Kilgraston School who organised the event and Mr Middleton who acted as Chef d'Equipe.



[1] Senior team: Pamela Reid on Good Chance, Nicki Galloway on Dungannon Bay and Michelle Hamilton on Polar Eclipse

[2] Intermediate team: Rosie Morgan on Lady, Kate Foubister on Miss Monty and Caroline Foubister on Brad

[3] Junior team: Lucy Harley on Roseisle Pippin, Ruth Batchelor on Magic Moments, Mike Harley on Charlie Chalk and Rebecca Reid on Gascon Shimmal



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

For the first time in many years The High School had enough pupils with sufficient curling experience to even consider entering into the Scottish Schools Championships. Unfortunately, due to exam timetabling the High School had to play two full 8-end games on the same day - quite a daunting prospect for even highly experienced players let alone for a team that had only once before played together as a team.

The first challenge facing the rink comprising as Lewis McNicol (Skip), Steven King, Stuart McGrath and Iain Proudfoot was Webster High School who had a highly experienced player with eight years of experience. The game got off to an excellent start for the High School with a blank at the first end followed by two points at the second against the hammer. However, this only spurred their opposition into several higher gears whereupon they took advantage of the inexperience of the High School to take a succession of ends leaving the High School rink struggling at 12-2 down going into the final end. A consolatory two shots for the High School in the final end helped to restore a modicum of confidence.

In their next game the High School faced an even more experienced rink in the form of Forfar Academy who were also playing on their home ice, which in curling is a huge advantage. The High School came out fighting and didn't let up. They defended well and attacked when the opportunity presented itself. They kept pace with the opposition and even edged ahead until disaster struck in the penultimate end. Forfar managed to take a game killing end of 4 shots. This mountain was just too high for the High School to climb and they had to gamble everything in the last end. Unfortunately their efforts were in vain and they lost a further shot to lose the game 9-4. The final score although indicating a lost match does not really convey just how close the game was nor just how hard this inexperienced High School team fought. It should also be pointed out that the Forfar team had played together for 5 years, were last year's finalists in the Scottish Schools and are off to Sweden next week. With another year's experience the High School will surely have a rink to fear.

Lewis McNicol



SPORT

THE COACH WRITES

On Saturday 4th December 12 pupils from the High School set off to Forfar Indoor Ice Arena to pit their skills against some very experienced curlers. It should be remembered that some of the 12 have only been playing for some 18 months whilst many of their opponents had been playing competitive curling for 10-20 years. The competition was for the Alan Dargie Trophy and this is the third year that it has been held in memory of Alan a former pupil of the DHS. Although not winning many games against their adult competition all pupils played exceptionally well and showed considerable improvement upon previous years. Playing in competitive curling games is excellent experience for the pupils from both a skill perspective and for the development of their sportsmanship.

To illustrate this here is a short extract from Vanessa Matthew's report (L5)

"On Saturday 4th December, 2004 I was very excited because I was going to take part in my very first proper curling game in Forfar at 5pm. I didn't know what to expect but I was sure I would enjoy myself. We arrived at 4.45pm and before I went onto the ice to start playing my sister Melanie and I went to have a quick look around. We did well and played some very good stones and did some excellent sweeping although it was very difficult to get it right, but it wasn't good enough and although we won the second end we unfortunately lost our first round. In the second round we played well again, trying even harder this time. It was still very difficult but we played our very best, but we still didn't quite manage and unfortunately also lost our second round."

Melanie Matthew (F 1) adds "All teams played well and the young curlers came 4th out of six teams. We were pleased with this result and continued to enjoy our evening. We are all looking forward to competing next year."

These reports encompass the enthusiasm and the enjoyment that the pupils of all ages and abilities gain from curling. Indeed the pupils made such an impression as always that the catering staff at the ice arena gave up their tips to help purchase curling equipment for the pupils. What better testament could there be to the ability of these youngsters to act as ambassadors for their school and parents?

Ronnie McNicol Curling Coach



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OLIVER TWIST

Lindsay Drummond's excellent production of 'Oliver Twist' was a 'must see' at the end of a long and busy school year. Hopefully you made it to one of the nights. If you didn't, you missed a vividly entertaining and thought provoking show.

Jeremy Brock's adaptation of this famous Dickens novel doesn't buy into the 'wonderful morning' of the familiar and much loved musical adaptation by Lionel Bart. Instead, this play brings out more of the gritty reality and social comment of the original text and in a much more challenging way. The Producer's decision to set the play in the context of modern London's urban squalor was also a bold and very effective innovation.

The rhythms of contemporary dance and music kept pace with the tempo of the story from the excellent second scene in the workhouse – putting the "House" in Workhouse as it were – to the infectious, clap-along finale. An eerie backing track added to the atmosphere of terror during Oliver's night in a coffin in Sowerberry the undertaker's shop and, when Oliver escapes to London, menacing moans and electronic rhythms turned his journey into a rave in the nightmare of the 'id'! His first meeting with Dodger was heralded by the menacing soundtrack from Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs and Fagin's gang exploded onto the stage like 'gansta' rappers – ghetto kids from a particularly unsavoury 'hood'. The list goes on. This creative use of music and movement was energetically executed by a team of talented and enthusiastic dancers as well as members of the cast and it added considerably to the effectiveness of this imaginatively directed play.

Other well conceived bits of stage 'business' also contributed to the success of this production. The dancers formed themselves into items of furniture (for which a Turner Prize

surely beckons!) and, on one amusingly bovine occasion, into surreal pantomime cows. Diabolical graffiti daubed the walls of the London set and strips of tarmac suggested the urban sprawl of the big city. Fagin's den was piled high with 'knocked off' goods and Fagin slunk through the rest of the production like a repellent spider, played with a kind of creepy gusto by Douglas Dorward.

Indeed, everyone in the cast played his or her part so well that it seems unfair to single out particular performances but I'm sure no-one who saw this production could fail to have been amused and impressed by the double act of Ramsay Hall (Mr Bumble) and Sarah McConville (Mrs Corney) whose outrageous flirting brought the house down. Bumble bullied the orphans only to be bullied in turn by Corney once she had ensnared him; never was karma more deservedly visited on a 'parochial servant'! Angus Miller (playing the Artful Dodger) was a gallous chip off Fagin's block and Fiona Gibson's portrayal of Nancy combined seedy seductiveness with a kind of endearing innocence perfectly. Johnny Voigt put in a sterling performance as Bill Sykes and many might have been surprised to learn that he was only in Form 3 as he managed to convince us that he really was a menacing villain. The audience gasped with genuine horror when he finally dispatched Nancy with a brick. Stuart Barlow played the part of Monks as a brooding, Machiavellian 'hoodie' and James Magee managed a surprising volte-face first playing the obnoxious Noah Claypole opposite Ms Farmer's splendidly tart Charlotte and then transmogrifying himself into the benign Mr Barlow. Fiona Sommerville as Lady Stock-Jobber and the Old Woman also took on two contrasting roles successfully as did Freya Smail, who played the unpleasantly shrill Mrs Sowerberry as well as the Young Woman, with style



Thoughts after the play ...

- "Inspiring"
- "Thrilling"
- "Amazing"



"I can't
wait until
next year!"



OLIVER TWIST

"The best week
of my life.....
so far!"



and gusto. There were also fine cameo performances from Christine MacLean, Julia Bruce, Emma Gentleman and Becky Barlow will, off course, be remembered for two reasons, her portrayal of Mrs. Limbkins and the terrifyingly domineering judge, Ms. Fang!

However, a special mention must be made of Mr Stuart McCulloch, our beloved Head of Economics. He left his ledgers and his stocks and shares to tread the boards in no less than five splendidly funny cameo roles - Mr. Sowerberry, Mr. Grimwig (whose wig could not have been grimmer), the Doctor, a surly porter (who clearly had ambitions to be a bouncer) and a cop, who was obviously modelled on Taggart before he made it into the CID! It was clear that he and the pupils had real fun working together in this play.

As for Oliver himself, Alistair Brown radiated purity and innocence in the rôle, resisting the efforts of the evil, plotting Monks and the sly old villain Fagin to corrupt him. Brutal Bill Sykes is, of course, foiled and good triumphs in the end but not before the play has taken us on an uncompromising journey through some of the nastier aspects of society and this play reminds us that, even today, there are boys and girls like Oliver and Fagin's other victims.

Last, but certainly not least, are the people who made the 'magic' possible - the stage crew and the other backstage helpers. Jane Orr put on the 'cans' as Stage Manager (under the expert tutelage of Roger Illsley) and did a fine job of holding the show together. Another pupil worthy of special mention is Fiona McCulloch who ran the sound desk and was an integral part of this production. Along with the regular Gardyne team and a loyal band of staff helpers, these people are as essential as those who strut their stuff in the limelight.

Because this play drew its cast from among the younger pupils



Thoughts after the play ...

- "Wonderfull"
- "Fantastic fun"



OLIVER TWIST

as well as the seniors (not to mention one very brave member of staff) it demonstrated the best qualities of our school. At the risk of sounding 'gushy', at its best, the High School functions as a community in which everyone feels himself or herself to be part of the same 'cast'. Not only was the show imaginative and entertaining, it did all the things that a school show is meant to do by providing a wide range of pupils with a chance to celebrate their talents at the end of a hard working academic year.



Thoughts after the play...

- "One of the greatest events of my school life"
- "Words cannot describe how much I enjoyed myself"
- "Most fun week ever"

"Getting a teacher involved
really made **the play** feel
like a school play!"



OLIVER TWIST

CAST

Oliver: Alistair Brown
Dodger: Angus Miller
Mr Bumble: Ramsay Hall
Mrs Corney: Sarah McConville
Mrs Sowerberry/Young woman: Freya Small
Mr Sowerberry/Mr Grimwig/
Doctor/Bouncer/Cop: Stuart McCulloch
Mrs Maylie: Sam Croll
Old Hag 2: Christine McLean
Nancy: Fiona Gibson
Fagin/Mr Giles: Douglas Dorward
Sykes: Jonathan Voigt
Charlotte: Charlotte Farmer
Dr Losberne: Julia Bruce
Monks: Stuart Barlow
Rose Maylie: Emma Gentleman
Lady Stock-Jobber/Old Hag 1: Fiona Sommerville
Noah Claypole/Mr Brownlow: James Magee
Ms Fang/ Mrs Limbkins: Becky Barlow

Fagin's Gang

Leonardo: Allan Drysdale
Toby Crackit: Tom Bannerman
Lock-Up Lottie: Catherine Smythe
Barney Buckskin: Michael Towns
Charley Bates: Libby Forbes
Jilted Joseph: Gavin Peebles

Workhouse Gang

Skinny: Katie Main
Belly: Catriona Wilson
Bird: Annalies Smith
Sneak: Keith Thomson



Chorus/ Narrators

Joanna van Der Ham; Becca Gamble;
Jilly Vannet; Charlotte Farmer;
Chloe Hall; Lynsey Nicoll; Ailsa Murray;
Christine MacLean; Lea- Jane Birse-Stewart-Bell;
Catriona France; Guy Ballantyne;
Mairi Cunningham; Aiden Friedberg





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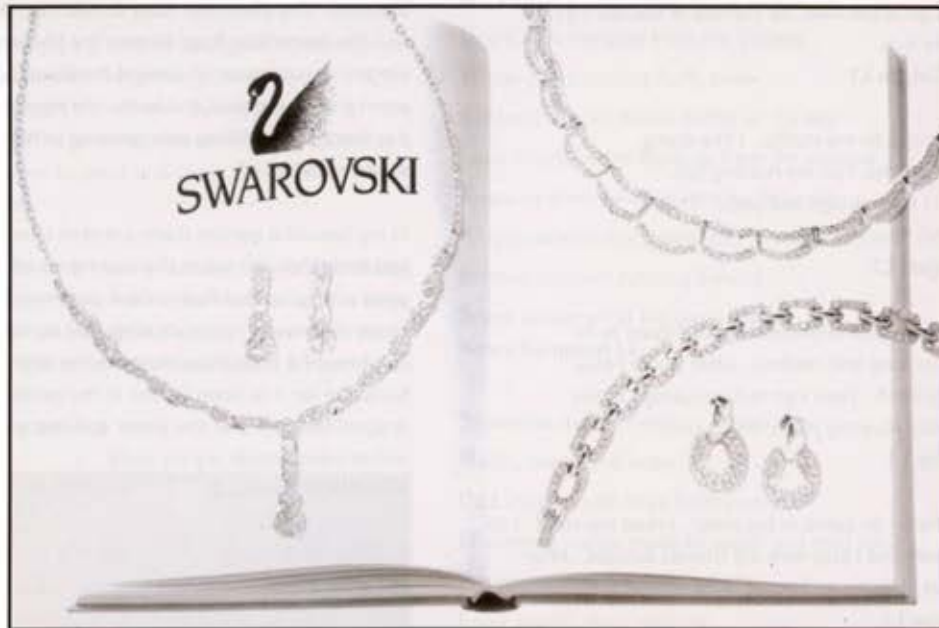
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JUNIOR SCHOOL WRITING

L1 - L3

THE SCHOOL DAY

In the morning I eat my breakfast then I go to school. I go on the bus. I do my sums and read. After lunch we go to play then line up and go to the hall. At the end of the day I go home on the bus.

Martin McColgan L1

In the morning I do my maths. I like doing my number clocks. I do my reading too. After lunch I stick things and paint. Then I go home and have my tea.

Mariam Alijani L1

In the morning after breakfast I go to school to do maths and writing and reading. After lunch I play in the playground. Then I go to computing. At the end of the day Mummy picks me up.

Lorna Porter L1

In the morning I do sums in my jotter. I read my story. I do my work book and I play with my friends outside. After lunch I paint pictures and make things.

Olivia Bourne L1

In the morning I go to school and I do my maths and reading. After lunch I do my painting and making things. At the end of the day I go home and I play on my trampoline.

Rory Johnston L1

A RIVER'S JOURNEY

Trickling the tiny river trickles from the mountain top,
Cascading ... the rapid river cascades over rocks,
Crashing ... the powerful river crashes against the river bed,
Windingthe slow river winds through the countryside,
Flowingthe huge river flows out to the North Sea.

Christopher Guest L3

A RIVER'S JOURNEY

Pounding ...the river pounds through the land from the mountains
Bashingthe river bashes against boulders turning them into tiny stones
Crashing the river crashes into the land, cutting a new path
Charging the river charges like a soldier always determined to win
Spitting the river spits out and over a water fall.

Freddie Kempton L3

MY FANTASTIC GARDEN

In my fantastic, lovely garden the birds are springing off the lovely trees that are filled with beautiful pink blossom. The silver fish have scales that the sun shines on. The butterflies float all over the lily pond. The elegant swans swim all around the lily pond while the mum sits on the nest and keeps the eggs warm. Every day there is something new growing in my garden.

Alistair Forbes L2

In my beautiful garden there are pink rhododendrons and birds that chirrup in the tree tops and there is a lily pond with lilies that float on the glimmering water. I hear the swans that glide elegantly across the water. The beautiful butterflies dance in the shimmering sunshine for it is never winter in my garden. Pale blue dragonflies drift over the water and there are drooping willow trees beside my lily pond.

Madeleine Tinson L2

In my fantastic garden the blossom is shimmering in the breeze. Butterflies are dancing in and out of the trees. Lilies are swaying in the river to and fro. Peacocks are prancing by the river bank with their tails puffed up behind them. The fish leap so high that you would think they are flying as you walk along my golden bridge and the warmth from the sun tingles down your back.

Sally Burnett L2

ON THE BUILDING SITE

Busy bossy builders set to work
Ugly excavator unearthing hidden treasures
Incredible machines making loud noises
Loaders load the dumper truck
Dumpers go and dump in the dump
Incredible diggers dig huge holes
New noisy machines are hard at work
Gigantic cranes lift up things
Shiny machines crush things
In there things drive slowly
Though they can drive quite fast
Electricians put cables underground

Stuart Duncan L2

L4

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH: A NEWSPAPER REPORT OF WHEN JAMES FOUND THE PEACH

A Fruitful Discovery

Today, in a garden belonging to Miss Sponge and Miss Spiker, a colossal peach appeared to be growing out of nowhere! Their nephew James shared in their bewilderment at the extraordinary scene. What seemed like an ordinary peach on a branch suddenly began to grow and grow until it became the size of a small house!

Realising its potential as a money-spinner, the ladies invited publicity to their doorstep. Their intention is to become celebrities: to attend fabulous photo-shoots, have marvellous makeovers and wear the most outlandish outfits. A peach of an idea don't you think!

Your reporter – **Karyn Joss L4**



A PEACH AS BIG AS A HOUSE IS GROWING.....

Yesterday afternoon a colossal peach was seen to be growing in the garden of Miss Spiker and Miss Sponge.

The two ladies together have won 'The Biggest Fruit of the Year Competition'. All over the globe reporters are flying here to get a glimpse of this mammoth fruit.

The two ladies are actually charging people to have a look at the fantastic event. Hundreds of people are expected this week.
Your reporter – **Adam Powrie L4**

CROWDS FLOCK TO SEE GIANT PEACH

An old fruit tree in the garden of Miss Sponge and Miss Spiker has grown a giant peach. The two ladies were amazed to discover the peach because the tree had never blossomed before! They couldn't believe their eyes as the peach continued to grow bigger and bigger.

As word spread about the fruit crowds flocked to see the giant peach for themselves. The sisters said that they were going to eat the peach, but realised that it could earn them lots of money by showing it off to the public.

Come and see for yourself!

Your reporter – **Rebecca Chalmers L4**

SNOWFLAKES

Snow absorbing into my mittens

Numb fingers like simmering ice-cubes

Odd icicles hanging from the gutters

Windy gusts tossing fluffy snow

Fantastic frozen flakes flutter in the sky

Long sharp icicles hanging from the window

Amazing snow twisting into the blue sky

Kingly snowmen standing still in the snow

Excited children running around

Silent snowmen in the deep snow.

Henry Sampson L4

Snowmen made of snazzy snowflakes

Noble, sharp and jazzy,

Odd shapes, odd sizes falling around

Wondrous icicles made by water and cold wind

Frozen gutters splodge, splutter

Long, small, short and tall

Amazing things – lazing on the ground,

Kingly they rule the winter cold

Eventually the everlasting snow disappears!

Sadly we go home! Oh snowflakes where are you?

Callum Strachan L4



JUNIOR SCHOOL WRITING

L4

SENSES OF WINTER

In Winter I can see:
snowmen guarding houses like sentries
eye-catching trees: glistening ponds.

In Winter I can hear:
tuneful robins hopping from tree to tree
strong howling winds whistling through
the trees, children singing joyful calypso carols.

In Winter I can feel:
intricate and unique snowflakes falling on my nose
all the cosy and warm clothes mum puts on
me while I'm supposed to be outside playing
the wet rain falling down.

In Winter I can smell:
herby chicken smelling delicious,
tremendously tasty steak pie coming out
of the oven.
brilliantly cooked soup steaming.

In Winter I can taste:
milky chocolate that isn't disappearing into Mark's mouth
fresh rolls which are very nice especially when
the butter is melting
bountiful potatoes
Megan Wallace L4



L5

SWEETLY

Sweetly the mermaid sang in the sea
Calmly the bird flew towards me.
Quietly the butterfly flies to the flower.
Happily the rabbit hops for hours.
Slowly the moon rose in the sky.
Quickly the frog catches the fly.

By Olivia Walker (L5D)

BEACH

Amazing anemones wave in water
Darting dolphins play peacefully
Unusual urchins glitter and gleam
Shining starfish stick to stones.

By Cora Boyle (L5C)



ISLAND DREAMS

Dreaming of an Island
The golden sand floating about the sea
Dreaming of an island
My feet burning on the hot sand
A place hot and lovely to see
A palace made of sand and sea
Dreaming of an island

By Ross Carr and Anya Matossian (L5D)

ISLAND DREAMS

I was an island out at sea,
With shells washed up on the shore.
I saw an island out at sea,
Big coconuts in a small palm tree,
A sparkling sandy floor,
That glitters evermore,
I saw an island out at sea...

Aimee Elgin and Ailsa Purdie (L5D)

BEACH

Amazing anemones wave in water
Darting dolphins play peacefully
Unusual urchins glitter and gleam
Shining starfish stick to stones.

By Cora Boyle (L5C)

BEACH

Strange fish darting through colourful
Coral reefs
Gulls swooping in the bright sky
Seaweed swirling on the seabed
Wild waves crashing against high cliffs.

Shiny shells shimmering in the sunlight
Diving dolphins jump in and out of water
Powerful people digging with small spades
Fishermen drop their heavy nets in water.

Jakob Kroboth (L5C)

L6

THE TITANIC

Fun! Fun! Fun!
Leave your troubles behind
And board the Titanic
Full of infectious joy.

Run! Run! Run!
Get out the lifeboats
Before we are all drowned
Get off the ship ... find a way.

Jump! Jump! Jump!
She's sinking too fast
We're all going to die
She's snapped in half and fading to the bottom.

Help! Help! Help!
I lived through the chaos
I've lost my friends and family
I've even lost myself.

by Vivek Manthri (L6D)



TITANIC!

The passengers are excited
So many enthusiastic people
Children running around the ship
People laughing and being happy.

The iceberg hit!
Could this be the end?
Children stopped running
Everything went silent.

Anxious nailbiting
Time is running out
No lifejackets left
It is frightening.

Mournful times run by
Still devastating us
The disaster still runs
Through our minds.

By Brid Mannion (L6D)

THERE IS IN ME

There is in me a hyena
ordering people about
being very selfish
who likes to be the boss
and have a good laugh

There is in me a parrot
who never stops talking
being a copycat
and always butting in

There is in me a sloth
doing everything slowly
taking my time

There is in me a mouse
afraid when alone
and quiet
yet sneaky and quick

There is in me a cat
spying on things
being independent
and feeling very proud

There is in me a dolphin
swimming free
wanting to be your friend
always kind and loving

Sarah-Jane Dent (L6G)

JUNIOR SCHOOL WRITING

THE DRAGON

A ferocious, wild creature,
A legend from long ago.
An evil looking beast,
Tears up everything he sees.

A scaly monster,
Thick, green skin, leathery wings.
A tail of spikes
Like sharp, sharp knives.
A hateful heart, dark eyes
...and bloodthirsty teeth.

Roams about the forest,
Leaving the whole place bare.
His feet thumping so loud.
He wants to demolish everything.

A burning furious hatred.
Feels an odium for everything.
Next in line to become the devil.
Hates everyone
... but himself.

By Holly Maxwell-Stevenson L6W

DRAGON

Terrifying, blood thirsty beast.
Blazes fire,
A volcano dweller.

Lion-like, giant claws,
Firy colours.
Eyes set alight
Waits... and then swipes.

Protects hell from heaven,
Lives in volcanoes.
Acts like the devil,
Sleeps with death.

Has a heart of destruction,
An over dose of hatred.
Rage non-stop.
Strikes as fast as a bullet.

By Lewis Robb L6W

INSIDE ME

There is in me a dog
Loyal. Trustworthy. Reliable.
Yet friendly too.
Always looking out for others.

There is in me a dolphin
Intelligent. Friendly. Free.
Although, I can jump and
Swim very well,
I never boast.

There is in me a tiger.
Fierce. But also Gentle.
I love to be daring.
And I'm very confident.

Inside me there is a parrot
Very talkative and loves to chat
Always sticking up for friends
But sometimes I say something
I shouldn't

Inside me there is an elephant
Clumsy. Thoughtful.
And also loud.
I am normally forgetful
When my elephant is around.

Inside me there is a monkey
Cheeky. Funny.
Loves to be with others.
And also love to be ME!
By Joanna Tait (L6G)

INSIDE ME

There is in me an owl
Intelligent and knowing
Always one step ahead of everyone else.

There is in me a mouse
Shy and timid
Very good at hiding when the time comes.

There is in me a sloth
Lazy and particular
Slow to react to what is said and done.

There is in me a bear
Clumsy and sleepy
Doing nothing all day.

There is in me a leopard
Fast and deadly
But also a quick thinker when I'm in trouble.

There is in me a fox
Quick and stealthy
Disappearing when danger becomes too great.
By Daniel Barton (L6G)

Two pieces from the winner of this year's Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing, Tristan Leicester L7.

I WILL NEVER FORGET IT

I will never forget the experience I had when I went to a camp in America where my group and I had to camp out in the wilderness for a night. The night was as dark as death. My hands were shivering, it was freezing cold. I was trying to warm myself up using the huge roaring fire, my group's team leaders smiling at it, full of pride. We were all toasting marshmallows like Native Africans performing voodoo arts around a fire. But then I felt my bladder bulge and I knew that I was on a mission.

The team leaders had told us all we needed to know about everything. I had even gone out into the woods before to do what a boy needed to do, but this was an exception. I looked up from my feast and saw the enormous trees like soldiers guarding a fort. Then I felt the enormous urge. I would have to go into the heart of the forest. With the sound of wolves howling and the fire crackling behind me, I advanced into the forest. I was about a yard in front of the trees now. I saw them move in front of me, almost trying to block my way, but I knew this was just what I wanted to see. Crossing the barrier between safety and danger I was in the forest. Tasting the bitter dust and the earthy taste of rotten wood in my mouth, I was terrified.

I almost fell over a gargantuan log. I was looking for a perfect spot, like my special place under my bed where I could be safe and calm, but I knew I could never achieve that here. My socks were now sodden with fresh sweat and my palms were as greasy as some McDonald's fries. Close to tears I wandered on through the darkness, but then I saw it, a tree like my mum when she has her hands out to hug me. That was my new special place. I had no trouble following the steps that the team leaders had shown me and I went back to the camp fire with a spring in my step. I was the happiest man on earth.

Looking back on that experience I think that now I am older and more mature I would not have been so intimidated by the dark forest.

By Tristan Leicester L7P

A MENACING PLACE

I went into the warehouse. The first thing I noticed was the dark, as black as death. I heard rattling above my head, from the roof. Old shelves were lined up like soldiers in formation. It was like a maze with no end. My fingers were starting to become numb and my nose was bright red. It was extremely cold. I tried to imagine that this was my warm, bright home but then the darkness came flooding back, reducing my vision. I was isolated and alone.

I could taste the bitter taste of dust, lurking in the air. I saw huge forklifts like wild elephants with long, twisting tusks. Suddenly something bright moved in the darkness, I could have sworn it was a torch light. My heart told me to investigate but my head denied the prospect. I decided to stay put but there was still a small child's nagging voice in my head.

I gave in, I had to, I felt terrified and lonely but I was magnetized towards the end of the row of shelves. I staggered forwards, scaring myself with every noise my shoes made on the concrete floor. I felt like a man smoking, wanting to stop but being too addicted. I was near now, just a couple of steps away. I had to stand on my tiptoes to peer over the shelves, but just as I did, something fell down from the roof and hit me bang on the head. Startled, I screamed and tripped over my laces. I came back to reality and noticed that a small dead rat had fallen down from the rafters. But that wouldn't stop me, I was still on my quest to see where the light had come from. I peeked through the shelf.

By Tristan Leicester (L7P)



JUNIOR SCHOOL WRITING & ARTWORK

WHAT IS SILVER?

Silver are the stars
twinkling in the sky
Silver is a gemstone –
a diamond or a pearl
Silver makes you feel
glamorous, peaceful and magical
Mystery is found within silver.

Silver is a mist
hanging over the land
Silver is a necklace
draped around your neck
Or a silver bracelet
sparkling on your wrist
Peace is found within silver

Silver is the moon
on a cold winter's night
Silver is the sound of the wind
howling through the trees
Silver is the wrapper
of your favourite chocolate bar
Beauty is found within silver.

By Anna Mackenzie (L7S)

RED, RED, RED

You can see the colour red
The fast fire engine racing down the road
A red hot fire and the big red stop sign
The colourful birds and fish of the Amazon

You can taste the colour red
A shiny, juicy, bright red apple
A red hot chili pepper on your kebab
And a big red lollie pop

You can smell the colour red
Something burning in the kitchen
Your mum getting very very angry
And the sweet smell of summer

You can hear the colour red
A policeman shouting "STOP!"
Someone in the parade hitting a massive drum
And of two cars crashing furiously

You can feel the colour red
The hot sun breathing down on you at the beach
Your back all sunburnt and red in colour
And of anger, fury and high temper.

By Jamie Milne (L7S)

RED

Red is the smell of fire,
Crackling during winter days,
Red is the smell of strawberries,
Fresh and sweet,
Red is the smell of flowers,
Poppies and red roses in the springtime.

Red is the feeling of anger,
Rushing through your mind,
Red is the feeling of love,
The one thing that you like the most,
Red is the feeling of embarrassment,
The colour on your face.

Red is the sound of sirens,
Racing to find you,
Red is the sound of a band,
Bold and upbeat,
Red is the sound of a fire,
Blazing like you were angry.

Red is the taste of an apple,
Crisp, crunchy and sour,
Red is the taste of tomatoes,
All in different shapes and sizes,
Red is the taste of cooked meat,
Solid and chewy.

Red is the sight of blood,
Gushing when someone is hurt,
Red is the sight of Christmas,
Holly berries and Santa's suit,
Red is the sight of ivy,
During the Autumn days.

By Alex Batchelor (L7S)

WHAT IS GOLD?

Gold is the winner, not second place.
Gold is the colour that makes you feel ace
Gold is the colour of the ring on my hand
Gold is the colour of the big brass band
Gold is the colour that make you want more
Gold is the colour of the shiny new ring
Gold is the colour of the bell that goes ding
Gold is the sound of the whistle at full time
Gold is the colour of the medal that will be mine
Gold is the sunset in the sky
Gold is the crust of my crisp steak pie
Gold is the colour of a tombstone
Gold is the colour of a valuable stone
Gold is the treasure in the chest
Gold is the colour that makes you feel best.

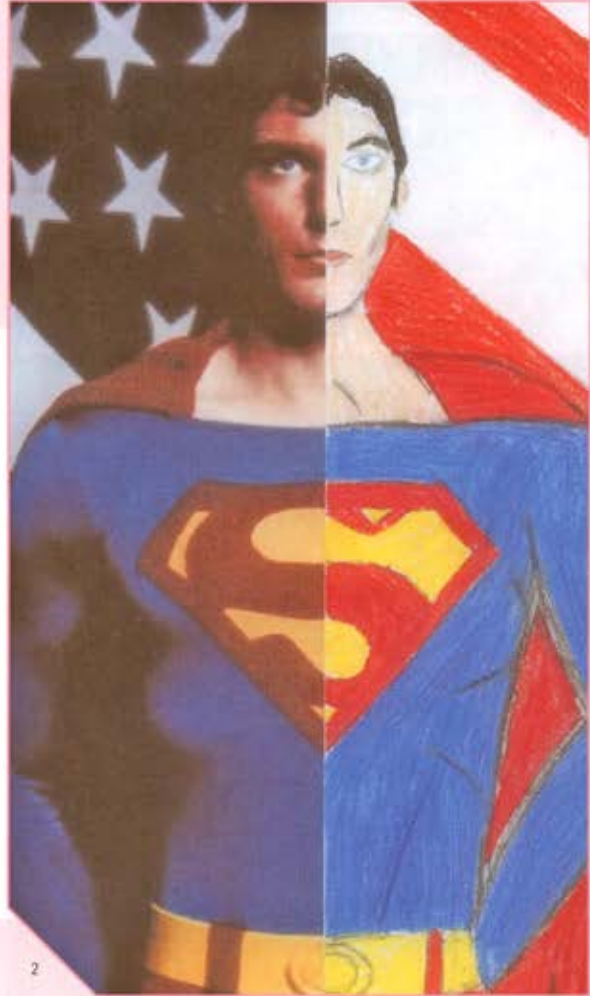
By Alistair Lynch L7S

EXPLORING TONE AND COLOUR

We used photographs from old magazines and newspapers to help us with our work on tone and colour. We cut photographs in half and completed them using pencils, colouring pencils and/or pastels.



1



2

[1] Ben Flack L75

[2] Rebecca Reid L75



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORTS

L4 SCIENCE - SUMMER TERM

FLOWERING PLANTS

For our Science topic this term we studied 'Flowering Plants'. Mrs. Halliwell gave us lots of information about growing things and then we grew our own seeds. First of all we grew nasturtiums, called 'Tom Thumbs'. These grew very fast in the hot classrooms so we took them home to flower.

Then we made some 'hedgehogs'. -I know what you're thinking, you can't make hedgehogs, but these weren't the sort of animal you would find creeping around in the garden. Oh no, these were grass hedgehogs!

To make these spiky friends we had to go raiding our cupboards and drawers to find old socks. We also needed water, soil, grass seeds, buttons and googly eyes.

First we mixed the seeds and the soil and put it into the socks and watered them with Mrs. McCabe's help. Then we made them more attractive by sticking on buttons for a nose and googly eyes.

The grass 'hair' started to grow very soon. We waited until it was quite long, then we had great fun giving them a 'hair-cut'. They all looked great so we took them home.

By Adam Powrie (L4)



1

[1] The Viking Ship Challenge

[2] Flowering Plants-Hedgehogs



2

THE F4 VIKING SHIP CHALLENGE

A Viking ship race over the "Atlantic Ocean" was held by L4. Everyone got two days to make their ships in technology. There were sticks, corks, bottles, paper, rubber ducks and all the junk you could think of to make the ships!

Time was ticking and every person was building away, creating their own designs.

The time finally came as each L4 got called out one by one. The timer started and stopped. We all heard our results. The fastest time was 6.4 seconds! Round about 15 ships capsized and 3 sank. Two ships never got there at all and travelled around the world in 80 to 180 seconds. Some were well built and some were a little rusty. The winners and the ships that most looked like Viking ships got certificates.

We all had a fun and exciting time on a beautiful sunny day, instead of being in the classroom.

Olivia Tait (L4)

NATIVITY PLAY

The 2004 Nativity saw Little Red Riding Hood going off in search of 'the best story in the world'. After encounters with Tinkerbell, Goldilocks, Sleeping Beauty, an evil witch and a terrifying Big Bad Wolf amongst others, she at last arrived in Bethlehem to witness the Nativity. This was a colourful, exciting production enjoyed by children and audience alike.



JUNIOR SPORTS

SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

8 AND UNDER BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Adam Powrie	Airlie	1st
Alexander Fagerson	Lindore	2nd
Alasdair Rennet	Airlie	3rd

8 AND UNDER GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Molly Duncan	Airlie	1st
Karyn Joss	Wallace	2nd
Jenna Low	Aystree	3rd

9 AND UNDER BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Paul Adamson	Wallace	1st
Callum Rennet	Airlie	2nd
Harris Brown	Airlie	3rd

9 AND UNDER GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Ailsa Johnstone	Airlie	1st
Natasha Henderson	Wallace	2nd
Georgina Black	Aystree	3rd

10 AND UNDER BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Peter Vannet	Wallace	1st
Callum Strachan	Wallace	2nd
Fraser Milne	Lindores	3rd

10 AND UNDER GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Jennifer Allan	Aystree	1st
Lucy Abel	Airlie	2nd
Holly Maxwell-Stevenson	Airlie	3rd
Morgan Hutchison	Wallace	3rd

11 AND OVER BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Jamie Milne	Lindores	1st
Chris Mutimer	Lindores	1st
Finlay Redford	Wallace	3rd

11 AND OVER GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Eilidh Campbell	Lindores	1st
Kathryn McIntosh	Aystree	2nd
Lauren Clayson	Wallace	3rd

INTERMEDIATE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Greig Wilkinson	Wallace	1st
Scott Clayson	Wallace	1st
Matthew Powrie	Airlie	3rd

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Marianne Dobson	Airlie	1st
Claire Stirling	Lindores	2nd
Katie Maxwell	Lindores	3rd

SENIOR BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Michael Adamson	Wallace	1st
Mark Clayson	Wallace	2nd
Colin Goudie	Airlie	3rd

SENIOR GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	HOUSE	PLACE
Judith Kilgallon	Lindores	1st
Katie Ferguson	Lindores	2nd
Alison Leckie	Aystree	3rd

JUNIOR SCHOOL NETBALL REPORT

This has been another successful and enjoyable year for the girls participating in the Tuesday and Wednesday evening netball sessions.

Fun netball continued with Mrs Goddard organising skills practice and games. In the second term the season finished with a mini tournament which was great fun for everyone involved.

Both the L6 and L7 teams worked very hard throughout the year with the L7 girls entering the Dundee Primary Schools' Winter League and Primary 7 Knock-out Tournament and the L6 girls playing in the Primary 6 Knock-out Tournament. The L7s won all the games in their section of the Winter League and reached the final where they met Downfield and Blackness. The games were tough but the girls managed to win both and lifted the shield for the second year running.

In the second term they played very well during the knock-out tournament and overcame nerves in the final to win the Kennedy Cup. The L6 squad continued this run of success by winning the Miss Ward Trophy for their knock-out tournament. They played with determination and won their final game against Blackness, 6 goals to 2.

We had a sponsored netball shooting event to raise money for the Ward Road Gym renovation and the Primary 6 and 7 girls who entered shot well and made £585 to help with the work.

In the third term there were no netball practices because we were all involved with rehearsals for the musical but we did play a game against the staff at the end of the term. We managed to keep our unbeaten record by drawing and the final score was 5-5. It was a lot of fun and a good end to the year.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs Docherty for all the effort she put in to coaching us throughout the year and thank you also to Mrs Goddard for helping and encouraging the girls in her fun netball club. We would also like to thank our parents for their great support during our games at Ward Road Gym.

Good luck to everybody involved in the netball next year.

Lauren Clayson L7, Rosie Morgan L7



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORTS

DALGUISE TRIP



L7 TRIP TO PARIS

On the 18th March at 8:45pm, the L7 pupils set off for France by coach. Everyone was very excited. We travelled for a few hours and then at midnight we went to sleep. When we woke we stopped to have our breakfast and then drove to Dover where it was very foggy. The ferry took a long time but eventually reached Calais! Four hours later we reached Paris and our hotel.

Sunday 20th

We drove to Montmatre and we walked up the steps at Sacre Couer and had caricatures or portraits drawn. Next were the Bateaux Mouches which sailed along the Seine where we saw many famous buildings. After that we went up the Eiffel Tower and we had an amazing view of Paris. On the night tour we saw the Eiffel Tower lit up and the colours of the Olympic rings on buildings and bridges.

Monday 21st

We were allowed to go to Disneyland all day! The rides were

great and everyone had a brilliant time.

Tuesday 22nd

During our trip round Versailles we saw the beautiful gardens and rooms. In the afternoon we swam at Aqua Boulevard and we went on all the flumes. At night we had a disco in the hotel which was good fun.

Wednesday 23rd

We departed France through the Euro Tunnel. Everyone was very tired. We stopped off at a service station for our tea before travelling the last part of the journey. At 2 o'clock in the morning of the 25th we arrived at school.

The teachers were a great help and we would like to say "thank you" to them all. We all had a fantastic time in Paris and we would love to go again!

By Lauren Clayson

DALGUISE TRIP

As soon as the bus drove through the gates of Dalguise and we peered out of the windows to see the mansion house, we knew we were going to have a great time! Our 'Groupies' gave us a tour of the amazing grounds of Dalguise and then showed us to our chalets which slept 4 - 6 people. We quickly unpacked and then we had our first evening activity called Capture the Flag. This was heaps of fun and tired us out ready for bedtime.

The next morning we awoke with great excitement as we were looking forward to our first daytime activity. There were many on offer but our favourites were The Challenge Course, where we turned into MUD MONSTERS, The Catwalk, which included a boost of confidence to those who had a fear of heights but managed to reach the first log, the Trapeze, for those who like flying into mid air, the Giant Swing, where you can touch the clouds, and the Zip Wire that goes so fast you feel like a jet plane.

Unfortunately the weather got worse nearer the end of our week so some activity groups did not go to the beautiful Loch Tay for Kayaking but instead went Mountain Biking around the Dalguise grounds and Abseiling down the Abseil Tower!

Although we had heard bad tales about the food from other year groups we enjoyed our meals and after a day packed full of energetic things to do we were really hungry. If we left enough room, there was always the tuck shop to stock up on supplies for later in the chalets.



'Evening Activities' included games of Capture the Flag, Dalguise Cluedo, the Talent Show and of course the Disco on our final night. They were all brilliant fun and a great way to end the day! Time flew by and before we knew it, it was Friday and we couldn't bear to leave! We waved goodbye to our Groupies and the instructors as the coach headed back to Dundee but we also had wonderful memories to bring home with us.

Dalguise is a centre full of excitement and adventure and it was definitely the highlight of our L6 year!

By Joanna Tait L6G and Jenny Allan L6D

JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORTS

HOCKEY REPORT

The Junior School Hockey squad first comes together in September when around 25 L6 and 7 girls meet after school on a Friday to train on the astro-turf at Mayfield. With developing basic skills and having fun being the main focus at this stage, the girls worked very hard and enthusiastically. With Mrs Stott's excellent advice and ideas the girls were keen to play their first game. Our initial match was against Powrie Primary school in October which we won and gave us a great boost to keep practising and be part of the fun. After the October break we moved indoors for training on a Monday night when Mrs Hutchison took over coaching and spurred the girls on with her enthusiasm. We played six more games from November to March and also two tournaments. Of the six games we won one more and lost the other five but the girls consistently played with determination and fantastic team spirit.

The tournaments gave the girls a great opportunity to play against a range of different players and ages and proved to be really enjoyable and worthwhile. One of these was an Internal Tournament at Mayfield against the Form 1 Girls. The L6/7 girls gave the other teams a bit of a fright as they played cohesively and with determination. The second tournament was in March at George Watson's College. With around 25 schools taking part, a very much depleted side and no substitutes available, the team was unsure of how they would fair but they did brilliantly, coming third in their group and just missing out on the quarter finals. The 2004/5 Junior School hockey season gave rise to great skills development and a lot of fun and friendship. Thanks very much to Mrs P Stott, Mrs J Hutchison, Mrs I Goddard and Mrs H Graham for their help at various times during the season.

Miss A Wheatley



L6 VISIT FROM THE CLANSMEN

In addition to the L6 History project this year, Mrs Docherty organized a special visit from members of the White Cockade Society to demonstrate what life would have been like for a Jacobite soldier in the eighteenth century.

We knew we were in for a treat as soon as three men burst through the door of the hall. They were bearing swords and screaming at the tops of their voices, breaking the calm silence. Immediately they started to perform an exciting sword fight which amazed us all.

After their terrific entrance, they introduced themselves as John, Craig and Glen, all men who have a great interest in the Jacobite period of History.

John began to talk to us about Highland life and the typical weapons used during times of battle. We found out how to hold and handle the broadsword and claymore and what effect it would have on the opponent. This was rather gory!

To explain about the Highlander's clothing, they were dressed in plaids which looked great but then several children were picked from the audience to also be dressed in tartan which was very amusing. It did not take them long to do this but it would have taken us ages to get dressed if we had been left to do it ourselves.

We think we can speak for everyone when we say we thoroughly enjoyed their visit and we hope that they come again to give others such a valuable experience.

Ruth Batchelor and Rajiv Nathwani L6W



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORTS

STIRLING CASTLE AND BANNOCKBURN

6TH MAY 2005

Yesterday, at 9am, we set off on our great adventure to Stirling Castle. Our class was doing Lotions and Potions and the other class was doing Henry's Kitchen. Lotions and Potions was great fun, interesting and educational. We did some calligraphy which is my favourite hobby. However, instead of using an ink pen we used a quill. Did you know the pen feathers from a goose are used for a quill? Then we did some weaving and found out how they would make coloured wool in the olden days. Then we went to Bannockburn for the best part of the day - lunch!! After that we went to see the statue of the great Robert the Bruce. Then we went into the Bannockburn Centre. There was a Scottish foot soldier giving a talk which was educational and very, very funny. Then we went and saw a very interesting, historic and bloodthirsty video about Bannockburn. After that I looked around the centre. It had real calthrops and you got to try on a suit of chainmail and a helmet. It was very interesting and I would go back any time.

Alexander Fagerson (L5C)

PRIMARY ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Not only have our Junior School pupils performed with excellence this year, our popular classroom auxiliaries. Mrs. Audrey McCabe and Mrs. Gill McLean have been doing likewise. Audrey and Gill have just completed a year long course leading to a national certificate, Classroom Assistant P.D.A.

Throughout the course they studied many child-centred topics such as Child Development, Child Protection and Supporting the Wellbeing of the Pupil. Along with these they examined the Role of the Classroom Assistant, the Width and Breadth of the Curriculum and Supporting the Classroom Teacher. Both ladies found the course interesting and invaluable to their work in the Junior school.

The course shows the commitment of our staff to the development of the children.

The photograph shows the happy duo with their certificates which they received at a presentation in the Caird Hall on the 17th June.



THE HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE RAINBOW UNIT

The year has been a busy one for the High School Rainbows and we welcomed nine new girls into the unit during the year.

We, as a unit, keep in touch with an elderly lady (in her 90's!) who is in a nursing home in Edzell. This makes the point about thinking of others and consideration for older people. We have sent her cards of various kinds – Christmas, Easter and a Valentine's card. We are very fortunate as, despite her age, she is very willing to respond to the girls and writes lovely letters back to them. Our friend is marvellous as she manages to make her letters very relevant for children and often amusing.

At Christmas time our friend in Edzell sent the Rainbows a card depicting a fairy. This actually provided the stimulus for our next Rainbow project which proved to be both popular and fun. Rainbow aged girls enjoy all things connected to fairyland! We had so many fairy ornaments brought in for Rainbow Chat/Show and Tell time! We made fairy dolls from card to hang in a window, danced to music suitable for fairies and engaged in drama on a fairy theme. It was great fun.

Other craft activities we involved ourselves with included making a Valentine's card and a pretty card for Mother's Day.

Around Easter time found us following a trail of clues. We arrived at a classroom with a table set out for an Easter treat – vase of daffodils, basket of sweet chocolate eggs and an Easter card for each of the girls.

In the weeks leading up to summer we involved ourselves with the theme of Nature - an attempt to raise the girls' awareness and appreciation of the world around them. They made posies of yellow daffodils and white carnations to give to their mothers and coloured lovely daffodil pictures. On the theme of plant growth they planted cress (in a cup with a drawn face so that it would look like a shock of green hair!) They also did a little drama on the theme of seed growth, read (collectively) a seed growing poem and had a story read to them about the progress of a sunflower seed from planting to full height. The girls engaged in stone painting – transforming seashore rocks into red and black ladybirds. This minibeast theme lead on to considering the cycle of growth from caterpillar to butterfly and making butterfly bookmarks.

We also had an outing to the Pancake Place in town as an edible treat for the girls at the conclusion of a busy and active session with the High School of Dundee Rainbow Unit. I should like to thank Mrs Cargill and Mrs Mooney for all their good ideas and valuable help with the High School Rainbows.

Miss M. Cardno



JUNIOR SCHOOL REPORTS

2ND DUNDEE (DHS) BROWNIES

During the past year The High School Brownies have actively and enthusiastically participated in numerous activities and undertaken a wide variety of Brownie badges.

The 'Artist' badge and other 'whole pack' badges always keep the girls busy, and it has been pleasing to see them working together so well. For their 'World Travellers' badge each Brownie made a postcard and an individual passport which was beautifully decorated with a scene from four of their own favourite destinations. They also had to learn a few French words before packing a bag with essential items suitable for an overnight sleepover.

For our Thinking Day meeting we decided upon India as our chosen country. Each six created an Indian themed table and talked with interest about the food, objects and souvenirs which they had on display. This was followed by a visit from our District Commissioner, Frances Dent, who came to talk about her trip to India with her family. We all enjoyed the interesting slide show, kindly shown by her son Tony. Mrs Dent also brought in the most beautiful Sari which we thought was extremely long and would take forever to put on!

Individual badges are worked on, both in and out of Brownie hours. These have included the ever popular swimmers and hostess badges. Parents are always pleased when their 'Brownie' completes her 'Home Skills' badge. Also awarded to some individual Brownies were the 'Horse Riding' and 'Friends to Animals' badges. We are always cheerfully entertained when a Brownie performs in front of us all to achieve her 'Jesters' badge.

Brownies were given Smartie tubes which they filled with small coins in aid of the Guiding Netherud Fund. The L5 Brownies showed their prowess in the kitchen to acquire their 'Cooks' badge and at their last meeting they thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Sensation Science Centre.

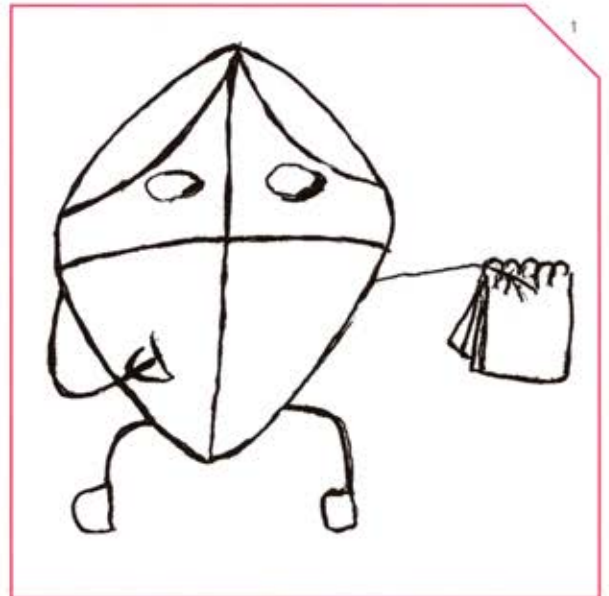
We have, as always, enjoyed our Brownie year and commend Brownies on their effort, attendance and commitment to Girl Guiding. With this in mind, a 'Best Brownie' for the year is chosen. After much deliberation, Vanessa Matthew was selected as this year's worthy winner of the coveted title. Mrs K Spalding, Brown Owl & Mrs L Smith, Assistant Guider

J-FILES

This year saw the start of a new co-curricular activity for the junior school – a magazine written and produced by the pupils themselves. A group of L4-L7 pupils were chosen to gather the contributions from the rest of the school and met once a week for an editorial conference to decide what to put in each issue.

Lots of pupils from L1-L7 sent in jokes, letters and puzzles and the magazine committee went out and about interviewing staff and pupils for some of the features which were included in the J-Files.

The magazine committee – Karyn Joss, Cameron Harrow, Louise Pattullo, Jenny Allan, Ruth Batchelor, Alistair Lynch, Anna Mackenzie and Callum Leese – enjoyed working on the magazine and hope all the school enjoyed reading it.



[1] J-Files magazine mascot, Junior.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CHESS CLUB

Session 2004/2005 has seen a huge response from L4-L7 pupils who wish to play chess, so much so that the numbers had to be divided between the first 2 terms to allow 40 players, of all abilities, to play. Another 20 had to remain on a waiting list! Term 3 saw the annual Junior Chess Tournament take place. 32 players participated, playing matches against everyone in their year group – a mammoth task for the 12 players in L4.

Worthy year group winners were Calum Hedigan (L4), Martin Lockley (L5), Oliver Baker (L6) and Benji Walker (L7). Equally deserving of mention were the runners-up, Karyn Joss (L4), Callum Rennet (L5), Fraser Docherty (L6) and Matthew Mordente and Connor Murdoch (joint L7).

The four year group winners then battled for the title of Junior School Champion and Martin emerged triumphant winning all of his games. Benji, as the runner-up, also played well winning two of his games.

L7 MINI-ENTERPRISE

The L7 Mini-Enterprise group meets every Thursday from 4pm-5pm in Miss Ramsay's room. The aim of the club is to teach children about decision making, team work, organizational skills and entrepreneurship. After much deliberation and research the children decided to make tea towels with the illustrations being designed by children from L1-L7 with all profits going to charity of the children's choice.

The tea towel is entitled "Images of the High School of Dundee". The tea towel went on sale in May and has so far raised over £300 for the charity Tayside Children with Cancer and Leukemia with a total of over £400 to hopefully be raised by the summer holidays.

COOKERY CLUB REPORT

Cookery club is an after school club for L5s. Eight people go in a group and each group gets four weeks of cooking. On the first week we made jammy biscuits. The next week we made crispy cakes. Then we made pizzas. On the last week we got a treat and made jam tarts. All the food was delicious. Everyone really enjoyed cookery club because it was fun and a great chance to try cooking for yourself. Mrs Ross and Mrs McCabe who ran the cookery club made it even more enjoyable.

By Ailsa and Louse L5D

JUNIOR MATHS CLUB

Number Crunching, Pattern Making, Shape Shifting – all just part of being a member of Junior Maths Club!

On Monday afternoon the Junior Maths Club meets to solve problems and investigate the impossible using all the skills of Maths learnt in daily lessons. Children work individually and co-operatively to produce innovative and creative solutions to a wide variety of problems. Treasure hunts, number puzzles, hidden patterns, making models and stories of the great mathematicians all provide interest and enjoyment of using the skills of Maths in unusual and intriguing ways. A must for all keen Junior mathematicians!

ST ANDREWS AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION CADETS (L7S)

For the past two terms ten pupils from L7 have been going to First Aid on a Wednesday evening from 4-5. We learnt many things including how to treat broken bones, shock and bleeding wounds. Mrs Halliwell runs First Aid and we also had great advice from Miss Cardno and Mrs Gill. Previously some of the First Aiders took part in an activity for Open Day. They had a great time. We have also recently had a first aid exam, examined by the St Andrew's Ambulance Association. We were all very nervous but we were calmed down when we were told there was a crème egg on offer! We were all really pleased with our results considering we all passed! Most of the First Aiders are thinking of doing First Aid in Senior School.

We have had a great time this year and our thanks go to Mrs Halliwell, Miss Cardno and Mrs Gill for taking their time to teach us.

Lauren Clayson – L7

TECHNO CHALLENGE

By Siobhan Chien, Katie Sadler, Mike Harley and Calum Keddle

On Thursday 3rd, March 2005, a team of four L7 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Smith, set out to compete in the St Leonard's Techno Challenge Day. When we arrived in St Andrews, we were very excited and couldn't wait for the day ahead of us. We gathered in the Entrance Hall and were given our timetable for the day.

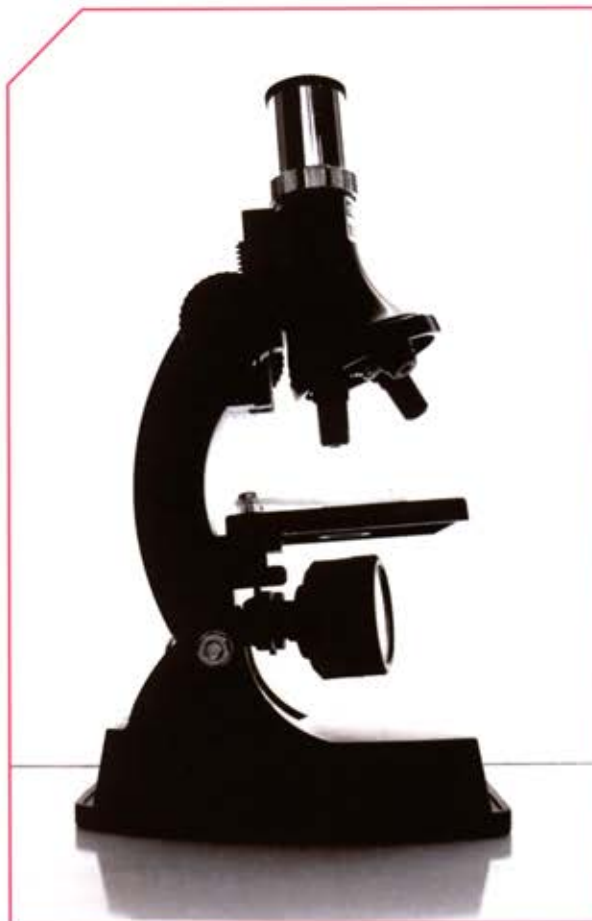
We set off to our first event, Science 1. This was to be our favourite activity and we enjoyed it greatly. We were given several materials which we had to turn into a hot air balloon. We were thoroughly pleased with the end result and we believed that we did fairly well.

The next event was ICT. Unfortunately, the computers were down, so we drew abstract animals and coloured them with vibrant designs.

Following this we set off for the Library. There were four puzzles which we had to solve in a limited amount of time. The first puzzle was a wordsearch which Calum had to complete. The second was matching flags to their countries, which Katie finished successfully. Another challenge was to match jobs to a synonym. This was done by Mike, with a little help from Katie! The last was to write down all of the Chinese zodiac animals, which was done by Siobhan. There was also a small riddle at the bottom of this puzzle which we managed to solve. We found these challenges rather difficult.

After lunch, our next challenge was Maths. This consisted of making paper aeroplanes and solving problems. One of the problems was arranging triangles so that the numbers in the corners all matched. Another challenge was to draw a circle on a chess board without making the circle go through any black squares. The last challenge was called, 'The Village Hall'. This was quite possibly the hardest challenge of them all. We also had to fly our paper aeroplanes (all beautifully made by Mike) in the corridor. The one to go the furthest was marked with a tab labeled 'High School of Dundee'.

After Maths, we moved on to start Science 2. This involved answering questions, the answers to which were on posters on the walls. During the time at Science 2, we were also taken to do a reaction test linked to a computer. We tried this several times before finally achieving our combined best score.



The last challenge of the day was the Maths Relay Race. Our team was split in two, Katie and Mike were on one side of the room and Siobhan and Calum were on the other. The boys were automatically nominated to run across the room, collecting questions, which were answered within our pairs. We answered quite a few questions, but we started to panic towards the end. This resulted in us either passing on the question or getting the wrong answer - we lost quite a few marks in this event.

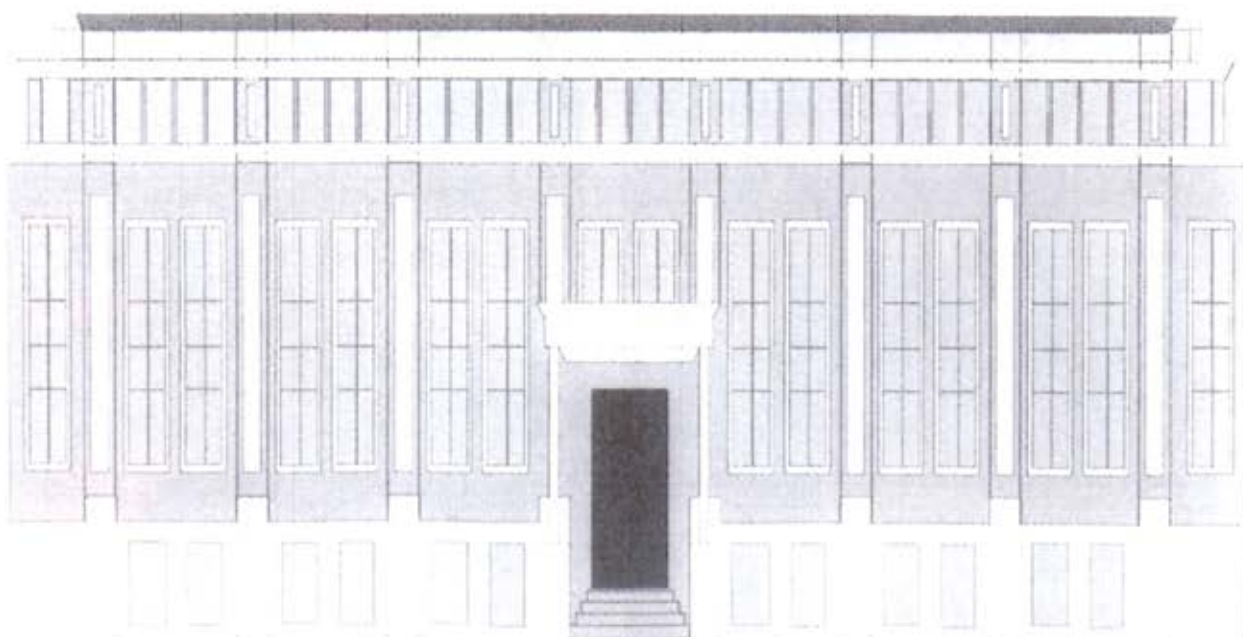
We were all very excited and eager to hear the final result. We were delighted to hear that we had come second in our category, 'larger schools'. We felt that we had worked well together as a team and achieved much more than we had expected. We all had a great time at the Techno Challenge and hope next year's L7 team enjoy the exciting challenges too.

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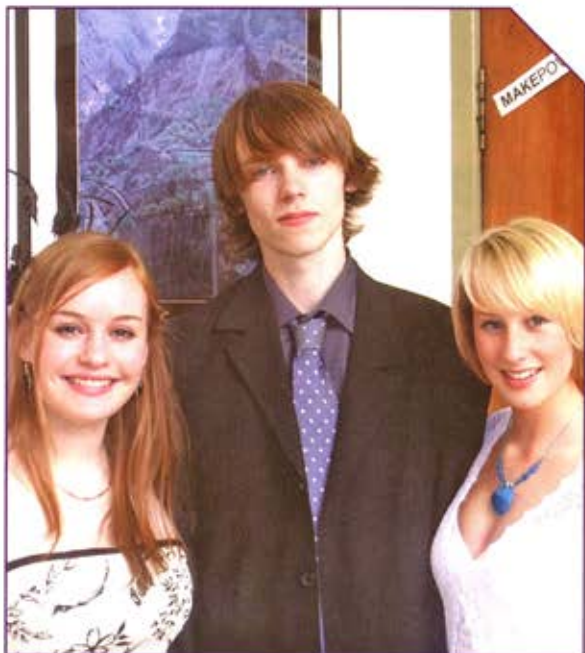


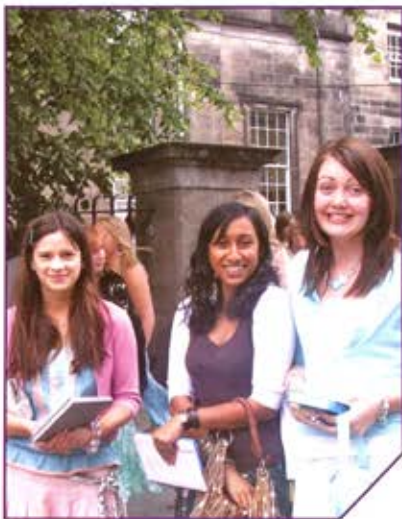
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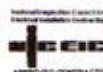
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