

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE



# REVIEW



2006

# *The Balaka*

## *Bangladeshi Restaurant*

Alexandra Place • St. Andrews • Fife KY16 9XD

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\*\*\*\*\*

Our chefs checking the herbs grown in the extensive kitchen garden at  
the back of the Balaka Restaurant. Coriander and spinach are in plentiful supply.





# CONTENTS

FOREWORDS 02 - 11

STAFF NEWS 12 - 20

## SENIOR SCHOOL

MAYFIELD OPENING 24 - 25

SPORTS DAY PULL OUT 26 - 30

SPORT REVIEWS 34 - 40

DEPARTMENT REVIEWS 42 - 70

CREATIVE WRITING 72 - 81

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

REPORTS 82 - 85

WRITING 85 - 88

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES 89 - 94

WRITING 95 - 97

## SENIOR SCHOOL

SOUND OF MUSIC 100 - 109

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES 110 - 120

ROUND THE SCHOOL 121 - 125

LEAVERS DAY 126 - 127

## EDITORIAL

Reading through the submissions for this year's Review, it has been very satisfying to be reminded of the hard work and endeavours – and the successes – of the pupils in our school. Every week throughout the year, pupils turn up to the many clubs and societies, learning and sharing skills and having fun. Abroad and at home they represent the school on various organised excursions and they are invariably excellent ambassadors for the school. In the classroom, pupils work with their teachers to achieve the very best they can in their subjects. These diverse activities are reported in this year's Review. I hope it reflects something of the pupils' talent and commitment, to their personal learning and enrichment, and to the life of the school as a whole. I hope too that you will enjoy reading about this busy year in the life of our school.

Mrs J. Phillips, Editor



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS:



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HOUSE CAPTAINS 05/06

## RECTOR'S REPORT 2006

The High School of Dundee is a community. That is not an earth shattering statement; it might be thought to be doing no more than state the obvious but in this report of Session 2005-2006 I want to suggest that the idea of the High School community encapsulates all that we do and the values and beliefs which underpin the activities of the school.

The school photograph taken earlier this year at Mayfield captured for posterity the 1200+ staff and pupils who comprise the High School. It will be a memento for all but it cannot express the complexities of how the community operates for the school is far greater than the sum of its parts.

It is right that a community should look after itself but if that were all, it would become inward looking, complacent, selfish, would lose its vibrancy and ultimately die. The school, however, can take strength from its common purpose; it can and does look outward and contributes in many different ways to other communities and the wider society.

A few weeks ago I was fortunate to attend the installation ceremony for the University of Dundee's new Chancellor, Lord Patel of Dunkeld, who was guest of honour at our 2001 Prize-giving and who is a Fellow of the High School of Dundee Foundation as well as a former parent. In introducing Lord Patel, the University's Principal and Vice Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands, said of the University that "it thought globally and acted locally". It is a phrase which has stuck in my mind for I believe that it can be adapted to describe much of what the High School strives to achieve. In educating young people we are preparing them for the wider world to which they will contribute, each in his or her

own way. But as a community we also, through our activities, look outward, become involved. The report for the year is about learning from others, contributing and participating.

Each year the staff and pupils embark upon a programme of charitable activities. This year has been no exception with over £20,000 having been raised. That is only part of the story because participation is just as important whether in the younger pupils' Teddy Bear Marathon for Guide Dogs for the Blind, in a mass skipping along with other schools for TIGR, the Junior School Talent show or the pipes and drums at Kids' Day Out organised by local Rotary Clubs. Perhaps the most memorable act in charity fundraising was Mrs Tonner's successful participation in this year's London Marathon. I congratulate and thank all members of The School's Charities Committee, pupils and staff and the Chairman, Mrs Susan Williams.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is now in its 50th year and in the school goes from strength to strength. It epitomises the values of involvement and participation. This year we had one hundred and thirteen pupils involved in the three levels. The many current members of staff, former staff and friends of the school who voluntarily help with the scheme enable our young people to enjoy and learn from this worthwhile activity.

School trips expand horizons, whether for a day or a week, at home or abroad. Paris, Italy, London, Spain, Germany, Iceland, Yorkshire, Hadrian's Wall, Hay-on-Wye are just some of the places visited. Next session there will be a music tour to Austria and the Czech Republic and a rugby tour to South Africa.

# ...RECTOR'S REPORT

Participants return with the memories but while away from Dundee they are also taking part of our community into other spheres, not least in our Spanish and German school exchanges and leave other communities, at home and abroad, with positive impressions of the school and by extension the city and our country.

A comment which is frequently made to me is how talented our pupils are, whether it be in sport, music, debating, academic competitions, acting. Developing and displaying these talents individually or collectively provides the richness of the tapestry which is part of the life of the school. The time willingly given by pupils to training, rehearsing, practising over and above academic work, combined with the expertise of staff which develops individual talent, results in the diverse mix which comprises our co-curriculum.

The Christmas and Spring concerts in the Caird Hall enable the wider public to enjoy the musical life of the school and enjoyment by both performers and audience sums up the recent outstanding production of "The Sound of Music".

Each Saturday, on average two hundred and seventy five pupils represent their school in sporting fixtures. An occasion like Prize Giving, or Sports Day Prize-Giving highlights, quite rightly, the particular success of the few. Judith Kilgallon - Scottish Swimming Champion, Eilish McColgan, selected for Scottish Schools Athletics Team, Alan Drysdale, who equalled the Dundee Schools 100m sprint record, or Jennifer Grewar, who won outstanding performance award at Dundee Schools Athletic Competition. I should like, however, to pay tribute today to the many who participate in all school activities, sporting and non-sporting, and who give of their best. Whatever level of achievement, each and every one is adding to the corporate life of the school.

I referred earlier to the co-curriculum and this session began the process of raising the profile of the myriad of activities and opportunities beyond the classroom which are a vital part of our educational provision. Under Mr Richard Toley, a Co-curricular Fair at the start of session has been introduced and the Co-curricular Union provides a formal structure through which pupils can actively make proposals for expanding our provision. The Co-curricular News provides a regular update on all activities and pupil successes and one of the unexpected consequences but, I imagine, bonuses, for many is that the Rector's end of session address can now be streamlined!

How does our academic provision fit the concept of the High School community? In our learning and teaching we are building for the future and it embraces everything we do from the first to the last day of a pupil's school education. The marvel of five year olds learning to read, to write, to count or seventeen year olds mastering the complexities of advanced higher subjects, and every step in between, is the core of all we do. One measure of success is pupil

performance in SQA examinations. In 2005 99.7% of Standard Grade passes were at Credit or General level; the pass rate of Intermediate 2 was 98% and 89% of passes were achieved at Higher in Form 5. For the second consecutive year the top Chemistry performance in the country at Higher was achieved by a High School pupil, Steven King, now Form 6 and last year's Deputy Head Girl, Cathy Jung achieved a perfect 100% in her Advanced Higher History.

These statistics hide the personal successes of so many, for it is in achieving the best of which you are capable that is the true triumph and upon which a future can be built. Our curricular provision is regularly reviewed and it is gratifying that the decline nationally in key subject areas like sciences and modern languages is not reflected in the High School.

The schools which comprise the independent sector in Scotland are part of mainstream education and as such can and do contribute collectively and individually to educational developments and initiatives to the benefit of all in the country.

One example is the valuable contribution made by High School staff to the activities of the Scottish Qualification Authority. Currently, we provide markers or moderators, setters, principal assessors, visiting examiners, scrutineers in French, German, Spanish, Chemistry, Physics, Music, Mathematics, English, History, Modern Studies, Geography, Graphic Communication, at all levels from Standard Grade to Advanced Higher. These appointments by the SQA enable our staff to contribute in a significant way to the Scottish examination system. Our pupils also benefit through the high level of expertise which is employed in preparing them for public examinations.

The Scottish Executive continues to develop the excellence agenda in Scottish Education and this term High School staff and pupils were invited to participate in the production of a DVD which is to illustrate current excellence in Scottish schools and recently HMIe paid a good practice visit to the Geography Department. The High School is one of only three independent schools participating in a review by SQA of National Qualifications. This week pupils and staff contributed to the consultation exercise.

Mrs Fletcher, Head of Physics, has been appointed to the committee of the Association for Science Education and will sit on their international committee which looks at Science Education globally. As befits a Geographer, Mrs Vannet's work on the geography curriculum is referred to in a Norwegian geography textbook and she is a recognised expert in both the independent and maintained sectors on the use of ICT in the teaching of Geography. The valuable work done by Mr David Elgin of the Mathematics Department on the Maths website and PowerPoint presentations which he has been involved in creating has resulted in his being invited to attend the Inter Authority Maths meeting in Edinburgh which is attended by all the

statistics hide the personal successes of so many, for it is in achieving the best of which you are capable that is the true triumph

Maths Advisors in Scotland for the Local Authorities.

Recently, Mrs Fiona Dakers, the School Librarian, hosted the Annual Conference of Independent Schools Librarians and she is involved with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals School Libraries Group, as editor of their newsletter.

Mr Allison, Deputy Head in the Senior School, continues to serve as an Associate Assessor with HMIE.

Next session Mr Charles Sharp, the School Bursar, takes over as Secretary of the Scottish Independent Schools Bursars Association.

As Chairman this session of the Scottish Division of the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference, I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the discussion of educational priorities UK wide and through HMC UK committee, to have kept colleagues south of the border and in Ireland and Wales abreast of current priorities in Scottish Education. The privilege of serving on the Governing Board and Management Committee of the Scottish Council for Independent Schools enables me to take part in meetings with civil servants, HMIE, politicians, the Charities Regulator and I hope extend awareness of the High School as well as bring to my work as Rector the knowledge gained from such encounters.

The major event of the session has been the completion and official opening of the Mayfield Sports Centre. It will provide a range of new opportunities in games and physical education for our pupils which will enrich the experience for the school community. As a facility it is second to none and I am glad that through outside clubs and associations, the wider community of the City of Dundee and beyond will also benefit. I congratulate the Chairman and the Directors in taking forward this major project and express my thanks to colleagues in the PE Department for their contribution to the very successful inaugural weekend.

A community changes; a school by its very nature is a place of arrivals and departures and it is true for both staff and pupils. We welcomed thirteen new members of teaching and non-teaching staff this session. At Easter Mr Mark Parlour left to become Headmaster of Wellington School in Ayr. His post as Deputy Head-Senior School was taken by Mr Roger Illsley who in turn, was replaced by Mrs Lindsay Drummond as Head of Drama. We say farewell to Mr Toley who is taking up the post of Director of Studies at Lathallan School. Miss Deborah Dickinson, Chemistry, is moving to Forfar Academy and Miss Michelle McVeigh, Drama, takes up a post in Somerset.

For the last fourteen years, Mr Stuart McCulloch, Head of Business Studies, has been a personality in school and a popular teacher. He did much to develop and sustain the reputation of the school in Young Enterprise Competitions. We wish him well in his retirement.

Also retiring is Mrs Nancy Reekie, Rector's Secretary for the last eight years. She has served the school for 15 years and I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the school but, especially to thank her personally for her good humour, her loyalty and her patience.

I cannot let this occasion pass without referring to Mrs Maggie Woodman, Head of Junior School, who will be retiring at Christmas. While not wishing to initiate premature farewells, it is fitting on this occasion to acknowledge her immense contribution in creating an identifiable Junior School.

It is very encouraging to report that demand for places in the school remains very strong. The roll will increase next session most noticeably in Junior School running counter to the demographic trends. Miss Hannah Hamilton, who joined us in February as Admissions Co-ordinator, has certainly been kept busy.

I said at the start of this report that the school was greater than the sum of the parts. I have concentrated upon the pupils and the staff. However, the parent body as a whole, the Parents' Association, The Old Boys Club, The Old Girls Club, The Foundation, and The Board of Directors all have a vital rôle to play and I thank them all for their contribution to our community. In addition I wish to thank all my colleagues – teaching and non-teaching – for their unstinting commitment and particularly my senior colleagues in both Junior and Senior School.

To those who have only recently left our school, at the end of last session: you may be leaving the community that makes up the daily life of the school but you remain part of the wider community as former pupils. Each and every one of you has played a part, large and small, in everything upon which I have reported. You have been a valued and valuable part of our community. The younger pupils will not forget your help in Junior School and we will all remember this year's Form 6 show, Confessions on the Dance Floor, which typified the initiative, commitment and talent which High School pupils can show.

Now you move on to new experiences, to new opportunities, to join new communities and to help mould them. To quote a well known musical, "Climb every mountain"; don't limit your horizons, don't just observe; whether at home or abroad you will in the years ahead make your contributions to society, globally and locally, as High School pupils have always done. I wish you well. Remember the roots from which you have sprung and think kindly of your alma mater and all of us who remain behind The Pillars.

**Mr A. Michael Duncan**

# Session 2005-2006

## FORM 6



## L 7



# PRIZE LIST

## 05/06

### JUNIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

Prize for Guitar	Duncan Strachan
Prize for Chanter	Cameron Pringle
Prize for Bagpipes	Cameron Harrow
Marshall Prize for Recorder	Alasdair Rennet
Prize for Brass	Jennifer Allan
Prize for Woodwind	Matthew Clark
Prize for Strings	Joanna Tait
Prize for Piano	Sarah-Jane Lothian
Old Girls' Prize for Piano	Vanessa Matthew
Leng Medal for Singing	Ellen Eyles
Tie for International Recognition	Harvey Leicester
Robbie Prize for Public Speaking	Lucy Arthur Adam Powrie
Stark Cup for Public Speaking	Ailsa Purdie
Special Prize for Chess	George Nassif
Russell Trophy for Chess	Calum Hedigan

### SENIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarships	Mairi Cunningham Sophie Thomson
David Anderson Prize for Enterprise Achievement "Confessions on a Dance Floor"	Emily Pringle Taylor Wylie
Leng Silver Medal for Singing	Kirsty Allison
Leng Silver Medal for Singing First Prize in Leng Gold Medal	Ross Tolland
Leng Gold Medal for Singing	Kirsty Jones
Larg Prize for Strings - Open	Douglas Dorward

HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 06

Larg Prize for Brass - Open	Stephen Fraser
Larg Prize for Piano - Open	Callum Bannister
Larg Prize for Vocal - Open	Catriona France
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble	Douglas Dorward Annie Ning Sophie Sneddon Kirsty Watson
Larg Prize for Woodwind - Open	Rhona Crichton
High School Quaich for the Best All-Round Instrumentalist Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport	Nicola Summers
Andrew K Paton Memorial Prize for All-Round Sporting Ability in Form 2 Boys	Aman Baitwal
Chris Rea Prize for Games in Form 3	Boys Allan Drysdale Frazer Reid Girls Rachael Sinclair
P Gordon Grant Trophy for Games	Andrew Wallace
Ties for International Recognition	<b>re-award</b> Nuala Black <b>re-award</b> Callum Bowie <b>re-award</b> Catriona France <b>re-award</b> David Jones <b>re-award</b> Eilish McColgan <b>re-award</b> Eleanor Matthew Neil Dewar Eilidh Firth Zoe Galloway Charlie Guest Louise King Tristan Leicester Eoghann McGregor Esther McMillan Lucy Neville Mary Reid Kevin Singh Laura Treece Jilly Vannet Kirsty Watson
Games Merit Scarf and Tie Tie for International Recognition	<b>re-award</b> Judith Kilgallon

## SENIOR SCHOOL (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

Beckingham Trophy and  
Chess Club Prize  
Intermediate Chess Club  
Trophy and Prize

Conor Ogg

A S Drummond Prizes for  
Reading and  
Public Speaking in  
Forms 1-3

(a) Jennifer Lothian  
(b) Catherine Gordon  
Kasia Thomson

London-Angus Association  
Trophy for Reading  
and Public Speaking  
G H Philip Prize for  
Reading and Public  
Speaking

Aidan Friedberg

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

Lindores

Rorie Trophy for  
the Inter-House  
Debating Competition

Airlie

Dennis J Paterson Prize  
and Trophy for the  
Best Speaker  
in the Inter-House  
Debates  
Cambridge Gavel for  
his Contribution to  
Debating

Neil Dewar

## JUNIOR SCHOOL (ACADEMIC)

### L6

Merit Prizes

Christopher Acheson  
Georgina Black  
Jakob Kroboth  
Vanessa Matthew  
Louise Pattullo  
Ailsa Purdie

### L7

Dr Rita Forrest Prize  
for Art in L7

Jessica McGoff

Walter Smith Memorial  
Prize for Drama

Chloe Anderson  
Morgan Hutchison

Hutton Prize for  
Environmental Studies

Hannah Thomson

Old Girls' Prize for  
Creative Writing in L7

Ruth Batchelor

Woodman Trophy for  
Mathematics

Sean Walker

Merit Prizes

Lucy Arthur  
Ruth Batchelor  
Donald Campbell  
Sarah Jane Dent  
Fraser Docherty  
Sarah-Jane Lothian  
Sean Walker

Old Girls' Trophy for  
All-Round Ability

Jennifer Allan

John McLennan Prize  
for Proxime Accessit

Ross Mulford

E M Stewart Prize for  
Dux of the Junior School

Joanna Tait

## SENIOR SCHOOL (ACADEMIC)

### FORM 1

Merit Prizes

Anishka Arseculeratne  
Lauren Clayson  
Callum Leese  
Alistair Lynch  
Ross Macdonald  
Anna Mackenzie  
Helen Main  
Connor Murdoch  
Calum Purdie

Alexander Mill-White  
Prize for All-Round Ability  
in Form 1 - Girls

Katie Sadler

Robertson Prize  
for Dux of Form 1 - Boys

Cameron Milne

Alexander Mill-White  
Prize for All-Round Ability  
in Form 1 - Boys

Florence Whytock  
Memorial Prize for  
Dux of Form 1 - Girls

Siobhan Chien

### FORM 2

Merit Prizes

Suzy Boath  
Duncan Fraser  
Jennifer Lothian  
Jordan McLaren  
Alex Montgomery  
Gregor Sim  
Meriel Young

Prize for All-Round Ability  
in Form 2 - Girls

Helen Coleman

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

Gordon McNicol Dick

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

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

Rachael McLellan  
Fiona Allison

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

Jenni Hagan

### FORM 3 Merit Prizes

Amy Bryan  
Marianne Dobson  
Josh Ivinson  
Ewan Macmillan  
Erin Middleton  
Matthew Powrie  
Thomas Thomson

Jane Spiller Prize  
for Dux of Form 3 - Boys

Iain Kennedy

Jane Spiller Prize  
for Dux of Form 3 - Girls

Sarah Acheson  
Lauren Pringle

### FORM 4 Merit Prizes

Victoria Beat  
Anika Chowdhury  
Rachel Coleman  
Ruth Foulis  
Caitlin McDonald  
Corinne McGowan  
Fiona McHardy  
Annie Ning  
Tracy Poon  
Shona Watson

R S L Macpherson Prize  
for Dux of Form 4

Christine Reid

### FORM 5

Baker Trade of Dundee  
Prize

Michelle McAngus

Richard Beaton Prize  
for Practical Cookery

Sophie Easton

Spankie Quaich for  
Graphic Communication

Jamie Thoms

Isabella Hunter Award  
for Art

Rebecca Wilkinson

Prize for Computing  
Studies

Varun Manthri

Prize for Higher  
Modern Studies

Shahadat Hasan

Robert Biggar Prize  
for Geography

Lynsey Nicoll

James Stevenson  
Memorial Prize for French

Andrew Gibson

Armitstead Prize  
for Spanish

Renna Mahsoub

James Stevenson  
Memorial Prize for German  
Consulate General's  
Prize for German

Rosalie Hart

Merit Prizes

Caroline Bruce  
Fiona Smith

Graeme Adamson Prize  
for Drama  
Merit Prize

Fiona McCulloch

Alan Hall Prize for  
Technological Studies  
Merit Prize

Ismael Hussein

Prize for Latin  
Merit Prize

Russell Hall

Edinburgh-Angus Club  
Prize for History  
Merit Prize

Scott Campbell

Sandy Wardlaw Trophy  
and Book Prize  
for Chemistry  
Merit Prize

Nicholas Bryan

Graeme Adamson Prize  
for Drama  
Edinburgh-Angus Club  
Prize for Classical Studies  
Merit Prize

Chloe Hall

# PRIZE LIST

## 05/06

University of Dundee Prize for Excellence in Economics Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for History Merit Prize	Andrew Blake	W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computer Studies	Allan Winter
Glenday Award for Biology J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics - Girls Caroline S Low Memorial Prize for Dux of Form 5 - Girls	Laura Treece	Sir John Leng Trust Prize for Dux in History	Jamie Foulis
JB Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics - Boys Sandy Wardlaw Trophy and Book Prize for Chemistry Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Physics E M Stewart Prize for English Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5 - Boys	Neil Dewar	William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies - Geography Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography	Mary Reid
<b>FORM 6</b> Jane Rae Prize for Home Economics	Jane Orr	Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Dux in Classical Studies	Siddharth Rajkhowa
Prize for Higher Physical Education	Grant Robertson	Eiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Modern Languages W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish	Sophie Thomson
Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Best Pupil in Higher Grade Music	Sophie Cargill	Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Dux in Latin Low Memorial Prize for English and Latin	Lucy Doogan
Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4 to 6 Caird Prize for Higher Business Management	Laura Peebles	T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science	Emily Pringle
Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Boys	Graham Beat	William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies - History William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies - English Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English	Mairi Cunningham
Mhairi Henderson Cup and Rector's Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Girls	Megan Hunter	Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics	Steven King
Dott Prize for Dux in Music	Rhona Crichton Esther McMillan	Dr John M Morgan Prizes for Service to School - Boys	Lewis McNicol
Prize for Dux of RMPS	Alison Leckie		

Bain Prizes for Service  
to School – Girls

Lucy Doogan  
Gemma Hogg  
Mandy Hon  
Alison Leckie  
Sohini Mukhopadhyay  
Ailsa Murray

Inter-House Shield  
for the Champion House

Airlie

Erskine Prize for  
Head of School - Boys

Neil Crosby

Lowson Prize for  
Head of School - Girls

Nicola Summers

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

Steven King

Associate Student  
Advanced Entry Initiative

Nuala Black  
Emily Boyd  
Lucy Gilmour  
Judith Kilgallon  
Steven King  
Susan Lawrie  
Stuart McGrath

## HISTORIC OCCASION AT THIS YEAR'S PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY...

Prize giving ceremonies are always special and this year's prize giving ceremony on 29th June was even more so, as the school presented –sixty years on – the dux medal for 1946.

Dr John Blair was a pupil at the High School when war broke out but was not presented with his medal in 1946 because wartime shortages meant that there was a lack of metal to make it.

His success was recognised at the Caird Hall when at last he received the Harris Gold Medal for Dux of School 60 years after he was first awarded his prize, to the cheers and applause of today's High School pupils.

Receiving his medal Dr Blair said, "Being a medical historian has taught me that history matters."

"History is particularly important to the High School of Dundee, and it is a reflection of the school's ethos of dignity and goodwill that they are presenting me with this gold medal after a break of 60 years.

"Few schools would be kind enough to make this gesture and I am grateful to all those at the High School who have made it possible for me to secure a piece of my own personal history."



The school's Rector, Mr. Duncan said, "To be named dux of the school is the highest academic achievement during your school career, and I am delighted that we can finally honour Dr Blair's success with the presentation of the Harris gold medal.

"This is a tremendously exciting day for all of us at the school, and certainly an occasion to go down in our history."

A consultant surgeon at Perth Royal Infirmary from 1965-1990, Blair now holds an honorary teaching post at Dundee University. He is also vice-president emeritus of the International Society for the History of Medicine, only the second Briton to have achieved this honour.

# STAFF NEWS

## NEW ADDITIONS TO STAFF



### Jonathan Christie

Jonathan was born near St Andrews in the early 1970s – he refuses to be any more specific than this. After short stints living (“getting dragged around the country”) in Cupar, Glenrothes, Selkirk and finally Edinburgh, Jonathan studied for and was awarded a B.Eng (Hons) in Software Engineering at Napier University.

He started working in ICT with Telford College over 10 years ago in a variety of positions: database systems/applications programmer, web developer, web/database administrator, systems/network administrator and finally as ICT Project Manager, before joining the staff of the High School as Director of ICT during last session, where he has already made his mark by coping with several minor and major crises in the system in his usual cool-headed and efficient manner.

When not working, Jonathan is kept busy “acting like a big kid”. He explains, “Adults are only kids, with more money”. As a fully paid up big kid then, Jonathan indulges in games consoles (PCs are strictly for work!) and gadgets (as his desk will testify). As a season ticket holder for Hibernian FC, most other weekends involve football (and socialising!). Jonathan enjoys travelling and the last year has seen an increase in travelling (mostly football related) with trips to Vilnius, Rhodes, Cork and Dublin, Essen and Prague!



### Hannah Hamilton

Hannah Hamilton joined the High School in February, as our first in-house Press Officer in the School’s 770-year history. Hannah, who also takes over the rôle of Admissions Co-ordinator from Nancy Reekie, previously worked as the School’s press officer with local company Prospect PR. She has also spent time working as a radio journalist since graduating from the University of Dundee in 2000.

As the first point of contact for prospective parents and journalists, Hannah is being kept busy learning as much as possible about the High School of Dundee – a task that she says has been made much easier by the friendliness of all the staff and pupils.

Hannah spends far too much of her spare time helping out at her local riding stables, where she does just enough teaching to be able to sympathise with her new colleagues! She also enjoys gardening, and nurtures a secret ambition to win a Biggest Onion competition.



### Gillian Alexander

Born and brought up in Edinburgh, Gillian decided that primary teaching was the job for her. She came to Dundee where she studied for a BEd (hons) in primary teaching. Although she really enjoyed all the placements during her time at the college, she particularly enjoyed her final one at the High School of Dundee and, as a consequence, she was pleased to start as a "proper teacher" here this session.

Gillian has really enjoyed her first class of L6 children and says that she can't believe how quickly the year has gone. As she says herself, "It must be a case of time flies when you're having fun!" She is particularly appreciative of the fact that everyone in the Junior School has made her feel so welcome.

In her spare time Gillian enjoys swimming, walking and going to the cinema, although I suspect the choice of films in Dundee doesn't quite match up to the diversity offered in her home city of Auld Reekie.



### Morven Jones

Morven joined the English Department in August 2005. Although she was born in Inverness, she had lived for the majority of her life in North - East Fife and attended Waid Academy. Graduating from Glasgow University in 1998, Morven trained as a Department Manager for the John Lewis Partnership and worked as a marketing officer for a leading charity for the blind before training as a teacher at Moray House. She has worked in two Fife schools.

Morven takes an active role in all debating activities and lists among the highlights of her first year at HSD, watching the debaters compete in the House of Lords and the Scottish Parliament. Out of school Morven is a keen gardener and lives with her partner, a piano tuner, her daughter, Amy, and two lively Siamese cats.

### Euan Jack

Most of you will remember reading a feature about Euan Jack in a previous copy of The Review when he made a brief appearance at the High School, only to leave us for pastures new ... in Euan's case some of those pastures were Antipodean! Well, he wisnae awa' tae bide awa' and we welcome Euan back to school after his world travels last year. He lists his new interests as classic Australian wine-tasting and sheep shearing; let's hope not at the same time! It's good to have him back on board where I'm sure he will prove to be a real asset to the school. It's a warm welcome back to Mr Jack!

### Colin Gracie

Colin joins the School to work in our new sports complex at Mayfield. Colin is a sportsman, running two boys' football teams, as well as being a qualified referee. He is now established as part of our excellent team at the new facility, where his experience is a valuable asset to the High School's forward looking sports project.



### Lynsey McCulloch

August 2005 saw the arrival in HSD of Lynsey McCulloch, who teaches French and Spanish in the Modern Languages Department, and who single-handedly saw to it that the average age of Modern Languages teachers reduced spectacularly!

Lynsey has been a very welcome addition to the staff, showing real dedication to her classes and also getting involved in the wider life of the school. She has worked extensively with the D of E Award scheme and has given great support to the Sound of Music cast and crew in her roles in Wardrobe and Makeup. In addition, she led the most recent leg of the Spanish exchange, successfully bringing home 15 pupils and Mrs Seith.

The Department is unanimous in hoping that Lynsey will remain with us in the High School for a long time to come, and that she will not be spirited – or even helicoptered – away...

### Jason McAuley

Jason joined us at the High School in August 2005 as supply Brass Instructor and in April 2006 he joined as permanent staff.

Originally from County Down in Northern Ireland, Jason came over to Scotland in 1992 to study at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. After graduating he founded "The New Scottish" – a music charity which includes two choirs, an orchestra, a youth education programme, a summer camp, a youth orchestra and a funk band!

Although Jason remains Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of The New Scottish - his life of the roaming, random musician has been dramatically cut back and with two young boys it was time to settle down and get a "proper job" (according to his Dad!).

Jason moved to Dundee with his family to be near his in-laws (for extra babysitting) and taught Brass with Dundee City Council until starting at the High School.

Jason insists he does not have any spare time because of family life and various musical commitments, yet he still manages to play golf, snooker, squash and football occasionally!

### Allan Stewart

Allan left Harris Academy in 1992 to work at the University of Dundee Botanic Gardens. He served four years as an apprentice gardener, then graduated to glasshouse work and displays, during which time he gained an HNC in horticulture and glasshouse care. Since then, he has worked in several landscaping companies as well as turning his hand to driving taxis (mainly airport transfers) which he says he enjoyed, but the long and antisocial hours took their toll and he joined us at the High School earlier in the session.

Allan lives in Invergowrie, is a father of three and his hobbies include football, ice-hockey and spending time with his children. He is also a Dundee United fan and swells the ranks of 'black and tangerine' on the janitorial staff. Allan says that he tries to get to as many games as he can.

# STAFF NEWS

## STAFF FAREWELLS

### Richard Toley

After graduating at Lampeter University in 1995, Richard first joined the History Department as a student teacher. Four further years teaching at Merchant Taylors' in Liverpool convinced him that Dundee wasn't as bad as it seemed and he rejoined the Department in 1999.

Richard soon established himself as a valued and popular teacher with staff and pupils alike, proving that insanity should be no bar to the teaching profession. He introduced Toley mayhem at Mayfield through his legendary Bannockburn re-enactment, piloted the Departmental website, initiated the Berlin trip, and introduced the American Civil War to the syllabus.

Richard also made an immense contribution to the school's co-curricular program, notably coaching the Colts to an unbeaten season in 2002 and the semi-finals of the Scottish Schools cup in 2004. He also made a highly valued contribution to the school's CCF and his work in these areas was recognised when he was appointed Co-Curricular Director in 2004.

Richard now moves on to new challenges as Director of Studies at Lathallan School. He will also be settling in to married life with Igg, after their wedding in October. Hopefully these demands will still leave time for him to indulge his passions for Warhammer, Lego, Origami and collecting railway pictures. From all at Dundee High, we wish you every success and happiness in the future.



# STAFF NEWS

## STAFF FAREWELLS



### Stuart McCulloch

Stuart McCulloch could have had no idea when he started off as a machine minder in Templeton's Carpet Factory, Glasgow, that he would end his working life as Head of Business Studies at a private school. A bit of an original himself, no doubt Stuart rubbed shoulders with some of the original "slab boys" during his time there. His job was to look after the "ripper" machine which he affectionately dubbed "Jack". However, minding a machine was a tedious pursuit for someone of Stuart's mercurial temperament, so he gravitated towards the halls of academe and Heriot-Watt University where he studied Economics, an experience which, he confesses, he found only marginally less boring!

He pirouetted away from the academic stage to become Demand Analyst for the Ballet Equipment Section in DAKS, Glasgow. Stuart claims that the guys and gals at the Bolshoi owe the tilt in their tutus and the pointes of their pumps to the Govan factory! After two years of balancing the ballerina books, Stuart's career made a volte-face and he headed for Jordanhill Teacher Training College. He became a lecturer in Lewis Castle College, where he taught for three years, before heading off to more exotic climes as an Economist for Shell. During his four years with the multi-national oil giant, he worked in London, The Hague, Muscat, Port Harcourt (Nigeria), Mali, Niger and Saudi, to name but a few.

He returned to teaching and to Scotland to lecture at Dundee College for six years, before being persuaded to join the High School as Head of Business Studies and Economics, where he says he has worked for one hundred and thirty seven years! Just feels like it, eh, Stuart? Originally, he intended to stay for five years but he has actually been with us for fifteen. While he has been at the High School, Stuart has had a huge impact, initiating the London and New York trips which were a regular feature for many years, as well as running the Young Enterprise Scheme, which was also a great success both within the school and in the local community. However, the image of Stuart that remains indelibly imprinted on our minds is the hilarious rôle he played in the 2005 School Play, "Oliver Twist". Be-wigged and bedazzling, Stuart hammed it up as Oliver's benefactor, Mr Grimwig and stole the show!

His parting shot to us all?, "2006 – To infinity and beyond!"



## Nancy Reekie

Nancy says that she can remember her first day at the High School vividly and that, at the time, she didn't think for a minute she would still be here fifteen years later.

For the first half of her time at the High School she was classed as a Secretarial Assistant and was based in the Rector's Secretary's Office / General School Office which is the room now occupied by Mrs McDonald. As Nancy says, the comparison between the offices now and then is hard to describe!

In 1998 she became the Rector's Secretary / Admissions Secretary and, at the same time, the central offices area in the Main Building was updated and refurbished. Where the Rector used to have his office became her office (to quote Nancy, "What a difference!") and what was the Boardroom was transformed into the Rector's Office.

Nancy says that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time as Rector's Secretary. Again, in her words, "No two days have ever been the same." She says that she'll miss the friendly banter, but not miss the early starts! Nancy is very much an afternoon person.

Nancy is looking forward to retirement. She has nothing definite planned; she wants to allow herself a few months to relax and then she'll "take it from there".

We wish Nancy a happy and relaxing retirement. Many of us, not just the Rector, have good cause to be grateful to her for the work she's done for the school over her time here.



## Michelle McVeigh

Michelle has only been with us for a short while but her sunny disposition and dedicated work with Drama classes have left a lasting impression on staff and pupils. Michelle says that she would like to thank everyone for making her feel "incredibly welcome" – especially Roger Illsley whose help, she says, has been "both inspirational and invaluable". Michelle states that she feels "genuinely privileged" to have had such a positive experience in her first teaching post; we, in turn, feel privileged to have had her working with our pupils. Before starting at the High School she was in two minds about whether to pursue a teaching or performing career, but she says that she has enjoyed it so much, that now she has no doubt and that teaching will be her chosen career.

As from July she will no doubt be privileged to witness some of the world's finest combine-harvesters as she will be starting a new adventure in a full time position teaching Drama at Heathfield Community School, in Somerset ("cider-county!" as Michelle puts it).

Michelle's final words to the High School are as follows: "I whole-heartedly wish all the students that I have encountered in the past few months the best of luck for the future. Work hard, follow your dreams, and above all have fun!"

To reply on their behalf, I'm sure we all wish Michelle every success in her own "field of dreams" down in Somerset.



### MARK PARLOUR

Mark Parlour joined the High School in August 1998. He was previously Head of Computing at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen and his initial remit as an Assistant Rector was to develop and implement a policy of expansion in information technology throughout the school.

He brought to this task intellectual rigour, a depth of knowledge of the technical side of ICT, a sound business outlook and unbounded enthusiasm. During his time in the High School he successfully established the ICT structure which we have today.

Mark has never been someone to shy away from a challenge and brought to each area of responsibility which he was given the same dedication he showed when dealing with ICT issues. He has always set himself the highest standards and sought the best solution to a problem. Second best was never an option. For some time he was responsible for outdoor education and helped formulate policy. His own wide range of outdoor interests and professional expertise made him an ideal person to take over the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in the High School. The current strength of the scheme in the school is due in no small part to his commitment.

On the retirement of David Holmes, Mark took on responsibility for the curriculum and timetabling and mastered the complexities in a remarkably short time. Electronic compilation of school reports was an initiative which he also brought to fruition.

All that he did for the school was combined with a cheerfulness and willingness to offer assistance to others. For those of us for whom a computer remains something of a mystery, Mark was always the first port of call and he could always solve the problem – great or small.

Now he has achieved the ambition of running his own school. He will give to Wellington School in Ayr the same enthusiasm and commitment which he brought to the High School. We thank him and wish him and his wife, Daphne, every success in their new life.



### Debbie Dickinson

Debbie Dickinson joined the Chemistry Department of the High School of Dundee after doing her probationary year at Braeview Academy so, in her words, the High School was her "first proper job". While she was with us she has helped out with Netball Club with Form 1 – although she admits to "... leaving Donna to do this on her own again!" She also helped with Bronze Duke of Edinburgh and "experienced an expedition" – although, as Debbie says, "One was enough." She is off to Forfar Academy. We wish her well and hope she thrives in her new post.

# ADDITIONAL STAFF NEWS

## Staff News Extra

### Additional Staff News:

The Music Department has been particularly busy this year. Ms Kate Sharp has been providing cover for two terms and will stay on this session and we will also be joined by Ms Susan Cook who will take over as piano teacher next session. Ms Mary Neave, who was teaching piano at the school, left after Term 1; also leaving the Music Department are Ms Alison Dowel (brass) and Ms May Halyburton (double bass).

Mrs Catherine Kirkpatrick has joined Mrs Maxwell and Mrs Burt in the Learning Support Department. Miss Caroline Pearce leaves as Catering Manager and Ms Margaret Dodero has now taken on this vital rôle of "feeding the troops"!

We wish all those who are leaving success and happiness and warmly welcome all new members of the staff to the High School community.

### New Appointments:

What with all the comings and goings, we must not forget those members of staff who remain with us but "wearing a different hat" as it were.

Roger Illsley, formerly Head of Drama, was appointed Deputy Head, Senior School and has been in post since April 2006, when Mark Parlour left us to begin as Head at Wellington. Lindsay Drummond was appointed Head of Drama and took over from Roger in June 2006, on her return from maternity leave. It's been a period of dramatic change for that department!

On the retirement of Stuart McCulloch, Anne-Louise Laing was appointed Head of Business Studies and, with the departure of Richard Toley, Gordon Rennet has taken on the job of coordinating Co-curricular activities while maintaining his responsibility as Head of Modern Studies.

We offer congratulations and wish our colleagues every success in their new posts.

### Hatches and Matches:

There are one or two High School teachers with happy events to celebrate this year.

First of all, we would like to give our best wishes to Lee Mathewson who, after her marriage on 1st April this year, is now Lee Craig.

Wedding bells were also ringing out for a "very High School" wedding this summer. Miss Morag Keenan and Mr John Mordente married at Dundee parish church, Saint Mary's by Rev. Keith Hall on Sunday 30th July 2006. As many of you will have noticed, both bride and groom are teachers at the school and we can also lay claim to the church and the minister!

Morag has been working in the Junior School at Dundee High for the last six years. She taught L6 initially, but has been teaching L2 for the last four years. Although from Aberdeen, Morag's connection with the school goes back to when her mother Hazel was a High School girl in the 60's (class of '66). Mr John Mordente has taught in the Maths department for the last twelve years. During the last seven he has been in charge of the department.

There is further good news for High School staff but in the form of many a sleepless night and lots of nappy changing!

Congratulations to Michael Stewart and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Aoife on 24th October, 2005.

Congratulations also to Douglas Love of the Music Department and his wife Fiona (a former pupil of the High School) on the birth of their daughter Amelia Grace (Millie) on February 13th 2006, a little sister to their three-year-old son Alfie.

Finally we congratulate Lindsay Drummond on the birth of her son, Mackenzie Jack who, as Lindsay put it, "Eventually arrived on Friday 10th March at 10.30pm weighing in at 10lbs!"

Congratulations to Anne McDonald on the birth of her granddaughter, Livia Marie, in April 2005.



# OBITUARY

## Roy Steele

Roy Steele died in the care of Roxburgh House on the 19th November, 2005. Eight days earlier he had remarkably drawn on his finite strength and infinite courage and belief to stand at attention under the Pillars for the annual School Remembrance Service and Parade. It is an occasion which embodies many of the values he cherished.

Roy had joined both the School and the Cadets in 1972. Throughout his career at the High School, his dedication to his subject and students was the stuff of legends and he was regarded with great affection and respect by both colleagues and pupils. He retired after 28 year's service in 2000, at which time he was Head Master of Geography and Adjutant of the CCF with the rank of Major. After an early retirement, precipitated by ill-health, he maintained strong links with the school and continued to serve as an administrative officer with the Cadets and attended every Annual Camp.

Roy will be remembered as a highly professional teacher with a "work ethic" second to none, yet his dedication was always accompanied by a boyish smile and buoyant optimism. As a very highly respected member of the High School community he will be sadly missed.



ROLEX



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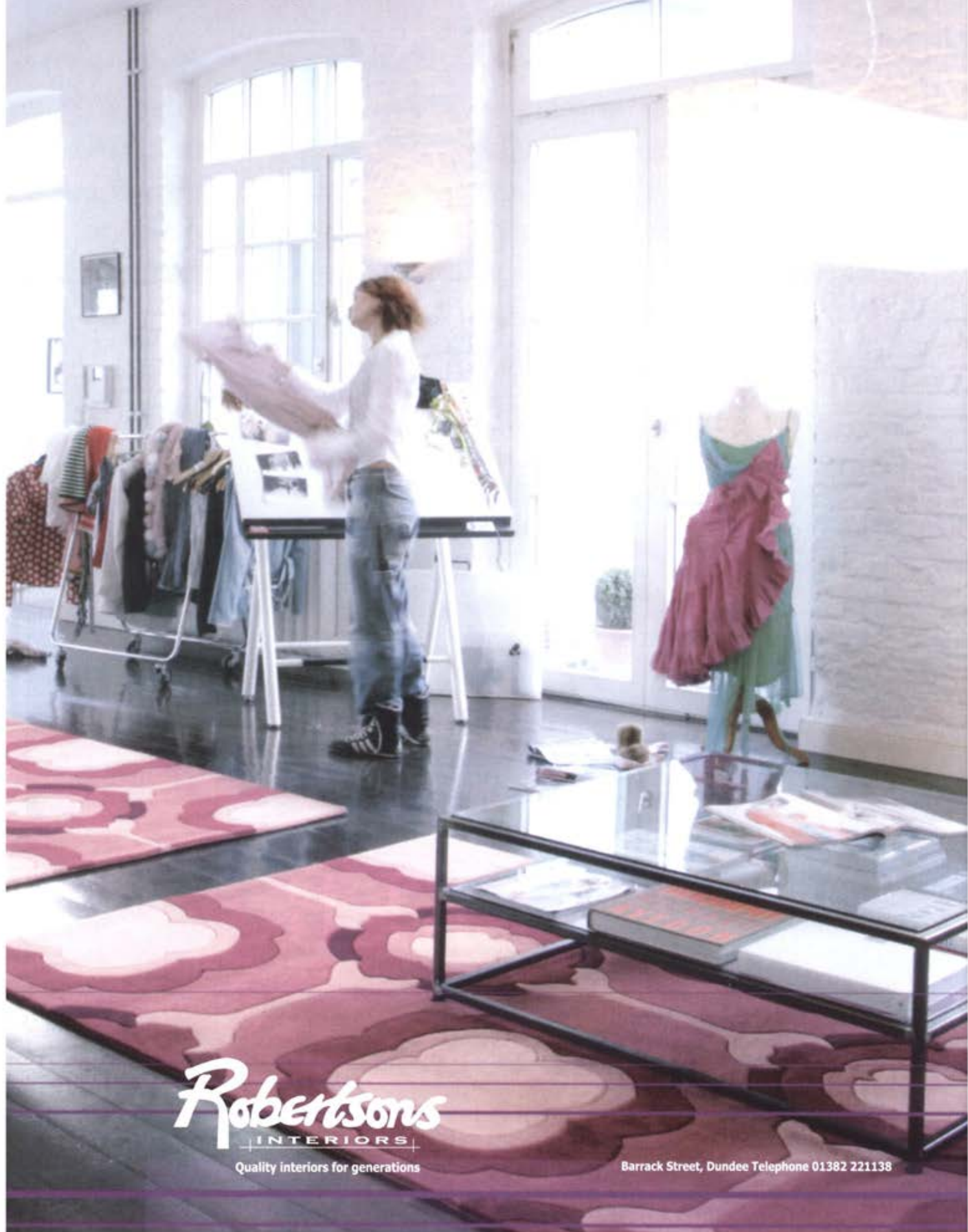
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## Mayfield Sports Centre opens its doors

The High School has unveiled its latest major development, with the official opening of the £3 million Mayfield Sports Centre on Friday 16th June.

Around 150 guests gathered to celebrate the opening, which was carried out by internationally renowned athlete Liz McColgan MBE, and witnessed by sporting pupils at the High School.

Among those attending the event were representatives of some of the charitable Trusts who supported the project, and relatives of Dallas Allardice, former Head of PE and Assistant Rector of the School, who was also an inspirational teacher and former Rugby Internationalist, and in whose memory the sports centre Games Hall has been named.

Other guests included representatives of Dundee City Council, the Universities of Dundee and Abertay, and the Chamber of Commerce. Every section of the School community was also in attendance, including the High School of Dundee Foundation, whose purpose is to raise money for facilities and bursaries; the Former Pupil sporting organisations and the Parents' Association.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Rector Mike Duncan, said: "Sport is not just about achievement, although I am sure that many of our pupils will do well in their chosen disciplines. We want sport to be enjoyable, and we want to widen opportunities to play and to learn about sport. I am particularly pleased,

therefore, that we will be able to make this facility available to local sporting clubs and organisations, but more importantly, through coaching programmes and summer schools, we will be able to introduce many local children – and not just our pupils – to new and exciting sports.

"As we open the doors to the Mayfield Sports Centre for the first time, it is our hope that this facility will inspire a new generation of children to grow up loving sport, and all the benefits that that brings."

The Mayfield Sports Centre encompasses the Dallas Allardice Sports Hall, which includes a large spectator gallery and is capable of accommodating trampoline, basketball, badminton, tennis, short tennis, hockey, cricket and football; a smaller gym ideal for netball, volleyball, gymnastics, aerobics, martial arts and table tennis; a dance studio catering for everything from modern and tap to Indian Classical dance; and a fitness suite. The Centre will also provide a new base for the PE department.

Following the official opening ceremony, guests were invited to tour the new facilities, and witness demonstrations of sport and dance performed by current High School pupils. Music for the evening was provided by string and brass ensembles from the High School music department.

The Rector with Liz  
McColgan at the  
opening ceremony.



# And for a flavour of the Opening Night....

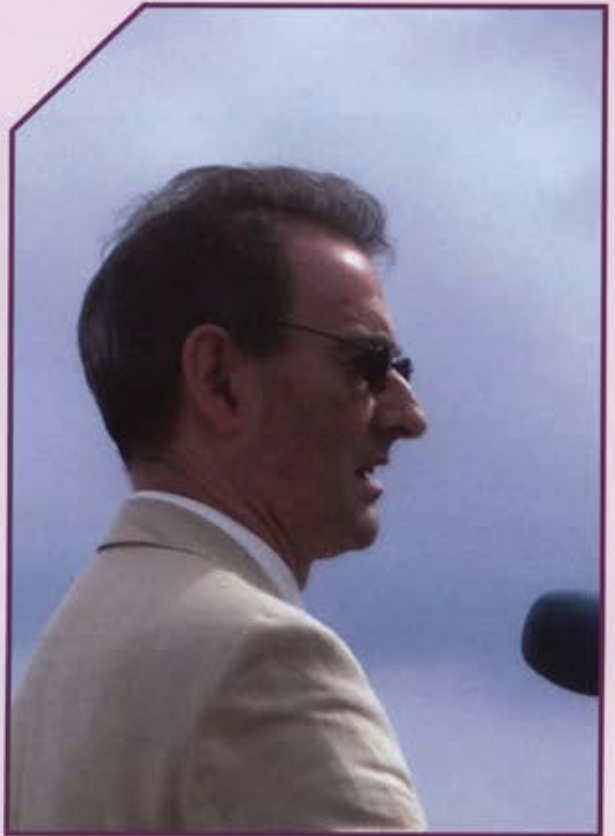


# Sports Day – Saturday 17th June 2006



# HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE REVIEW 06

The celebrations to mark the opening of Mayfield kicked off what proved to be a most enjoyable week-end of sporting activity, with demonstrations provided by pupils of some of the facilities on offer at our new sports centre on Saturday morning, followed by our annual Sports Day on Saturday afternoon. Despite a less than promising forecast that morning, the weather was kind to us, as our pupils, from L1 all the way up to F6 ran, jumped, threw and cheered each other on all the way.





HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 05





Sports Day –  
Saturday 17th June 2006



# Dundee HSFP Rugby Club

The FP Club celebrated its 125th Anniversary by returning to the top league division after 11 seasons of fluctuating fortunes. From the strength of the mid-nineties and two successive near misses, through the relegation dramas as the team rebuilt after the advent of professionalism, to the cup final appearances of the last few seasons and more near misses for promotion; at last the squad of players and coaches has fulfilled its potential and gained promotion to Premier 1 as champions of Premier 2. Our other two promotion successes came as runners up in the 2nd Division - good enough achievements - but it feels so much better to go up as champions.

After an opening day loss to Edinburgh Accies the team got onto a winning streak which helped them to the top of the league where they remained for the rest of the league campaign. With the weather disrupting the fixtures during the later stages the season lost a little momentum, however the title was very much ours to lose and the squad had learned from previous seasons how to tough out the crucial results and the championship was eventually won (with a game in hand) at Mayfield against Haddington on March 18th.

The 2nd XV also had a season to celebrate as they won their league and also gained promotion. The contribution of a strong second string to the Club's success this season cannot be underestimated, as they swept all before them with several players stepping up to the mark and becoming part of the 1st XV success.

Although the Club couldn't maintain its cup record of the last three years, the end of season saw a welcome return to serious participation in many of the major Sevens events in the Borders and throughout Scotland. Some excellent performances were widely appreciated and a couple of trophies were collected in the process.

The end result is that Dundee, and Midlands rugby is back among the big names of Scottish Rugby and everyone at Mayfield is raring to go for season 2006/07.

Our junior section, Dundee Eagles, continued to expand and develop in only its second season. Our full-time Development Officer and SVQ Student were both very actively involved introducing rugby into the local schools and we see this project as crucial to the future of rugby and its wider development at grass roots level.

The 125 Anniversary season was rounded off with a Black-Tie Dinner in the Invercarse Hotel on May 6th. Three hundred members and guests attended the function and were entertained by the Club's ex-internationals Chris Rae, David Leslie and Andy Nicol. Many ex-players and past members made a special effort to return to Dundee for the event and this especially contributed to a very enjoyable and memorable event.

A fantastic season then and one for which the Club has worked extremely hard and has been extensively helped by all our sponsors and supporters. We are particularly grateful to the School whose excellent (and ever improving) facilities we are so fortunate to be able to use.



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# SPORT

## TENNIS REPORT 06



Tennis Captain – Megan Hunter  
Vice-Captain – Mairi Cunningham

We have been very fortunate to have secured the services of two additional tennis coaches this year, Steve Montgomery and Andrew Fairlie. Their sessions were great fun and all the players really appreciated their assistance, believing they helped in all aspects of the game. In addition to the team sessions, Mrs Arthur and Mrs Spowart ran social tennis practices which were well attended and worthwhile for those wishing to improve their game.

This season we got off to a flying start, achieving all round success for the senior team and three junior teams in a fixture against George Heriots. The 1st & 2nd VI unfortunately lost the next two fixtures, both 4-5 results! However, after our fixture against Morrison's was cancelled due to wet weather, we finished the season on a high through playing some excellent tennis and beating St Leonards. The junior teams came out on top, winning most of their fixtures and also proving victorious on the last Saturday.

The Glenalmond mixed doubles tournament once again proved a very enjoyable day and one of the highlights of the season for the senior pupils. Although we came away empty handed this year, it was great fun and I'm sure the teachers enjoyed themselves too with a delicious BBQ lunch!

Thanks must go to the PE department and teachers for giving up their Saturday mornings to supervise matches and especially to Mrs Spowart for arranging the fixtures. We would also like to thank Paul McGhee, owner of The Schoolwear Shop, for providing kit for the senior teams again this year.

Good luck to next year's teams!

M e g a n

Hunter

### House competition results –

#### Senior girls

1st Lindores  
2nd Aystree  
3rd Airlie  
4th Wallace

#### Junior girls

1st Wallace  
2nd Aystree  
3rd Airlie  
4th Lindores

#### Colours

Megan Hunter (re-award)  
Mairi Cunningham (re-award)  
Katie Ferguson  
Lucy Gilmour  
Laura Treece

### Championship results

Senior F4 - 6

Junior F1- 3

Primary P6 & 7

Megan Hunter

Joanna Reid

Susan Graham

Swimming has never been recognised with the same glory given to rugby and hockey. Yet even so, there are many aquatic stars amongst the pupils who are competing at a high level within the sport. There are not many opportunities to swim for the School, as part of a school team or as a representative at National schools level but the High School of Dundee has frequently been well represented and this year was no exception.

The first opportunity for the HSD swim team to shine was the Tayside Schools Swimming Gala, the first stage in being selected to swim for Scotland. The gala kicked off to a cracking start as the Boys 15/16 Freestyle Relay team were victorious as were both male and female 12/Under teams. Clare Dobson and Alexander Sharpe finished second in the 12/Under 50m backstroke. Greig Wilkinson and Josh Rowley placed first and second respectively in the 15/16 100m breaststroke and also went on to do well in their other events. Scott Clayson, who has now retired from swimming, came second in the Boys 15/16 100m Fly and fourth in the freestyle. Paul Adamson and Callum Rennet swam in the Boys 12/Under 50m Breaststroke with Paul gaining yet another victory for the High. Barbara Shaw came third in the closely fought Girls event. The next session again started well with Michael Adamson coming second in the Boys Open 400m Freestyle. He also came third in the Boys 17/19 100m Backstroke. The relay success continued as the Girls 13/14 Freestyle Relay finished second. Marianne Dobson, Eilidh Campbell and Amy Mitchell all reached the final of the Girls 13/14 100m Backstroke with Marianne taking gold. She also came second in the Girls 13/14 100m Breaststroke, following a tightly fought final in which Clare Stirling also swam. Ross Adamson made the final of the Boys 13/14 100m Freestyle. I came first in the Girls 17/19 100m Freestyle and also won the 200m IM. [I apologise if I have missed anyone out!]

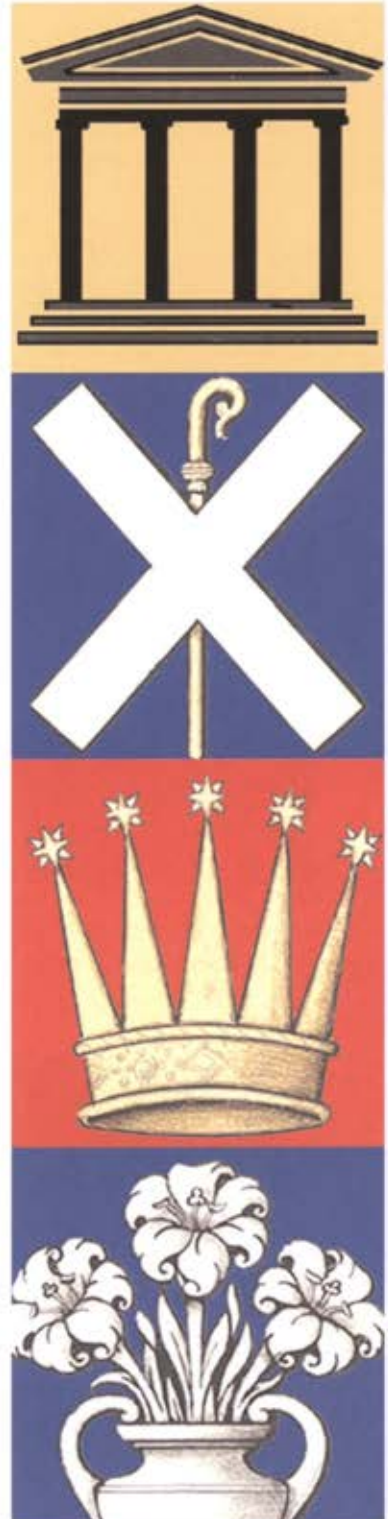
Seven swimmers from the High School of Dundee progressed from the Tayside gala to compete in the Scottish Schools Championships in Glasgow in January. Paul and Michael Adamson, Greig Wilkinson and Josh Rowley were the qualifying boys and Claire Dobson, Marianne Dobson and I qualified for the girls' events. The Boys 12/Under freestyle relay team also competed and put up a creditable performance amongst some very strong competition. Following success at this competition I was selected for the team to represent Scotland at the W.I.S.E. Schools International held in Grangemouth this year. This was my third and final opportunity to swim at this level and I am pleased to say that Scotland came the closest ever to beating England but, alas, we still finished in second place.

The School Swimming Gala saw several sixth year swimmers bravely taking the plunge to support their House. Airlie triumphed, but all those who swam for Lindores were truly winners. The Junior Swimming Champions were Marianne Dobson and Josh Rowley and the Senior Championship winners were myself and Greig Wilkinson.

Outside of school, Greig and I are members of Tayside and Fife Area Institute of Sport, one of a series of National Institutes set up to encourage young athletes. I have had a very successful year and at the Scottish Open Short Course Championships in January became Scottish National Champion over 50m, 100m and 200m Freestyle. One of the highlights was being a member of a team which broke two National Relay Records.

Finally, I would like to thank the P.E. staff for their tireless understanding, support and co-operation. Unfortunately my departure this year brings an end to my school swimming career. I am sure future High School of Dundee swimmers will do their best and I wish them well!

Judith Kilgallon



It was always going to be hard for a pretty much whole new team, to follow on and emulate the success of the last few years. Realising that the members of this team probably did not have as much talent individually, the coaches tried to build on tactics forcing the team to play as a unit: 14 players for the 15th to score. Unfortunately, although the philosophy sounds good, we perhaps lacked that 15th player.

As usual many hours were piled into preparation whether building skills or endlessly working our way up the infamous Dundee Law. These hours were marked by a definite improvement in performance and a team that had potential to be successful was just about ready for the season to begin. We were perhaps not ready enough for our first game however against Robert Gordon, the Scottish Cup finalists to be, and we went down 6 tries to 3. Although not the start the High were looking for, there was definitely promise.

Our first and only piece of silverware came at the Madras tournament, where we saw off Strathallan by 2 points in the final. This was soon followed by our first full victory at St. Aloysius and things were starting to look brighter. The next few games however soon crushed this hope. Despite improving performances we went through a month of comprehensive defeats until the arrival of touring Culford School. What should have been a comfortable victory was turned into a nail biter after a chaotic last couple of minutes. The High held on though to win by 2 points, which would begin a hot streak of 5 victories in a row, including the first two rounds of the cup.

The Aberdeenshire school, Mintlaw, came down to a sunny Mayfield, only to wish they had not made the journey. Victory here meant the High now had an apparently potentially tricky tie at Lomond School. They, however, did not live up to their reputation and another heavy score to nil sent the High into the quarter finals against Merchiston.

Because of cancellation we only had one match in which to prepare for this game, against George Watson's. However, the less said about that game the better, except it was a brave performance by the 14 men. And so bring forward this mighty Merchiston. With the pipe band playing and the Merchie students chanting, we were always going to be up for the battle, and for the first half perhaps had the better of it, silencing the crowd. However a try just before half time flattened us and the second half just simply was not the same.

So, with the cup dream over, the rest of the season appeared to be a non-event, with a loss to Scottish Cup winners-to-be Stewart Melrose. A draw against Glasgow High School, leaving us unbeaten in the city of Glasgow. On the 21st January 2006 came the pinnacle of our season. When a small rugby playing school from Stirling area dared venture up to the hallowed grounds of Mayfield, they were met by a team which at last reached its full potential. Although people may say it was too little too late, it was all worth it, just for the score line :High School of Dundee- 40, Dollar- 22.

So concluded a season which seemed to promise much... and finally did, in our very last game. If we had played like that all year then who knows what might have happened? It was not to be... Perhaps next year!

As a team we would like to say a big thanks to the coaching staff for all the time and effort they put in and hope they enjoyed the season as much as we did. We would also like to wish next year's team all the best and hope they have more success than we did.

Finally as one last note to remember this season- DOLLAR WHO????



0th March, at a slightly wintery Mayfield the  
t of the Intermediate (S2 & S3) Rugby House  
hes were played and the result was

- Wallace
- Airlie
- Aystree
- Lindores

## RUGBY REPORT 05/06



## CURLING

Curling activities increased again this year with teams being entered in the Alan Dargie Trophy, the Scottish Schools Championships, the Dewar's Junior Open and invitation matches against Broughty Ferry Curling Club. A steady improvement in performance was clearly evident as the season progressed and some excellent wins were recorded against some stiff competitive rinks from other schools and ice rinks. Dundee High progressed in the Scottish Schools Championships to reach the finals at Murrayfield in Edinburgh and in the Dewar's Junior Open where they recorded good wins and only by the narrowest of margins missed out on going through to the final stages of the competition. Considering that



some of the opposition teams practice together some three times a week and play in international competitions the High School Curlers can be proud of their achievements this season.

Several pupils have learned to curl as part of their Duke of Edinburgh skill award and one pupil has even progressed to complete a Royal Caledonian Curling Club level "A" coaching course. The introduction of younger pupils to curling has again taken place this year with 50 L6 pupils attending "Curling's Cool" at Dundee Ice Arena over the spring term. Many of these young curlers have been so taken with the sport that they return after school on Mondays to the Dundee Young Curlers.

Lewis McNicol F6

# SENIOR SCHOOL HOCKEY REPORT 05/06

This year, the 1st XI led by Alice Cannon (Captain) and Katie Ferguson (Vice Captain) were thrown head first into this year's hockey season with our first game against Mary Erskine. However, this "blood bath death match" failed to dent our morale and enthusiasm for the rest of the season. For the first time in years we managed to drag around 30 girls out to Dalnacraig each week for extra fitness sessions.

We hosted a team of rowdy Irish hockey girls, all prepared for some serious hockey and more importantly some serious partying!

Although we were not successful in this match we played very well and the result definitely did not reflect the effort put in by each member of the High School team.

The Madras tournament was undoubtedly one of our most memorable fixtures. Having not taken home the cup for over 5 years, we were generally not reckoned to be hot favourites. However, with the advantage of playing on grass, our home surface, we cruised through the first round, beating the likes of the reigning Champions and Tournament holders themselves. When placed against Strathallan in the final, our heads stayed up and a smashing goal scored by Megan Hunter (playing defender at the time) in extra time secured our much deserved win. This gave us all enormous confidence which stayed with us throughout the season – which due to some poor weather consisted of 11 games (4 won and 5 lost with a total of 10 goals

scored), 3 tournaments, a broken ankle, plenty "rocky road" and many great nights out!

The seconds have also had an excellent season, led by Captain Emily Pringle and Vice Captain Catriona France. This year a total of 53 girls got the chance to play competitively.

Dundee High was well represented at Midlands school girl level this year with Shona Watson and Sarah Nimmo (4th year) playing for the Under 16 outdoor Midlands team. Shona was then selected to play for the Under 18 indoor Midlands team alongside Alice Cannon and Katie Ferguson (6th Year). Nicky Summers (6th Year) also had a very successful season, selected as Goalkeeper for both the indoor and outdoor Under 18 Midlands.

The following girls received their hockey colours – Gillian Allan, Fiona Smith, Nicky Summers, Megan Hunter, Katie Ferguson, Alice Cannon and Mairi Cunningham.

Overall, this has been a most enjoyable season and we have to thank Mrs Stott for all her invaluable coaching and individual guidance plus Mrs Hutchison and Mrs Spowart who assisted her. We would also like to mention all the players who put in the effort and made this a memorable year for the leavers. We can only hope that next season is just as fun in our absence! Good luck!

**Katie Ferguson**  
(Vice Captain and Secretary)



1st XI team

## Forms 1, 2 and 3

The six teams in Forms 1 – 3 have had a successful and enjoyable season with a large number of girls regularly training and playing match hockey. The majority of results were favourable with only Mary Erskine, as usual, being our most difficult opponents. The following girls have trained this year at DISC with Dundee's Full Potential Squad - Lindsay Docherty, Rachel Clark, Vicky Emslie, Sarah Low, Rachel Sinclair, Rachel Jones and Lauren Pringle. Vicky Emslie and Melanie Matthew have been selected to play for the Midlands Under 15 Squad to compete in the Scottish Tournament in June

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

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

<b>D Group girls</b>	Heather Pringle	new record in the Shot
<b>B Group boys</b>	Allan Drysdale	equalled 100 m record

In the overall tally of medals we won the following:

	<b>GOLD</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Boys</b>	23	9	11	43
<b>Girls</b>	25	19	10	54

The DSSAA Middle Distance Cup which is presented to the most outstanding athlete – boy or girl in any age group – was won by JENNIFER GREWAR Form 3. She won the 800m and 1500m in Group B.

In the Age Group Competitions the results were as follows :

<b>Group D girls</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group C girls</b>	2nd place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group C boys</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group B girls</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group B boys</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group A girls</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE
<b>Group A boys</b>	1st place	HIGH SCHOOL of DUNDEE

Well done to all the athletes who performed so well on the day.

Also a big thank you to all the staff and pupil helpers for making the event so successful.

PE Dept

## FOOTBALL REVIEW 05/06

The third season of football in the High School started under the stewardship of Captain Iain Thomson and Vice Captain Grant Robertson. Despite the successes of semi-final and quarter final finishes in the preceding seasons, a lack of fire-power was to be the downfall of the team this season with just seventeen goals all season. Yet, the season began with a successful 4-2 warm up friendly match against Stewart's Melville College at Riverside with Wallace, El-Bakary and Young netting in a convincing win.

The first real test of the season came against Dollar in the opening fixture of the group stages of the SISFA Cup. On a day which saw a gale funnelling through Riverside, victory would very much depend on the inclement weather. Grant Robertson was able to take advantage with a fine brace. Scott Campbell, product of the High School's youth policy, netted with a fine left foot shot to put the game beyond doubt.

However, successive away draws [both 1-1] against Gordonstoun and QVS meant progression from the group stages looked in doubt. Confidence was further dented as the team lost out 4-1 to Queen Anne High School of Dunfermline in the Scottish Schools under 18 Shield. Nevertheless, the turn of the year brought hope as an Amir El-Bakary inspired 4-2 victory over Glenalmond in Perth revitalised hope of qualification. The hope continued with an eventual 3-1 victory over St. Leonard's in St. Andrews.

With the High School team tied for second place with Strathallan and Dollar, it would all come down to our final group game against rivals Strathallan. Victory would take the team into the quarter finals, defeat would end the season. Luck was not with the side as several excellent chances slipped by; Wallace was denied several times by an inspired Strathallan goal-keeper. Defeat eliminated the team from the competition; as Strathallan went on to lose to eventual winners Hamilton College in the semi-finals. A disappointing, but enjoyable season – the squad are looking forward to a fresh campaign next August.

Mr. G. Fyall

# SPORT

## BOYS' HOCKEY 05/06

Some highs, some lows, but overall this year's 1st XI proved a success; there was never a dull moment. Between the sticks stood the strong, threatening figure that is Chris Barclay, he reduced many a striker to a mere quivering wreck. The solid, occasionally leaky defence was chaired by the silent assassin, Lavan Sriskandakumar, assisted by his fellow musketeers Fraser Gray and Elliot Mason. Throughout the season Andre Paul showed himself to be a valuable defensive option from the bench. The core, the engine, the heart of the team was the midfield central trio of Euan Borland, Daniel McKillop and Philip Gentleman. This heavenly combination was a constant threat and created many a goal scoring opportunity. Firing deadly, but generally unfinished crosses from the wings were hard working right midfielder Steven Fraser and left midfielder Emlyn Pounder. Spearheading the attack was top goal scorer Kulwinder Chima, Vikash Visista must be commended for his hard work ethic and continuing week in and week out despite failing to score all season. A mention must also go to the danger man Robbie Brown who petrified weary defenders late on with his sheer pace and strength.

As expected the first few matches provided an opportunity for experimentation and this proved valuable when we comfortably defeated Edinburgh Academy and then unforgettably dispatched Beaconsfield with the sensational last hit of the game from Euan Borland. However the confidence gained was soon disrupted when we travelled north to face a difficult Robert Gordon's team comprising several internationals. Despite creating numerous chances and battling hard throughout, we succumbed to the narrowest of defeats. Sadly this sparked a small flurry of defeats which scarred the momentum in the build up our Scottish cup tie against Gordonstoun, perhaps one of the best and certainly the most confident team in the country. After a tiring four hour drive we unfortunately gifted Gordonstoun, an outfit spattered with Spanish, German and Brazilian internationalists, an early goal. Despite fighting to the best of our abilities we were well beaten.

After a well deserved cooling off period we headed in high spirits to the inaugural Seven's tournament in Edinburgh and it was here we showed our true potential. The seven aside tournament obviously sparked a change in formation. Chris remained in goal; in defence were Fraser and Lavan. In midfield Biggie played the anchorman role, and the shining quality of Phil was unleashed down the right while Steven provided a constant threat from the left. The most surprising pronouncement was the choice of forward, a man not known for his goal scoring. Danny's selection up front rather than in midfield could be compared to Chelsea placing Claude Makelele as a lone striker. However the gamble paid off enormously, and full of running Danny was a superb outlet and tormented defences with his pace throughout. Emlyn also helped the team to achieve success in this tournament with rôles also played by Kulwinder and Andre.

In our opening game, we faced a well-drilled Stewart Melville side that we magnificently ran ragged to gain a well deserved victory and perfect start to the tournament. Our next match saw an equally tremendous feat, but unfortunately we were undone by an early goal from the side that went on to win the tournament. We expressed our hard work rate and never say die attitude in our remaining matches and in the end finished a respectful fourth out of eight remarkably strong teams. Our placing would most likely have been higher if it had not been for the injuries the team endured. Unfortunately after the first match an untimely sickness meant Danny was unable to continue. Meanwhile in the last game players and fans stood aghast as they witnessed Phil suffer the loss of a tooth. Overall the seven aside tournament proved valuable in firstly showing the teams true capabilities and primarily demonstrating that it pays off to wear a mouth guard!

The team would like to show their appreciation to Mr. Nichol who spent countless hours over the years equipping us with the necessary skills to prepare us for our games and especially his joyous fitness sessions. And also very big thanks to Andy Gray and Mark Smith who gave up their Saturday mornings to coach and umpire most of our games.



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# art

## HATWALK 2006

This year, for the first time, nineteen Form 1 pupils and two Form 6 pupils took part in a millinery workshop at the school held by Miss Douglas and Scottish Milliner, Clare Workman.

The pupils worked really hard to complete a hat in one day based on 'The Young People's Guide to the Orchestra'. The workshop was to lead to taking part in Hatwalk 2006, a charity catwalk show in Edinburgh.

### Hatwalk 2005

Here are some of the pupils' own words:



"On the day of the workshop I was really excited and couldn't wait. Clare told us lots of information and I realised how hard it is to make hats and how long it takes. I was anxious about the judges coming. When I found out I had won I was ecstatic, so was my mum! This was a great experience and it has made me understand why the hats cost soooo much money!"

**Ross Tolland 1A11**



"On the first Saturday of the Summer term Clare Workman came to help me and a few classmates make some hats based on musical instruments. We had a great time and it was a great experience. I now realise why the cost of handmade hats are so expensive because of the time and effort. I am very glad I took part in it and would encourage the people next year to as well."

**Maddy Thomson 1L12**



"For the Hatwalk we made our hats with someone who makes hats professionally along with our very nice teacher Miss Douglas on a Saturday. The hats took a long time to do. A few weeks later the judges chose the hats to be shown on the catwalk. We took the train to Edinburgh and we took the taxi to a college where the Hatwalk is rehearsed. I am very excited about the Hatwalk and the rehearsals were very fun to watch and do."

**Leanne Forbes 1A11**



## HATWALK - The Performance

On Wednesday 31 May and Thursday 1 June the five pupils took part in a matinee and evening performance. The show was split up into different countries with each milliner designing pieces relating to that country



e.g. Jeannette Sendler - Mongolia. The pupils were part of the UK set.

"It was the day of the performance and I was really excited and so was everyone else. Freya and I couldn't stop laughing but it turned out fine in the end. We all knew what we were doing and we were ready for the performance. On the afternoon performance it was much emptier than the evening one. I enjoyed the evening one more because it was a better atmosphere. I really hope that the next performances will be good. Everyone has enjoyed the performances so far and I am sure that it will all go to plan. The good thing about the Wednesday is that the BBC News was there and I hope I get on the TV. It has been a great experience for me and I hope anyone who does it next year will enjoy it as much as me."

**Maddy Thomson 1LI2**

"Before the show everyone was very excited and some were nervous. Maddy almost tripped and I lost my shoe at one point but it was fine in the end. The afternoon performance was quite quiet so when it came to the night show there was a huge difference and more of a buzz as everyone was clapping and cheering. I had an amazing time and I am sure the other people who do the HATWALK will have a great time too."

**Freya Drummond 1AY!**

"On the Wednesday we got the train through to Edinburgh. When we arrived we walked to the church where the HATWALK was held. The church was gorgeous and it was MASSIVE!! We had a rehearsal and it went well. In the afternoon we had a matinee performance. It was quiet but was really good fun. At night it was the opposite. It was sold out and packed. We got such applause it felt amazing. I wasn't nervous because I've been on stage before but I had butterflies. I met new friends, Alex and Harry, and they were laid back about it all. It was so much fun. We nearly missed the train home but just managed to catch it. The only problem was that I got locked in the train toilet. It opened a tiny bit and I had to shout for someone to come and help me, hee hee! That is one part of this great experience I'll never forget!"

**Robyn Stewart 1LI1**



# art DEPT REVIEWS

## ANIMATION PROJECT

This year Miss Douglas's form 2 art classes worked alongside Mrs Phillips in the English department to produce a cross-curricular animation.



The pupils were first introduced to the work of one of Roald Dahl's illustrators Quentin Blake. From this they worked in small groups, with the help of Mrs Phillips, to come up with a successful story. They drafted two endings and Mrs Phillips chose the most successful one. The pupils then worked on storyboards and from this drew out good quality images which were used for their computer-based animation in the library.

The pupils worked very hard to produce a good end result and a screening of them took place in the library to which we even had popcorn!!!!

The pupils' animations can be found on the public/ art / missdouglas / f2 / animation site and some stills from these animations are featured below:

**Eleanor Mackie & Debbie Lawrie**



**Rachel Clark & Betty Buckman**



**Rachael McLellan**

# ART DEPARTMENT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CROSS-CURRICULAR PROJECT

Earlier this year teachers Miss Douglas and Mrs Angus from the Art Department met up with Mrs Arthur in the P.E. Department to discuss a cross-curricular L7 project. They came up with the idea of a Thai Dance theme with masks being designed and made in the Art class and the dance rehearsed and performed within the P.E. department.

The project was a great success with the pupils really enjoying themselves in all the elements of the task.

One of the images of the masks below:



# ART TRIP TO LONDON EASTER 2006

HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 06

London, the city of Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and, on the 31st March, the city of the 2006 High School of Dundee Art Trip.

Twenty-one pupils and three teachers set off down to London King's Cross station that Friday and were about to visit some of the world's finest galleries, sites and cultural landmarks. A total of five art galleries were visited over the weekend including the National Gallery and the V&A where we were lucky enough to observe the work of a number of the finest artists and designers the world has ever seen. Also, in the Design Museum we had the chance to see some of the early sketches and origins of the world famous Gorrillaz.

Along with Hugo and Munish's antics, we were all kept thoroughly entertained in the evenings. At the Aldwych Theatre we saw a brilliant performance of Fame followed the next night by a mesmerising visit to the Imax Cinema (3D Cinema). On the last night Miss Douglas, despite her fear of heights, was brave enough to arrange a trip on the London Eye which, for most, was the highlight of the trip.

Along with everyone on the trip, I would sincerely like to thank Miss Douglas, Mrs Angus and Mr Blackburn for (whoopee cushions and the Underground aside) a most enjoyable trip!

**Article by Guy Ballantyne**



artDEPT REVIEWS.



# artwork

Charlotte Rowe, F2



Sarah Smart, F2

Jennifer Lothian, F2



Cameron Milne, F1



James Matossian, F2

Helen Coleman, F2



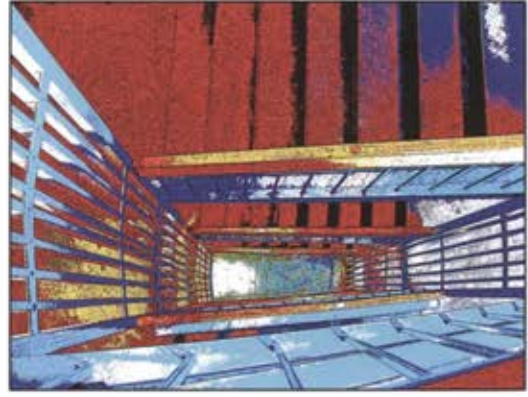
Declan Buchan, F1



Eoghann McGregor, F2



Rebecca Wilkinson, F5



Fiona McCulloch, F5



Jessica Kidney, F5



Roisin Mannion, F5



Philip Gentleman, F5



Victoria Guy, F6

# artwork



Poppy Philip, F5



Bethany Keogh, F6



Evette Golden, F5



Kirsty Watson, F5



Genevieve Murphy, F6



Lynsey Nicoll, F5



Douglas White, F5



Sarah Kidd, F6



Melissa Pitcaithly, F5



Lauren McConville, F6



Natalie Bennett, F2



Rachael Sinclair, F3

## ITALY 2006

A heaviness in the air seemed to dampen any sound and the city dozed, grateful for the silence, barely noticing the slow moving figures, hooded and hunched over, drawing their heavy loads behind them. But the figures moved with purpose. Relentless, insistent longing was forcing each towards the same point. And as the foremost drew near, two brilliant beams of whiteness shot out through the shadows, startling the city into wakeful consciousness.

Then the driver got out and opened the boot. The 40 Form 2 classicists pulled down their hoodies, dumped their suitcases and jostled onto the bus, eagerly anticipating their journey to the heart of European civilisation itself... [the following, rather pretentious, account is greatly relieved by extracts from the three Adventure Diary Winners: Beth Spowart, Rachael Spink, and Suzy Boath: congratulations to all three!]

### Thursday 30th March

This was a day dominated by travel and inertia. From coach to couch [airport]. From there to the air, a day of three capital cities: Edinburgh, London, and Rome. The Hotel Noto on the northern side of the city finally reached us in late afternoon. Unpacking was brief and, invigorated by the frantic enthusiasm of Roma, we embarked upon our first expedition around the city. We visited two of the city's more marvellous churches, one of them developed from a Roman bathhouse.

### Friday 31st March

"Last night we hardly had any sleep, but I am not tired. Today we are going to the Colosseum. I have always wanted to see it because it has so much history." This massive 50,000 seater amphitheatre has stood in the centre of the city for almost 2000 years. In the Middle Ages it was said that if the Colosseum fell, the world would fall too. In the afternoon we visited the Roman Forum which was the centre of the ancient city; and in the evening the Spanish Steps, the favourite meeting place for the coolest modern Romans; and we saw the Via dei Condotti, one of the most expensive shopping streets in the world.

### Saturday 1st April

Today we visited the Vatican City. "The queue was massive, miles long, and Mr Meehan reckoned that about 12,000 people were in front of us!" Inside Mr McKellar fascinated us with his encyclopaedic knowledge of ancient art and it was a real shame when he finally stopped telling us things. We had lunch in the Piazza Navona, an exciting vibrant square, filled street artists, musicians, and market stalls. "My friends and I all got Margheritas [the pizzas!] and ate them quickly as we were really hungry." "We then went to the Pantheon which was fun, as Lauren and I were pretending we were French and bumping into people. After that, we visited the Trevi fountain and we all threw in three coins. This means that we will return to Rome at some point in our life."



Too full of pizza to move....

## ITALY 2006

**Sunday 2nd April**

The coach collected us from the hotel in the morning and took us on to the second half of the trip in the Bay of Naples. "I was pleasantly surprised to arrive so early. We stopped off for lunch at Monte Cassino on the way and it was a nice buffet. We all sang 'Happy Birthday' to Andrew as he was 14 today! It was a beautiful day, so we went for a walk through the narrow streets of Sorrento when we arrived".

**Sorrento****Monday 3rd April**

"Today we travelled to Pompeii. It was amazing to see a city that was once buried in volcanic ash in such a complete state. We could see Vesuvius from the centre of the town and it was amazing how close it seemed." "The teachers told us a lot of interesting information as we walked around. We played a game inside the amphitheatre arena before we headed back to Sorrento."

**Tuesday 4th April**

"Today I woke feeling excited at the thought of climbing Vesuvius. When we eventually reached the crater there was an amazing view over Naples. It was quite cold at the top but that was to be expected as we were in and above the clouds. I was astonished. It was so..... cool! I couldn't believe I was on top of an active volcano. When Mrs Vannet told us it was overdue to erupt, I was not so sure I wanted to be there."

**Wednesday 5th April**

For our last day we took a break from Classical sites to visit the erstwhile playground of the glitterati, the island of Capri. "Capri was so... so... so... pretty! We got back just in time for tea and had plenty of time to practise our group performances... some of the guests from the hotel went out on to their balconies to watch us."

**No applause...just throw money!****Thursday 6th April**

"I struggled to get out of my nice cosy bed today and had forgotten we were going home! When I remembered I was disappointed to leave but excited to see my family!" "NOOOOO!!!! All of us really don't want to go home." And so with the newly acquired wisdom of the ages, our gallant party pressed its footsteps back towards Rome. Soon we were soaring upwards like the Roman eagle gliding towards our own distant outpost of the once mighty empire; yet the whispers of the ghosts of Vesuvius still speak to us now..."

**Just time to pick up a few souvenirs!**

# CLASSICS

## ACADEMIC EVENTS 06

The High School Classics Department in conjunction with the School of Classics at the University of St Andrews have organised two university based events for pupils of Classics this year.

In November Professor Gill Harries from the department of Ancient History spoke about her recent research in the area of witchcraft in ancient society; and Dr Judy Barringer made the trip from Edinburgh University to discuss the ancient Olympics and how they compare with modern athletic competition.

In March we attended the university's annual Highers conference. Here senior pupils are given the chance to experience a full day of university education with some of the best Classicists in Britain. The day began with a very entertaining consideration of assassination as a political method in "Does killing Caesar ever work?" by Greg Woolf, the Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology. From then on pupils had the opportunity to choose their own programme of seminars with topics including Roman law and legal speechwriting, the archaeology of Greece, the methods of story telling in Roman war epics, and the role of women in Greek drama.

In mid June, with the SQA exams over, Classics pupils turned their attention to the annual recitation contest at St Andrews University. The variety of other commitments at this time meant that senior pupils were unable to attend but Forms 2 and 3 were able to provide excellent representation for the High School. Liusaith McClymont and Lauren Pringle, both Form 3, received commendations from Professor Gratwick for their clarity and intonation. Lauren won through the Form 3/4 heats to come fourth overall in the Intermediate Competition. She can feel very proud that, as one of the younger entrants, she managed to outperform more than 20 other contestants from a variety of state and independent schools in the Fife and Tayside area.

On Friday 23rd June, 37 classicists from Forms 1, 3 and 6 visited Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Our journey south of the border passed peacefully and the weather was a more benign companion than it has been in previous years. We arrived at around 12 o'clock and enjoyed our picnic in the grounds of the Roman Army Museum, before heading up to the Wall itself.

Walltown Crags is an impressive section of Wall, rising to about ten feet in places, following a ridge of hills. The Roman engineers built the wall along the highest ridges in order to produce the most imposing boundary they could. 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. We all crammed into the remains of one of these turrets which stood at the highest point of the Crags. 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 Latin expert who had travelled over from the USA to do detailed research on the wall itself. He explained a bit about Roman life near the wall and showed us the weapons and armour used by soldiers in the area. When he asked for volunteers almost every hand shot up; Fraser and Charlotte were the lucky ones chosen. Fraser was allowed to dress up as the barbarian allied soldier, with his oval shield and long spear called a hasta. Charlotte was dressed as the Roman citizen legionary with a much better helmet and the curved rectangular shield which is much more familiar to us. Unlike Fraser with his hasta, Charlotte was armed with the deadly javelin called the pilum, the stabbing dagger called the pugio, and most important of all, the gladius, the short Roman sword which helped the Romans to conquer the known world. We were also given graphic descriptions about Roman battle tactics and how the equipment was designed to complement these. Feeling like new Roman recruits ourselves now, we watched *With the Eagle's Eye*, a film

which travels over the full length of the wall, using CGI to reconstruct the forts and turrets which we saw today. 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 Dr Justin Blake, the chief archaeologist on the site, described the recent work and discoveries that have been made this year. Justin reckons that it will take another 150 years to fully excavate the Vindolanda 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.



# ENGLISH DEPT

- a brief account of some of the highlights in another exciting session in the High School's English department, with pupils and staff involved in a variety of activities!

In term one, all of Form 4 travelled to Perth for a highly dramatic production of "Macbeth", providing plenty of food for thought - and discussion - back in the classroom. [Where had all the witches gone?] As promised in last year's Review, the Form 1 Christmas theatre trip this year ventured further afield - to Edinburgh's Lyceum - for a lively festive musical version of A Christmas Carol, enjoyed by all the audience, again in a very imaginative staging.

Form 6 students of Advanced Higher have again enjoyed the benefit of liaison with the University of Dundee's English department, a successful collaboration begun last session. Lecturers visited the School for tutorials; and Form 6 attended several lectures on writers relevant to the AH syllabus. Pupils benefited, too, from access to the University library as associate students. In November, the AH pupils and staff braved the first of the wintry weather to attend a performance of "Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off", in Glasgow

Creative writing has continued to flourish this session. Before Christmas, senior pupils enjoyed a Writer's Workshop, under the tutelage of Raymond Soltyssek of Strathclyde University.

Several younger pupils from Forms 1 & 2 have had poetry published in the "Young Writers" anthology in the course of this year.



Some of our F1 poets....



.... And our F2 poets

At the beginning of June, four pupils from Form 1 and two members of staff, Mrs Keogh of the department and Mrs Brown from the library, were invited by the Federation of Children's Book Groups to attend the Red House Children's Book Award presentation at the Hay Book Festival. This is in recognition of all the work done by the librarians and junior pupils in promoting and reading newly-published children's books. They met celebrated authors including Michael Morpurgo, Eoin Colfer and Lemony Snicket, and had a wonderful time! You can read Mrs Keogh's account of this fantastic trip elsewhere in the Review...



Book signing...

Mrs Keogh takes a breather.

## YORKSHIRE DALES 06

On the 3rd of March, twenty-two Higher Geography pupils set off for the Yorkshire Dales accompanied by Mrs Vannet, Mr Rennet and student teacher Miss Campbell. We set off in a blizzard but that just added to the excitement! We had a four-hour journey to Ingleton where we stopped for a waterfalls walk to view the spectacular Thornton Force waterfall. The walk was picturesque in a winter wonderland. After our long hike we had another drive to finally reach our destination in the village of Malham. Our accommodation was in the Hill Top Bunk Barn, which was very comfortable for all. After depositing our luggage, we walked through the snowy village to the Buck Inn to have our first meal of Malham Pie. Following dinner and settling in to our bunk barn, we had a briefing of what was in store for us the next day...

An early breakfast at the Buck Inn and then we gathered our kit and made our way to Malham Cove. After a short walk we reached the magnificent feature that we had only ever seen in textbooks. At the top of the cove we examined the interesting clints and grykes on the degraded limestone pavement that we had studied in detail in class. It was great to finally see these features that are only found in areas of limestone. We enjoyed the scenic view before we continued our walk up to Watlowes Valley and Malham Tarn. Both of these features were interesting and it again was wonderful to see them for real rather than just look at them in the textbooks! In the afternoon we took a trip to Gordale Scar which was very impressive - cut by powerful streams cascading from the edge of the frozen limestone plateau at the end of the Ice Age. Later in the afternoon we visited the Yorkshire Dales Information Centre in Malham and then made our way to the famous Norber Erratics. After a trek up the hill, we reached the outstanding display of boulders which had been carried miles by glaciers. At the end of this busy day, we returned to the Buck Inn for a satisfying meal and then proceeded to the bunk barn for an interview session with two local farmers and a geography quiz designed by Mrs Vannet.

The following day included the Malham village trail and a visit to the National Trust field barn. After completing our fieldwork booklets, we headed for Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Here, we visited the Horton limestone quarry and met with the quarry manager to hear of the conflicts and solutions concerning quarrying in the area. Our last activity of the day before departing north was a trip to White Scar Cave where we had a guided tour of the amazing caverns and tunnels underground. This provided an exciting conclusion to a fantastic weekend which was enjoyed by all involved!

By Gillian Allan



The group at Thornton Force



The Buck Inn, Malham - hurrying for some of that Malham Pie!



Tea break at the Head of Watlowes.



We made a new friend...



Near Malham Cove.

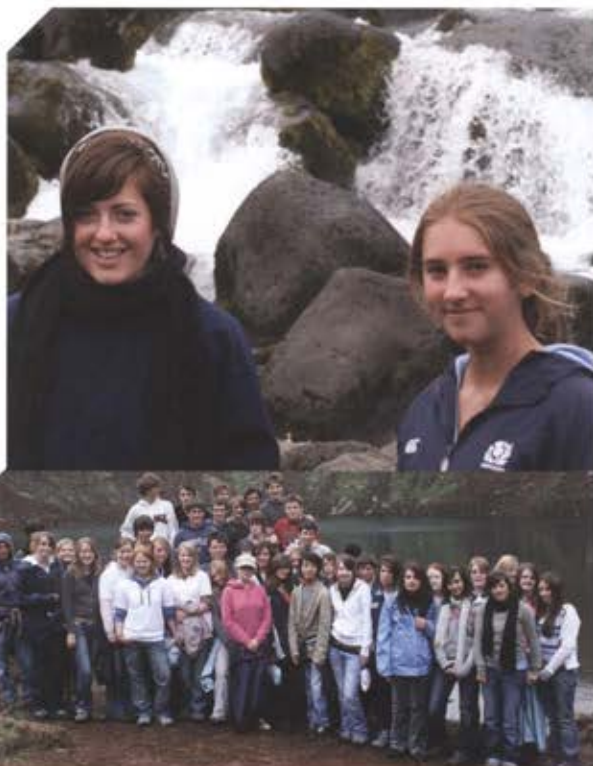
# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT FIELDTRIP TO ICELAND

AUGUST 2006 (A DAILY DIARY)



## Sunday 6th August

After 18 months of waiting, the fieldtrip of the century had arrived! At 6.30am 40 pupils and 4 teachers met at HSD to begin our adventure to Iceland – the land of ice and fire. A coach journey and a two hour plane journey later and we set off to the bridge between two continents where we could cross between the European and North American plates. Next we had our first experience of Icelandic aromas at the steaming vents and bubbling mud pools at Krysvik. Back on the bus, expertly driven by native Icelander, Thor, we headed off to have our first splash in an Icelandic hotpot. We arrived at our chalet accommodation at Hella in the early evening and were greeted with a delicious meal. After some social time and a glorious sunset (at 11pm!), we climbed into bed for some well-earned rest. (Christine)



## Monday 7th

Today started with breakfast at 8am and then a talk from our guide Ian about all the things we would be seeing. First stop was a huge waterfall which Mrs Vannet said was "a mouse compared to the elephant we'd be seeing later". After this we went to see an extinct volcano which had a beautiful crater lake in the middle before travelling on to Pingvellir National Park. Here there are lots of fissures where the continental plates are pulling apart and it is also an important site as the first Icelandic parliament met here. We walked through a gorge and saw ropey lava and another amazing waterfall, but still not the elephant! After a great packed lunch, we went to the Geysir geothermal area and watched Strokkur geyser erupting every 10 minutes or so. Then finally we set off to Gullfoss to see the huge waterfall which really was the promised elephant. In the evening we did some work and Mr Rennet provided some very amusing boys versus girls entertainment for us all (Ewan)



## Tuesday 8th

The day began with a lot of rain and 25% of us missing breakfast because we slept in. Our first stop was Stora Dimon – a 'small' volcano where we made an exhausting climb to the top to see a huge glacial meltwater river spread out below us. Next was a visit to Seljalandsfoss where it was possible to walk right behind and get wetter than we already were! Hearing the water thundering down from above and feeling the spray on our faces was incredible. Then came something really amazing – an off-road bus took us through raging rivers and over boulder fields to our next stop at Gigjokull in the Porsmork valley. After only ever seeing diagrams on worksheets, this was quite something. The icebergs floating in the glacial lagoon were a beautiful blue colour. The day ended with a visit to a swimming pool with a choice of three... yes, three, hotpots! We ended the day at our second accommodation centre where a huge spaghetti bolognaise was waiting for us. (Marianne)



# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT FIELDTRIP TO ICELAND AUGUST 2006 (A DAILY DIARY)

## Wednesday 9th

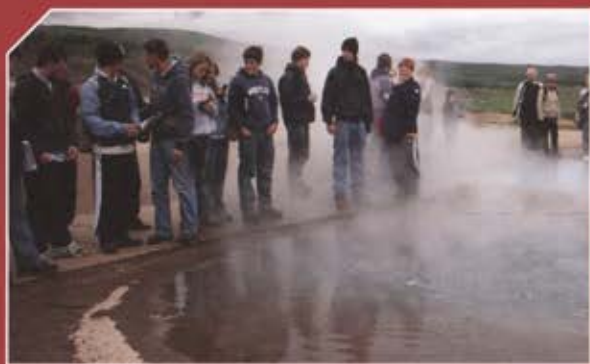
We woke to glorious sunshine - perfect for our trip to the island of Heimaey in the Westmann Islands. Everyone was very excited about the flight out from the very small airstrip at Bakki in five and nine seater planes. After arriving on the island, we walked around the south side of Eldfell volcano which erupted in 1973 to look at the lava flows and a lava tunnel. We then climbed to the summit of Eldfell from where we could see back to the icecaps on the mainland. To the surprise of many of us, the summit of the volcano is still hot (illustrated by Michael Houston who managed to melt his pen in the rocks!) We then followed our guide Ian to the harbour where we boarded a boat to cruise around the island. This allowed us to view the rock formations on the cliffs and many sea birds including puffins. After our flight back to the mainland, we headed for the local swimming pool to relax after our long day of exploration. (Jonathan)

## Thursday 10th

Although the day was rather wet, Ian's enthusiasm kept our spirits high. Our first stop was at Skogarfoos, a 60 metre high curtain of water where Ian amazed us with "the one minute trick". You stare



at the water for 60 seconds, then look at the cliff next to it. It seems to be moving towards the sky! Next stop was at the Solheimajokull ("black glacier"). When Ian had identified a safe area for us to climb on to the ice, Mr Ross clambered onto the ice and as we followed, we were all amused to hear him say "watch out, it's like a sheet of ice!". After the glacier, it was on to the cliffs and caves at Dyrholaey where there were some very photogenic puffins. Mr Rennet hobbling up the hill without his walking stick was one of the highlights of our day. (Editorial comment.... Mr Rennet had injured his knee just before leaving for Iceland). Our last stop was at the black beach at Reynisdranger where we had an attrition competition - looking for a perfectly spherical pebble. Another dip in the hotpots was followed by an evening of entertainment during which Ewan gave a wonderful solo performance of 'Flower of Scotland'. Then it was time for a good night's sleep in preparation for Reykjavik. (Mhairi)



## Friday 11th

As it was the final full day of our Iceland trip, the pupils and staff seemed quite tired and a little sad this morning. However, enthusiasm soon built up again after the 'Thor of the Day' hat was awarded to Ewan for his amazing solo performance last night. After an hour and half in the coach, we arrived in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland for some souvenir and gift shopping. All the pupils had given money to buy gifts for the HSD staff - Mrs Vannet, Mr Rennet, Mrs Williams and Mr Ross, our bus driver, Thor and our ever-enthusiastic tour guide Ian Hardie. The final visit of our holiday was a dip in the famous 'Blue Lagoon' - a geothermally heated swimming pool in the lava fields near to the airport. All pupils and staff enjoyed their farewell swim in the blue green water in a volcanically created landscape. Swim over, our next stop was the airport. The 20 minute drive was long enough for us to get very sad about having to leave the extraordinary country of Iceland. Thankyous were made to all the staff who had made this amazing trip possible. (Vincent)



# LIBRARY NEWS



## FORM 1 & FORM 2 TRIP TO MONTROSE TO SEE DARREN SHAN

On the 23rd of May, six of us went on a trip to Montrose Town Hall to attend an event in which the author Darren Shan would make an appearance. For those of you who do not know, Darren has written many books including "The Saga of Darren Shan" and "The Demonata" series. This event was mostly aimed at younger readers and a few schools around the area received tickets. After hearing a speech from Darren himself, the six of us had the opportunity to ask our own questions and later, to get our copies of the books signed.

The author appeared entirely different from what I imagined after reading his books. He was much older than I had thought him to be and looked like someone you would pass on your way down the High Street. Although he claimed to be Irish, his accent had been completely changed by his childhood in London and living in many other parts of the globe. He was quite friendly and took the time to talk to each individual during the book signing.

Mr Shan is an interesting writer. His books cannot be defined by one genre as they are made up of many types of writing including Horror, Adventure and, dare I say it, a bit of Romance. I also learnt that he used to write books for adults which may explain some of the "mature" aspects in his teenage books.

I enjoyed going on the trip and was glad to meet the author, whose books have opened me up to a new world of Horror, Magic and Adventure.

**Waqas Arshid F2.**

## THE READING CAFÉ



The Reading Café took place on Friday lunchtimes in the library for F1 and F2 pupils. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dakers organised fun activities for us to do every week, including quizzes and making things.

On the first week, we made our own personalized bookmarks. Throughout the rest of the year, we also made Valentine's decorations, masks, tartan weavings, St. Andrews Day poems and entered the 'Wacky Snowmen' and Manga portrait competitions. As well as making all this, we did fun quizzes on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, celebs, Big Brother and 'Nerd or not?!'

To celebrate Christmas and the end of the spring term, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Dakers arranged two parties for us, crammed with cakes and games! For our end of term party, we made masquerade masks to wear. We played games including 'Make a Mummy' and ate loads of cakes, sweets and popcorn!

I thought the funniest part of the Reading Café was our two parties but everyone agrees it was all great fun. Thank you to Mrs. Dakers and Mrs. Brown!

Anna Mackenzie, F1

ACTIVITY, CREATIVITY, A DELIVERY ROOM FOR THE BIRTH OF IDEAS. YOUR LIBRARY IS YOUR PORTRAIT. HERE'S WHAT THE HIGH SCHOOL LOOKED LIKE THIS YEAR.



During Children's Book Week in October, Junior School pupils took part in our second Readathon. Over 200 children read more than 1200 books during the fortnight raising £3537.49 for Readathon's charities CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children and The Roald Dahl Foundation. Against our better judgement, Dennis the Menace was invited to the special assembly again to help hand out the prizes in the great reading raffle and predictably he misbehaved in terrible example to impressionable but delighted Junior School pupils. Meanwhile, Form 1 & Form 2 pupils competed for the second year in the "High IQ" mastermind-style competition. In front of eighty of his peers, Robert Sharp (Form 2) was awarded the title in a close-fought on-stage battle in Trinity Hall for which the courage of all finalists is to be admired and applauded. In December we welcomed back well-known Scottish



Margaret Ryan entertains L4 and L5

children's author Margaret Ryan to visit with L4 & L5 pupils. With the help of props and pupils to play characters, Margaret read from her Airy Fairy books, her new Kat McCrumble series and old favourites too before answering questions from eager readers and signing copies of her books.

December also saw the now regular round of Library Christmas parties with the Reading Café group and the F&E Library Prefects. This year the Library prefects were greater in number and we hope they enjoyed their periods with us as much as we did. It's with sadness that we lost them during study leave and poor Junior School pupils made do with just the grown-up Library staff, but we wish them every success in their endeavours next year. The Monty Python gang made a quip about employing wild animals to work in Libraries. For us, the prefects work just as well.

This year we celebrated Christmas with a "Wacky Snowman" competition with runaway success. Mrs Brown's snowman template was dressed more than seventy times by pupils from Form 1 right up to Form 6. Winner Rebecca Wilkinson (F5) gave us a fantastically elaborate and unforgettable entry. The pressure is now on for Mrs Brown to think up a new idea for next year to make the snowman triumph melt with the embarrassment of comparison.



World Book Day in March was upon us before we knew it. Junior School pupils took part in a national competition to "Send a Book on an Adventure" with winning entries from Matthew Fagerson (L3) and Morven Millar (L6) sent to London for the final. Senior pupils were invited to take part in a Manga Self-Portrait competition won jointly by Ross Tolland (Form 1) and Elizabeth Webster (Form 1) with Ailsa Thomson (Form 2) runner-up. Form 6 pupils "book-slammed" Junior School classes all day on the day, much to the amusement of both.

In May, six F1 & F2 pupils travelled with Miss Jones and me to Montrose for an audience with the king of horror for teenagers, Darren Shan. Darren looked less like Vincent Price and slightly more like Benny Hill, but he did not disappoint once he began to speak. He read from "Cirque du Freak" and "Lord Loss" and answered some interesting questions about his inspirations and characters before signing copies of his books including an exclusive pre-release of "Slawter".



Beautiful weather in early June was just right for a trip to Wales for the Red-House Children's Book Award Ceremony. Mrs Brown, Mrs Keogh and four Form 1 girls enjoyed three days of non-stop gorging on authors, literature and fun with like-minded book worms at the Hay Festival. Our girls were privileged to be seated at dinner with none other than Children's Laureate Jacqueline Wilson and were asked to

announce the winner of the Older Readers category at the ceremony. It was a fantastic event to be part of and a fitting reward for all the girls' reading and voting during the year.

Later in June, L6 & L7 hosted a visit from Catherine MacPhail. Catherine is both a critically acclaimed and popular older children's author whose latest novel has been short-listed for BRAW's Royal Mail Award for Scottish Children's Books. Almost all pupils had read at least one of her novels in full before her visit, resulting in a particularly enjoyable and meaningful time for both author and readers and a fine way for L7 to end their Junior School years with the Library.

If you look you will find pupil reports on our visits and Reading Café club in this Review, though these represent the tip of the iceberg of all the fun we've had in the Library this year. Pupils are what the Library is all about. "Librarian is a service occupation. Gas station attendant of the mind." Long may we keep them on the road.

Ms F Dakers  
Librarian



## LIBRARY NEWS

# MATHEMATICS REVIEW 05/06

## DEPT REVIEWS

Once again it has been a busy year in the Mathematics department with pupils from all year groups competing in a variety of different competitions.

The first competition of the year was the Enterprising Maths Day held at Dollar Academy in October. Mr Middleton accompanied the team which consisted of Annie Ning, Kirsty Jones, Sarah Acheson and Josh Ivinson. Thirty teams from Scotland's Independent Schools took part and the competition was as fierce and enjoyable as usual. This year the team finished in 19th position which unfortunately did not allow them to qualify for the next round. We must, however, congratulate Mr Middleton who won the staff competition!

The Scottish Mathematics Challenge is open to pupils from Form 1 to 6. This year again, we had high numbers of pupils entering the competition. The following did exceptionally well and were invited to attend an Award Day at the University of Stirling:

**Junior Division** Gold: Fabliha Hussain  
Silver: Rachel Spink  
**Middle Division** Silver: Robin Cessford  
**Senior Division** Gold: Neil Dewar

The final competitions for the year were the UKSMC, UKIMC and the UKJMC where our pupils competed against mathematicians from other schools throughout the United Kingdom. The results are shown below.

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
UKSMC	3	8	1
UKIMC	9	17	6
UKJMC	8	25	11

**Best in school for UKSMC:** Andrew Black

**Best in school for UKIMC:** Kirsty Jones

**Best in school for UKJMC:** Alistair Lynch

Code for competitions

**UKSMC:** United Kingdom Senior Maths Challenge

**UKIMC:** United Kingdom Intermediate Maths Challenge

**UKJMC:** United Kingdom Junior Maths Challenge

**Mrs L Craig**



**Rachel and Neil**



**Alistair and Kirsty**

## SUCCESS IN THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

In the Autumn term, six of the Advanced Higher pupils sat the British Physics Olympiad. Steven King received a bronze award, whilst the other five entrants were awarded Merits.

In March there was more success in the 2006 Physics Challenge, with gold medals awarded to Nick Bryan and Neil Dewar, while silver medals went to Andrew Nimmo, Ismael Hussein, Chris Respinger and Russell Hall. Nick performed so well that he was awarded a prize for being "an outstanding student" as he came in the top 15 in the UK. Along with Mrs Fletcher, Head of Physics, he travelled to London to the Royal Society, where he received his award from Sir David King, chief scientific adviser to the government.

These awards are of particular merit because the Olympiad and the Physics Challenge are based on the syllabus studied in England.

**Left to right:**

**Nick Bryan, Russell Hall, Chris Respinger, Neil Dewar**



**Nick Bryan and Sir David King.**

# MUSIC DEPT REVIEW 05/06

HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 06

The Co-Curricular Fair in August allowed the Music Department to show some of the activities on offer this year and from then on the year really has gone like a fair! The prospect of the June 2006 school show being *The Sound of Music* attracted a great deal of interest and as a result a whirlwind of auditions ensued involving 268 pupils from L2-F6 in the space of three weeks! It was a mammoth, difficult task to cast the Von Trapp family and associates but finally the job was done and we looked forward with eager anticipation to the show which was undoubtedly the climax of the Department's activities for the year.

The Open Morning is always an important occasion, with the Senior String Ensemble performing in Trinity Hall while the itinerant Saxophone Ensemble entertained prospective parents and pupils in various venues throughout the school.

A rousing Brass fanfare from the organ gallery of the Caird Hall opened our Annual Christmas Carol Concert and certainly took a few people by surprise! As we are accustomed, there was a feast of music from the school choirs, the Concert Band and various instrumental ensembles, while the school's String Orchestra accompanied the Community Carols. We were delighted to give £2000 as donations to Angus Special Play Scheme and Riding for the Disabled. The Senior String Ensemble also featured in the programme at the Tayside Health Board's Annual Caird Hall Christmas Concert in aid of Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children. At this Sophie Sneddon [F5] gave a memorable performance of *Winter*, from *The Four Seasons*.

In January Nicola Summers [F6] and Rosalind MacDonald [F5] sang unaccompanied Burns songs to a warm reception at the DHS Former Pupils' Rugby Club Annual Burns Supper in Mayfield Pavilion. Also in relation to Burns, Shakira Roberts [F4] and Gillian Craig [F1] had success locally and nationally in the Burns Federation of singing.

The High School's Piano Recital is now becoming an annual event and this year 34 pupils took part, performing music from Bach to Rachmaninov, Chopin to Chabrier. In celebration of Mozart's 250th Birthday there were several performances of his music, all very much enjoyed by parents, staff and pupils alike.

For the first time all instrumental pupils were invited to take part in a Practice-a-Thon in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Care for Children. Pupils received sponsorship for practising everyday for two weeks (something which they are supposed to do anyway!) and over £1800 was raised for this worthy cause.



In the annual Leng Silver Medal Competition Ellen Eyles (L7) won the Junior Competition while the Senior Girls' and Senior Boys' Competitions were won by Kirsty Allison (F4) and Ross Tolland (F1) respectively. The school was well represented by pupils at the Leng Gold Medal Competition in the Music Centre in April, with 10 out of 27 competitors from Dundee and district being from the High School. Hearty congratulations go to Kirsty Jones (F4) who lifted the Gold Medal in the Girls' Competition while Ross Tolland (F1) was judged to be best voice in the Boys' Competition. Because there were not enough entrants in the Boys' section to award a medal, Ross was presented with a book of Scots Songs for his performance.



### Kirsty and Ross

This year the Arbroath Festival yielded success for some of our guitarists. In the Guitar Solo class 12 years and under, Duncan Strachan (L7) came first, Charlotte Keatch (F1) second and Seth Scahill was placed third.

The now well established joint Spring Concerts in the Caird Hall once again met with critical acclaim and were a superb reflection of the dedication of instrumentalists, vocalists and staff within the Department. The highlight undoubtedly had to be the High School of Dundee Pipes and Drums who opened the Senior Concert with a rousing rendition of Scotland the Brave. They certainly ensured the audience were in their seats ready for the second concert!

The pipes also featured for the first time in the Junior Music Competition which took place in March for Named Prizes only.



### The Junior Winners

The Senior Competition, adjudicated by Mrs Loraine Marshall, was held two weeks later and was of an extremely high standard. The Southgate and Premier Quaich classes were held in the evening and anyone in the audience could not fail to be impressed by the quality and variety of the music presented. The Quaich was won by Rhona Crichton (F6) on the clarinet while Strings 2, comprising of Annie Ning (F4), Sophie Sneddon (F5), Douglas Dorward (F5) and Kirsty Watson (F5), lifted the Southgate Prize for Ensemble playing.



### The High School of Dundee Pipes and Drums

# DEPT REVIEWS.



## Winners of the Senior Music Competition.

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. 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!

The exam month of May is really the calm before the storm as we head into June, bringing with it the prospect of four nights of the Sound of Music at the Gardyne Theatre. Already there are rehearsals at lunch time and after school but once the SQA exams finish these become very intensive! There is much still to be done but we all look forward in anticipation to another spectacular school show, which this year will be brought junior school in with senior school.

The long anticipated opening of Mayfield took place on 16/17 June, at which the Senior Strings, Saxophone Group, Brass Ensemble, Jazz Combo and Pipe Band performed. The Pipe Band also performed at the Kids' Day Out, organised by the Rotary at Kingspark School.

Congratulations are due to Catriona France, [F6] and Esther McMillan [F6], who were successful at auditions and have been invited to join the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

Furthermore, Mary Reid [F6], Lucy Neville [F5], Kirsty Watson [F5], Christine Reid [F4], Jilly Vannet [F4], Eilidh Firth [F4] and Stephanie Wright [F4] will be representing the school in the National Youth String Orchestra of Scotland this summer, with a residential course at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, followed by a tour of Elgar Country. Kirsty Scragg [F3], Liusaidh McClymont [F3], Ailsa Purdie [L6] and Louise Pattullo [L6] will be taking part in the NYSO training school.

On a staffing level we welcomed Mr Jason McAuley as our Brass Instructor initially to cover Mrs Dowall's maternity leave and then as Part Time Instructor. He will begin full time teaching in August 2006. Mrs Alison Dowall left in April to commence work as Part Time Brass Instructor with Fife Council and we wish her well in her new position. Congratulations go to her and her family on the arrival of her second son Robbie last July and also to Mr Love and his wife on the birth of their daughter Millie in February. Mrs Kate Sharp joined us in December as Part Time Piano Instructor after the retirement of Mrs Mary Neave and will be helping us out until the end of the session. In August Ms Avril Evans will attend the Chetham's International Festival and Summer School for Pianists, which Mr Stephen Armstrong and Kirsty Watson [F5] attended last year.

Another session, another inevitably long Music Report! We look forward to welcoming you at some of our many musical events in the new session. Word is just out that there will be a return of the long awaited Music Trip, this time to Prague and Salzburg in June 2007. There is certainly plenty to look forward to!



# SENIOR SCHOOL DEPTS REPORT 05/06



## Department of Philosophy & Religion

The Department of Philosophy and Religion has gone through a lot of changes this year with a revision of the curriculum for all year groups in the senior school. The biggest changes took place in the certificated courses offered from Form 3 to Form 6. The full RMPS Intermediate 1/2 course was dropped in favour of individual RMPS Intermediate 2 units in Forms 3 and 4 exploring A World of Values and Moral Issues in Technology. In Forms 5 and 6, for the first time in the school pupils had the opportunity to study the full Philosophy Higher course, which was complemented by the introduction of the RMPS Advanced Higher in Form 6. (These two class groups were invited to attend a philosophy study day at the St. Andrews University. See below.) In addition to these new courses offered by the department, next year will see the introduction of Sociology Higher as an enrichment class for Forms 5 and 6.

### Philosophy Study Day

At the end of March, 5 Philosophy and RMPS pupils attended a Philosophy Study Day at the Philosophy Department of St Andrews University. This was the first year that the university had offered this course which was intended to serve as a review of the SQA Philosophy course.

Pupils attended lectures on Scepticism, Free Will and Determinism, Subjective versus Objective Morality, and

Kantianism and Utilitarianism. Each of the lectures were offered by experts from the university in each of the specific areas studied.

The pupils enjoyed the lectures and the chance to see how philosophy is presented at university. They also enjoyed the opportunity to get together with pupils from other schools throughout Scotland (some pupils even met friends there that they had not seen in a while) and to visit St. Andrews.

### Poster Competition

This year the department was approached by David Lorimer of the Science and Medical Network who, working in coordination with D.C. Thomson and The Templeton Foundation, invited the department to organise a poster competition for the pupils of the school. The competition was designed to get pupils to reflect on inspirational stories and people to encourage them to strive to reach their own potential.

Pupils selected their favourite quotations and stories and chose an inspirational figure to write about. There was also a space for a Personal Reflection to allow the pupils to include poems, drawings, or other written text.

The school received a grant towards the prizes the best in each class have been submitted for a regional competition. The judges, which included staff from the departments of Philosophy and Religion, English, and the Library, were very impressed by the standards of many of the posters and had a very difficult job deciding on the winners.



Amnesty International



**VOOTE**  
for Trade Justice

# GERMAN EXCHANGE 05

HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 06



On June 19th six pupils from Forms 3 and 4 met with Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Seith at Edinburgh airport. We were all about to embark on a great adventure - the German Exchange.

When we eventually arrived in Germany we were all very nervous but excited at the same time. We met the families we would be staying with, in Bad Zwesten, for the next ten days and they all made us feel very welcome. On our first day we all met up at their school, which was very different to what we're used to. They even had a castle as their lunch hall! We met their Rector and had a tour of the school with our German partners.

On Tuesday, all the Scots walked to town where we met the Mayor. After that we had a huge ice-cream sundae - the first of many - because it was so hot. Andrew chose the biggest one on the menu and then only had about five minutes to eat it which caused much hilarity among everyone else. When Andrew had finished we walked back to school and spent the rest of the day with our partners.



**Andrew, about to take his ice cream head on**



**It's okay when you get used to it...**

Although school starts at about 8am in Germany, pupils finish at about 1pm so have the afternoons free, meaning we could go shopping or to the outdoor swimming pool which was a very nice way to cool down after a hard day at school.

The following day was spent with our German partners on a day trip during which we visited a castle, went on boat trip on the Edersee (a large lake) and went to a town close by to do some shopping (and to eat more ice-cream!). At the castle there was an exhibition on ancient forms of torture including a cage which was spun really fast and provided the perfect place for the teachers to put troublesome Scottish or German exchange students!

The whole of Thursday was spent in classes with our partners. It seemed very odd because it is the teachers who move from class to class, not the pupils, as we are used to.

# GERMAN EXCHANGE 05



The next day we went with our partners on a hike through a forest. The weather was not ideal for hiking, being very hot and sunny but we eventually made it to our destination, an isolated tower at the top of a hill in the forest, which provided excellent views across the whole area.

We all spent the weekend with our host families but we all went with them to Kassel, the biggest city in the region. There was more shopping and ice-cream all round! On Monday we all met up at school again and then got a coach to Marburg, a very picturesque town not far from the school. In Marburg we visited the castle and then went to the botanic gardens, a short drive away. However, the highlight of Marburg was a whole shop devoted to gummy bears so we all bought many kilograms for friends and family. This was the last day that we spent in Germany so we had a farewell barbecue in the evening which was great fun and involved eating far too much, drinking too many fizzy drinks and then playing rugby, volleyball and football which was great fun. After a good night's sleep, we packed all our suitcases (including all the gummy bears) and were taken to Treysa railway station where we left our new friends and their families and returned home to Dundee taking with us great memories. The thing we all missed most when we came home was the amazing weather - it was hotter in Germany at 7am than it ever is in Scotland - but we were all glad to be home.

The Germans arrived in Dundee for the return leg on Sunday 25th September. Everyone's families came to meet and greet them at the school. Then we were left to go our separate ways for the rest of the day. On Monday morning, we took the Germans into school with us where they went on a tour of the school and had a meeting with the Rector. The rest of the day was spent in school classes with their partners.

The next day all of us went down to Stirling. We went to the Wallace Monument and then to the Bannockburn centre. There we learnt all about the weapons, the battles and the people involved in the area. As an added bonus the weather stayed nice for the whole day. On Wednesday, while we slaved away in school, our German partners were away on a nice hike to

Tullybaccart, though after school, we met up for a game of bowling in Dundee. Naturally, Andrew won with some fantastic shots.

On Thursday, there was a day out at St. Andrews on the cards for our partners. In the afternoon, they walked from the school playground to Dundee Law to look at the great views from the hill. On Friday, the Germans spent all day in school going around with their partners, while at night, everyone met up in town for a night out at The Shore. We saw some good young local bands and a great time was had by all. On Saturday, the partners spent the whole day entertaining their German friends. Some of us went to Tannadice Park to let the Germans experience the greatness that is Dundee United. Sunday was spent in Edinburgh, where we headed up to Edinburgh Castle to look around and learn all about the great history of Scotland. At night there was another round of bowling to play. Luckily, Andrew kept his crown as the king of the bowling.

On Monday, the Germans spent the whole morning wandering around the school and falling asleep in every class. In the afternoon, they were taken to the Discovery Centre to learn about the Discovery voyage. A visit to the Croquet Club uncovered the terrible truth that Andrew is not as good at it as he is at the bowling! On Tuesday, there was another morning in class, and then there was a trip to Sensations for the Germans in the afternoon. They all enjoyed their last day in Scotland. For their last night, everyone met up again in town for a last supper at Jimmy Chung's.

On Wednesday morning, the Germans left for Edinburgh airport. There were a lot of sad faces as we said "Auf Wiedersehen" to our German partners for the last time. Many thanks to Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Seith for making the exchange possible and also to all our German friends and their families for making us all feel so welcome and making the whole exchange such great fun.

Report by

**Christine Reid and Andrew Hannah F4**

# SPANISH EXCHANGE 05

In the (very) early hours of Tuesday the 5th June, 15 excited Spanish pupils Miss McCulloch and Mrs Seith met at the school gates carrying their summer wardrobes ready to start the journey everyone had been looking forward to - the Spanish exchange!

The journey to Edinburgh airport went relatively quickly as most of us were still half asleep and at 7am we boarded the long awaited flight to Alicante. When we arrived in Alicante and stepped off the plane we could all instantly feel the blazing Spanish sun taking effect on our pale Scottish skin. Some were already feeling the need to apply sun lotion! We were then escorted to the bus provided for us and soon enough we were on the road into central Murcia. Everyone was full of nerves on the bus and could not believe we were so close to meeting our exchange partners.



At last we arrived at El Corte Inglés, a large department store in the middle of Murcia, and we all quickly scattered off the bus to be greeted by kisses and hugs from our new friends and family for the next 10 days. We said goodbye to Miss McCulloch and Mrs Seith as they left for their hotel in the centre of town and went off with our new families to start our Spanish adventure.

On Wednesday morning we met at San Pablo CEU for the first time. The school is very big and we were all hugely impressed as we were given a quick tour round. The Scots then set off to the centre of Murcia where we visited the Town Hall and were welcomed by the Head of Education. We also had our photo taken and it was seen in the local newspaper a few days later! After our Town Hall visit we went to watch a performance by students in the Dance Academy who showed us some different styles of Spanish dancing and we were greatly impressed by their sense of rhythm and timing.



A short walk later we were at the Cathedral of Murcia where everyone was in awe as we walked round. The inside was very big and beautiful and it had many different interesting parts to be looked at. In the early afternoon we went to a Spanish food market where we were made to ask local buyers questions in Spanish in order to fill out a questionnaire given to us by the school. This was easier for some more than others! It was easiest though for Fraser Wilson who won a prize for getting top marks although he did look at a lot of my answers! After the food market we set off back to the school to spend the rest of the day with our partners.

On Thursday we were off to the beach at Mil Palmeras. This was a brilliant day enjoyed by everyone although some of the boys did get a bit badly burnt sunbathing. Swimming in the sea, eating ice cream, burying people in the sand - it was one of the best days in the exchange.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday was a long weekend for the school so there were numerous activities planned for us by the Spanish teenagers. On Friday the whole group was invited to a party at Ali Brown's partner Alvaro's villa, close to the sea. Everyone arrived in their own time throughout the day. We had a BBQ lunch and all tried some interesting types of Spanish meat and other food that we weren't quite so sure what it was! We danced to Spanish pop and swam in the pool. It was a great party and everyone seemed to have an unforgettable time.

Saturday was mostly spent with our exchange partners and families so everyone did something different. On Sunday the group of 30 Spaniards and Scots met up again at the beach. We all had fun swimming in the sea and bonding with our Spanish amigos. We had lunch together at one of the main squares close to the beach and had fun trying to speak Spanish (well Spanglish for most of us). On Monday we were back at San Pablo and being taken away for the day to Aqualandia - a water park in Benidorm. Kamikaze, Zig-zag, Black Hole, Rapid Rivers - these were just a few of the rides we all had great laughs going on. This was another unforgettable day!

# SPANISH EXCHANGE 05



Tuesday was a cultural day for us. We went to Cartagena and visited an archaeological museum where the tour guide only spoke to us in Spanish. This made it a little difficult but it was interesting looking at small parts of Spanish history. Then we headed for central Cartagena where we had lunch in the port. The Roman theatre was the next stop. It was having restoration work done to it so we could only see it through a small fence but we had quite a clear view and thought it was interesting and worth seeing. We then were allowed a little shopping time so most of us went and bought ice cream! When we returned to the school at about 2pm everyone went home for lunch. Later on we all met up again though and the Scots went out in Murcia accompanied by the popular Alvaro whilst the rest of the Spanish were at the library studying.

Wednesday was the day everyone had been dreading as it was our last full day of the exchange. A few of us wore our San Pablo polo shirts and took them into school to get them signed. Our visit today was to Caravaca where we visited numerous museums and found out a little bit more about Spanish culture and history. Everybody's favourite though was the visit to the Santuario de la Vera Cruz which was a castle in Caravaca. It had many different parts to it which everyone found interesting. Then we were off to Fuentes del Marques, a huge parkland where we all had great fun wandering around and ordering desserts in the restaurant. It was our last night so the entire group of 30 went out to a restaurant in the evening. We were all sad to be leaving the following day so we made the most of it by having a great last night. Lots of photos were taken and everyone was feeling rather emotional including the Spaniards.

Overall the Spanish Exchange was an unforgettable experience for all of us and if you ask anyone on the trip they would definitely recommend going on it to the years below. It is a once in a lifetime experience and is definitely an opportunity worth taking. We all cannot wait until our Spanish friends come back in September when we will show them a great time in Dundee!

Joanna Reid F3



## And some thoughts from los otros ....

- ... We set off at 3 o'clock in the morning so early "bus banter" was limited!
- ... I saw Alvaro and went over to meet him. The first thing he did was grab me and bear hug me (making me feel less nervous and more worried!)
- ... We were soon in Murcia. This was when it hit me that I had barely practised any Spanish and never felt so unprepared in my life!
- ... As soon as I got off the bus I heard a Spanish woman shout "Emma! Emma!" and turned to see the mother of my partner. She gave me a huge hug and a kiss on each cheek. I was no longer worried!
- ... I just kept replying "si" as I couldn't make out what anyone was saying.
- ... I got on really well with my partner and couldn't quite believe how well they had matched everyone up.
- ... The only different thing I found in Spain was how late they go to bed. I usually go at 10.30 but to Almodena that was far too early.
- ... The last day was my birthday and Lorena's mum gave me a chocolate cake that tasted amazing and a bracelet with my name and date of birth on it.
- ... By the end of the week we knew everyone so well, we were like a huge family. It was terrible having to leave them.
- ... Spain is a country where I would love to live in the future as apart from the weather, it has a lot to offer people whether it is sport or culture. I wish I could do it all over again!



# drama

## DEPARTMENT REPORT 05/06

It's been a busy year in the department with many 'comings and goings' not all of them strange!

Our first high point was the Italy trip to Lake Garda in October where 33 pupils, accompanied by Mr Illsley, Miss Douglas, Mr Armstrong and I were to experience the ancient art of Commedia Del Arte. One lost passport and a nearly barred entry into the country later..... [Caitlin!] we arrived at our rather 'faded' damp accommodation to meet our tutor, Alex. As well as being deemed 'hot,' Alex endeared himself to all with his obvious enthusiasm for this form of mask and our pupils worked incredibly hard for him, producing some imaginative and creative work. It was encouraging to see all three year groups work effectively together and become so supportive of each other. In between workshops we managed to find time to visit a very wet Venice, where the pigeons in St Marks Square caused much hilarity when they mistook Lucy Brunton's hair for a nest and Tom Bannerman's body for a tree – easily done I suppose! Then onto Verona – Romeo and Juliet, Bardolino – Ice cream, Gardaland – rollercoasters! On all excursions and indeed throughout the whole trip our pupils behaved impeccably and were always great fun to be with.



Soon after our return to school the F4 Int. 2 pupils were scheduled to perform nine small scale productions to different target audiences; both in and outwith the school. Pupils always gain a great deal from this community involvements it is invaluable in developing their presentation skills and enriches their learning experience. There are often some highly amusing moments, both intended and unintended, a classic one being when Andrew Hannah and Craig Wallace were seen tottering down the main concourse of Ninewells Hospital dressed as pantomime dames and complaining that their stilettos were pinching their feet. The target audience experience is always a tremendous test of team work, and courage! After this excitement all years put in some hard graft on the demanding written elements of the course. Our practical exams started in March and ran through to April. This year we had nearly 50 pupils presenting at Int. 2 level which meant we had six productions to present to the external examiner, not to mention Higher and Advanced Higher pupils. We also continued to enjoy links with Scottish Youth Theatre, who did a workshop with F3 and Dundee Rep who rewarded our commitment with a special schools performance of Dr Korczak in Trinity.

It was a busy time, during which, I went off on maternity leave! However, the department was ably managed by Mr Illsley and aided by Miss McVeigh, to whom much thanks must go for her hard work and commitment shown towards our pupils, often beyond the call of duty! Upon my return I found that it was 'all change' and our Head of Drama Mr Illsley had been elevated to the ranks of Senior Management. We wish Roger well in his new post and thank him for all his efforts in setting up and establishing a thriving Drama department, of course not forgetting the many wonderful school productions he has directed and been involved with over the years. Unfortunately due to the pressures of his new job Roger was unable to direct The Sound of Music. However, I'm sure all would agree that this was magnificently done by Mrs Maggie Woodman and was a stunning end to a very dramatic year!

I look forward, with excitement, to the challenges of the future and the department's continued success.

**Mrs Drummond.**

# drama

## Pupil musings on Target Audience -

".....it was great getting out of the drama studio and experiencing a change of set. It really helped our confidence and was amazing seeing the audience faces light up with laughter whilst we were performing"

"...We faced many obstacles in creating this piece, actors disagreeing and music cues going missing...but overall it was great fun and I hope our extract about bullying helped the audience understand the importance of the issues raised."

"It was challenging trying to perform our piece in a much smaller space than the drama department, but it prepared us in case we had to do it again...I especially liked the crumpets and jam the old people gave us."

## Pupil observations on Italy trip -

"...It was great mixing with new people and speaking to people you wouldn't normally speak to."

"The Italy trip was definitely the high point of my dramatic year. The trip to Venice was enthralling. I couldn't get my head around the astonishing number of birds in St Marks Square. I ate my body weight in ice-cream."

"Italy was such an amazing experience and through doing the workshops we learnt new types of theatre such as Comedia Del Arte which will really improve our theatrical skills."



Target audience.... Nice frocks!

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## The Hour When the Vampires Bite!

When the sky is a black as ink,  
And the moon casts a silvery light,  
When the wind whispers in the trees,  
That's the hour when the vampires bite

When the wolves howl in the darkness,  
And an owl glides silently through the night,  
When the bat for an eerie silhouette in the sky,  
That's the hour when the vampires bite.

When you hear a chilling cry,  
And you awake from your dreams with a fright,  
When you hear footsteps in the gloom,  
That's the hour when the vampires bite.

When the colour drains from your face,  
And your turn a ghostly white,  
When a shiver goes down your spine,  
That's the hour when the vampires bite.

Anna Mackenzie, F1



## The Dark Hates Me!

I think the dark hates me,  
Don't you?  
It magnifies every grunt, shunt,  
Moan, groan, plip, plop, drip, drop,  
Bash, crash, squeak, creak  
And even the tiniest bleep.

It turns your best friend into your worst enemy,  
Your comforts to your dreads.  
It holds a terrifying mask over everything it touches  
Turning your favourite dreams to your nightmares.

It makes you question every quiver,  
Investigate every bang.  
With every squeak you shiver  
And dread every clang.

It turns an artist's picture  
To a spooky tree's bark.  
Every wonderful story  
To deep, deathly dark.

Tristan Leicester, F1

## The Dark Forest

Deep down in the dark forest  
Shadows fell upon the green city.  
Ferns swayed, foxes howled

And crows cawed.  
The trickling stream flowed down  
The winding land,  
Foxgloves bent down  
Like old men over the bubbling brook.

Ghastly ghosts glide between the  
Tall trees,  
Pale and peculiar,  
Their silvery faces glow menacingly  
In the moonlight.  
Their presence is felt  
But not seen.

The mist begins to rise  
Up the terrifying tree's trunk.  
The chaffinches chirp,  
The ghosts grumble and  
Crawl back to their shadowy places.

Rebecca Reid, F1

## Making Sense

Sometimes if it's really eerie you can hear them,  
Creaking, rustling, scratching  
Then whispering, whistling, whining.  
But I'm told it is only me that can hear them

Sometimes if you're on your own you can see them  
Shuffling, dancing, devouring,  
Then roaming, running and raging.  
But I'm told it is only me that can see them.

Sometimes if you're really hungry you can taste them,  
Bitter sweet and tangy,  
Sickly, sour but succulent.  
But I'm told it is only me that can taste them.

Sometimes if it's dark they will touch me,  
Choking, scratching, scraping  
Then poking, prodding and pinching,  
But I'm told it's only me that can feel them.

Sometimes in the dead of night you can smell them,  
Putrid, horrid, sickly,  
A smelly, stinking stench.  
But I'm told it is only me that can smell them.

Everyone says they don't exist  
But I know they do.  
If you doubt me, try using your senses tonight;  
You'll see, trust me, you will.

Alistair Lynch, F1

## The Sea . . .

The sea is an angry bull  
Who thunders up the beach all day.  
He charges into rocks and roars and grunts,  
He sends phlegm flying over the cliffs  
When he is angry.  
He rears up as boats come close  
And tramples down on top of them  
In his anger.

But when calm and tired  
He lies down sleepily  
And munches on the sandy grass,  
Friendly and inquisitive, until he is rested  
And starts charging all over again.

Ross Macdonald, F1

The sea is a horse, peaceful and quiet,  
Trotting along calmly,  
His head low and sleepy,  
The slow, rhythmic sound of its hooves landing  
Softly on the ground.

The sea is a horse, raging and fierce,  
Speeding up as it gallops along, rearing as it goes,  
His head held high,  
Ears back and angry  
As his hooves crash down on the ground.

The sea is a horse, playful and loud,  
Cantering around, rearing,  
Neighing and shaking its mane,  
It jumps about.  
Tired now, it calms down for nice, long sleep.

Freya Drummond, F1



## The Wind . . .

The wind is a joyful bird  
It tumbles and dives  
Thoughtful and friendly  
It soars through the skies.

The wind is contented bird  
Careless and free  
Flying around aimlessly  
Ruffling the trees.

The wind is a lonely bird.  
It chirrups and calls  
Slowly, so quietly –  
It sorrowfully falls –  
Silence . . .

Charlotte Keatch, F1

The wind is an untamed horse,  
Wild and stubborn,  
Galloping unhindered and free.  
No fence or boundary can pen him in.

And when the storm gather pace,  
The howling reaches its crescendo,  
Its thundering hooves beat upon rock and field,  
Whipping and tossing his head.

When all its energy is finally used up  
The horse slowly calms down.  
He gently grazes around the land  
Until slowly, in the stillness he sleeps.

Lauren Clayton, F1

## The Stream

The stream is a snake  
Slithering its way through small gaps,  
Hissing and whispering,  
Smooth to touch,

Weaving its path through the mountain  
It hisses like an angry snake  
And meanders on when it's calm.  
It slips and slopes from side to side.

It spits at you from the mouth,  
Long and winding  
It moves with stealth,  
Ready to engulf whatever is in its path.

The water as cold as the snake's blood  
Ripples as it moves.  
It is peaceful when it is asleep  
And hardly moves.

Calum Keddle, F1

# CREATIVE WRITING

## The Dark Night

Suddenly, a loud wailing noise woke twelve-year-old Lucy, then it stopped just as quickly. Lucy stared around her tiny bedroom wondering what had just woken her up. She was just about to fall asleep again, thinking she had probably imagined it, when she heard the noise again, except, this time, it was louder. Lucy, not one to cower under the bed, jumped up, put on her slippers, tied her dressing gown tightly around her and crept down the dark stairs. The house was quiet again; her mother and big brother were still sleeping.

"Hello," she called out. "Is anybody there?"

She flicked the light switch. It stayed dark. She tried again, but nothing.

"Must be a power cut," she muttered to herself.

Lucy grabbed a torch from the kitchen table and looked around the darkened cottage for the source of the noise. After searching every corner, she gave up and started up the stairs. She got halfway up when she heard the noise again, but it sounded louder, as if whatever it was were nearer. She jumped round and brandished the torch at the darkness before her.

"Who's there!" she called.

Suddenly, as Lucy glanced through the kitchen window, she saw a white light shining in the cornfield behind the garden. It was moving around the field in circles and the noise seemed to be coming from the same source as the light. Lucy, feeling rather brave, crept down the stairs, out of the back door and into the cold, frosty November night to see what it was.

Shivering in her dressing gown, Lucy stole towards the cornfield and climbed over the gate. All the while, the noise continued. It was becoming louder as Lucy drew nearer to the bright light which, by now, seemed to be doing laps of the field very rapidly, as if it were being chased.

Lucy stopped at the side of the field at a spot where the light was coming towards her, intending to block its path.

"Come on. Be brave," Lucy whispered to herself, her knees knocking and her teeth chattering. She kept her eyes on the light which, by now, was approaching her very quickly. Lucy whimpered and squeezed her eyes shut, wishing she had stayed in bed.

She opened her eyes again.

Lucy looked around confused. The strange light had disappeared! "What?!" she called into the air around her.

She stood on the spot for a few minutes, wondering where it could have gone.

She was just about to give up when she heard the noise again, getting louder and louder, as if it were getting nearer again.

Lucy looked round quickly, gasping. There was nothing there. Then she heard something behind her. Again, she spun round holding the torch in front of her. There was the bright light, right in front of her. It was so close she couldn't see anything else but the light. The noise was very loud now. The light seemed to reach out towards her and Lucy fell to the ground. She could see only white. She could hear only the loud wailing noise. She thought she saw a face in the middle of the light. It was ghostly grey and the mouth was open, doing the wailing. Lucy squeezed her eyes shut. She felt as if she were drowning in the noise and brightness. The next morning, Lucy's mother and brother went out into the cornfield, calling her name. They found Lucy. Dead! Her body was completely white. Her eyes were closed, as if she were sleeping peacefully.

As they turned away from the body, full of grief, with tears in their eyes, a noise seemed to come from the body. A thin wailing noise ...

**Natalie Bennett F2**

## Sledging

The moment I woke up I dived from my bed, eager to be on the crisp white snow. All the woollies were thrown on in a blur as I raced towards the shed to grab the closest sledge to hand. I could hear my Dad starting the car-but where were the sledges? I yanked open the back door and ran to the car that was edging out of the driveway. The car's brakes were jammed on and a door flung open. This was my chance to go sledging! Dad called "It's OK I've got the sledges!" As we turned the corner before the hill, I gaped at the wonderful sight of the sparkling, crisp and icy snow.

I sprinted up the hill so I could be the first one to sledge but I was beaten by my big brother, Adam. I skidded down the hill on my sledge, head first, keeping as low as I could, so I could reach a fair distance. A feeling of longing that had been living inside me ever since it had looked like snow was suddenly fulfilled. I felt the cold air whizzing past my cheeks, making them rosy. The snow was blowing onto my face making it impossible to see as I careered towards a fence. I rolled out of the speeding sledge and became embedded in a t of snow. The excitement which had been welling up inside me suddenly exploded in a hoot of laughter.

I collected my sledge and dragged it up the hill where the rest of my family was waiting to start the race. Our gloves, hats and goggles were putted on tightly. We all stood behind our sledges

waiting for the signal from Mum to start the race. The hat was dropped, the race had begun! Dad was off in the lead but the collision with my little brother Gordon flung them off their sledges. It was a two man race. Adam and I both were keeping low on our sledges as we bounced quickly over the icy ground. Unfortunately Adam won as I hit a protruding frozen mole hill which brought the sledge to a sudden halt.

As I positioned myself on the sledge again facing downhill I knew that this would be the final time that day I would get to use my sledge. The snow, which had been so smooth was now a mess of tracks criss-crossing each other. One last shot. Ready, get set, GO...!

**Peter Robertson, F2**



## The Garage.

I was thrilled to bits the day my mother announced that the old green garage had to go! I was particularly excited because I was about four or five at the time, and had never been allowed inside this ancient building in our garden. My parents probably feared something would fall on me, or I'd splinter my fingers on the old, rough wood. It had always, therefore, been a mystery to me what was inside. I imagined lots of treasures: china tea sets or a Victorian doll, sitting in a glass case, staring out at me, waiting for me to find her.

When the day came, I could hardly wait. My mum couldn't see why I was so excited about clearing out an old garage! I didn't bother to explain. My brother and I got dressed for the occasion, in warm coats and Wellington boots. My mother also advised gloves, just in case of splinters. That morning, a large skip had arrived in our driveway, for us to chuck any unwanted junk in. Rajiv (my younger brother) found this particularly exciting and I knew he wanted to climb in it to explore.

When everything was set and ready, my brother, myself and a few neighbours from over the wall who had volunteered to help, lined up in front of the garage, as if it was an opposing army. When the giant doors were opened, a huge gust of wind filled my eyes with dust and the smells of solvents. I didn't complain however, scared that I wouldn't be allowed in to help.

The whole room smelt of old paint, the floors carpeted with sawdust and the walls with old sheets. I felt slightly disappointed, because the garage I had just entered was nothing like I had pictured in my head. I did notice however, that there was an old chest of drawers in the corner, hidden, in a blanket of cobwebs and dust. It looked old; it had carvings round the doors and an old fashioned lock and key. I turned the key and yet another, old wood smell was assailed us. The wardrobe was crawling with spiders. Huge ones, bigger than the ones from Camperdown zoo! I remember screaming as they scuttled out and began crawling over my shoes. Rajiv came running over, he too began to scream. We turned and RAN!

For some time my brother and I hid under our tree at the bottom of the garden. Having been terrified by man-eating spiders, we decided to run away in case they chased after us. I was thoroughly upset. My whole day of adventure had been ruined by some stupid bugs.

At last, being persuaded to come back inside, my mum gave me a box of photographs and ornaments to look through. She said they didn't belong to her, they belonged to some previous owners who had left them in the old chest of drawers in the garage.. The photos were creepy. Black and white people standing very straight and not even smiling. Children wearing pretty dresses, playing in the garden, I now played in. It was strange. I felt like I was watching them through a dusty window. Watching girls and boys my age, playing in my garden, watching the unsmiling adults sit on the terrace with tea and scones. There was something else in the box too. A doll. She was wearing a red dress and black boots, just as I knew she would be.

Vanita Nathwani, F2

## The Demons of Darkness

They are coming, they are coming.  
No way to halt the horrific fate that awaits us,  
The incessant thunder of their drumming  
Is getting louder and louder ...

Their wailing sirens rip the air,  
Getting closer and closer.  
Grown men weep in sheer despair,  
But no-one can save us from the demons of darkness.

The end is drawing near and more near.  
Terrified faces flicker in amber firelight.  
Mothers cling to their children in fear,  
Muttering desperate prayers for mercy.

An old man sits in crumpled clothes.  
Nursing his tankard of ale.  
For in his heart he truly knows  
That nothing can save him from the demons of darkness.

We have heard the stories.  
Doors are bolted and windows barred,  
But they destroy homes and memories.  
And walls will not restrain them.

The sky is dark red.  
The sound of gunfire terrorises the soul.  
The heavens are stained with the blood of the dead,  
Screams echo through this desolate place.

Their grotesque forms prowl each alleyway.  
Their putrid stench suffocating.  
Their knock is heard at every doorway  
Our fate is sealed and ...

No-one can save us from the demons of darkness.

Jenny Lothian, F2



## The Death Ship

Ripping through the current, the deadly sea ship sails  
Rising out of the dark, the ragged mast  
The sails torn and wet, white with a ghostly glow  
Crashing through the tumbling waves  
Water sloshing, splashing everywhere  
Slapping through the twelve-foot waves  
As death draws ever closer to the unsuspecting victims,  
Everything dark, the black of the sky, not a star in sight  
Against the grey, choppy sea, where all seems dead  
Except the raging anger of the frightful storm...

Alex Montgomery, F2

## The Race

Adrenalin pounding through him, faster than his heart.  
His hands are shaking.  
His knees are quaking.  
He swivels his neck round, eyeing the finishing line.  
He challenges it and himself.  
Pretending to stretch, he inspects his competition. Limbering  
up, they look scared.  
But he is not.  
He can take it in his stride. . .  
Literally.  
He peeks at his battered spikes and feels pride.  
He's worried, but confident. He's trained hard for this. . .  
Rudely cutting into his thoughts the linesman says, 'Marks!'  
He jumps up, warms his muscles. He cracks his neck again  
And drops to the floor to assume his starting pose.  
He breathes shakily and waits for  
'Set!'  
His back leg automatically extends itself.  
It is now steady as is his breathing.  
'B!'  
Is all he hears of bang.  
His arms snap back, his body smoothly jerks  
Out of his blocks, towards the white ribbon.  
His feet are hammering at the track.  
His teeth, gritted in determination.  
His fleet fly  
And over the line he surges  
Winning!

Kirsty McEwan, F3

## Goldfish

The shop assistant's face fixed in a silent scream.  
Her hand still grasping at where the glass tank had been.  
A vapour trail of water led down, suspended for a while,  
To the aqueous mushroom cloud exploding from the tiles.  
Splinter of glass shatter across the air and the floor,  
Bending light into flashes of rainbows on the walls.  
Shoppers' heads are turned in sudden fright  
And a small boy grins in innocent delight.  
As goldfish from the tank are helplessly cast  
Along with the shrapnel, the grit and the glass,  
They splutter and struggle in an attempt to escape  
From the pure air that engulfs them as they suffocate.

Josh Ivinson, F3

## A Forest

A great, storm-tossed sea,  
Rippling and whispering in the breeze  
Through centuries, seasons, winter and summer,  
This ancient monument to nature's power  
Dominates everything.

In deepest winter, the trees stand like rocks,  
Bleak, barren and hostile.  
Will it ever be over, this once-verdant Cape Horn?  
Has it been like this since the world was born?  
Predators slip like sharks through the wood,  
While all else slumbers fitfully  
Under winter's icy hood,  
Eagerly awaiting the summer-to-be.

At the height of summer, the forest hums,  
Baking, dappled, leafy and lush,  
As puddles of shade ooze 'round the trees,  
As the air is stirred by a welcome breeze.  
At this time the forest becomes  
Colourful, gaudy, bright and green.  
But only until winter descends  
And it turns vicious, cruel, callous and mean.

And yet, despite all its woes,  
This place intrigues me with its air of mystery,  
Quietly brooding in its shady rest,  
Mist-wreathed and curious,  
With who knows how many unknown depths,  
If only it would impart its secrets unto us.

Iain Kennedy, F3

## One Fatal Step

The lights go out and the door begins to close  
I can feel the life agonisingly sapping out of me,  
But I am not brave enough to sail away.

And yet now I lie helpless,  
Swinging helplessly between life and death,  
The lights go out and the door begins to close.

A flashback from only moments ago:  
I never knew that my step onto the road was to be my last,  
But I am not brave enough to sail away.

A fleet of raging cars came hurtling towards me,  
And I had no way of escape,  
The lights go out and the door begins to close.

In my mind I hear their voices,  
"He may not make it," one says,  
But I am not brave enough to sail away.

At last I am released,  
Like a petal blown into a gust of wind,  
The lights go out and the door begins to close,  
And I am now brave enough to sail away.

Andrew Ferguson, F1

# CREATIVE WRITING

## Unspoken Fear

When we were parting  
Last year at this time,  
I did not dream that the pain  
I fear would ever be mine  
To hold inside me and never let out,  
A pain to make me wilt like a plant in a hot summer drought.

I thought they were joking,  
I thought they were just playing around,  
Trying to make me believe what they were saying,  
And it sound stupid to say that I did not believe,  
That one day it would be over,  
One day you would leave.

And I who have always hated work,  
Have found myself arriving early  
To fill my head with meaningless thoughts,  
Just so I don't have to think of you, my father.

So I don't need to think of you, alone in the ground,  
I don't have to think about my world that was destroyed,  
I don't need to think of all the things that I lost  
And I don't have to say the one thing I dread,  
That my world, my protector, my father is dead.

So don't ask me to say it,  
Don't ask me to admit  
That his eyes which were once lit  
With twinkling light,  
Are now as empty  
As the cold, dark night.

Jenni Hagan, winner of the F1-3 Creative Writing Prize

## Fright Night

That was her mind, closed to real suns, real sunflowers, engrossed in the inward chasing of many shadows.

The street was dully lit and drenched in the damp smell of decay. She shivered and pulled her scarf over her shoulders, checking nervously around her. Her pace quickened. Her outstretched arms pushed open the door, which released huge billows of smoke into the cold air. Thick rimmed sunglasses shielded her eyes from the yellow light, which buzzed and flickered. Her fingers nervously jingled the loose change in her coat pocket as she passed through reception unnoticed and upstairs until she reached the third floor. Hearing the door slam firmly behind her she sighed deeply, slumping in a heap against the wall.

Getting her breath back, she reached up and flicked on the light. The room sprung into brightness and as she removed her glasses, she revealed a series of scratches and bruises round her eye, which perfectly marked it out, the deep purple of the gashes creating a rich palette of colours along with her piercing green eyes in contrast with her stony complexion. She scrunched her eyelids up and slowly drew the curtains blocking out any light which might have slipped through the dirty windows from the street lights outside. She sprawled herself across the fusty, velvet bedspread and promptly fell asleep.

Hours passed and she slept deeply, her mind and thoughts in another world. Her breathing was heavy and slow, a continuous background noise, which accompanied the rumble of cars passing in the street. The blanket was ruffled up around her feet and her scrawny body laid perfectly still, one arm hanging delicately over the side of the bed, but not quite long enough to reach the sticky, patterned carpet. Unexpectedly, her peace was disturbed. She began writhing around uneasily on the bed, protecting her face with her long, skeletal fingers. Every inch of her body shook and

tingled as the fear crawled under her skin and took over her body like a soul possessed. She knew they would come, they had found her, and they were going to kill her. Unsure if she had enough time to escape, she shut her eyes tightly, squeezing her eyelids together and felt along the wall to the door handle; wrenching it open, she bolted into the corridor.

The door slammed behind her and her footsteps pounded the floor as she headed for the stairs. Every couple of steps she tentatively glanced over her shoulder, ensuring she had no one following her. She fumbled with the pocket of her coat which had caught on to the banister and eventually in a panic, pulled it, leaving part of it still clinging to the wood. She ran on, nervously glancing behind her for any signs of someone following. Reaching the smoke filled reception area once again; she faced down, keeping her eyes staring at her feet and made her way swiftly to the door, her knees shaking.

Outside, it was bitterly cold now. The streets were still encased in a shell of dull, smog which gave the feeling of stillness, a firm wall around it. It was as though she was totally oblivious to everything going on around her. Her eyes showed that the thoughts in her head were preoccupied and enshrouded with fear; they were vacant and glazed over. She made her way through the soggy streets, making no attempt to avoid other pedestrians and continuing on down some stairs to an unusually empty underground station. Waiting for a tiny period of time, she got on the first train that stopped and took a seat in the carriage. She was completely alone. The train rattled through numerous tunnels and stations, carrying fewer and fewer passengers as it headed further out of town. She began to shiver and leaned further in to the side of her seat for some warmth, as she did so, a face appeared at the window; she jumped and looked anxiously around her. Beads of sweat began to form on her forehead and her clammy hands grabbed on to the pole to the side of her. She again squeezed her eyes tightly shut and prayed that when she opened them everything would be normal. This was not the case. When she opened her eyes they were all around her. The train came to a stop at the next station and she collapsed onto the platform. Her body lay still and lifeless.

The next time that she woke up, there were two faces looking down at her, bright lights, white walls and a strong smell of disinfectant. She struggled to get up but was forced back down by a nurse at her side. She was in hospital. Her body was a wreck, a join the dots pattern of scratches and bruises. The reason she gave for this was definitely questionable, as no one had been in that carriage with her. There was no explanation as to what had happened and the one that she was giving was hardly believable. She was sent away to be observed further.

Puzzled doctors stood on the other side of the glass, taking notes on large clip boards. Her eyes were fixed straight ahead. They were void of any sort of connection to reality and were a mystical doorway to a world which had been the product of a magnificent mind and an imagination gone wild. Clumps of dust and dirt collected under her nails as her frail body scrambled backwards and pressed itself against the far wall of the room. The fear was indescribable. Her body was rigid with trepidation and fine beads of sweat dripped neatly down her forehead, like thawing ice in winter. The blood shot, dark eyes rolled and her heavy eyelids finally collapsed the rest of her body slumping against the chipping wallpaper, matted brown hair was strewn across her terrorised face.

Seventeen days later, doctors saw an improvement in Rosa and she was discharged from hospital. She returned to the seedy city centre hotel, and her life of permanent fear. Later that very afternoon, a panicked hotel clerk dialled the emergency number but it was already too late. Her delicate body was sprawled across the pavement and the curtains in the room above billowed in the wind. A small stream of blood dripped from her head into the gutter and her bones were broken like tiny pieces of cracked china. From looking at the scene it could be difficult to decipher whether she had jumped or whether she had been pushed.

Paranoid schizophrenia: personality disorder, mood disturbances, irritability, sudden anger, fearfulness, suspicion, bizarre hallucinations and detachment from reality are all common. Chronic sufferers have persistent symptoms over many years and it may be difficult to distinguish between discrete episodes.

Lauren McConville, F6

## Starbucks

As the door shut softly behind me I was greeted by the warm comforting smell of Starbucks. I caught the familiar aroma of freshly ground coffee, blueberry muffins and the spicy tangy smell of a Mexican chicken Panini slowly cooking. Moving up towards the counter my ears caught the well known sound of Louis Armstrong and I watched a couple of regulars ordering two fair trade cappuccinos.

Studying the board I couldn't decide whether I would go for a latte or mocha. Decisions, decisions... I watched the hot steam whirl up from the coffee machine like gusts of hot smoke from a factory on a cold winter evening.

I decided on a latte and while patiently waiting for my drink I admired the brightly coloured packets of coffee which stood sedately on the end of the counter. They were massed in groups; Colombian, Brazilian and Peruvian....

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The workers looked tired in the coffee plantations. They stood up and waved when we passed in the small, cramped truck. I waved back, smiling at the little baby slung over the women's back secure in the brightly coloured material which was so typically Peruvian. The men wore large straw hats to protect their faces from the glaring sun while the women wrapped their heads up in woven, multicoloured scarves. I noticed an old man sitting in the shade beside the coffee beans. His brazen, wrinkled face looked up when our truck passed and he smiled revealing yellow crooked teeth. As the truck moved through the lush green coffee fields I caught sight of children playing hide and seek amongst the bushes and while they played one capsized a large basket of coffee beans prompting a scolding from one of the elderly workers. I smiled to myself and sat back in the truck admiring the wide expanse of greenery which made up the coffee plantations of Peru.

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I replaced the coffee bean packet on the counter and sank into the sofa near the window. I noticed a young woman buying some of the Peruvian coffee beans asking for them to be ground before she hurriedly moved out of the shop, probably on her way home-anxious to miss the rush hour traffic. As I sipped my latte, the creamy flavour was released in my mouth. Staring into the coffee I admired the white and brown swirls which circulated around the mug giving it an artistic feel like the pattern released when paint is planted on white canvas.

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The swirling, grey water surrounded the anchor bringing the tired boat to a final halt. We had arrived and this was Puerto Alegria - place of happiness. This was the home of the street boys and where I would be for the next week. I hauled my bag off the truck and made my way cautiously along the plank and onto the safe ground. The track which led up to the huts was thick with mud from the heavy rains. The canopy of trees mesmerized me as they hugged the muddy track with their vast impressive leaves. Following the track up I was greeted by the warm smiling faces of the street boys, grouped together outside the huts anxious to meet us. Their ripped jeans and tattered t-shirts were in stark contrast to my clean top and ironed Levis and their bare feet seemed accustomed to the stony hard ground. I noticed some boys playing football outside the shaded patio area calling to one another in Spanish. Behind the kitchen window I saw another two boys, who I learned later were Juan and Rodrigo, looking cheekily out.

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An elderly couple came and sat at the table opposite me. The woman wore a shawl and had white, curled hair. The café mocha which they were drinking looked warm and inviting compared to my now empty mug. They appeared to be waiting for something

and soon enough a waiter brought two sizzling paninis.

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I brought my plastic mug and plate out and set them on the wooden table. The boys looked on eagerly and through their obvious nods and pointing I understood that they liked the vibrant blue of my cup. I was hungry by this stage and tried to ask the boys what we were having for dinner. It was obvious, through their laughs and grins, that they didn't understand my appalling Spanish. The room, large and open aired was an ideal area for eating meals and the netted windows were perfect for keeping out the unwanted bugs.

The rice was delicious and through mouthfuls of food I was able to understand that the three boys who sat at my table were Antonio, Rodrigo and Juan and they were each eight years old and didn't enjoy school. After dinner each of us had to wash our plates and sterilize them before replacing them in our netted bags. The boys were already outside playing football wearing their new football tops bought by the church in Inverness and my new friends were playing football too and eager that I joined in.

This was the boys' routine: school, dinner then football till bed time at nine. The evenings are always short in the jungle and as the lights began to dim the flood lights came on filling the boys with greater enthusiasm.

My football skills were quite atrocious and the boys loved using me as their dummy to practice their 'Beckham' moves.

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The music had obviously changed as the well known jazz was replaced by a more up to date artist. I contemplated going up for another latte but my thoughts were interrupted by the arrival of three workmen carrying between them a large wooden plank, obviously for the redevelopment of the new counter in the coffee shop. The workmen were large hefty men who spoke too loudly and were obviously blind to the disturbance they caused other customers with their arrival. Once the first plank of wood had been transported they promptly delivered the second plank, overturning some packets of coffee as they did so.

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The boat had arrived and with it the many sand bags and planks of wood needed for the building of the walkway. The mud oozed out under my feet as I made my way down the sloping hill to the river. The trees overhung the hatted group of people each making their cautious way down to the river. The formation of the line up from the river bank to the patio took some time but in the end it proved to be strong and effective for transporting the large planks of wood. Once all the planks had been transported we made a start on the sandbags. They were much too heavy to transport by hand so they were carried on our backs. Travelling up and down the steep hill it was inevitable that some of us slipped on the liquefied mud or fell under the heavy weight of the bags. Some of the bags ripped as we carried them up adding to the slippery conditions. However by the end it was a contented group who stood beside the piled up sand bags marveling at their work.

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The little boy was promptly called back by his mother who, embarrassed and slightly ruffled, apologized for the near accident which her son caused playing hide and seek with the piled up planks of wood. Sitting down again, the woman looked flustered and slightly awkward as she tried to drink her coffee while keeping a watchful eye on her three boys as they cantered through the dust planes of America on their nostril flaring horses which were their rocking seats in Starbucks.

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The planks creaked and squeaked as the piggyback races continued much to Maria Jose's dislike. Rodrigo and I, determined to win, ambled clumsily around the patio, cutting corners and crashing into fellow competitors on our way to the

finish line. The boys were heavier than I imagined, but their smiling faces and shouts of joy in rapid Spanish filled me with enthusiasm and exultation. After dinner we always played games with the boys whether it was football, rounders or in this case piggyback races.

There was a thick sloshing sound of the mop adding an insistent beat to the now quiet atmosphere of the shop. The general chatter of the workers mixed with the 'clink clink' of coffee mugs being cleared was audible. The coffee shop was slowly emptying.

The wind caught the upturned table cloth flinging it into the blowing wind. It danced and swayed as a sail would on a ship when it is suddenly filled with the energized breath of the wind.

The luncheon area was quiet except for the melodic sweeping of the brush which insinuated into my thoughts, distracting me from Paul's words which so pierced me. Paul standing in the centre of our circle was telling us the history of the Street Boys and why they ended up on the streets.

The streets of Peru are rife with corruption. Street Boys are perceived as subhuman beings polluting the streets of Lima and giving the capital a bad name. For middle class workers the words 'Street Boys' do not exist- for police workers the boys are bugs who need to be squashed quickly. They roam around the Streets at nights while hiding in underground tunnels and sewers in groups during the day (the streets are too dangerous for them). To survive, they steal, exchanging watches and rings for a small bag of 'glue' and a meager portion of food. However only the older boys are able to understand the concept of stealing- for boys below the age of eight they rely on sex for their survival. Many nights Paul would watch boys aged five and under being picked up by men, used and then discarded, like a child would play with a toy for a certain amount of time before abandoning it.

I remember Rodrigo running about hysterically laughing at some joke. He is six years old and was taken in by Scripture Union when he was five, but for the two years previous to that he had been on the streets. Paul said that if you had a dictionary of all the sexual acts ever committed, Rodrigo would have experienced every one and more than once. I remember our piggy back race and the little legs which wrapped around me. Is that the same little boy? How can such horror take place?

The staff kept peering over at me anxious not to intrude but restless to get away. I hadn't realized the time.

Picking my jacket up I caught sight of a worker leaning against one of the planks obviously waiting for her friend. I remember Antonio in Peru, who every night would sit on the decking awaiting the sun-set, believing it to be his Mother. I remember the canal boat as it eased its way out waving to the boys, the realization that I have so much and they have so little cutting through me in waves.

Walking out of the shop I stared at the large 'Fair Trade' sign which peered down at me from above - 'Coffee that Cares'. I wondered if people ever reflect on where their coffee comes from and whose hands went into preparing it. I wondered if people gave more time to developing countries like Peru, corruption would be stopped. Would famine and disaster ever cease? I wondered where the 'Street Boys' would be in ten years time....

The door swung shut behind me.

Ruth Stevenson, F6

The following piece is by Laura Peebles, F6, winner of the Bloc Prize for creative writing:

## The Snowflake

Not a sound could be heard as the small town of Ashcroft lay sleeping. Not a soul stirred as the cold, north wind whistled through the narrow, empty streets. The stars were hiding behind the heavy, threatening clouds and only a delicate ray of moonlight managed to peep through, casting its shadows over the ground. Gently, it began to snow. It was only a few, small flakes at first but gradually the snow fell thicker and faster. The snowflakes danced and glimmered in the pale moonlight but one snowflake in particular seemed to shine more brightly than the rest. As it fell towards the earth, it seemed to grow larger and larger, taking the shape of a girl. Her white, slippered feet fell softly on the ground as she landed. At last she was here. Shimmering in the light of the moon, she padded away silently through the narrow streets.

"Wake up! Jo, wake up!" was all I heard as my little brother's voice filtered into my dreams. The next thing I knew something heavy landed on my stomach.

"OW! Get OFF me!"

"But Jo, it's been snowing!"

"So?" I asked as I pushed him off my bed.

"So it's been snowing and it's really, really deep."

"Really, let me have a look then", pushing him out of the way as I clambered out of the bed and towards the window. Right enough as I peered through the window, my eyes still heavy with sleep, everything was white, covered by a thick blanket of snow. Deep drifts had collected in the sheltered alcoves of buildings; branches piled with snow were bending towards the ground and icicles hung beautifully from the rooftops, glinting in the sunlight. Winter has always been my favourite time of year. The landscape is given a new, elevated beauty which is entrancing to look at. However the novelty of winter and all that goes with it has very much worn off. It is true that when I was younger I used to think sledging, snowball fights and building snowmen was the best thing about winter. Nothing was more important than being the first one to step in that fresh, crisp, perfect snow. But not anymore. For some reason, as you get older, the pleasure you once felt when doing these things just seems to melt away with the snow each year until it becomes something of your past. Still, I'm glad that it was something that continued to delight Tom.

I pulled some clothes on and followed my brother downstairs to the kitchen. As I opened the door to the kitchen, a blast of hot air billowed up to greet us.

"Mum! Have you seen the snow?" asked Tom excitedly.

"Yes isn't it beautiful." She replied as she laid our breakfast on the table. "Oh that reminds me though; I heard on the radio that the school will be closed today. So you can amuse yourselves outside because I don't want to be interrupted."

"Well I was actually planning to study seeing as my exams are very soon. I'll be really quiet though, you won't even notice I'm here," I said.

"Oh sweetie I forgot about your exams. I was hoping that you would look after Tom because I can't."

"But I can't either," I protested

"Well there is no one else to watch him! One more day won't make any difference to your revision. You would've been at school anyway."

"Mum!"

"Please Joanna; I'll make it up to you. I promise."

"Fine," I replied sulkily. And with that she flounced off and shut

# CREATIVE WRITING

herself in her study. Honestly I just can't believe how selfish she is. Tom is not my responsibility, he is hers! Instead I have to sacrifice my own future.

"So what should we do first? We could have a snowball fight or.....no wait I know. Let's take the sledge up the Rise," he suggested.

"OK, well go get ready then," and reluctantly I went to help Tom get dressed.

She hadn't anticipated this. She had thought that this amount of snow would have kept everything inside, all dry and cosy. Suddenly she thought of something, something her father had told her. Humans, he had been telling her, were odd creatures. They were not like other animals, their evolution had taken them to exceptional levels; so much so that there were now similarities between humans and herself. Yes, that was what he had said before she had left. Still, no one told her that the snow would encourage them to come outside. Feeling slightly defeated and weary she sat herself down against one of the trees that were surrounding her. She had been searching all night and had found not even a trace of the star. Yet this was where the rest of her journey had led her; to a wood on a hill in a little place called Ashcroft. It should be here! So why was it that she was still unable to find it?

She became so immersed in her own thoughts that she didn't notice the little boy in the sledge hurtling straight towards her. Suddenly the boy caught sight of her and was so taken aback that he lost any control he may have had of the sledge. Now hearing it, her head snapped up and too late she realised what was happening. As the sledge and the boy drew nearer to the strange girl and the tree, the boy stared in disbelief as the girl disappeared before his eyes. The sledge hit the tree and boy and sledge went flying through the air and landed in a snow drift.

"TOM! TOM!" I shouted as I came running down the hill. I had been running after the sledge as it sped down the hill and through the trees. I saw his collision with the tree and was hoping he wasn't too badly hurt. What would I do if he was? Mum would be livid. Finally I found him half buried in deep drift of snow. "Tom are you alright?" I asked, worried. He was fine, a bit dazed but nothing was broken. I retrieved the sledge and then began to help him out of the snow.

"What happened? Were you going too fast?" I asked.

"No....I thought I saw something." He replied.

"Saw what?"

Tom frowned. "I thought I saw a girl but then she just vanished. She was there and then she wasn't." I told him that that was impossible; people don't just vanish into thin air. It was probably just his over-active imagination. We started to argue about it but then something caught my eye. I stopped mid-sentence. I'm positive that I just saw something shimmering behind one of the trees. It was probably just the sun reflecting on the snow but I'm almost certain that it moved. I hushed Tom and crept over to the tree. Once we reached it, we moved slowly round to the other side. I decided that the best thing to do would be to surprise it, if there really was anything there. On three we jumped. I heard a faint gasp and caught a glimpse of something but suddenly it shimmered and faded out of sight. Tom and I leapt back in shock. Bewildered I turned round to find it standing just behind us. I was so shocked that I couldn't even bring myself to speak. I merely pulled at Tom's sleeve and he turned his head to look.

I stood staring in disbelief. It was a girl. She looked about my age. She had bright grey eyes, long silver hair and the palest skin I have ever seen. It was as white as the snow around us with an almost transparent, unearthly glow to it, adding to the glittering quality she seemed to have. She wore a long white dress and on her feet she wore small, white slippers. I couldn't bring myself to look away. Then I noticed her looking at Tom and me in exactly the same way we were looking at her.

"What do you think she is?" Tom asked me softly.

"I could ask you the same question!" she retorted. "I'm a daughter of the ice. Who are you?"

"I'm Joanna and this is my little brother Tom." I answered. "We live here."

"What's your name?" Tom asked the girl.

"I am known as Aurora."

"Where are you from?" I asked curiously.

"I'm from the North. My parents rule over the spirits, snow and ice in the Icelands."

Normally if someone had suggested anything remotely as ridiculous as that I would have laughed but in her case it seemed a perfectly reasonable explanation. Most people can't make themselves disappear and most people do not look like her.

"Spirits?" I repeated stupidly.

"Yes, that is what am. I live in your world but I am not part of. I suppose you might describe it as another realm. You said that you live here?"



"Yeah," I answered cautiously, "Why?"

"Well," she began nervously, "I've lost something and you might be able to help me find it."

"Depends on what you've lost," said Tom. I was shocked for a moment to hear Tom's voice; I had almost forgotten that he was here. She smiled at Tom, as if she found what he had said amusing. She then stooped to the ground and picked up a handful of snow and blew it out of her hands. I wondered what she was doing when suddenly the snow swirled round and round and then settled into the shape of a sofa. I was completely dumbfounded. She told us to make ourselves comfortable while she told us what she was looking for. I was too shocked to even object.

"I'm looking for the Pole Star," she began, "it has fallen from the heavens and come down to earth. No one, even in my world, knows why this is. However, my father can't look for it as he is dealing with the winters. You see, my parents bring the winter snow each year; they have to take it to where it needs to be. I usually help but as this can be done without me, I have been sent to retrieve the star. It is crucial for us that the star is found because in my world, under the light of the pole star, the children begin their journey to adulthood and start to leave their childhood behind. It has been done this way for centuries and without it, we will never be able to leave our childhood at the right time. It would be disastrous for this process to begin too early or too late. This is to happen soon, but without the Pole Star we have no way of knowing when."

I didn't know what to think. I stopped believing in fairytales and make-believe a long time ago. I thought I was dreaming, but I found that I was wide awake. These sorts of things did not exist in the real world, only in the imagination. How could it be that I had stumbled across something which should not exist?

Tom suddenly interrupted my train of thought, "I can help you," he said "I know where your star is!"

"Don't be stupid Tom," I scolded, "You don't even know what it looks like!"

"I do. I've seen it," he insisted.

"Stop lying, you can't see it, not on the earth anyway."

Aurora then interjected "He would be able to see it. He is still a child."

"Why haven't I been able to see it then?" I asked her. Aurora shrugged; she seemed to be unable to answer me. Feelings of jealousy and dejection swept over me. What was stopping me from being able to see it? I was the same age as her. Then I remembered that what I had heard sounded like the ravings of a mad man. This couldn't really be true could it?

She then turned to address my brother "Tom could you tell me where you saw it?"

He said he saw it the other night. He could see it shining through the darkness and thought it was a star because it was twinkling like one. He is so childish. It could have been anything, a broken torch for example. Already we were nearly at the beach; where he said he saw it. To be more precise he said that light was coming from the cave. I had know idea as to how Aurora was going to get to the cave as it is round the other side of the cliffs and is only accessible by boat but it is dangerous. The sea can smash any small boat against the cliffs without mercy. Although, and I hate to say it, Aurora seems to be magic. Maybe she can conjure the star out of the cave.

We halted at the water's edge beside the cliffs nearest to where the cave should be. I looked around to see if there was anybody here for I did not want to be discovered. But the beach was deserted.

"The cave is just around the corner of these cliffs," Tom told her, "This is the nearest you can get to them."

Aurora smiled again and nodded, "Thank-you Tom."

"So how are y-" I began but before I could finish my sentence Aurora bent down and blew into the sea. If I had not been convinced of her magic before I was now; I was astounded. The sea froze, right before my eyes. Without saying anything, Aurora stepped onto the ice and began to walk across it. Tom and I scrambled after her. At first we were slipping and sliding but we soon managed to stable ourselves and walk over the ice, round to the cave.

Aurora had gone on ahead, able to walk across the ice with ease and when we finally caught up with her, she was standing at the mouth of the cave.

"We've found it!" she said, sounding both excited and relieved at the same time. "Can you see it?"

"Yes!" squealed Tom, "It's beautiful."

I couldn't see it. I was distraught. I now desperately wanted to see it. Suddenly I felt this tingling sensation flow right through me. I couldn't see the star but I could feel it. I could feel its magic and power deep in my heart. My mind seemed to open and once again I found myself wanting to believe in the power of fairytales again. I started to think that maybe things beyond our understanding really do exist. Maybe there are such things as witches and spirits and fairies. The more I thought about it, the more I came to believe in it all over again. A brilliant light suddenly filled the cave. I looked at Aurora and in her hands I could see the Pole Star. I could really see it. The soft, twinkling light spread outwards, sending its delicate light into the distance. As I stood, completely spellbound I thought I could feel the ground shake. I looked down at the ice and to my horror I could see cracks appearing everywhere. I grabbed Tom's arm and started to run across the ice, dragging him along with me. I could no longer see Aurora. The cracks were becoming bigger with every step we took. Suddenly I heard a colossal roar and felt the ice beneath my feet vanished.

"TOM!" I screamed as I felt myself falling in to the water. But I never reached the water. I was lifted high into the air, into the middle of a blizzard. The blizzard sped towards the shore and as reached the beach as the ice fractured completely, dissolving into the sea. Setting Tom and myself down on the sand, the blizzard continued to swirl faster and faster and then just stopped, leaving Aurora in its place.

"You saved us," I cried, unable to contain my astonishment at what had just happened.

"You both saved my world disaster and we will forever be in your debt, it was only a small repayment of that debt." She thanked us both and the three of us walked wearily up the beach and back to cover of the woods.

Once we were safely out of sight, we thanked Aurora again and wished her well. I told her I would never forget what she had done for me. She had opened my mind again to the possibility of mysteries again. I was free to believe in magic again and to the existence of things that cannot always be explained rationally.

As night fell on the dreaming town of Ashcroft, it began to snow again. As the snow waltzed and glittered in the sky, a solitary figure stood looking out over the town. Her slight frame shimmered in the light of the moon and stars. She had found what she had been looking for at last. With one last look over Ashcroft, she disappeared in a flurry of snowflakes.

Laura Peebles, F6

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Nativity

This year's Nativity was a very up-beat production called Creepy Crawley Christmas. It was the story of Connie the Caterpillar who found a fallen star. With the help of many other creepy crawlies she took it back to shine over a stable .....



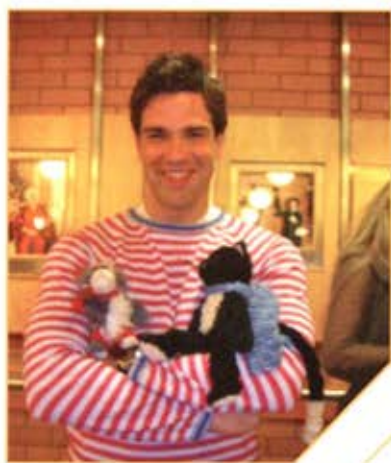
# BEARS

## Bear Necessities of a High School Education

For Junior pupils at the High School of Dundee, their latest project bear-ly counts as hard work.

Each class is taking part in an international Bear Exchange, set up and co-ordinated by Mrs Tonner, to allow children from different countries to share information on their cultures, and improve their communication, language and collaborative skills.

This year, the bears are travelling as far afield as Australia and Qatar, as well as schools in North America and the UK.



we are sparkle and Oscar at Glasgow  
with the Blue Peter presenters Zoe and  
Gethan. They went to watch the contestants  
in the music Makers' competition  
Madeleine Tinson L3C

Little Ted went to  
London with Mrs  
Tonner. He ran the  
London marathon with  
her. He got a medal.

# BEARS

Connor Nichol L3H

The day Moo Moo went to Skye.

Moo Moo had a great weekend with me. My mummy, daddy and I all went to the Isle of Skye for the weekend. We were visiting relatives there. Moo Moo enjoyed himself and made friends with Sausage my teddy. In the picture, Moo Moo, Sausage and I are sleeping because we were exhausted after our big day. Moo Moo loved visiting Skye with me, and he said he wanted to go back sometime soon!



Molly Duncan L4T

When I took Elvis home he came with us to Switzerland on a ski holiday. In Switzerland Elvis came skiing with us everyday. His favourite drink was hot chocolate and his favourite food was Swiss chocolate. Elvis is a great skier and he loves his silver helmet. In Switzerland Elvis met some new friends called Rory and Ailsa. Elvis had an excellent time in Switzerland.



Harvey Leicester L6G

I had to go on a really long plane journey to India. It was very exciting because I got to look out of the window and watch movies all the way to Delhi. When I got there I had to go in a bag so I would not get stolen but I was let out in the car that was going to the hotel. When I got there I lay on the bed and watched TV.

It was quite hard to relax though because of all the noise out on the street. The next day I was woken up early to go sight seeing. I saw this huge fort called Red Fort. It was called that because it was made entirely of red sandstone. Then I saw the Parliament Building which was huge and beside it was the President's house. The next day I had to go on a long car journey to go to the next city called Jaipur. We had a great time there. The best part of the holiday was meeting all the animals on the safari.



Zara Evans L7P

Patch in a Winter Wonderland

When Patch the L7 e-friends bear came to my house he really didn't know what to expect!

The day started off cold and sunny, so I decided to have my friend Hannah over to play. Hannah and I started playing in the garden while my dog Benji was sitting beside Patch. Soon they had become the best of friends. Eventually Patch decided that an adventure was in order so we walked around the garden and then down through the woods to the beach (it was still sunny at this point). I noticed the sky was becoming grey and cloudy so Hannah and I walked back to the house and put on our waterproofs and then we came outside again. After a few minutes a single flake of snow fell onto Patch's nose and melted in his soft fur. Before we knew it the sky had opened and a heavy snow was all around us. We were all so excited. First we played on the slide trying to sweep off the snow. By the time we had finished with the slide 10 centimetres of snow had fallen and I decided we should have a snowball fight. We each went to different parts of the garden (Patch was on my team) and began making monster snowballs and throwing them at the other members of the unsuspecting team!



Matthew MaCaulay L3C

This is Sparkle and me in December visiting Lapland. Behind me you can see one of Santa's reindeer. He is having a rest because he is getting ready for Christmas.



This is Sparkle's passport showing that he has been in The Northern Hemisphere to visit Santa Claus. Can you see his signature? It is his paw!



We all got absolutely soaked so Mum brought out towels and her camera and then the photography session began! The first photo we took was one of Patch sitting with Benji, then one of Patch sitting in the old gnarled fig tree in the corner of the garden. Then after we had used up all the film my friend had to go home! After all that excitement Patch and I went in for a nice cup of hot Cocoa but we still had another day of the weekend spare but then that is a different story all together!

My dad and I went outside to make an igloo. We made bricks with our spades. When it was finished I took little Ted inside. It was fun.

My husband  
L3E  
I went to New York.  
Bobby liked up  
the Empire State  
Building with me.

Bobby the Bear went out to see the fall of the  
Arms Race. He was very  
good and wore a red poppy.  
He wanted to play the drums.  
Glenn Dunc L3E

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Tomatoes on a Mission to Mars

Primary 4 pupils are on a mission - to feed the astronauts of the future.

The pupils took part in an international experiment, designed to test the germination rates of seeds that have already spent 19 months in space. Each class planted 80 tomato seeds - half of which have visited the International Space Station, and half of which are a control group. The children were the only school in Scotland taking part in the project

As part of this experiment the children monitored how well their seeds germinated and reported their findings to Tomatosphere, which is running the project on behalf of the Canadian Space Agency. Once the results have been collated from participating schools all over the world the children will find out which of our seeds were space travellers!



Mrs Tonner

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Dundee High

My School is called DUNDEE High  
With eight pillars reaching to the sky.  
My friends are nice, my teacher too,  
You will love being there like I do.

But now it is time for me to leave,  
I will miss everyone but I won't grieve,  
Our friendship doesn't have to end,  
And we can always be good friends.

I have been so happy at DUNDEE HIGH,  
Have had great fun but now I say goodbye,  
I will tell my new friends about DUNDEE HIGH  
Then I won't be so sad in saying goodbye.

Olivia Bourne L2



Seaside by Sofia Ramzan L1

### L1-3 Creative Writing

#### I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside.

When I went to the beach I climbed a boulder. I found a sea snake. It jumped in the air and disappeared. Then I looked in the water and it was laying eggs.

Kieran Foster L1



Seaside: by Andrew Lang L1

I went to the seaside to play on the sand and I looked for shells. It was fun.  
Kyrmina Nassif L1



At the Seaside  
by Lauren Forbes L1

I like going to the seaside and I like playing beach ball with my sisters. I also like building sand castles and putting shells on them.  
Lauren Forbes L1

I like to play football on the beach. I like to throw stones in the sea.  
Simon Burnett L1

# L1-3 CREATIVE WRITING

## Read All About It

### Harpooned Whale Escapes

Late last night a Humpback Whale was found in the mouth of the River Tay. Someone spotted it and told the authorities. Crowds flocked to see the amazing sight of the whale.

Soon the Captains of the whaling ships in port had heard of the whale and were determined to catch it. Ships set sail, all wanting to be victorious and the hunt lasted all night.

The creature escaped and the ships came back, their captain and crew all embarrassed. Everyone who was watching laughed loudly.

**Michael Arsanay L3**

### The Tay Bridge Disaster

Last night at 7.25pm the magnificent Tay bridge fell down into the murky waters of the Tay. Seventy five people are thought to have died when the five carriages and the 224 engine went down. The High Girders fell in the Force 11 gale.

Many people in Dundee were crying at the sight of the broken Tay Bridge which fell into the angry river. Forty six bodies have been washed up so far. The people of Dundee hope that all the bodies will be recovered so that relatives can have funerals.

A dreadful time for the city of Dundee.

**Kenny Matheson L3**

### Hunting the Tay Whale – an Eye Witness Account

One cold frosty morning I was walking along the street and someone told me that an enormous Humpback Whale was in the Tay. I was shocked. There had never been anything like this before.

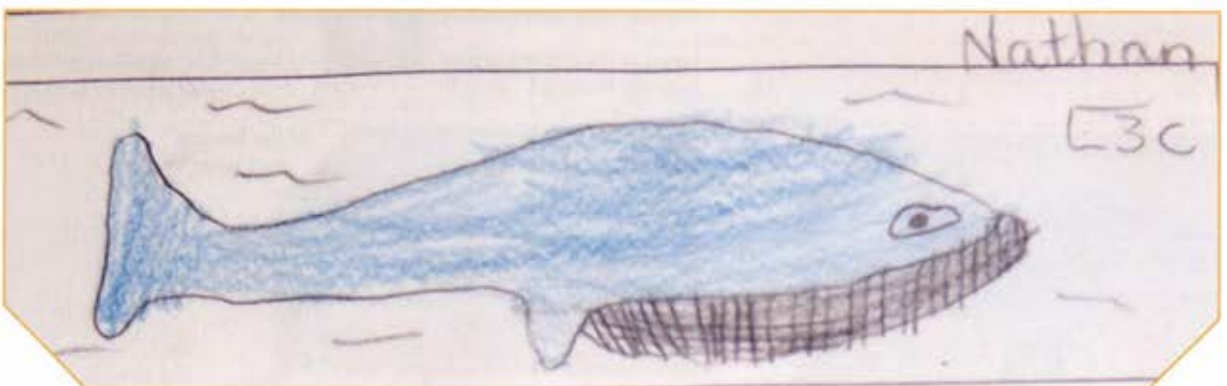
I thought I could kill this gigantic whale. I was frightened but excited. I went and told my friends.

I said, "Let's go and try to kill this whale."

So we got our pistols and harpoons and anything else we could lay our hands on and we set off. We were going slowly because the current was pushing against us. I could feel the water coming on board. It was freezing. I thought we wouldn't make it because the current was so strong but at last we could see the huge whale.

I tried to harpoon it. I missed. The boat was about to tip. I fired again. I hit! We got dragged along and I had to let go. We sailed back to shore. A couple of days later I heard that some fisherman had found the whale's body. I was amazed.

**Nathan Moorjani L3**



Humpback Whale by Nathan Moorjani L3

# WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE SCHOOL? .....FACT



## Mr Sword – the Janitor

Mr Sword locks up at night and checks the fire alarms and switches off the lights. He fixes things if they are broken.

Lewis Hall L1

Mr Sword by Lewis Hall

## Mrs Dakers – the Librarian

Mrs Dakers has lots of books and we get to choose them. She reads funny books to the class.

Lorna Husband L1



The librarians by Lorna Husband



## My Teacher

She helps us to write and helps us to read. She puts sums on the board and she reads to us.

Ana Cowan L1

My Teacher by Ana Cowan



## Mrs Woodman – Head of Junior School

Mrs Woodman looks after the Junior School. She goes around the school showing parents what we are doing. She made the Nativity.

Struan Addison L1

Mrs Woodman by Struan Addison

## The School Nurse

The nurse helps us when we fall in the playground and if it is a cut we need a plaster. If you are feeling sick you might get a bed. She is kind.

Glenn Davie L1

The Nurse by Glenn Davie



## Mr Duncan – The Rector

Mr Duncan is in charge of the whole school. He tells people what to do. He has lots of meetings.

Eleanor Anderson L1

Mr Duncan by Eleanor Anderson.

## ...OR FICTION

### Mr Sword's Discovery

One stormy Sunday morning Mr Sword was walking up the school corridors when he heard a swish of a tail.

He turned and went down the corridors when he heard a snap. He turned around and there right in front of him was a baby black cayman. The cayman had escaped from the zoo and had been chased there by an anaconda snake.

Mr Sword put it in a bin bag which he found in a nearby dustbin. He had a difficult struggle to put it in the bag and he asked the Rector for help.

Mr Duncan said, "Give it fish!"

Mr Sword knew better and asked the Head Boy for help.

Mr Sword had nothing else to do but take the cayman back to Edinburgh Zoo. He took it to the zoo keeper who was glad to have him back.

Euan Foulis L2

### Where is Everyone?

One day there was a man called Mr Sword. When he went to the school he wondered where everyone was. He was worried. He looked in Mrs Woodman's office. He thought he must be early so he would just have a cup of tea.

Suddenly he heard a giant's footsteps. His tea went all over him and his biscuit turned into crumbs in his hand. It came from up the stairs.

He crept up the stairs slowly. He thought it could be a dragon or a giant from a beanstalk. He opened the door slowly and everyone was there. They said, "Surprise! It's your birthday!"

Finlay McKillop L2

# L1-3 CREATIVE WRITING

L2 have been learning about different artists and trying to recreate their works using different media.



Vincent Van Gogh

I like Vincent Van Gogh because he painted the wonderful drawing of the sunflowers. He liked to use bright colours in some of his paintings. He was poor and lonely for most of his life

Helen Goldmann L2

Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland on 30th March 1853. He only sold one painting during his lifetime.

Rachel Guest L2



Starry Night by Annie Porter L2



Starry Night by Calum Baxter L2

I like the painting "The Sunflowers" because they cheer you up.

Emily Wilson-Pearce L2



Sunflowers by Mhairi Millar L2

I like Vincent Van Gogh because he used colour to show his feelings rather than to copy the colours in nature. He was born in Holland in 1853. The most famous painting was the picture of the sunflowers. It costs loads of money to buy it.

Annie Porter L2



Sunflowers  
by Annie Porter L2



# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

The L1 and L2 Games Club met every Tuesday night. Children enjoyed finding out about keeping fit and healthy through games and fun activities. Children enjoyed playing both traditional and modern games while making up some of their own as well.

## 2nd. Dundee (D.H.S.) Brownies

### Report for Year 2005/06

The High School Brownies have been kept busy with various activities throughout the year and have undertaken a wide variety of Brownie badges.

Some interesting comments from our Brownies include:

"Every Friday at 3.10pm the DHS Brownie pack meet and we do lots of different activities. We finish with games such as 'Wink Murder, Cat and Mouse or Giants Keys'. We sing our goodbye song and Ollie the Owl goes home with a new person each week. I can't wait till our next Friday meeting." By Olivia Tait

"In Brownies, I've enjoyed a lot of things, but I enjoyed becoming 'a sixer' the most. Along with the exciting feeling of receiving a special sixer badge came a lot of responsibilities. I have made a lot of new Brownie friends and will keep a lot of good memories!" By Karyn Joss

"I really liked the Halloween party because we got to dress up in really spooky clothes. I loved the costumes. I dressed up in a glow-in-the-dark skeleton costume." By Harriet Wood

"I enjoyed the Christmas party. I wore red tinsel and everybody was looking very pretty. We played fun games and sang Christmas songs. It was fun!" by Rebekah Wilson-Pearce.

"I enjoyed doing the World Traveller badge. I enjoyed doing this badge because we had to make passports. For this badge we also had to learn to say 1-10, hello, goodbye and thank-you in a language different from your own." By Zara Billah

"I enjoyed doing my 'Friend to Animals' badge. I had to do lots of things for the badge - that's why it took me so long! I was very proud when I got the badge." By Jenna Low

"I enjoyed watching the picture display that Mrs. Dent showed us. I got a lot of information from it. She went on holiday to South Korea." By Alice Richardson

"I enjoyed making the Brownie scrapbooks. Our Brownie pack decided to make a scrapbook on France. We all brought in pictures, photographs or information on the history of France, French food and places to see (like the Eiffel Tower). I enjoyed making this scrapbook because we all got involved." By Laura Strachan



A 'Best Brownie' is chosen each year. After much deliberation, we decided this year to have joint winners and have chosen Jenna Low and Olivia Tait. They have shown great commitment to Girl Guiding and displayed continual effort and support to others, and have superb attendance records.

Mrs. K. Spalding, Brown Owl & Mrs. L. Smith, Assistant Guider.

## COOKERY CLUB

L5 go to Cookery Club on a Thursday from 3.10pm to 4pm. for four weeks per group. Each week we make something different with the help of Mrs. Ross and Mrs. McCabe.

Week 1 - On the first week we were all excited to start. After getting prepared we began by making iced- jam biscuits. They were good!

Week 2 - We all made chocolate crispie cakes with syrup. They tasted even better!

Week 3 - Mmmm. We made pizzas with as many toppings as you can imagine. They were brilliant!

Week 4 - Sadly the last week had finally come. We were making jam and lemon curd tarts. They tasted better than you think. Cookery was great fun to do.

## RAINBOW GUIDE REPORT 05/06

Rainbow Guide Report - 2005 - 2006

The Rainbow Guides have been busy this session with a wide range of activities. Early emphasis was placed on the Rainbow Guide Promise which led to the presentation of badges and certificates by the District Commissioner, Mrs Dent. The girls have enjoyed craft projects, lots of team games, singing and drama fun. Exercising and long rope skipping have proved very popular activities. The theme of minibeasts and Nature tied in well with the summer term. Mrs Cargill and Mrs Mooney have also given valuable help and support to the Dundee High School Rainbow Guides.

Miss M. Cardno (Junior School)



A busy time at Rainbows!

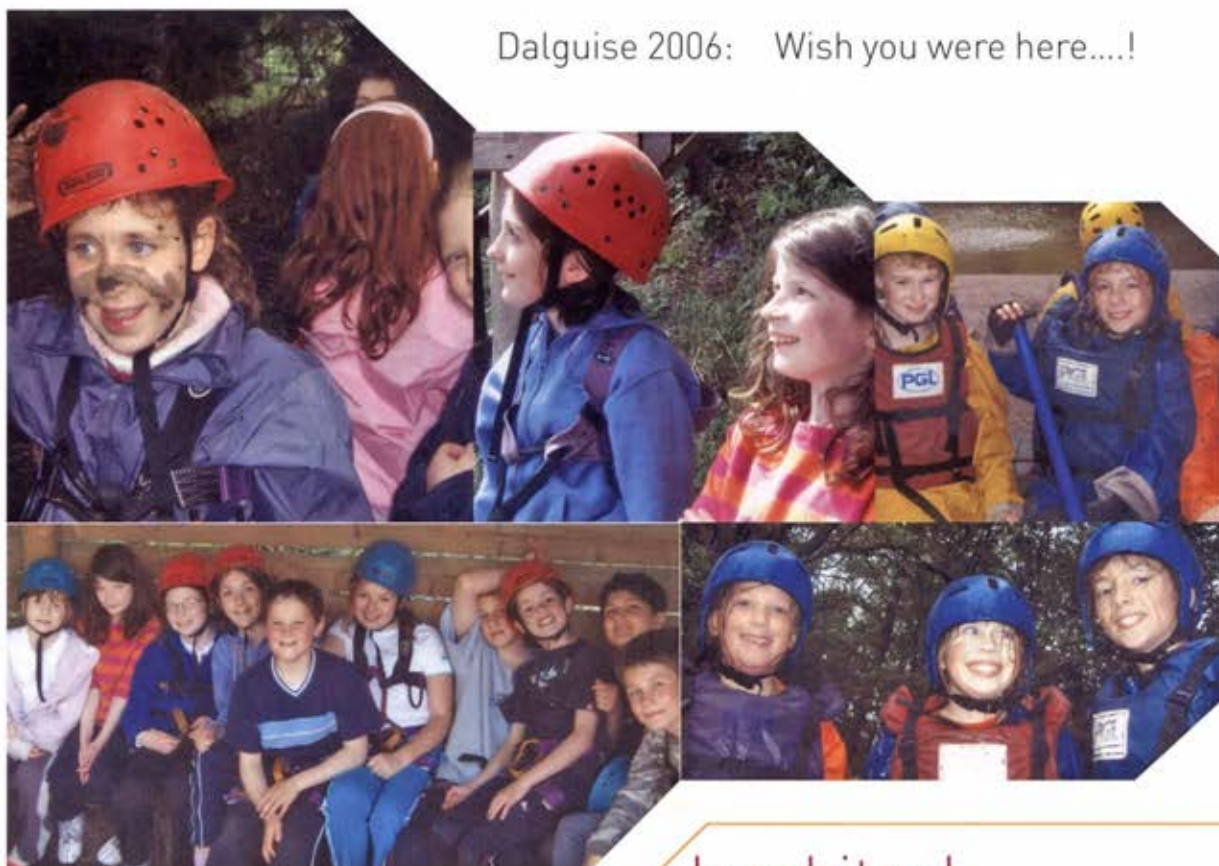
# DALGUISE

From the 19th to the 22nd of May, L6 went on a trip to Dalguise. We met in the playground at 2pm on Friday. Everyone was getting really excited by this time and we all knew we had a big adventure ahead of us, but we didn't know just how great it would be! When we arrived, we settled in to our chalets, met our groupies and had a tour of the premises.

We had ten activities to do over the weekend. The activities included fencing, abseiling, raft building and the Sequoia Scramble. The Sequoia Scramble consisted of lots of different challenges and the main idea was to ring the bell at the top which many people did successfully.

We would like to thank the teachers who accompanied us on the trip and would also like to say that we hope the next L6 class will enjoy the trip as much as we did!

Louise, Ailsa, Anya and L6



Dalguise 2006: Wish you were here....!

## J-Files Report

We've had lots of fun on the J-Files this year. Together, the magazine teams produced three issues, one for Winter, Spring and Summer. Thinking up ideas for quizzes and features was sometimes hard work, but it was nice when all the work was done and the magazine was ready to be printed and given to all our friends at school. Our favourite part was probably choosing the competition winners, but it was sometimes difficult too as so many pupils entered.

J-Files Magazine Committee

## Jacobites!

As part of the L6 project on the Jacobites, members from the White Cocade Society visited the children to illustrate in a very enjoyable way what life would have been like for a Jacobite soldier in the eighteenth century.

The three men were very entertaining and dressed from head to foot in Jacobite and Redcoat gear. They came bearing weapons and demonstrated how these weapons would have been used. Fionnlagh McClymont and Ailsa Purdie were the lucky two chosen from the audience to be dressed. It was very interesting to learn how to put on a plaid. Very soon the two children were rather rosy cheeked and commenting that it was very hot indeed to be wearing the clothes!

It was a very valuable learning experience for the L6 year group and we hope they are able to come again and entertain future year groups.

# CHESS CLUB

With an uptake of 34 players at the beginning of the session, the Junior School Chess Club has proved as popular as ever with L4 to L7. From complete beginners (first rule to learn - 'White to your right'!) to the more experienced and regular attendees, children gained much in terms of gamesmanship and problem solving from each match they played. In the third term the annual chess tournament saw 26 players in head to head challenges for the titles of year group winners; with Daniel Baker (L4), Calum Hedigan (L5), Martin Lockley (L6) and George Nassif (L 7) emerging victorious.

These four players participated in a 'round robin' tournament which was finally won by Calum, with George coming a very close second. Well done to everyone who played this session

# TABLE TENNIS CLUB

## Junior Table Tennis Club

A new club has started in the Junior School this session. Friday lunchtime table tennis club, available to Primary 4 pupils, has been up and running since October. The Margaret Harris Hall is a scene of busy activity around five tables as pupils develop their eye-ball coordination and practise the main skills of the game. The emphasis is on having fun and the enjoyment of engaging in a sporting activity together. Thank you to Mr G. McIntosh (Senior School), Mrs Halliwell and Steven Sim (Senior pupil) who have all provided valuable support and encouragement to the pupils.

Miss M. Cardno (Junior School)



# NETBALL REPORT

This has been another action packed and exciting year for the girls participating in the netball sessions.

Fun netball continued with Mrs Goddard and Miss Alexander organising skills practice and games this year at Ward Road and our own school gym. These matches were great fun and the girls really enjoyed themselves.

In March the L6 team entered their first tournament, playing with skill and great determination to win all of their games to reach the final. After a hard fought match they lifted the Miss Ward Trophy by beating St. Pius Primary.

The L7 girls also worked very hard throughout the year with the squad entering the Dundee Primary Schools' Winter League and Primary 7 Knock-out Tournament.

They won all the games in their section of the Winter League and reached the final where they met Blackness, Our Lady's and St. Pius. The games were tough and resulted in a play off against Blackness, a team that has always proved strong opposition for High School. After an exhausting match, practically goal for goal, our girls pulled through 5-3 to lift the Winter League shield.

In the second term they continued their run of success by also winning the Kennedy Cup in the Primary Seven Knock-Out tournament. In the third term our L6 team entered the Summer League and only narrowly missed reaching the final as they lost their play-off with St. Peter and Paul's, 5 goals to 8. The girls show great promise for next year and we wish them well.

At the end of term the L7 squad played their final match against a strong staff team. This year the teachers' height advantage did not pay off as the pupils won the game 13-12

We would like to thank Miss Alexander, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Docherty for all of their encouragement and coaching throughout the year. 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.

L7 Netball team.



## L7 FIRST AID CADETS 05/06

A group of L7 pupils have been meeting on Wednesday evenings to learn First Aid skills. At the end of the course we all hoped to receive a St Andrews Ambulance Association (Cadets) First Aid certificate. If lucky enough to pass the exam and get the certificate it would last us for three years!

We were to learn bandaging, what to do if someone collapsed or suffered from burns, if they fainted or choked and much more too. We had a folder with everything we learned in case we forgot what to do! There were some of the big things we might never need to do, like CPR and helping someone who had a heart attack. However we are far more likely to come across small burns and scalds, cuts and fractures and all sorts of things that can happen at home.

We had lots of fun too. We played games and had lots of chances to score points with our skills, as we got better our scores got much higher. The most fun was at our First Aid

Christmas party where we bandaged our friends up like mummies, had lots of races and the winning team got a prize.

Before we finished the course we had a nerve wracking time with an exam when people from the St Andrews Ambulance Association came in to school to test us. We were really pleased when they said we had all done very well and all of us had passed.

I would like to say thank you to the senior helpers Mandy Hon and Sohini Mukhopadhyay, who have helped with the L7 First Cadets since they were in L7. I would also like to take this chance to thank Mrs Halliwell, Miss Cardno and Mrs Gill for a fantastic year of fun and learning.

Sarah Jane Dent (L 7)

## L7 TRIP TO PARIS

The week before Paris the whole of L7 was buzzing with excitement. Everyone was looking forward to the trip immensely. I was a little nervous because this was the first time I was going abroad without my parents but I still couldn't keep a lid on my excitement. The bus journey was very long but we had great fun. We travelled through the Eurotunnel and the prospect of going under water was quite weird. We didn't see any sharks! When we arrived at Fiap Jean Monet we were tired but eager to explore the sights of Paris.

The place we visited first was Sacre Coeur and Montmartre. We toured Sacre Coeur then we went to the square to get our portraits done. Some of them were really good and lifelike. That evening we toured the city by bus, Paris by night. It was beautiful and Mr. McKinnon's commentary was very entertaining. We saw the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower, which was spectacularly lit up with fantastic flashing lights.



# L7 TRIP TO PARIS

Next stop Disney Land where we spent the whole day going on rides, shopping and taking pictures of our friends with the Disney characters. It was the best! As Versailles was closed because of a strike we couldn't visit so instead we went a boat trip up the Seine and then visited Aqua Boulevard which was brilliant.

On our last day of the trip we ascended the Eiffel Tower. The views were amazing and you could see the whole panoramic view of Paris.



On our return journey we stopped at a huge hypermarket outside Calais to buy gifts for our families and friends.

Even though I missed my family, I thoroughly enjoyed the Paris trip and I would recommend it to anyone because we all had the best time and I'm sure no one will ever forget it!

Sarah-Jane Lothian L7

## MATHS CLUB

Maths Club is open to anyone from L6 and L7 who wants to share in the fun of finding out! All the skills of Maths are used to solve problems, make models and investigate puzzling concepts in mixed group activities, using a variety of exciting and different approaches. Maths Club allows children of different ages and abilities to work together, aiming thereby to boost the confidence of individuals to challenge themselves to achieve as much as they are able in the class environment as well as the group.

## HOCKEY CLUB

The Junior School Hockey Club runs from September to March and looks to develop the skills and enthusiasm for the game. It is open to L6 and 7 girls and, as well as training one evening during the week, we have a number of fixtures throughout the season with other schools on a Saturday morning. The focus is on improving skills, having fun and encouraging an interest in hockey. As well as match fixtures, we take part in a Christmas Fancy dress tournament and the Scottish Schools tournament.



# L7 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY - "FANTASY VEHICLE"!

## The Pink Panther



My idea for my vehicle came from my love of limos, all things pink and things that fly, so I came up with the idea of a pink flying limo.

I was not sure how to make my limo at first, but after a lot of thinking I decided to use

mostly nets. The wheels were very difficult to make, and I took a long time deciding what to use but I finally made up my mind and decided to use chopsticks and cardboard. It was quite hard work but I got there in the end.

If I could improve my vehicle I would put more planning into it and I would not rush it as much.

**Sarah-Jane Lothian. L7.**

## The Dodge Aero-Viper:



My idea for my vehicle came from flying, having a flying vehicle and also from Scrap Heap Challenge.

First of all I drew my net and stuck it together. Then I put my aerodrones on. After this, my wings went on. Lastly, with a little help from Donald, I put my wheels on.

The easy bit of my vehicle was the wings, aeroplanes and the net. The real difficulty was the wheels.

I think if I made it again, I'd know what I was doing and I feel this let me down a little. As a test for flying, I used a Lego man and turned it upside down and luckily he survived!

**Fraser Docherty L7**

## The Magical Spot Machine.

My idea for my vehicle came from the movie called The Princess Diaries. The princess' two limos inspired me and all I did was put in my own styles and colour.



The first thing I did was cover my box in blue paper. Then I tried to make the wheels out of milk lids but that didn't work. I then brought in some cotton reels and knitting needles and attached them to the box. One thing that was in the criteria was a net, so I made a net out of red paper. I made the net cube and stuck it on the top of my vehicle. This cube is a transmitter for "satellite navigation". Then I put some windows and a feather on the back, and L on the front and the words The Magical Spot Machine on both sides. The last thing I did was put loads of multi-coloured stickers all over it.

The only difficulty I had was the wheels. My wheels wouldn't turn and it took a lot of thinking to figure out another way. The easiest part was sticking on all the dots!

If I did this vehicle again, I would cover up the sellotape on the bottom of my vehicle. If I did that, my vehicle would be perfect!

**Lucy Arthur L7**

## The Big Mamma Sports Trucka:

My idea for my vehicle came from my liking of trucks and sports cars. I decided to combine them into "sports trucka".



I started off making my vehicle by taping two boxes together. This gave me my main frame. From there, I was able to work on my wheels and give my truck more detail.

When it came to making my wheels, I encountered a few difficulties. The wheels I had chosen were hard to apply to my vehicle. The main frame, which I thought would be hardest, was the easiest part of the vehicle.

If I did the project again, the first thing I would do would be to change the wheels because they slowed me down and didn't leave me a lot of time for my decorations. Over all I think my vehicle was a success!

**Donald Campbell L7.**

JUNIOR  
SCHOOL

L7 looked at Dickens' work to draw a character sketch in words. A good piece of writing 'paints' a character well as you can see from the examples here.

## Volumina Dedlock

Volumina Dedlock was poor. Her clothes hung ragged around her torn and unkempt, yellowing and dirty from living on the streets. Her over-bright eyes were sunken into her sallow, gaunt face, which had many wrinkles and her brow was furrowed from worrying over money. Her hair, which was dark and lanky, hung loosely about her face. The rags she wore around her legs were made up of a cloth so old that they were frayed into pieces. Bare feet are not nice, but Volumina Dedlock had worn no shoes all her life so so her feet were used to the cold, sharp stones of Middle Bodnobse. Though her feet were used to the cold, they always had at least four blisters and her skin was peeling. She walked slowly owing to her painful feet. Her voice, which was high and tired, broke through the still, stagnant air of Middle Bodnobse.

By Hannah Thomson, L7P

## Miss Maude

Miss Maude was tall, slender and as straight as a broom handle. Her pointy face and pursed lips resembled that of an old wolfhound waiting to pounce on the first sign of weakness. Her fierce, piercing eyes scanned the class for the slightest twitch

of disobedience. Smartly dressed in her matching skirt and cardigan, she tiptoed around the class, ears pricked for noises other than the faint scratch of pencils on paper. She proceeded to gently remove her bag from her arm and sit it on the table. Making absolutely sure that her hands stayed within the perimeter of her rectangular body, she carefully propped open her bag and took from it a large leather bound book, entitled English Work.

By Daniel Barton, L7D

## Augustus Snodgrass

Augustus Snodgrass comes from Berlin in Germany and has always loved food. When he was younger he was a plump boy and ate lots of meat from his father's butcher shop. Now at the age of 30, he is a member of the Pickwick Club. He is still quite an overweight man and sluggish at times but he is always on a different adventure, and likes to wear his blond hair in a quiff. He owns the local confectionery shop and his small twinkling blue eyes and his cheery broad smile are the highlight of some of the locals' day. He is always seen in a ladenhosen. His voice has a very deep tone and he spends a lot of time in the local pub. He is a very nice gentleman and loves to shoot pheasants, eating at least two a night!

By Andrew Clarkson, L7P

## How to take care of a dragon

### Feeding your dragon

My dragon must eat every half hour.  
He eats brussels sprouts and cat liver.  
His treats are tomatoes and carrots.  
Never feed him fish because he goes mad.

### Exercising your dragon

Every day give Fidget a flying practice.  
Only on Fridays give him a swimming lesson (he can't swim).  
Take him out for a walk twice a day, but only at night  
He can't breathe fire either so you'll have to give him lessons.

### Keeping your dragon happy

To keep my dragon happy you must give him lots of milk.  
Never disturb Fidget when he is sleeping.  
Always give him his treats once a week.  
Play with him every day.

Laura JohnstoneL5D

## Night

Night comes with an owl hooting in the dark, scary sky.  
Night comes with my black cat curling up on the end of my  
cosy bed.  
Night comes with the stars twinkling in the velvet, glittery sky.  
Night comes with icicles hanging in the cold, wintry breeze.  
Night comes with snow lying on the shadowy grass.  
Night is as black as a dark spooky tree.

Jenna Low L5D

## Korkoo's Wrath

I am Korkoo, King of the Fires,  
I crush coal at my feet,  
And demolish peat in my palms.  
I burn Guy Fawkes in my fiery blazes  
And soon I am coming for you.

Craig Morrison L6W

## Sydney Scene

On the water there are a group of boats which look like a rookery of penguins and make the water seem busy. The water the boats are floating on is very calm and dark. The harbour entrance looks like a carousel poking out of the water. Most of the penguin-like boats have shining, glistening lights on them. Coming over the water there is an arched bridge which looks like a fat man sleeping. Along the horizon there a line of skyscrapers which reminds me of a group of boys. The skyscrapers are towering over the waterfront. The Sydney Opera House is spiking up like a hedgehog. The bushes at the front of the landscape are spiky and prickly. The sky is looking like a multi-coloured sheet of silk over the city. Sydney is relaxing at this time.

By Jacob Krobath and Nathan Wight L6W

## Blue Harbour

The clear blue sky was completely cloudless. You could see the sun reflecting off the rippling water and the metal booms of the boats. The boats were lingering aide by side on the glistening water. It looked like a night sky with swarms of fireflies buzzing around. The silky water would sieve through your fingers as soon as you tried to grasp it. The shadows in the water looked like there was something lurking beneath the surface. The boats bobbed serenely on the water while the waves lapped up their sides. The fuzzy green trees encircling the bay enlightened the dull grey harbour. The tall brown buildings shadowed the parked cars abandoned in the street. It smelt like car fumes, freshly cut grass and salty water. The scene was so peaceful and tranquil that all you could hear was the waves lapping up the sides of the boats and a bird chirping in the distance.

By Morven Miller and Susan Graham L6W

## Spring Showers

First a tiny drop falls from the sky,  
And splashes down and sounds  
Like a cymbal,  
Then gradually more  
Little raindrops fall  
From the sky  
And the all  
Make a small puddle  
Like a round glassy pancake.  
Suddenly it gets  
Heavier with more  
Clouds building in  
Bucketing rain  
Then it starts  
To die down  
And just a  
Few raindrops fall down  
All the clouds go away,  
The sun shines again.

Catherine Allan L4T

## Spring Rain

First there is nothing  
Then there is one drop  
A few gleaming pearl like raindrops  
Fall from the high heavens  
Clouds gather.  
And soon the glistening  
Dark raindrops team up,  
They plummet down to Earth  
Humans see the rain putter pattering  
On the leaves and on the roofs of houses.  
Soon it's pouring  
People rush for shelter  
But five minutes the storm is over.  
A world of glittering puddles  
Awaits for them outside.

George Salisbury L4T

## April Shower

From high in the heavens raindrops drip,  
The beginning of a shower is here  
Pitter patter on the ground  
Drip drop on your head  
Clouds are grey  
The sky is darker  
Swift and soaking rain  
Now it's pouring!  
Small puddles like big glassy pancakes!  
The storm is dying  
The storm is dying  
The clouds are clearing  
Drip drop on your head  
It's sunny again.

Alister Goodfellow L4T

## Long Ago

In the Crannog I smelled...  
Smokey burning ember  
Fresh sweet drying hay  
Warm savoury stew.

In the Crannog there were...  
Hot burning hard stones at the fire  
Bumpy uneven hard wooden logs  
Rough wolf skins.

In the Crannog I saw...  
The joints of meat hanging up  
A bronze cooking pot  
The gloomy darkness within the Crannog.

At Loch Tay I heard...  
The ducks quacking to each other  
The lapping of the waves  
The creak of the Crannog.

Kirsty Guest L4T

# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## ALONE

I slammed my door shut in fury and lay on my bed. A tear trickled down my cheek. I hated fighting with my brothers. I could hear the pouring rain battering against the windowpane and closed my eyes.

I was almost asleep when I noticed a glowing light shining from under my door. I got up and slowly walked to it. I turned the brass handle and stepped inside. I turned around, and the door had gone. I was in the middle of a field which was covered in a velvety blanket of thick snow. I started to walk forward, my crunching footsteps making a perfect imprint in the crisp snow. A dead tree stood alone, its lumbering branches hung with glistening icicles, like a grand, crystal chandelier. I opened my mouth, and a delicate snowflake floated onto my tongue and melted. The night sky looked like black velvet, the stars sprinkled across it like precious diamonds. The full moon shone brightly, giving the field a silver glow. An icy river trickled down the field, bubbling over the jagged rocks that got in its path.

Beautiful snowflakes danced around me as they fell to the ground. The silence was deafening. I was longing for laughter, to hear someone, but there was no one there. I was alone.

Ruth Batchelor

Winner of  
Old Girls Prize  
for Writing

## CREATING ATMOSPHERE

As I got closer to the old cottage, I realised what a mess it was in. Its roof was lopsided and leaking as the heavy rain battered against it from the miserable grey sky. The garden was completely overgrown as if no one had touched it for years. The weeds seeped into the cracks in the smashed windows like grasping hands, longing to get in. I opened the creaky, rotting door and saw the rust on the old metal hinges. I jumped as the wooden shutters crashed against the filthy wall. Menacing shadows danced around the empty room. The howling wind whistled through the broken glass like a wailing baby. The cold rain leaked through the dilapidated roof and dropped onto the back of my neck, causing me to shiver. I stepped forward, making the floorboards creak, and a stream of silver moonlight shone in the corner of my eye. A small scuttle of feet made me jerk, only to realise that it was a small spider, shuffling across the dusty floor to a hole in the wall. The ashes of what had been a cosy, bright fire lay lifeless in the black fireplace like a forgotten memory.

As I walked up the pansy-lined path to the beautiful cottage, I noticed how lovely the garden looked. The grass was verdant and green and it was perfectly lined with lush bright flowers, alive with buzzing bees and graceful butterflies. The door was a cheerful ruby red in colour and the doorknocker was of well polished brass. I turned the shiny door handle and stepped into the cosy room. A blazing fire gave the cottage a golden glow. A fuzzy tabby cat lay curled up on a comfy armchair by the fire, surrounded by tapestry cushions. The warm smell of homebaking wafted through from the kitchen and lovely bunches of bright flowers were in every window. Streams of golden sunlight shone through the glass, bathing the room in a natural light. I could hear the beautiful sound of birds joyfully singing outside like children laughing in a buzzing playground. Pictures of smiling children hung on the patterned wallpaper and pottery ornaments lay on every shelf. A half-knitted scarf sat unfinished by the fireplace, and a plate of newly baked shortbread lay untouched on the ornately carved mahogany table.

Ruth Batchelor

## PRIMARY ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

Not only have our Junior School pupils performed with excellence this year, two of our members of staff, Mrs. Audrey Reid and Mrs. Susan Stewart have been doing likewise. Audrey and Susan 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.

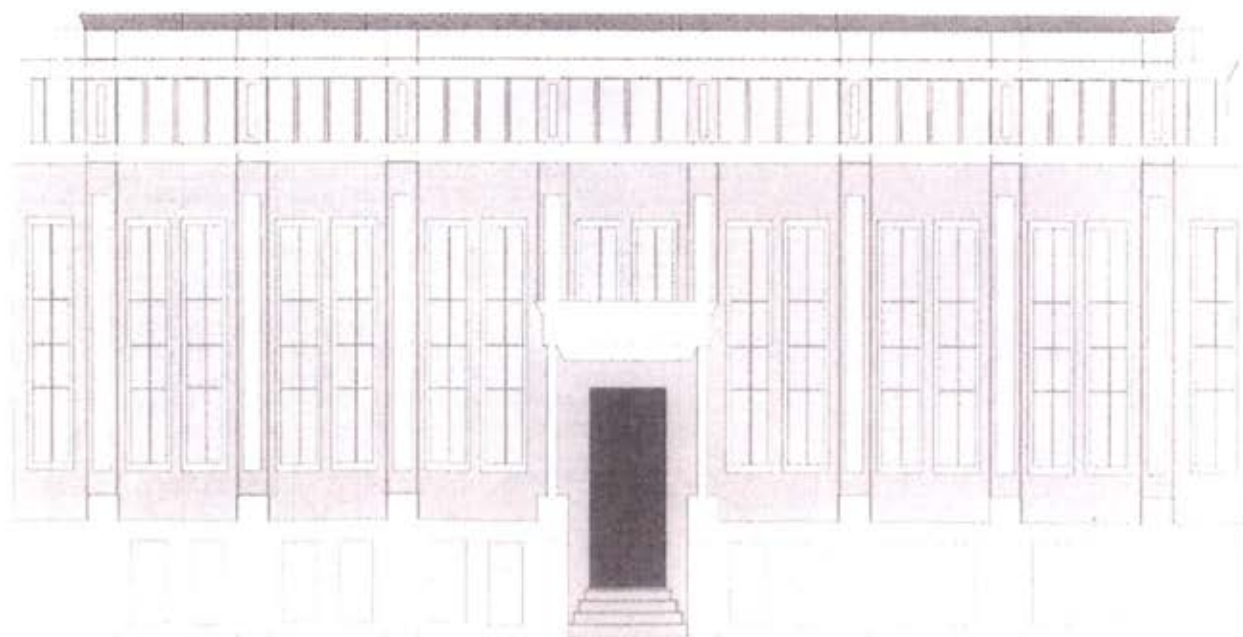


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# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

This year's school production was "The Sound of Music" and not only the hills but the school's music studios, the Margaret Harris Hall and, eventually, The Gardyne Theatre, were alive with the dulcet tones of the best the High School has to offer. I'm sure that all who managed to see the show will agree with me that it was a very pleasurable experience and a great way to end the session. The talent exhibited by our pupils was, as always, impressive and thanks go, in particular, to Maggie Woodman who stepped into the breach and produced the show, with a little help from a redoubtable corps of staff helpers backstage. It certainly made for a very slick production. As for how the music sounded, once again we were treated to a very high standard of singing and playing thanks to the efforts of Mrs Melville and her staff.

Esther McMillan was in excellent voice as Mother Abbess, as were all the nuns who contributed so effectively to the atmospheric opening of the show. Special mention should go to Rosalind MacDonald (who played the Cantor), Ailsa Murray, Mairi Cunningham and Robyn Watt (our sisters three) who combined melodically to puzzle over the insoluble problem of Maria!

As for Maria herself, Catriona France brought a sweetness to the rôle that made the strong bond that the character establishes with the von Trapp children entirely plausible. Captain von Trapp (played with appropriate swash and swagger by Douglas Dorward) could not fail to be melted by her charms. Guy Ballantyne played the musical impresario Max Detweiler with an urbane cynicism and dry wit and Charlotte Farmer sizzled seductively as Maria's worldly-wise rival for the Captain's affections, Else Shraeder.

In every good household, the servants become a part of the family and Jonathan Voigt as Franz the butler, Becky Barlow as Frau Schmidt and Rosalind MacDonald as Ursula made sure that the von Trapp residence ran like clockwork ... not unlike the Captain's children! Nicky Summers played the lovely Liesl. Her duet "Sixteen going on Seventeen" with Rolf Gruber (played by Jonathan Spink) provided a moment of poignancy before Rolf "goes over to the dark side" and joins the Nazis! Friedrich was played by Matthew Powrie and Lousia by Kirsty Mitchell while the younger von Trapps were played by two different pupils on alternate nights, which speaks volumes about the depth of talent in the school. Oliver Baker and Matthew Mordente took turn about as Kurt, Gillian Craig and Ellen Eyles as Brigitta, Catherine Allan and Karyn Joss as Marta and Robyn Gibson and Angharad Thomas as Gretl. The von Trapp children are a significant part of what makes this show such a success and all the actors and actresses who stepped into leder hosen and dirndls to yodel away with Maria, high on a hill, more than measured up to the task.

Every member of the cast is to be complimented, as the ensemble pieces contributed to the exuberance of the show as much as the fine individual performances. And last but by no means least, let's spare a thought for the staff and pupils who worked outside the glamour and glare of the limelight; the men and women in black who also made the show such a success. Once again, it was a great show and the School can be proud of the staff and pupils involved.

Tom Durrheim

## Thoughts before curtain up.....

"Let's start at the very beginning... [a very good place to start!]" Well, with two weeks to go until we have to put all of our hard work onto the stage there is much excitement, anticipation and, above all, nerves flying around the rehearsals at the moment. We cannot wait to be back in the theatre this June for another Dundee High Musical Extravaganza which, judging by the ticket sales so far, it is going to be one of, if not the best production the School has ever put on.

The Sound of Music kicked off back in September when the auditions were called - always a daunting process! A family of seven children needed to be picked from hundreds of hopeful pupils ranging from L 1 right through to form six so the competition was extremely high this year. Finally, after weeks of intense auditions, call-backs and much deliberation amongst the producers the final cast was decided and the rehearsals could begin.

Meeting the cast for the first time was very exciting and everyone gelled really well together. There was a lot to do so everyone had to get straight to work learning and perfecting all those well known songs and having the discipline to sit down and read over lines until you had them word perfect. It has been a lot of hard work for everyone but amazing fun and we have all made loads of new friends from all over the school which has made the rehearsal process even better!

The Sound of Music has definitely been one of the most talked about events this year at school and the tickets have been selling out extremely quickly. I have never known a School production where the last night has been completely sold out a month before the show has even begun - this just adds to the excitement and anticipation! A huge thank you is due to all the teachers and pupils who have helped make this musical happen, especially to Mr Illsley who got the show up and running and also to Mrs Woodman who has been fantastic as she very kindly took over halfway through, due to Mr Illsley's recent promotion to Depute Rector.

We have thoroughly enjoyed doing The Sound of Music this year and we speak for everyone when we say that it has been a great musical for the sixth years to say "so long, farewell" to our High School days.

By Catriona France and Douglas Dorward



Douglas and Catriona



## And what did the younger cast members think?

When the school decided to do the Sound of Music, they asked for pupils from the Junior School to try for the parts of the younger Von Trapp children. We had to go to the Music Department for auditions, where we had to sing on our own. I was very nervous, but delighted when they said I was to be Marta.

At rehearsals we practised our songs for the first part and then rehearsed the scenes with the songs we had sung. Family one rehearsed first then family two had a turn. We have to watch carefully to make sure we know where to move on the stage. Every week we have a schedule to tell us what time and day we have to be in the Margaret Harris Hall. Our music instructor is Mrs Melville and Mrs Woodman takes us for the acting.

We haven't seen the costumes yet but we have been measured. It is really exciting and nerve wracking because the show is coming up and I can't wait to see the stage and the costumes. I hope I can remember all my words and moves and that the audience enjoy the show.

By Catherine Allan L4



Catherine (third from left) searches for her motivation!

# CAST:

Cantor	Rosalind MacDonald
The Mother Abbess	Esther McMillan
Sister Berthe	Ailsa Murray
Sister Margaretta	Mairi Cunningham
Maria Rainer	Catriona France
Captain Georg von Trapp	Douglas Dorward
Franz, the butler	Jonathan Voigt
Frau Schmidt	Becky Barlow
Liesl	Nicky Summers
Friedrich	Mathew Powrie
Louisa	Kirsty Mitchell
Kurt	Oliver Baker (Tuesday/Thursday)
	Matthew Mordente (Wednesday/Friday)
Brigitta	Gillian Craig (Tuesday/ Thursday)
	Ellen Eyles (Wednesday/ Friday)
Marta	Catherine Allan (Tuesday/Thursday)
	Karyn Joss (Wednesday/ Friday)
Gretl	Robyn Gibson (Tuesday/Thursday)
	Angharad Thomas (Wednesday/ Friday)
Rolf Gruber	Jonathan Spink
Elsa Schraeder	Charlotte Farmer
Ursula	Rosalind MacDonald
Max Detweiler	Guy Ballantyne
Herr Zeller	Douglas White
Frau Zeller	Fiona Smith
Baron Eberfeld	Stuart McGrath
Baroness Eberfeld	Caroline Foubister
Postulant	Susan Buchan
Admiral von Schreiber	Malcolm Watson.

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

## CHORUS:

Kirsty Allison, Callum Bannister, Chris Barclay, Victoria Bryson-Blair, Heather Chalmers, Eilidh Clark, Neil Crosby, Anni Dong, Eilidh Firth, Rachel Fraser, Stephen Fraser, Gemma Hogg, Kirsty Jones, Laurie Knox, Alison Leckie, Renna Masoub, Eleanor Matthew, Corrine McGowan, Lewis McNicol, Danielle Mordente, Lucy Neville, Amy Peters, Emily Pringle, Mark Pringle, Scott Ralston, Lucie Rymer, Sophie Sneddon, Ruth Stevenson, Caroline Taylor, Sophie Thomson, Laura Treece, Jilly Vannet, Kirsty Watson, Donald White, Stephanie Wright.

## ORCHESTRA:

Violins: Angela Green, Gillian Robertson  
Margaret Scott-Brown, Jennifer Watson.  
Viola: Sean Thomas  
Violoncello: Shelagh Fuller  
Double Bass: Peter Wiltshire  
Flutes: Marjory Cleghorn, Rhona Crichton.  
Clarinet: Shirley Magill, Susan Sneddon  
French Horn: Francis de Villiers  
Trumpet: Jason McAuley  
Trombone: Alison Dowall  
Percussion: Douglas Love, Fiona McCulloch  
Keyboards: Ann Duffus, Avril Evans.



And not forgetting Roxanne and Poppy – thanks for the tea, girls!

## STAGE CREW:



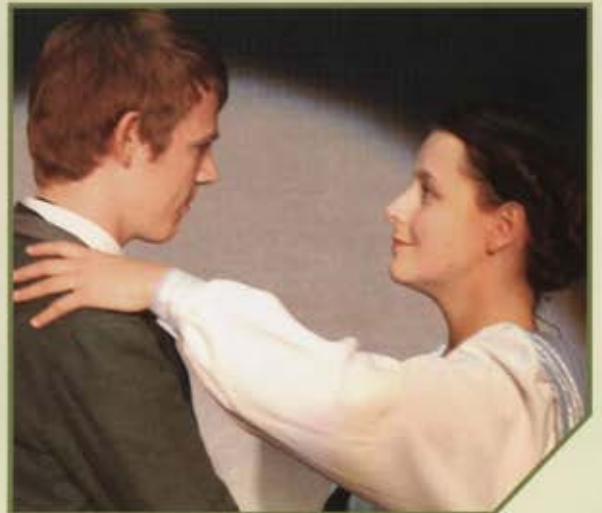
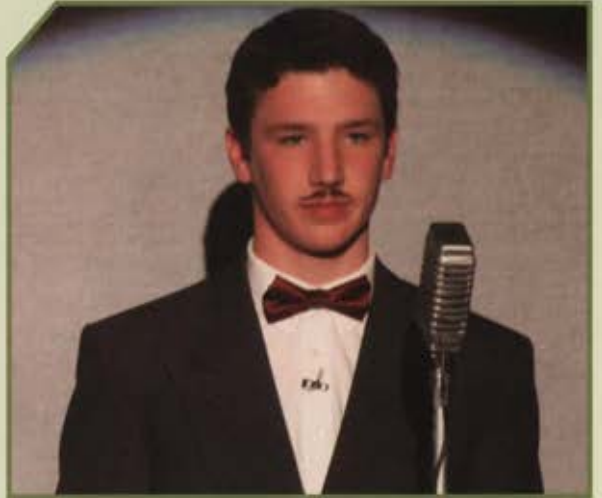
(back row) Tom Phillips, Christine Reid,  
Stuart Barlow, Gavin Peebles  
(front row) Hannah Ferguson, Michael Towns,  
Craig Wallace.

HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
REVIEW 05

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC



# THE SOUND OF MUSIC







# THE SOUND OF MUSIC



THE SOUND OF MUSIC



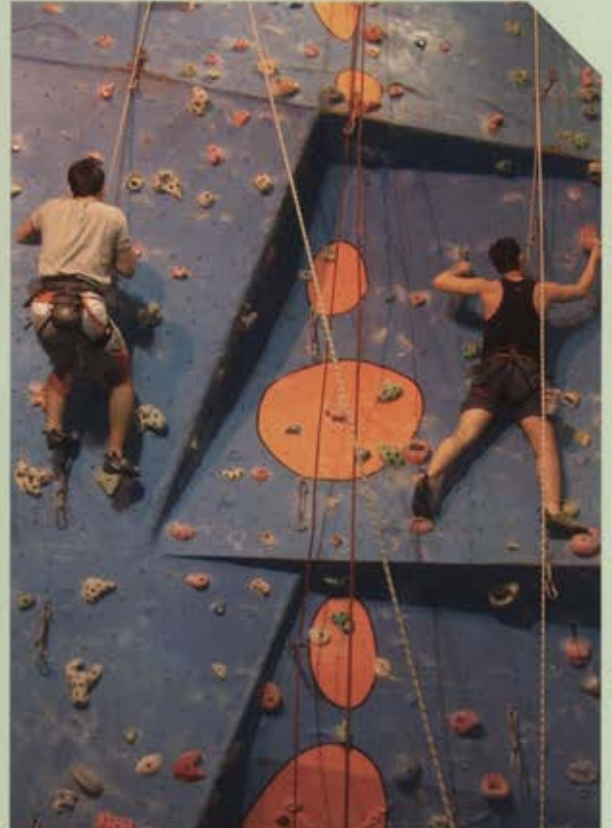
# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



Dundee High School C.C.F. (D.H.S.C.C.F.)  
A Pictorial Overview of Training 05/06



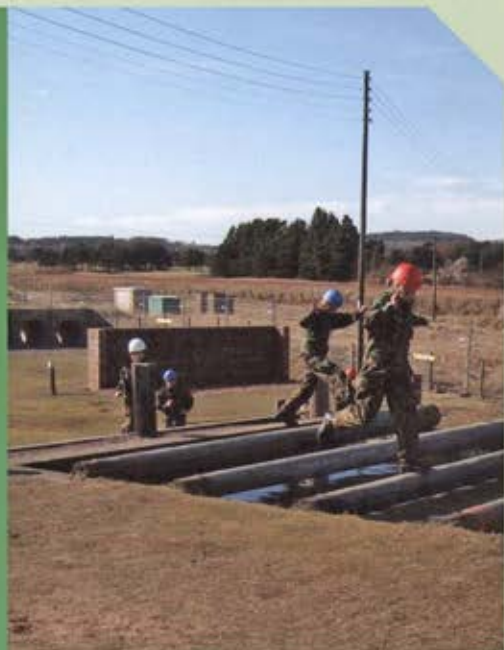
ADVENTURE TRAINING



ARMISTICE 2005



INTER SECTION COMPETITION 05



# CADETS 05/06

SUMMER CAMP 05



Best female PT	<b>Amy Grieve</b>
Best Male PT	<b>Douglas Dorward</b>
Fittest Section	<b>3 Section</b>
Best Female Shot	<b>Claire Barclay</b>
Best Male Shot	<b>Andrew Nimmo</b>
Section Attack	<b>5 Section</b>
Mountain Bike Trailquest	<b>6 Section</b>



# Triple Challenge for High School Pupils

26 August 2005

Fourteen intrepid athletes from the High School of Dundee faced a gruelling challenge one weekend last August, as they took part in the Loch Lomond Triathlon.

The pupils, all of whom were pupils in S4 and S5, trained hard for the event, in which they had to complete 1.7km in a Canadian canoe, 1.7km by bicycle, and a 3.4km run, all without a break.

The event, organised by Lomond School, attracted teams from schools all over Scotland, the pupils competing in teams of two. The distances in this competition were quite short but with participants moving straight from one activity to the next the event was physically and technically challenging.



The High's teams did well, finishing among the top schools- but most importantly, they had a great time!

## Kayaking

Over the bank holiday weekend of May 27+28 hundreds of kayakers gathered at the river Tummel near Pitlochry the venue for the UK's biggest boat race. The Liquid Life Festival is a knock out competition where 4 kayakers line up at the start below the Coronation Bridge. On the horn they race each other down the white water and the finish on Loch Faskally, approximately 10m below the 7metre double-drop waterfall. The first two places advance to the next round and "jostling" for position with paddles and/or boats is expected and accepted.

The festival was in its third year and like the previous year the camp area was one big mud pit due to relentless rain. The weather did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm and having fun and simply enjoying kayaking is the nature of this event.

The High School of Dundee had two people participating. F4 pupil Michael Houston in the junior category and new to the event and Mr Ross the school's Outdoor Education Instructor in the men's open category a finalist from last year.

A lot was decided at the start of the course. You can either aim for the main flow which funnels through a narrow shoot, or you can sneak off to the side and try and cut in front of the heat. From there it was pretty much flat water sprinting down to the first rapid, a technical rapid which was furiously guarded by rescue people with full face helmets... many paddlers got a helping push out! Another flat section lead down towards the final rapids, where a few people took a swim, some got the wrong line and others had good lines. All in all just a great entertainment spot

and where most of the spectators were placed, making sure the competitors got cheered all the way across the finish line.

Michael was proving to be a flier in the junior class and after many exhausting races over the course of the weekend he did very well and finished 2nd overall. Mr Ross managed to return to the finals and with a great start held his advantage and took the glittering 1st place and a star prize of a kayaking holiday to the River Nile in Uganda.

Next year at the High School Mr Ross and Mr Rodger will begin a kayaking club for F2-6. The club will meet every week at a local swimming pool to develop key skills and one Sunday a month to put into practice those good techniques learnt. We very much look forward to starting the club and in achieving further successes in the future.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH



## CLIMBING REPORT 06

Throughout this year Mr. Nichol has been a great supporter of school climbing. With the High School's cadet force allowing for many trips to Edinburgh's 'Alien Rock' and 'Ratho', we have been to a great variety of climbing walls and rock faces indoors and out. The most adventurous trip so far was a two-day climbing and camping experience in the Peak District, that took place during cadet camp at the popular climbing location that is Stanage Edge, one of the busiest crags in the world with a quality of rock and routes that is difficult to match.

The High School also has an increasing number of non-cadets taking up climbing with the establishment of climbing clubs by Mr. Ross, head of outdoor education. This enables many pupils to try climbing at the local centre, 'Avertical world' with no previous experience required. As well as attending these clubs there is an ever-growing number of pupils climbing out-with school on a regular basis and doing very well. Recently Alex Gorham successfully competed for a place in the national finals in the junior category of the British bouldering and lead climbing championship, as well as coming first in the boys' bouldering competition at Avertical World. This competition also saw Michael Houston doing well in coming third and Sarah Nimmo coming second in the girl's category after missing the final.

Many thanks must be offered to the school however, for providing regular climbing outings and sessions at the school's own outdoor wall. With new clubs being introduced and promising success from several pupils, the popularity of climbing is reaching new heights with a secure place as a favorite activity with pupils and staff alike.

Sarah Nimmo F4



Sarah, Michael and Alex.

# SKI REPORT

March 2006

The month of March brought a spell of snowy weather which was most welcome to some, as this enabled the Scottish Schools Ski Championship to go ahead after being cancelled earlier in the year because of a lack of snow. The event attracted teams from schools all over Scotland, and took place on Wednesday 8 March at the Lecht ski centre, Strathdon.

For the first time in almost ten years, the High School fielded teams in both the Senior Boys' and Girls' events.

The Boys' team was made up of Michael Houston (Forfar), Jonathon Voigt (St Maddoes), Cai Wardle (Blairgowrie), and Russell Hogg (Meikle)

The Girls' team consisted of Gemma Hogg (Meikle), Eilidh Clarke (Star of Markinch, Fife), Rona Leese (Auchterhouse, Angus), and Alex Ferguson (Forfar)

Though no medals were won on this occasion, the teams acquitted themselves well, turning out some good performances, the school coming eleventh overall. Next winter the contestants will be watching the weather forecast and looking forward to the next event!



Top row, L-R, Michael Houston, Russell Hogg, Jonathan Voigt and Cai Wardle.  
Bottom row, L-R, Alex Ferguson, Rona Leese and Gemma Hogg.

## EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The High School Equestrian Team once again entered the Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships held at the impressive Gleneagles Equestrian Centre with a team in each of the Junior, Intermediate and Senior age group classes. The event combined dressage with show-jumping and both team and individual prizes were on offer in a fiercely contested competition held on a glorious day in April.

The first team to compete was the Senior team of Caroline Foubister F5, Michelle McAngus F5, Zoë Galloway F5 and Katrina Hamilton F6. They rode superbly and got the High School off to a flyer, finishing 2nd in both the combined training and the show-jumping out of twelve schools which took part.

Next on show was the Intermediate team of Grace Batchelor F2, Kate Foubister F3, Ruth Batchelor L7 and Mike Harley F1. Out of thirteen schools taking part, they finished a very creditable 4th in the combined training and 2nd in the show-jumping. This was a superb achievement especially considering that both Ruth and Mike were young enough for the Junior team.

Finally it was the turn of the Junior team consisting of Jill Hamilton F1, Lucy Harley L6, Georgina Black L6 and Rebecca Reid F1. They did not disappoint and out of a massive twenty-one schools taking part, finished 3rd in the Combined Training and a fantastic 1st in the show-jumping.

The teams acquitted themselves superbly and rarely has a school done as consistently well across all three age groups. Thanks are due to all the riders and parents for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication and also to Mr Middleton for acting as chef d'equipe and photographer.

### Senior team:

Caroline Foubister on Brad,  
Michelle McAngus on Polar Eclipse,  
Zoë Galloway on Bertie and  
Katrina Hamilton on Birchwood Bell.



### Intermediate team:

Kate Foubister on Puddledub Misprint,  
Ruth Batchelor on Magic Moments,  
Grace Batchelor on Diamond de Revel and  
Mike Harley on Roo.



### Junior team:

Jill Hamilton on Monty,  
Rebecca Reid on Pea Pod,  
Georgina Black on Cherry Pie and  
Lucy Harley on Bureside Bouncer.



# CHARITIES REPORT 06

Yet again, this has been an outstanding year for Charities at the High School. In financial terms, we have surpassed the amazing totals from last session. In all, more than £20,000 has been distributed to the following charities -

- Headway
- Hurricane Katrina Red Cross Fund
- Macmillan Cancer Relief
- Roald Dahl Foundation
- Malcolm Sargent CLIC
- Aids Awareness
- Maggie's Centre
- Angus Playscheme
- Riding for the Disabled
- Waterside
- Dundee Disabled Children's Association
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Plan International
- TICR

Furthermore, 30 computers have been sent to schools in Belarus and more than 100 shoeboxes of goodies delivered to Romania.



Gifts for Romania...

Although it was decided by committee to concentrate our fund-raising on just a few charities, so many groups in the school community came up with ideas and sterling efforts that we just couldn't refuse to accept their massive cheque for such a variety of worthy causes! Indeed, as I write this, I am looking forward to two more events at the end of the summer term which will boost the out-going coffers even more..... The Juniors are holding another Talent Show (I still have fond memories of

Jake the Peg) for Childline Scotland and Ninewells Skin Cancer Unit. Also the whole school is going to be skipping mad for TICR. Hopefully, we will also contribute to the Guinness Book of Records. The last time I jumped over a rope was 40 years ago so it should be an interesting experience.

The events have been numerous and varied, and many, such as the Music Department Concerts and the F6 Show, are reported elsewhere in this Review. You can see a sample of the activities from the photos on this page but suffice it to say that everyone in the school has been involved to some degree and that their generosity of spirit (and pocket!) is appreciated.

This is a welcome opportunity for me to say a big thank you to all the backroom folk who have done all the spadework behind the scenes and who are so often unsung heroes when it comes to fund-raising. From running a marathon to doing makeup, from selling doughnuts to dressing up as a guide dog, there are always people willing to do the jobs out of the limelight, who deserve to be recognised for their efforts. As you can see from the photos, it's not all slog and most enjoyed taking part. My dream team of Charity Prefects are excellent examples of this - all of you will reap your reward in Heaven!

Finally, the stalwarts of the Charities Committee would like to thank the whole school community for their overwhelming support of the various charitable activities of this session.

Susan Williams

[Chair of Charities Committee]



# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

A letter from Lea, the little girl in the Philippines sponsored by the school.

0790-004193 - Lea Casoa

009-57220 - The High School of Dundee

April 2006

Dear High School of Dundee,

A pleasant day to all of you. May the Good Lord Bless you and Shower you with more graces always. As for me and my family, we are all fine and happy inspite of some difficulties in life.

Thank you very much for chosing me as your Sponsored child. I'm happy and grate ful that ~~there~~ there are people like you who supports children from other places.

Hope we'll have a constant communication so That we will know ~~each~~ other more. Again, thank you for the new friendship.



# CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

## CHESS CLUB

The Club meets on Monday lunchtimes at 1.10 pm in Mr Durrheim's Room (RF16) and pupils with a wide range of skills attend. We also offer a Friday Chess Club at 3.30 pm as an option although the allure of the weekend means that this is infrequent. The room is also sometimes used on an ad hoc basis, during other lunchtimes, for chess players to get together and finish off matches and there was a frenzy of last minute matches this year as members tried to play final games in the fiercely fought internal competitions.

Some come to the Club as complete novices, hoping to learn; others just want to play chess for fun, while a band of devotees take it more seriously and enter the internal and external competitions.

Once again, a large number of pupils entered two of the internal competitions this year, although numbers eventually dwindled as some realised that other commitments (such as vital work for SQA exams) had to take priority this session! Conor Ogg won both the Beekingham Trophy (open to F1-6) and the Intermediate Trophy (F1-3) this year, although Liam Eyles (F3), Ewan McDonald (F2) and Conor Webb (F1) gave him a run for his money. Sadly, once again, the Girls' Trophy was not competed for this year.

We had hoped to enter a team in the Tayside Chess League, but this League failed to get off the ground this year owing to a lack of impetus from the organising body! Hopefully, it will be resurrected next session as this competition gives our comparatively young players the experience of pitting their wit and skill against players from other schools.

# YOUNG SPEAKERS' CLUB

## Debating and Public Speaking in F1 – F3

The Young Speakers' Club is really the junior arm of the Senior Debating Club run by Mrs McGrath. A few of our older, more experienced members attend the Senior Club as well and have flourished by pitting their wits against older and more experienced speakers.

The Junior Club meets 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. This year, Miss Jones has joined us and she has very generously helped both the Senior Debating Club and the Young Speakers' Club, by coming to meetings and by coaching various teams at all levels. 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. This Easter, we even had a Mock Trial – a nefarious villain in Form 1, Kiera Ingram, had kidnapped the Easter Bunny! However, as well as the lunchtime meetings, the Club enters teams in various national and local competitions

Once again, two teams were entered for the Lloyds TSB/ESU Scottish National Junior Debating Competition. They were as follows:

- A Team Rachel McLellan (F2) and Jenny Lothian (F2)
- B Team Matthew Powrie (F3) and Scott Ralston (F3)

Rachel and Jenny did very well in this competition but went out in Round 2, at Robert Gordon's College, debating the motion "This House would introduce a compulsory scheme of military

or community service for all school leavers". Scott and Matthew, although they are relatively new to debating, fought their way through to the Finals of this competition in the impressive setting of the Scottish Parliament Building on Saturday 3rd June. The motion was "This House believes that America has turned its dream into a nightmare." The debate was hotly contested but, unfortunately, they didn't win (though the opinion of many was that we should have done ... but then we would say that!) A more detailed outline of Scott and Matthew's achievements in debating appears in the Senior Debating Club report.

This year, we entered an extra team for the Courier/CIOBS Junior Schools Debating Competition; the four teams were as follows:

- A Team Lauren Pringle (F3) and Rachel Jones (F3)
- B Team Rona Leese (F3) and Liusaidh McClymont (F3)
- C Team Allan Drysdale (F3) and Scott Ralston (F3)
- D Team Rachel McLellan (F2) and Jenny Lothian (F2)

The early rounds of The Courier went very well and three teams won through to Round 2 convincingly. The A Team of Lauren and Rachel fought their way into the Semi-Finals of this competition but were unsuccessful in making it to the Final owing to a controversial judgement that had us all reeling. It seems to have been an unlucky year for "interesting" judging decisions in debating. Still, we're not bitter ... are we?!

There's always next year!



With Lord Hunt at Westminster



Team Scotland 06



Neil and Lauren win the E-SU Mace



Matthew and Scott at the Oxford Union



E-SU Public Speaking runners-up



House Public Speaking winners

DEBATING  
A development year...

# DEBATING

## A development year...

... we said. With the departure of Cathy to Cambridge, leaving Neil still only in Form 5, we envisaged a quiet session bringing on our clutch of young debaters, some of whom had only signed up at the Co-Curricular Fair (thank you, Mr Toley!). It wasn't quiet - fourteen evenings, seven Saturdays, four whole weekends and three days out of school - but we did manage some development; to the extent that we could justifiably invert last year's title to call this piece Four Nearlies and a Trophy.

The English-Speaking Union Mace, now in its 49th year, is the oldest debating competition in the country. Run over three long-prep qualifying rounds, it attracts the biggest initial entry; nearly 100 schools just within Scotland and around 800 throughout the UK. This year, for the first time ever, Neil Dewar F5 and Lauren Pringle F3 proudly brought the Scottish Mace home to DHS and thus qualified to represent Scotland at the UK Final, held in the Gladstone Room in the Palace of Westminster. Presided over by Lord Hunt, the Final was a most imposing and splendid affair; Lord Falconer even popped in for an hour to address the competitors at the start. The winners were, deservedly, our friends and rivals from City of London Boys; both of their speakers will be at Oxford next year, but we shall still have Neil, and Lauren is only just 15...

The second "Nearley", also in a grand parliamentary setting, took place in June when Matthew Powrie and Scott Ralston F3 competed in the Final of the E-SU Juniors competition in our own parliament building at Holyrood and were judged to be runners-up. A few weeks earlier they had put in an excellent performance in the Oxford Union; one of five teams representing Scotland in the International Competition for Young Debaters, they were placed 7th overall out of 64 teams on the day and an initial entry of 270. Matthew came 9th out of 128 on the speaker tab and Scott 15th.

Lauren and Neil had had an equally good day in Oxford in March, finishing 6th in Britain out of an original entry of 289 teams. Neil was 5th on the speaker tab (out of 128 on the day) and Lauren was 14th; they were the top-placed of the six Scottish teams who were there. Neil was also awarded the prize for a superb speech from the floor at the final; oh yes, and they comprehensively beat Eton in the first round! The following week at Durham Neil tabbed 3rd out of 184 speakers; the top Scot by a length, with many people still refusing to believe that Lauren, finishing 17th, could be three years younger than almost all of the top 20.

It was no great surprise then, although still a great pleasure, when Neil was selected a week later to be the fourth High School of Dundee internationalist, following in the footsteps of his sister Fiona, 1999 and 2000, Gavin Illsley 2003 and James Moir 2004. He and his four team-mates will represent Scotland against 36 other nations in the World Championships held over 10 days in July in ...Cardiff. The world has to take turns; the 2007 tournament will take place in South Korea. Mrs McGrath will once again be a judge at the championships; in June, she had the honour of being the Presiding Judge at the final of the

Law Society tournament, held in the Holyrood chamber.

As the Chairman of E-SU Scotland remarked at the Juniors final, however, none of these glamorous high-octane events could take place without all the preliminary rounds in gloomy school halls (not ours, obviously!) in strange places on dark rainy nights in November. In this regard it has been a huge help and a great pleasure this year to have the assistance of our new member of staff Miss Morven Jones, who has put in a great deal of effort and enthusiasm and - crucially - time, to helping to coach, buying train tickets and accompanying teams all over the place. A variety of teams at differing stages of development competed in the Northern Lights, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee Universities and the Law Society. Six junior pupils travelled to Newcastle in October for the Northern Juniors at which Lauren was awarded the highest single mark in the tournament for one of her summations. Neil won Best Speaker in the Aberdeen final and he and Lauren reached the Scottish final of the Cambridge Union tournament. Lauren, Christine Reid F4 and Rachel Jones F3 won the runners-up prizes in the E-SU Scottish Final of the Public Speaking tournament, and our fourth Nearley was the Ross Cup, in which we have come either first or second every year since its inauguration.

At home we wanted to award a prize to the Form 1 audience who participated so enthusiastically in the question sessions of the Inter-House Public Speaking and cried 'Aawww' when told that time was up. The winning team was Lindores, represented by Lauren and her sister Heather F1, and Thomas Thomson F3. On behalf of Airlie Neil and Scott won the House Debate, which was judged by former debater Stuart Pemble who left school in 1988 and had flown up especially from Birmingham where he practises in construction law. On the more recent alumni front things are looking up for Gavin Illsley; despite his unlucky string of inter-varsity finals without one win, there is no gainsaying the fact that he is now the European debating champion.

Some of this year's long-prep motions have necessitated serious research into areas one didn't even think one wanted to know about, from the minutiae of the proposals to create a new UK Supreme Court to the details of how ASBOs are actually applied. Then there is the fun of constructing a short-prep case - particularly when drawn Prop 1 - on topics about which you really don't know much, such as re-nationalising rail transport in the UK (several speakers did not realise it had ever been nationalised) or whether not states should fund elite athletes - about which nobody knew anything at all! If this sort of intellectual challenge appeals to you; if you fancy a hobby that takes over your weekends - but does wonders for your confidence, knowledge and ability to persuade; if you can see yourself reading economic textbooks for fun, come and join us in Mrs McGrath's room, Monday and Thursday lunchtimes. You never know where it might get you!

# SENIOR SCHOOL REPORTS & CLUBS

This year saw the inauguration of the Justice Society - an organisation committed to becoming involved in local, national and global issues of social justice. With a regular membership of approximately 25 pupils, in support of World AIDS Day the society organised an awareness raising activity and managed to raise £235.58 for the National Aids Trust, from donations of pupils and staff. Although the aim of the day was not to fundraise, pupils from the group were delighted with this outcome and were pleased to have had such success in their first venture.

Issues worked on by the Justice Society were chosen by the pupils themselves and the issue of AIDS received popular support when it was suggested and therefore became the focus of the group for the first term. Buoyed by their success, the society subsequently explored other issues with which to become involved, such as fair trade and human rights.

The group has become a registered student group with Amnesty International and will be looking towards formalising relations with Anti-Slavery International and The Trade Justice Movement.

Open a newspaper, turn on a television or radio and you are immediately struck by the cruelty that touches every corner of the world. In some countries groups of terrified women, men and children are targeted in armed conflicts. In others courageous individuals languish in jail for expressing their views. In agreement with Amnesty International, we in the Justice Society believe that we can all do something to prevent these gross violations of human rights from continuing. Similarly, although slavery is illegal in every country around the world, today millions of women, children and men are forced to work for little or no pay, controlled and threatened by violence, held against their will, unable to leave. Many are subjected to appalling physical, mental and sexual abuse, some are even killed. Here again, we believe it is not enough to simply condemn these acts. We must strive to bring about change. One means of bringing about change is by ensuring that all people are given access to self-determination and empowerment through control of their own means of production. For this reason, the Justice Society looks to join with The Trade Justice Movement in a coalition which includes organisations like CAFOD, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, People and Planet and the World Development Movement. These organisations are concerned with the harmful impact of international trade rules on the poorest people in the world, on the environment and on democracy. Thus we join with them in calling for fundamental change of the unjust rules and institutions governing international trade, so that trade is made to work for all.





## Mrs Stott

Former Olympic athlete Pauline Stott, now a teacher at the High School of Dundee, returned to the International stage in January.

Pauline, who was previously captain of the GB Olympic hockey team in Sydney, was selected to represent Scotland at Eindhoven, Holland in the Indoor Women's hockey European A division Championship, playing to qualify for the World Cup next year in February. She told us: "Overall, the team finished 4th and qualified for the World Cup which is the first time Scotland has achieved this, male or female so we were really pleased. We lost to Belarus in the bronze medal play off."

## Steven's perfect grade makes it five in a row for High School

For the fifth year in a row, a pupil at the High School of Dundee has scored Scotland's top Chemistry grade.

Steven King (17) was one of just three pupils in the country to achieve a perfect 100% in last year's Higher Chemistry exam. Two other High School pupils scored 99%, and a fourth scored 98%.

Steven's achievement has been recognised by both the Royal Society of Chemistry and energy giant Shell, who offered Steven a trip to one of their plants in England as part of their prize.

David Brett, Head of Chemistry at the High School, said: "This is an incredible achievement by all our pupils, and my special congratulations go to Steven for his outstanding marks. The

whole department is very proud of the grades our pupils achieve, but we couldn't do it without motivated students and experienced teachers. Scoring the top grade in Scotland for five years in a row is something we are all extremely proud of."

### Exam hat-trick that will go down in history

Cathy Jung, last year's depute head girl, pulled off an outstanding academic hat trick - notching up her third "best in Scotland" result in two years.

Cathy who gained the country's highest mark in both Higher History and Higher Chemistry in her Higher year, gained the highest mark in Scotland for Advanced Higher History last year, with an unbeatable score of 100%.

Cathy, who is currently studying Law at Cambridge University, said: "I really did not anticipate that I had done so well, so I feel immensely proud and privileged to have achieved this grade. This has been a very pleasant surprise, and I'd like to thank all the staff at the High School History department for all their help and support."

Ian Wilson, Head of History at the High School, said: "This is a remarkable achievement by an extraordinary pupil. Cathy worked extremely hard to get this grade, and she deserves to feel very proud of her success."

Cathy's achievement has been recognised by the Scottish Association of History Teachers, who have presented her with a SATH award. She has also been awarded the prestigious Beazley Prize for History by the Royal Historical Society.



Steven receives his award.

# SPACE CAMP 06

This year, sixth form pupil, Laura Treece was selected to attend the NASA Space Camp in Houston. Another finalist was Neil Dewar, now also Form 6, who was selected to attend workshops in Glasgow in June.

Laura describes her experiences in Houston..., but first, how did she qualify for this exciting opportunity?

## Space Camp 2006.

The selection for the Seventh Scottish Space School began in June 2005, when 3000 applicants attended a meeting in Glasgow. There we met some of the key individuals involved in the programme and received the modules we were to complete over the summer holidays. There were six modules in total and they included multiple choice questions, essays, maths problems and designs. Although these modules did get very tough at times, I kept going as I knew it would be worth it and that I would regret it if I did not finish them. After we had competed and sent off the modules, there were regional workshops to attend, in order to get a taste of the kind of things we would be expected to do at the Space School, and to let the selectors see how we worked as a team, to aid in their selection. At the end of the whole process, I must admit I was relieved, but also apprehensive about what would happen next. Only 52 students out of 3000 would have the opportunity to go to Houston and all the students who had successfully completed the modules could go to Glasgow for a Summer School.

In the October holidays, I received a letter from the Scottish Space School. I nervously opened it and was thrilled to read that I was one of the 26 selected to go to Houston the following January!



## The Space Centre:

Our many trips to different NASA places were very interesting and helped us to understand a lot more about the work that NASA does. We went to Building 30 to be shown around previous and current mission control rooms. There were people working, so we could really see what happens. We also went on a tour of the Neutral Buoyancy Lab, where there was a huge swimming pool- big enough to cover entirely a full size mock up of the entire space station. This is for astronauts to get used to working in zero gravity and we were able to watch them work, which was even more impressive.

We were taken around the Advance Space Propulsion Lab, where we could see how new ways of powering rockets are being developed ... We were also able to see a mock up of the space station and the Shuttle, a demonstration of the space suit and simulation of docking and landing the shuttle.



## Getting Down To Work:

We attended the Space School for five days and it was a challenging and exciting experience – as well as being a lot of fun. We were split up into four teams – three teams of students and one of teachers. Each team was given the same sum of money – unfortunately not real money, as we each got \$329 million. We had to use this money to buy parts to construct our landers, rovers and rockets, and there were tasks for which, if we completed them, we would receive further money. So began our challenges, which ranged from building a lander, which protects a rover from damage when it lands on a planet, to payload lofting, which is getting pieces of equipment into Earth orbit. Our final challenge was to construct a rocket and then successfully launch it high into the sky and then retrieve it in one piece. It was amazing to see our little rocket, which we had built from scratch actually worked. All the teams' rockets launched, though none of them could be retrieved in one piece. Back to the drawing board!



# SPACE CAMP 06

## Meeting people:

We met so many fantastic people in Houston, that it would be impossible to name them all: from the British Consul General to a wide variety of people involved with NASA. We met flight directors in mission control and astronauts in the Shuttle, as well as well as engineers whose designs enable us to undertake space travel. It was fascinating to hear what these people had to say and to listen to their diverse experiences.

The opportunity to meet new people continued in the evenings, when we were not busy at Space School, as we had a very hectic social life! The people we met were really welcoming and invited us into their homes where parties would be held in our honour...On one occasion - one of the highlights of the trip - we saw the movie "Apollo 13" in the actual mission control room, where it was also filmed. As if this was not amazing enough, the flight director during the Apollo 13 mission, Gene Kranz, came to speak to us!

## It was not all work, then?

At the weekends, we did not attend Space School, so a few different things were arranged for us. Firstly, there was the traditional football match which takes place at every Space camp - Scotland vs. NASA Young Engineers. We were determined to win as Scotland had lost the previous four matches in a row. Unfortunately we lost 2-1, the decider being scored from a penalty wrongly given against us.



We were also given a full day to go to a huge shopping mall, which was great fun and gave us the chance to relax with some serious retail therapy! We bought presents for all of the adults who had been with us on the trip and who had ensured that we had a fantastic time, in order to thank them for what they had done for us. There was no way of expressing the full extent of our gratitude - only they knew we would always be grateful to them for giving us this once in a lifetime experience!



This year's finalists. Neil Dewar and Laura Treece, Form 6....



And next year's hopefuls...  
Fiona McHardy and Tom Phillips, Form 5

## TRIP TO HAY-ON-WYE BOOK FESTIVAL

The book festival held in the picturesque town of Hay-on-Wye in mid Wales has long been a mecca for book lovers and writers alike, and this year the Federation of Children's Book Groups decided to hold the prestigious Red House Children's Book Awards at the festival. High School pupils have been enthusiastic testers for the book awards for several years, and as a reward were invited to take a group to the awards ceremony. Four of our most conscientious readers in Form 1 - Lauren Clayson, Charlotte Guest, Anishka Arseculteratne and Elizabeth Webster - were given the exciting news that they had been chosen to take part in the all-expenses-paid trip, accompanied by Mrs Kathleen Brown, Library Assistant, and Mrs Dawn Keogh, English Teacher.

Crossing over the elegant bridge spanning the Wye River into Hay on a beautiful summer evening, we felt our excitement rise; finally we caught sight of the sprawl of tents and marquees that housed the festival. On our 'to-do' list was an event with Eleanor Updale, Zizou Corder and Meg Rosoff, and

the next day we went to see Cathy Cassidy, Sherry Ashworth and Kevin Brooks, all well-known children's writers, some of whom were short listed for Red House Book Awards. Cathy Cassidy told us that one of her worst experiences at school was being told off for writing an 8-page story and "wasting her jotter". She was a daydreamer at school and said, "The way I like to work is to have a controlled dream." Brooks agreed, and said being paid to daydream was not a bad way to make a living. Ashworth felt herself to be more of a 'control freak'.



# TRIP TO HAY-ON-WYE BOOK FESTIVAL

The awards ceremony itself took place on a balmy Friday afternoon and soon we were hobnobbing with the luminaries of children's literature – Michael Morpurgo, Justin Somper, Andy Cope and many others. The marquee was buzzing with keen readers all getting copies of books signed by their favourite writers and illustrators. A big thrill for us was discovering that we were sitting at the table with the greatest star of them all – Jacqueline Wilson herself, who was the guest of honour. She was very gracious and chatted amiably to the girls about the time she had spent working in Dundee at D C Thomsons, and it turns out she knew our school quite well!



Lauren, Anishka, Charlie and Elizabeth with Jacqueline Wilson.

Dinner out of the way, we were into the ceremony itself. A nerve wracking moment yet exciting moment came for our girls when they announced the winner of the older children's fiction award, which went to Rick Riordan for 'Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief'.

The next day was a scorcher and we spent some time soaking up the atmosphere in the town then headed back to the festival for two last but un-missable events. First stop was Eion Colfer, writer of the Artemis Fowl series, who regaled the sell-out crowd with hilarious stories of his own childhood and the escapades of his young sons in what was nothing less than a first rate, hour long stand-up act. Then we headed for the main of the event of the children's section of the festival – an audience with Lemony Snicket, author of the Series of Unfortunate Events. It was fortunate that we booked tickets well in advance because the event was sold out – much to the despair of the families who would gladly have sold their

grannies for a ticket and chance to see the great Mr Snicket in action. And he certainly lived up to his star billing! As we sat sweltering at the back of an enormous marquee, we were suddenly aware of a portly, full-cheeked, odd-looking man in a suit and an orange tie, carrying a floppy suitcase, when he began shouting at the audience from the back of the marquee-cum theatre. This surprising beginning kicked off a mesmerising hour of entertainment, which included a reading from 'A Bad Beginning' (stolen from a girl on the front row!), complete with hilarious sound effects from members of the audience, and a climactic song with an accordion, written and performed by Mr Snicket himself. Funniest of all was Mr Snicket's abrupt and unexpected exit when he ran, in a suitably theatrical style, out of the marquee and simply disappeared. After a brief, confused pause, he was followed by a swarm of bemused fans who, despite their efforts, failed to find the elusive Mr Snicket. We followed the swarm, but only in search of our vehicle, and said as hurried a good-bye to Hay as Mr Snicket had done: we had a two hour car journey back to Birmingham and we didn't want to miss our flight back to Edinburgh. As we rolled back over the bridge across the Wye, we laughed again at Lemony Snicket's warbly song and were glad we had an autograph book full of memories to take home to Dundee.

Mrs Dawn Keogh



The girls with their goody bags which they received after the ceremony.

## SIXTH YEAR STUDENTS MAKE A VERY PUBLIC CONFESSION - ALL IN AID OF CHARITY

Sixth year students staged an all-singing, all-dancing show to raise money for charity, back in March, at the High School of Dundee are staging an all-singing, all-dancing bid to raise money for charity.

The students worked since October to produce "Confessions on the Dancefloor", a celebration of music and dancing, covering everything from disco and ballet to traditional Indian and bellydancing. Every element of the choreography, music, production and performance was organised by the students themselves, and much of the performance was accompanied by a live band and singers, also made up of sixth years.



## ROUND THE SCHOOL

# INDUCTION WEEK 06

From the 13th to 15th of June a group of Form 5 pupils resided at the well known Burn House and Glen Isla to follow a programme which involved various team building tasks; some with a non-physical element and others with a physical element, and to gain personal and social development in a very lively peer group environment.

### The Burn House



Everyone experienced the opportunity to display the varied skills which have been acquired through their rigorous years at school through the quiz, which included creating sculptures and drawing images, and in the karaoke "entertainers" in the form of pupils and staff respectively.

The activities throughout the day involved everyone getting to know each other both personally and physically. Many got soaked but thankfully the weather was on our side as the sun was always present.



A big thank you must go to Miss Smith and Miss Douglas, who enjoyed the week sunning themselves and singing ... sorry who helped enormously. Mr Allsion, who managed to lose himself and a group of pupils in the woods twice, but most

importantly to the commander for all his efforts to ensure the everyone had an enjoyable time, Mr Rodger.

Russell Hall

### Glen Isla - Highland Adventure

The first activity of the day began with hauling our heavy bags up a stony track to the Round House at the top of the hill, our humble abode for our fun filled weekend. Once our bags were dropped off, we immediately through ourselves into the days team building activities. The activities began with a timed search for hidden tags throughout the grounds, followed by an assault course, with Team B setting a new record of 41 seconds.

The final event of the day was tug-o-war, which concluded with the best of the pupils taking on the staff, and of course the staff won.



On day two the teams set off on three different activities, watermanship, trail biking and archery. All of the activities were tiring but each group felt a good sense of achievement. The trail

biking consisted of a 2 and half hour cycle along dirt tracks, some of which can still be found in the elbow of Lucie Rymer. We also cannot finish talking about the cycling without mentioning the kamikaze exploits of Neil Dewar, there are breaks on the bike for a reason Neil. The watermanship was a combination of kayaking, canoeing and raft building.

After some initial instruction most seemed to get the hang of their boat, but all get suitably moist with a good bit of splashing. To get the teams working together each were set a task of building a raft from two kayaks, 3 wooden poles and 6 floats. No raft actually made it the full course, but it doesn't help when there are saboteurs in the midst who aided in sinking or anchoring the rafts to the lake floor. The archery for most was a new skill, which some were clearly better at than others. The Robin Hood award for archery went to Nick Bryan, whereas the Maid Marion of the week was Rosalie Hart.



The evening karaoke was the highlight of the weekend. Each team had to have a male solo, female solo and a group song. No-one will ever forget the performance of Malcolm Watson and his backing singers singing "My Heart Will Go On" from the Titanic. However the singer of the week was Eleanor Matthew with her performance of "Torn". The teachers feeling quite left out, decided to join in, starting with a rather creepy but hysterical performance of "Summer Nights", with Mr Rodger playing Danny and a Douglas Dorward playing a very sexy Sandi. On first sight of Sandi in her pink skirt, Danni said, "I'm no snoggin that!" Mr McKellar gave a beautiful rendition of "Nothing Compares To You", Mrs Williams will be forever standing by her man, Guy Ballantyne, and Miss Dickinson gave her rendition of "I will Survive."

On the final day bushcraft was the main activity, which involved building shelters and stretchers. Some of the shelters would have left the occupants feeling rather cold and wet after a night of rain.

We are really grateful to all the staff who made the whole weekend possible, as everyone had a fantastic experience.

Laura Treece and Susan Buchan



# LEAVERS' DAY 06







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