

High School of Dundee 1239-2009



REVIEW 2009

The Balaka

Bangladeshi Restaurant

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR:

2009 is a special year for the High School of Dundee, marking as it does the 770th anniversary of the founding of our school. It is a time for reflection, looking back on what we have been, what we are now and, of course, what we may be in the future. Similarly, working on the Review has allowed me to look back on the sterling efforts and many achievements of our pupils over the past year and has reinforced my view that we are indeed a school to be proud of – and my hope and belief is that this will continue to be so and that we will go from strength to strength.

I hope you enjoy Review 2009 and share in our pleasure in reading of the things our pupils have been doing this year.

Mrs Jane Phillips, Editor.

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THE RECTOR'S REPORT



On St Valentine's Day 1239, 770 years ago, Pope Gregory issued a Bull instructing the Abbot of Lindores to open a school to educate the children of Dundee, making the High School the second oldest school in Scotland (and as far as is known, the 27th oldest in the world!). 175 years ago, in October 1834, the building now known as the Pillars was built. Finally, in October 1859, 150 years ago, the school was renamed the High School of Dundee in a Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria. 1859 was of course also the year in which Charles Darwin finally published his seismic volume 'The Origin of Species'. Just a coincidence? The High School has in its 770 year history provided an illustration at institutional level of Darwin's theories. Its DNA has evolved over the centuries, adapting to circumstance and emerging the stronger for it. The High School double helix is in great shape and the efforts, achievements and personalities of the pupils and staff remain a source of great pride and enable us to look forward to the future with great confidence. This autumn we will be celebrating these anniversaries in appropriate fashion with a series of events for all constituent parts of the High School family, including concerts, class reunions, a Parents' Association dinner dance, and art sale, and a Party on the Pillars culminating with fireworks from the roof! The Pillars themselves will be decorated by banners designed by one of our F6 pupils Rachael Sinclair, for which she should be congratulated!

In summarising the achievements of the past 12 months I would like to enlist the help of the American educationalist Howard Gardner in identifying the qualities that we are seeking to develop in our pupils. He refers to a set of five 'minds for the future' that we will need to tackle and successfully come to terms with the challenges faced by the 21st century.

First we seek to develop the 'disciplined mind', which has shown consistency and rigour in mastering knowledge and information. Secondly, and building on the first we need to develop the 'synthesizing' or analytical mind. This quality is hugely significant at a time when we are all deluged with information, much of it of dubious value. The synthesizing mind determines and organises what is important, and discards what is irrelevant dross. The third quality we are looking for is 'creativity'. We look for people who can think outside the box. We live in an age of increasingly invasive bureaucracy, automation and homogenisation. We therefore look to encourage citizens who can intellectually go beyond convention, who relish challenge, innovation, enterprise, who can take (reasonable) risks.

In order to avoid the individualistic pursuit of self-interest implicit in these first three however, we also need to develop the 'respectful mind'. As the globe shrinks through travel, commerce and the internet, and diversity increases we need to be able to aspire to understand others, to work with them, and to instil a respectful environment both at school, at work and in the community.

Last but certainly not least, we seek to develop the ethical mind. This involves encouraging an altruistic sense of purpose and mission, the development of a set of values, and finally the willingness to act on these, even when doing so goes against one's self-interest.

Returning to the first of these there has been ample evidence of the 'disciplined mind' this year, reflected most prominently in the

SQA examination results from last August. The pass-rate for F5 Higher was 92.5%, with 50% at A grade, which was the 7th best in Scotland. Of all F5 pupils 21 (18% of the year group) achieved a full set of five A grades.

At Advanced Higher the pass-rate was almost identical at 92.4%. This was 3rd best in Scotland and the percentage of As and Bs (78%) was equal best in the country. Meanwhile at Standard

Results for individual subjects have been spectacular.

Grade, S4 pupils managed to achieve grades 1-3 in 98% of all papers, with Credit passes in 89% of all papers sat. Results at Intermediate 2 were almost identical, maintaining an excellent standard all-round.

Results for individual subjects have been spectacular. This year's top mark in the Higher History examination went to our Head Girl, Lauren Pringle, whose mark of 98% put her at the top of the 8,125 candidates who sat the exam in 2008. This is the fourth year out of the last five that the High School History Department has scored Scotland's top mark. Meanwhile in Chemistry six pupils in the past eight years have achieved the top grade in Scotland for Higher or Advanced Higher Chemistry, in Geography our top Higher student this year achieved 99% for the second consecutive year, but was just beaten into 2nd place nationally. Finally, each year the SQA chooses the best art work from all the candidates in the country and puts on an exhibition. One of our pupils' work was selected for the exhibition and shown at the Scottish Parliament.

Rigour and discipline is however not confined to work in the classroom. The broader curriculum throws up many examples of commitment and application. This has been the case in sport as much as anywhere. Although the rugby season was not a vintage one in terms of results at the top level five boys achieved district representation and our 1st XV reached the last 16 in the cup. One boy has recently been called up to the U17 Scotland squad. At Under 15 level the team reached the final of the Scottish Schools Plate Competition. Girls' hockey fared better, with a very good set of results. The 1st XI shared the honours with another school as

RECTOR'S REPORT

best in the Midlands district, winning the indoor title and providing several girls who helped the Midlands to win the inter-district title. Two girls were selected for the Scottish U16 team over the Easter holidays. Similarly at U15 the girls matched their elders in winning the Midlands Indoor Trophy.

Of the many other school sports pursued this session perhaps I can just refer to the athletes who competed at the Dundee Schools' sports in the summer. We have a double silver medal winner and internationalist from the Scottish Schools but our team won no less than 38 golds at the Dundee sports, including a sprint double from Harris Brown who thereby won the Allan Wells Sprints Trophy.

Whilst cricket has in recent years fallen victim to the vagaries of the SQA exams and the weather it is gratifying to note the number of talented players throughout the school, led by next year's Deputy Head Boy, Aman Bailwal who, at the end of last term, represented Scotland at U19 level. It is always a pleasure to recognise success in other sports that are not part of the mainstream curriculum. In golf an F3 girl recently won the Angus County Senior Ladies competition before going on to win Scottish Schools Golf Championships and thereby achieving selection for Scotland in the European Junior Team Championships in Finland over the summer. Furthermore we have three skiers in the school who have won many awards and national titles, one of whom competed in the Junior Winter Olympics in Poland earlier this year.

The second quality, embodied by the idea of the analytical or synthesizing mind, has also been evident in abundance this session. And where else more prominently than in debating and public speaking? The ability to analyse and prioritise a large amount of information quickly, to think on your feet, literally, and communicate succinctly and persuasively are skills that I wish to develop throughout the school. This has been a busy season for debating and public speaking at junior level but it is important to give credit once again to the senior debaters for another wonderful year. Counting only the senior competitions, teams involving fourteen pupils took part in thirteen external competitions involving ten evenings, five days out of school, three Saturdays and two full weekends. Speeches 255. Minutes at lectern 1315. Experience gained in a life skill which will take you places – boundless! Five out of the six trophies competed for at Scottish universities were won by High School debaters. The B pairing of Rachael McLellan and James Wood got the better of the A team of Lauren Pringle and Scott Ralston on two occasions, including the Ross Cup 'Champion of Champions' concluding debate of the season in May.

The successes of our top pair, however, in both being selected for the five-strong Scottish debating team for the World Championships in Athens in February was quite extraordinary. For Lauren it was for the second time as she had already competed with distinction in Washington DC in September 2008. For the first time ever two out of the team of five were High School pupils, a testament to the quality of debating that goes on here. They finished 7th out of 39 teams. We now look forward to welcoming the World Championships to Dundee in 2011 as a result of the successful bid led by our own Irene McGrath.

Changing tack slightly, analysis and synthesis will also be required by our Physics and Geography depts. who have been jointly invited to join the British Geological Society Schools Seismology Project. This is a very prestigious award and has only been offered to a limited number of schools in Scotland. We will be given a seismometer and training in its use to monitor the minute vibrations from earthquakes from all over the world!

Moving on to the third 'creative' mind-set – we normally associate creativity quite correctly with the visual arts, with drama and music. This year has once again borne witness to a huge range of productions, concerts, shows, competitions of

immense quality. The senior pupils recently staged Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* in an innovative production in St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Using the church as the set required creativity and imaginative thinking – a stroke of genius – and the power and sustained intensity of the production was remarkable. I have seen many school productions over the years but I have not seen a better one. Not to be outdone, the L6s and L7s combined to put on a hugely enjoyable and imaginative musical "Treasure Island", a production which saw class teachers link up with teaching staff and members of the support staff and the music department to put on a great show. In music, I congratulate the vast numbers of instrumentalists and singers who took part in the various concerts and competitions in the Caird Hall, in St Paul's, Trinity Hall and elsewhere and the Piano Day and music competitions which were great highlights.

However, I firmly believe that the spirit of creativity, of imagination and enterprise is not just limited to the visual and performing arts. Far from it. The qualities apply across the curriculum. Thinking out of the box is a feature of all activities in the school, both inside and outwith the classroom. Just two examples will have to suffice here. Our F1 Chemistry team of four pupils went to Heriot Watt University in early June to take part in the Salter's Festival of Chemistry, with teams from twenty schools. Part of the day was the Salter's Chemistry Challenge, where the team had to use chemical analysis and team-work to solve a murder. Thinking out of the box was certainly required here.

Similarly in Mathematics a large number of pupils entered the UK and Scottish Mathematical challenges respectively with many achieving Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. One pupil was selected as one of the top 40 in the UK to attend a Maths summer school in Birmingham but what all had to do was to use the discipline of Maths teaching as a basis on which to analyse logically and then apply these skills creatively.

The fourth 'respectful' mind implies an understanding of others and if this can be encouraged through travel then we have also had a very successful year. Our usual 'diet' of exchanges to Germany and Spain, our ski trips, French trips and the music tour to Berlin have given our pupils the opportunity to broaden horizons, ask questions and understand the wider world. I am delighted we now have thirty pupils who have signed up for the High School expedition to Peru in the summer of 2010. Four weeks spent in getting to know the country and people through expeditions, camps, work in the community and learning skills for life I can guarantee will be a life-changing experience for all involved.

The values of respect and concern for others is also engendered closer to home. I firmly believe that the opportunities we provide for pupils to take responsibility, whether through prefectorial responsibilities, involvement in the School Council, the CCF, roles as breakfast club or library monitors etc etc all contribute to the sense of involvement with others, understanding, responsibility, courtesy and respect.

Last but not least, the qualities of ethical integrity and values cannot be underestimated. Without a structure of values and principles there is no meaning to rigour, analysis, creativity and respect. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living from what we get; we make a life by what we give."

This principle has applied at three different levels: 'corporate', school and individual. In a corporate sense as a charity we aspire to enable as many to come to the High School as possible irrespective of parental means. The ideal situation where no-one is turned away from the High School on financial grounds is a long way off, but our record in this is second to none in Scotland. Currently 15% of pupils in senior school benefit from a means-tested bursary, and in total we give out around £600,000 in bursary funds. A large part of this comes from trusts and other



charities, but about half comes from our own investments and fee income. This commitment to the future will remain at the core of what we do and is a much valued tradition of the High School.

Meanwhile at school level the sense of responsibility towards the wider local and global community is encouraged through the activities of the Charities Committee, so ably led by Mrs Sarah Fletcher and her team of staff and pupils. The Macmillan Coffee Morning, the Armistice Parade, the Charities Christmas Fair, the Breakfast Club, and perhaps most spectacularly, Comic Relief 2009 where the school came together to 'do something funny for money' raised a total of £24,000 for so many different charities. Friday 13 March saw over one thousand pupils and staff take to the playground in an attempt to create Britain's biggest Red Nose. This occasion, inspired by Mrs Fletcher, will live particularly long in the memory. As I bent forward in my red top, along with the rest of the school, my backside pointing towards the Pillars, waiting for the aerial photograph to be taken, I was struggling to remember the clause in my contract that refers to such activities!

Finally, it should not be forgotten that individual pupils and staff are often involved in unsung acts of generosity and compassion. Normally these go unnoticed. I will however refer to one such person, namely Melanie Matthew in F5. Quite out of the blue I noticed a small item in the Courier in April, which read as follows: "Thanks to Melanie Matthew of Dundee High School, the man from Germany, the ambulance men and doctors and nurses of A&E who helped when I fell and dislocated my shoulder in Dundee High Street." That this spontaneous act of kindness and generosity by Melanie should come to light in this way made my day and encapsulated all that is great about the High School.

You may have noticed that virtually all of the achievements referred to above are the product or outcome of more than just one of Howard Gardner's Five Minds. To be honest they all result from a combination of all five to varying degrees. However, when they come together in this way they become components of what I like to call the Integrated Curriculum. This refers to the way we systematically and deliberately link together everything that we do here at the High School. The Scottish government has recently jumped on this bandwagon with what it calls A Curriculum for Excellence. I have to say I dislike the term Curriculum for Excellence because of its patronising and insulting insinuation that we have not been interested in excellence before now. During the three decades of teaching I have never worked for anything less and I know my colleagues feel the same.

In conclusion to this section, however, I would just like to refer to two areas of school activity which really did join together the qualities of all five minds: rigour, analysis, creativity, respect for others and ethical integrity. First, the extraordinary Fashion Show organised by the F6 Interact Club led by Sabraj Gill, Rachel Jones, Guthrie Batchelor and Jenny Grewar. They worked hard for weeks, learnt to prioritise, liaised with local shopkeepers, put together an imaginative show, and all for a very good cause, raising over £3000 for local charities. They brought together school staff, parents and FPs, not to mention their fellow pupils as musicians and dancers. A truly integrated effort.

A second area which draws together all these skills is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I am delighted that this is an area of growth in the school, with a record number of 15 Gold Award winners completing their award whilst at school. And they collected their awards from the Duke himself at a ceremony at Holyrood in July. The focus on self-improvement through the four main elements of community service, a physical sport, developing a skill and participation in an expedition, plus, at Gold level a period away from home constitute a journey of self-discovery second to none. Our residential courses planned for Form 1 and the Form 6 Induction are very much conceived in the spirit of the D of E.

Now I turn briefly to our plans for the future. I will be continuing to look at the curriculum continuum between L6 and F2 to ensure smooth transition from Junior School to the Senior School. We

will be investigating the best way to make our integrated curriculum more effective and systematic for all pupils, whilst improving our systems for academic tracking. We have been focusing sharply on ICT development both for staff and pupils so ICT training for staff will continue to be important whilst we introduce our new website and move towards a Virtual Learning Environment for pupils, staff and parents. In terms of the physical environment we are pursuing vigorously our plans to construct all-weather playing surfaces and looking at developing facilities for the visual and performing arts. An exciting few years beckon!

At the end of my first year here I am indebted to a number of people.

At the end of my first year here I am indebted to a number of people. First I would like to pay tribute to Adrian Stewart and the Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure working with them and I have seen at first hand the many hours of unpaid commitment they have given this session. Their expertise and advice has been invaluable.

I must also thank the staff of the School, both academic and support. I owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Senior Management teams in both the Senior and Junior Schools. With three new kids on the block, including me, it has been wonderful to be able to forge such a coherent and productive team. When away at a conference I am sometimes asked who runs the school in my absence. My answer is simple: "The same people who run it when I am there!"

The staff of the school are the most valuable resource by a long way so it is quite right that some 70% of the turnover is spent on staff salaries. The impressive professionalism of the teachers, the support staff, including my PA, the Bursary staff, the General Office staff, Development Office, Admissions, the ICT, Lab, reprographic, classroom and playground assistants, the groundsman, the caterers, cleaners and of course the janitorial team underpin the many successes of the school and ensure that the quality of our 'core business', namely the education of children, is so consistently high.

I have also greatly enjoyed my contact with the other key members of the wider High School community: the Parents' Association and indeed the parental body as a whole, the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs, the FP Club, the Friends. In addition the contributions made by those bodies who support the school financially, such as the Appeal Trust Fund, the Nine Incorporated Trades, the Guildry, not to mention numerous other trusts, all add up to an increasingly joined-up network of moral, financial and physical support for the School.

My absolutely final words here are directed towards the pupils of the High School. John Keats wrote: "The imagination of a boy is healthy, and the mature imagination of a man is healthy; but there is a space of life between, in which the soul is in a ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain, the ambition thick-sighted." This imagination, this sense of ferment and undecidedness is all of what makes being in a school so exciting on a daily basis, and yet the pupils never cease to enthral, surprise and amaze.



PRIZE LIST

08/09

L4 and 5

The Special Prize for Chess	Brian Lim
The Old Girls' Prize for Piano	Mariam Alijani
The Marshall Prize for Descant Recorder	Kyle Fleming
The Robbie Prize for Public Speaking	Mhairi Millar

L6

Academic Merit Prize	Anna Brown Sally Burnett Andrew Elliot Kenny Matheson Anushka Pathak
Academic Merit Prize Tie for International Recognition	Madeleine Tinson

L7

Academic Merit Prize	Ella Hudson Sophie Kroboth Lauren Short Catriona Strachan Olivia Wight
Tie for International Recognition	Daniel Baker Ruaridh Ogilvie
Walter Smith Memorial Prize for Drama in L7 [joint]	Katy Allen
Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing in L7	Euan Chalmers
Hutton Prize for Environmental Studies in L7	Mac Duncan
The Prize for Strings	Heather Goodfellow
The Stark Cup for Public Speaking	Emma Walker
Academic Merit Prize The Prize for Bagpipes	Charles Arthur
Academic Merit Prize The Prize for Guitar	Andrew Guest
Walter Smith Memorial Prize for Drama in L7[joint] Tie for International Recognition	Rhys Paterson

The Marshall Prize for Tenor Recorder The Prize for Woodwind	Alasdair Rennet
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Dr Rita Forrest Prize for Art in L7 The Russell Trophy for Chess	Qing Qing Zhu
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Academic Merit Prize The Leng Silver Medal for Singing Tie for International Recognition The Prize for Brass	Euan Strachan
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Old Girls' Trophy for all-round ability in L7 Tie for International Recognition	Alister Goodfellow
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John McLennan Prize for Proxime Accessit	Molly Duncan
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Woodman Trophy for Mathematics in L7 E M Stewart Prize for Dux of the Junior School	Eilidh Lockhart
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Form 1

Academic Merit Prize	Jamie Clarkson Daniel Davidson Hannah Douglas Scott Lothian Jamie Mather Megan Wallace
Tie for International Recognition	Callum Strachan
Tie for International Recognition [re-award]	Jessica Tinson
Leng Silver Medal for Singing	Calum Archibald
Academic Effort Prize	Barbara Braid
Prize for Most Improved Academic Effort	Owen Fitzpatrick
Girls' Chess Trophy	Jenny Zhan
Academic Merit Prize Alexander Mill White Prize for all-round ability in Form 1 girls	Olivia Tait
Florence Whytock Memorial Prize for Dux of Form 1 girls	Hannah Arnold
Robertson Prize for Dux of Form 1 boys [joint]	Andrew Kelly
Alexander Mill White Prize for all-round ability in Form 1 boys Robertson Prize for Dux of Form 1 boys [joint]	Marshall Macleod

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Form 2

Academic Merit Prize
Christopher Acheson
Ailsa Purdie
Kirsty Gray
James Lucocq
Campbell MacLeod
Eleanor Robson

Tie for International Recognition
Katie Guest

A S Drummond Prize for
Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Lewis Davie

Andrew Paton Prize
for Games in Form 2
Jack Paladini

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
Georgina Black

Academic Merit Prize
Neil Fraser Cup and Prize for
all-round ability in Form 2 boys
Jakob Kroboth

Old Boys' Prize
for Creative Writing
RSL Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 boys
Harry Carstairs

RSL Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 girls (joint)
Gail Watson

Prize for all-round ability
in Form 2 girls
RSL Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 girls (joint)
Louise Patullo

Form 3

Academic Merit Prize
Daniel Barton
Donald Campbell
Laura Lee
William McBride
Joanna Tait

Tie for International Recognition
Ruth Batchelor
Callum Edwards

Tie for International Recognition
(re-award)
Oliver Baker
Elliot McKillop

A S Drummond Prize
for Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Holly Maxwell-Stevenson

Chris Rea Prize for Games
in Form 3 boys
Tom Ogilvie

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
Jennifer Allan

Tie for International Recognition
Chris Rea Prize
for Games in Form 3 girls
Ailsa Summers

Academic Merit Prize
Intermediate Chess Club
Trophy prize
Beckingham Trophy and
Chess Club Prize

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux
of Form 3 boys (joint)

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux
of Form 3 girls

King Hang Chan

Ross Mulford
Cameron Richardson

April Shepherd

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize
Madeleine Adamson
Mike Harley
Alistair Lynch
Anna Mackenzie
Helen Main
Connor Murdoch
Kevin Singh

Tie for International Recognition
Heather Pringle

Tie for International Recognition
(re-award)
Charlie Guest
David Jones
Kirsty Mitchell

Leng Silver Medal for Singing
Claire Dobson

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
Lauren Clayson

RSL Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 4 boys
Cameron Milne

Armitstead Trust Prize
for Dux of Form 4 girls
Siobhan Chien

Form 5

Spankie Quaich
for Higher Technological Studies
Richard Abel

Prize for Computer Studies
in Form 5
Waqas Arshid

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
Helen Coleman

Prize for Higher Philosophy
Sophie Craik

Prize for Drama in Form 5
Lindsey Docherty

Southgate Prize
for Musical Ensemble
Samir Eljamel
Lewis Foggie

Tie for International Recognition
Jaimie McGregor

Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for Classical Studies in Form 5
Jordan McLaren

PRIZE LIST 08/09

Isabella Hunter Award
for Art in Form 5

Caroline Milne

Robert Biggar Prize
for Geography in Form 5

Victoria Nicholson

The Prize for Higher Latin

Lucy Taylor

Academic Merit Prize
Armitstead Trust Prize
for Higher Modern Studies

Grace Batchelor

Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize
for Music in Form 5
Larg Prize for Vocal -
Open (Grade 7 and above)

Anna Burns

Academic Merit Prize
J B Meiklejohn Prize for
Mathematics in Form 5 (Girls) joint

Fabliha Hussain

Academic Merit Prize
Christopher and Philip Daft Prize
for Physics in Form 5

Alexandra Montgomery

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

Vanita Nathwani

Baker Trade of Dundee Prize
Richard Beaton Prize
for Practical Cookery

Charlotte Rowe

University of Dundee Prize for
Excellence in Economics
Tie for International Recognition
(re-award)
Games Merit Scarf

Aman Bailwal

Academic Merit Prize
James Stevenson Memorial Prize
for French in Form 5
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for Spanish in Form 5

Eleanor Mackie

J B Meiklejohn Prize
for Mathematics in Form 5 boys
Dennis J Paterson Prize
for Dux of Form 5 boys

Gordon Dick

J B Meiklejohn Prize for
Mathematics in Form 5 girls (joint)
Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy
and Book Prize
for Chemistry in Form 5
Glenday Award
for Biology in Form 5
Caroline S Low Prize
for Dux of Form 5 girls (joint)

Fiona Allison

E M Stewart Prize
for English in Form 5
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for History in Form 5
James Stevenson Memorial Prize
for German in Form 5

Rachael McLellan

Consulate General's Prize
for German
Caroline S Low Prize
for Dux of Form 5 girls (joint)

Form 6

Form 6 Leaver Award

Charles Adams
Aneeqa Arshid
Fatima Baig
Christina Birks
Alistair Brown
Calum Brownlee
Amy Bryan
Alasdair Campbell
Alexandra Cantrell
Struan Cessford
TomChambrier Walker
Sonia Chima
Robert Constable
Alistair Daw
Louise Devine
Vicky Emslie
Liam Eyles
Kevin Farrell
Christopher Fearon
Murray Fender
Andrew Ferguson
Libby Forbes
Keith Graham
Jenni Hagan
Matthew Hay
Vincent Hon
Iona Innes
Josh Ivinson
Gabriella Laverty
Morven Lean
Kirstie Macfarlane
Ewan Macmillan
Anita Mann
Paul McNulty
Matthew Milne
Rosemary Mudie
Michael Patrick
Michael Peake
Eleanor Peters
Sinead Pounder
Joanna Reid
Emily Richardson
Josh Rowley
Emma Scahill
Kirsty Scragg
Heather Simmonds
Maxine Smith
Anna Souter
Craig Tallett
Thomas Thomson
Scott Walton
Calum White
Robert White
Jamie Williams
Fraser Wilson
Angus Young



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Emma Bankhead	Gordon Grant Trophy for Games (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award	Fraser Reid
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award	Guthrie Batchelor	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Laura Sim
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish Form 6 Leaver Award	Alex Dolan	Edinburgh - Angus Club prize for Dux in Classical Studies Form 6 Leaver Award	David Soper
Gordon Grant Trophy for Games (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award	Alan Drysdale	Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award	Rakhee Vasishta
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies [History] Form 6 Leaver Award	Kate Foubister	Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Jennifer Grewar
Prize for Higher Accounting Form 6 Leaver Award	Stephen Gardiner	Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport (joint) Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award	Rona Leese
Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Boys Form 6 Leaver Award	Alisdair Gilmour	Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4 - 6 Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama Form 6 Leaver Award	Kirsty McEwan
Caird Prize for Higher Business Management Form 6 Leaver Award	Aisling Goodey	Alan Hall Prize for Dux in Technological Studies University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Form 6 Leaver Award	Erin Middleton
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Duncan Hedigan	Brian McNeill for Dux in Biology Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport (joint) Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science Form 6 Leaver Award	Marianne Dobson
Prize for Higher Sociology Form 6 Leaver Award	Bjaerni Henderson	Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Andrew Hayes
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award	Iain Kennedy	Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Rachel Jones
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Sarah Low	Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French (joint) Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Katie Main
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Emily Lucocq		
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computer Studies Form 6 Leaver Award	Rob Madden		
University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Form 6 Leaver Award	Liusaidh McClymont		
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Danny McGuff		
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award	Connor Ogg		
Prize for Higher Physical Education Max Paladini Form 6 Leaver Award			



Dennis J Paterson Prize and
Trophy for the
Best Individual Speaker in the
Inter House Debates
Cambridge Gavel
for Contribution to Debating
Tie for International Recognition
Form 6 Leaver Award

Scott Ralston

Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for Dux in Modern Studies (joint)
W E Crichton Prize
for Dux in Economics
University of Dundee
Advanced Entry Certificate
Larg Prize for Woodwind -
Open (Grade 7 and above)
Form 6 Leaver Award

Patrick McGregor

J Torrington Bell Prize
for Dux in Art
Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize
for Dux in Physical Education - Girls
William Laird Prize for
Scottish Studies (Geography)
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award

Rachael Sinclair

G H Philip Prize
for Public Speaking
University of Dundee
Advanced Entry Certificate
D Arnot Shepherd
Travel Scholarship
Dr John M Morgan Prize
for Outstanding Service to School
Form 6 Leaver Award

James Wood

Dott Prize for Dux in Music
Larg Prize for Strings -
Open (Grade 7 and above)
Larg Prize for Piano -
Open (Grade 7 and above)
High School Quaich
for the Best All-Round Instrumentalist
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award

Amy Watson

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award
Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Girl

Kirsty Morrison

Armitstead Trust Prize
for Dux in French (joint)
Eiko Takahashi Prize
for Excellence in Modern Languages
Form 6 Leaver Award
Rector's Prize
for Deputy Head Boy

Matthew Powrie

Form 6 Leaver Award
Erskine Prize
for Head of School (Boys)

Sabraj Gill

Rorie Trophy
for the Inter House Debating
Competition
Inter House Shield
for Champion House

Airlie

Dott Memorial Prize
for Dux in Mathematics
Sibbald Prize
for Dux in Geography
T S Murray Prize
for Dux in Chemistry
Dr Evelyn Gow Prize for Science
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award

Sarah Acheson

Armitstead Trust Prize
for Dux in English
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize
for Dux in Modern Studies (joint)
Sir John Leng Prize
for Dux in History
Cambridge Gavel
for Contribution to Debating
Tie for International Recognition
(re-award)
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award
Lowson Prize
for Head of School (Girls)

Lauren Pringle

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

Sarah Acheson

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

Lauren Pringle

PRIZE LIST
08/09

STAFF NEWS

Farewells

Andy McKellar Classics



Andy McKellar arrived at the High School fresh from teacher training having spent, as he says, a slightly more protracted period than is customary in academia. He states that he was impressed, immediately, with the quality of the school and this persuaded him to make the unlikely move back east, having vowed never to return to this part of the world after rediscovering and embracing his Glaswegian roots at university.

Since then he has thoroughly enjoyed his work in the Classics Department and in the wider life of the school. He tells me he will remember with particular fondness scurrying round Trinity labelling chairs each night before Romeo and Juliet and cursing the "innovative theatrical approach of not actually using a theatre"! The show was of course a fabulous success and Andy has really enjoyed playing a part in the production of many excellent school shows over the years. And among Andy's proudest moments in the co-curricular field is the excitement that surrounded the brief flourishing of the High School's first flag football team, which came agonizingly close to the UK finals of the Schools' World Championship. He says the experience will likewise live on for him when he goes to pastures new.

Trips to Italy have, of course, been a highlight and he wishes to extend warmest thanks to all the colleagues who have shared this experience with him over the years: particularly to John Meehan with whom he enjoyed an excellent working relationship for many years. He is, of course, very grateful to all the pupils he has worked with over the years who, he says, really have, "each in their own special way", helped to brighten up every working day. And it is with genuine sadness that Andy says goodbye to his "great colleagues and friends". He extends an open invitation for them to visit him over in the Wild West, in future.

Andy's parting words to us: "avete omnes atque valete".

We certainly wish him a fond farewell and every success in Glasgow. He will be sorely missed.

Angela Wheatley

Angela Wheatley came to the school in 2004. She spent two years teaching in L6, then a year in L2 before she got itchy feet and went off for a year on her travels. She spent most of that time in New Zealand and was employed as a teacher there for part of the year. On her return to the school she taught in L3. She is equally at home with older and younger pupils. She is very astute and caring for her pupils as well as being an exciting class teacher. In co-curricular terms she has always been interested in sport and has helped with hockey both after school and on Saturdays and has also taken a Basketball group.

Angela left the school in December to follow her fiancé to Dunbar where she has taken up a teaching post. She is to be married in October. We will miss her very positive approach to life and her wicked sense of humour and send her our very best wishes for the future.

Colin Allison

Colin Allison arrived at the High School in August 1998, having been appointed as one of two new Assistant Rectors. He came from George Watson's College where he was himself educated.



After four years at university (including a year at Seville University) he graduated from Edinburgh with a degree in Spanish. A teaching qualification and Dip.Ed. followed, before beginning his teaching career.

While at the High School, Colin was, among other things responsible for all SQA administration. In fact, over his years at the school, he took a keen interest in provision for senior pupils, particularly those in Form 5 and 6: he developed careers advice and PSE and for Form 6, he introduced the Common Room and the Induction week. Always having a keen sense of how to reach out to members of the public, Colin was responsible for the introduction of the - by now - well established Open Morning, one of the important dates on the High School calendar. He now enjoys spending his spare time on the golf course and boasts a handicap of 5!

Colin was a familiar and well respected figure round the school and his decision to retire and his departure at the end of last session was the cause of real regret. We wish him well in his retirement.

Lauren Boath



After graduation from the University of Strathclyde, Lauren was at University College London in Medical Physics before moving into university administration at the Universities of Abertay, Aberdeen and Dundee. Lauren joined the High School in 2006 having been with us on placement as a student at the University of Dundee. In her time within the department Lauren has been particularly interested in introducing new approaches in her teaching. Lauren has had the opportunity to increase the department's involvement with the University of Dundee through development and delivery of twilight sessions for PGDE students. Her involvement with the University also led to an invitation to participate in the Popularity and Relevance of Science for Scientific Literacy project and to present her findings at an international conference. Lauren has also been heavily involved with the local Association for Science Education (ASE) and development and delivery of CPD for science teachers. She was delighted to join the ASE Scotland Committee in 2008 and thereafter to be invited to Chair the conference organising group for the 2011 Scottish Science Education Conference.

Lauren's involvement with the Charities Committee during her placement and probationary year was extended when she introduced the High Helpers volunteers group. Under this umbrella she worked with other staff to set up and run the recycling scheme and the Breakfast Club. During her time here Lauren has also participated in various activities including Form 6 induction and running club, and she continues to run for charity in her spare time.

Lauren is moving on to new challenges as a Teacher of Physics at Monifieth High School.

Michael Stewart

Michael started at the High School in 1997. Having completed a degree in Philosophy at Aberdeen, Michael decided to do teacher training in English. His *raison d'être* was not however a desire to teach: "I'd always sworn I'd never become a teacher, least of all an English teacher. I just did the teacher training as a means of hanging about in Aberdeen to be with my wife-to-be, Karen." Having completed the teacher training he did an MPhil in Philosophy at Dundee, teaching first year tutorials. After that he felt the need to have a proper job and applied for teaching jobs.

Having been involved in various committees such as the Staff Handbook committee, Michael decided it was time for a change. The school very generously gave Michael two years of absence to work abroad. Drawn by the chaotic appeal of a failed state, Michael headed with his wife and two young children to the desert capital of Sudan, Khartoum. Having enjoyed two years teaching in Unity High School (of teddy bear notoriety) and travelling within Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Michael returned home to the High School.



Back in Dundee, Michael was having more children (five in all) and consequently enjoying his time at work more than ever. Michael also found his co-curricular activities of Duke of Edinburgh and Quest Club particularly good fun and rewarding. Despite his increased enjoyment of work, Michael felt that there were other plans for him and other ways for him to use his skills. As a result, Michael began to look at the possibility of returning to Khartoum in some capacity. With this in mind he completed an intensive CerTESOL course at St. Andrews University to widen his teaching skills. Michael is leaving for Sudan with his wife and five children, initially to focus on learning Sudanese Arabic and in due course to teach and perhaps become involved in orphanage work.

He says will miss the High School intensely: the brilliant English Department and the rest of the staff in general - and of course the pupils who have (yes!) been a pleasure to teach. "It has been a privilege to have taught here and I'd love to drop back in every now and again when we're back in the UK." Michael would love to maintain contact with the High School via email and Skype.

Michelle McIntyre

Michelle McIntyre came to the school in 2007 from her previous post at Wormit Primary School. She taught in L6 and made a huge contribution to the year group. She builds a wonderful rapport with her pupils and is insightful and intuitive. She is trained in Drama and ran a Drama group after school. We will miss her innovative ideas, her warmth and her dry sense of humour.

Michelle left in December on Maternity Leave and has given birth to a beautiful baby daughter, Elizabeth. She has moved with her husband back to Edinburgh.



Welcome

Dr John Halliday



I imagine that no one ever really enjoys their first day at a new school. For young five year-olds, the fear and upset at being left at a previously unknown building filled with adults and older pupils that tower above them is only really subdued by the promise of fun games and lots of other children to play with, at which point parents are promptly forgotten and the start of their school life begins. Unfortunately this approach does not work as well when we get older. I doubt any twelve year-old going up to 'the big school' for the first time breezes in without the slightest fear of the unknown and seemingly colossal institution they now find themselves in.

However, these young pupils may be thought of as the lucky ones. Joining a new school along with fifty other new pupils is, after all, not such a bad thing. At least everybody is in the same boat. But imagine how it must be for people that join conspicuously in third year say, or in the middle of the session. Any comfort given to new first year pupils derived from the common bond of newness – 'no one knows where anything is', 'everybody is new, you'll blend in' – becomes useless. So imagine how John Halliday felt when he arrived at the school in August last year. Not just "a" new kid, but "the" new kid. I doubt it helped much that, instead of slipping quietly into a seat at the back of his registration class, he was actually taking over the position of Rector at the school.

After Mr Duncan's term of eleven years serving the school, the arrival of someone new to take on the duties of the Rector was not small news. And so, with his arrival much discussed and anticipated by the pupils, parents and staff of HSD, Dr Halliday first entered his office in August 2008, the only one in his boat.

Despite this rather scary description of the experience, Dr Halliday assures me that he is "delighted to be here" and with some satisfaction, he says that the school keeps him "extremely busy". "Busy" may be exactly the right word to describe the school session 2008-9. The annual Christmas and Spring concerts both took place in the Caird Hall, the Interact club hosted a hugely successful charity fashion show in March, every pupil in the school managed to gather in the front playground to create Scotland's biggest Red Nose, and Trinity Hall was filled with music over two days of competitions. Impressively, the Rector was present at each of these events and evidently enjoying them very much!

A keen sportsman and musician since he was at school, the Rector is eager to see these and the numerous other activities offered by the school become even more integrated into the curriculum. The benefits of having sporting and musical facilities at a school are obviously very clear to Dr Halliday who says:

'You're learning about decision making, about commitment, leadership, teamwork, courage and self-confidence. There are learning experiences there.'

He is looking forward to taking the school onwards in every area – the whole integrated curriculum and the actual physical environment of the school. Most of all, however, he is looking forward to continuing his interaction with the pupils, which is the aspect of teaching which he has always enjoyed most of all.

Jenni Hagan F6

Welcome



Ana Agüero Modern Languages

For the sixth year in succession, 2008 saw a new arrival in the Modern Languages department - this year in the form of Ms Ana Agüero, teaching Spanish and French. Born in Malaga and raised in Toronto, Ana worked in both Canada and Spain before making the decision to follow her heart to Scotland last summer. She has brought some real Latin spirit with her and quickly established herself in the department. Out of school, major house renovations are taking up virtually all of Ana's free time, while anyone on the hunt for holiday accommodation in Spain need look no further...

Claire Anderson Junior School Teacher L7C

Born and bred in Dundee, Claire spent 10 years in the insurance industry before making the long overdue leap into the teaching profession. Her dream of becoming a primary school teacher was soon to be realised when she was accepted on the Bachelor of Education course at the University of Dundee. Having graduated in June 2007, she completed her probationary year at Brackens Primary School in Dundee.

Claire joined the High School of Dundee in August 2008 for, what was to be at the time, a temporary one year contract. However, she has just learned recently that her temporary position is to be made permanent after the summer so there is no getting rid of her now!!

Claire has had a wonderful year with her L7 class and has thoroughly relished the challenges that brought to her teaching. Along with the children she has experienced many things for the first time this year. The L7 Paris trip was a treat and the Junior School musical was a tremendous event to be involved in with some budding West End stars in the making. She will have a tear or two in her eye when they leave her in June to make their way to the dizzy heights of the senior school.

Claire has enjoyed running a 'Fit Club' for L6 and L7 pupils as part of her co-curricular activities this year and she has also developed new skills whilst helping with a jewellery and scarf making club which Miss Douglas runs in the art department for F1 pupils.

Claire has received a wonderful welcome in both junior and senior schools and she would like to thank her colleagues for their support and encouragement during her first year.

Craig Webb Centre Manager, Mayfield Sports Centre



Craig was born in Dundee and attended Craigiebarns Primary, then the High School of Dundee (class of 1997). He finished a Degree in Sports Coaching and Sports Development in 2001 at Abertay University, Dundee, since when, he has worked for a number of high profile Health & Fitness chains as a Personal Trainer and Assistant Manager before returning to the High School fold as the Centre Manager at Mayfield.

At school, Craig played in one of the most successful 1st XV rugby teams the school has had (so far). He also played for Dundee HSFP RFC and Caledonia Rugby until early retirement through injury. Currently a Scottish Rugby Referee for the Caledonia District, Craig says that he would really love to referee at the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

We're very pleased to welcome him back to the High School of Dundee.

Jenni Stewart Head of Geography



Jenni Stewart studied, lived and worked in London for ten years after she left Arbroath, having attended Arbroath High School. Her formative years were spent in a swimming pool, where she was crowned Scottish breaststroke champion, representing this fine country and competing against mainly High School of Dundee

students. She trained to be a teacher at schools in central London before taking up her first post at Parliament Hill School in Camden, teaching the youth of London about the wonderful world beyond The Smoke. She also had a Head of Guidance role at the school. Then, she moved to Hertford to take up a post as Head of Geography, before returning to her ain folk here in Bonnie Scotland! Jenni's family and many friends continue to live in and around this area and, after more than a decade away, she could not resist the magnetism of the north.

She is still a keen athlete and she says she enjoys the gruelling process of training for triathlons, but she also admits that she equally enjoys luxuriating over a copy of Hello! with a box of Maltesers. As a dedicated geographer Jenni believes she has a responsibility to travel extensively and has spent time in China, India, the USA and Europe, but enjoys nothing more than a bracing walk along the golden sands of Arbroath beach.

Most importantly, she says that she has thoroughly enjoyed her first few weeks at High School and she feels she has been made to feel exceptionally welcome by all members of the school community and beyond. She is thrilled to be leading the Geography Department and looks forward to continuing the outstanding successes achieved by Mrs Vannet and the team.

We offer Jenni a warm welcome to the High School and know that Geography will continue to thrive with her hand on the tiller.

Laura Duncan

We also welcome Laura Duncan to the reprographics department. Laura joined us from the firm Staples this year and has already established herself as an invaluable member of the team!

Lise Hudson



Mrs Hudson, for a long time a member of the History Department and of the Guidance team, last year became a deputy head of the school. Though a stalwart of the High School, her new post still held some surprises for her. She has enjoyed working with a "brand new team" and there have been some exciting challenges. It helped, knowing

so many of the pupils so well, though! The biggest surprise on taking up her new post was how much of a sense of humour the staff have, though we have to report she laughed when she said that... The unpredictability of the work surprised her - thought time passes very quickly, when there is so much to do.

Mrs Hudson has lots of ideas about how she would like to take the school forward:

"Mainly I would want to further develop the senior pupil's role in the school. Sixth Year already do a great job of helping out in the school in a variety of ways but I feel that we could develop this further."

A big school event this year was the Interact Fashion Show, where Mrs Hudson strutted her stuff. When asked if she had enjoyed the experience, she told us, "Looking back I did. But I more enjoyed the general atmosphere of the show, rather than actually going down the catwalk. The whole process was fantastic though"

One last question: Do you miss being able to devote your full time to teaching history?

"Of course! But I'm still clinging to it, it's still very important to me."

STAFF NEWS

Welcome

Dr P G Taylor Chemistry



Phil Taylor studied Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh and stayed there for his PhD on what he wryly describes as the "imaginatively titled" Face Selective 1,7-Cyclisation Reactions of Nitrile Ylides to Give Chiral Cyclopropa-[c]-isoquinolines. After this, he did a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Zeneca in Huddersfield, looking at the possibility of using liquid ammonia as a replacement for traditional chemical reagents and solvents. As Phil stated, "If you know how bad ammonia smells, you will understand why I moved on to my next job – making perfume ingredients in Teeside." He returned to the north and joined Mafarlane Smith in Edinburgh, making opiates and other controlled drugs. It was here that he became more interested in the regulatory side of the Chemical Industry and moved out of the lab to become the Validation Manager. Moving even further north took him to GlaxoSmithKline in Montrose where he was in charge of the analytical labs. Eventually, he became the Quality Assurance Manager, which meant he was responsible for ensuring the quality of all the products leaving the site, so anyone with asthma has probably inhaled some of the medicine Phil "signed off"!

After his "taste" of the world of the industrial chemist, Phil decided to try and spread his love of Chemistry by becoming a teacher. Heading even further up the coast, he gained his teaching qualifications at Aberdeen University. "That wind in Aberdeen made me realise I had finally gone too far north," he told me and so he headed back south to teach at Montrose Academy. Then, as he puts it, "I was lucky enough to be able to join the High School, and this has been a wonderful place to teach. Everyone has been very welcoming (staff and pupils) and the department is a great place to be." We're glad he came to join us too!

Val Vannet



Mrs Vannet is a familiar figure round the High School, having been Head of Geography for some years. Her customary enthusiasm and energy took a new direction, when she was appointed Deputy Head at the beginning of the year. She is enjoying the challenges of her new post, but has not left Geography behind her as she still "gets her fix" of her subject, remaining a member of the Geography department and teaching some classes. One of the most enjoyable aspects of her new post is that Mrs Vannet sees what is happening across the whole school and for the future, she is looking forward to developing the use of ICT from the Learning and Teaching perspective, with the school. She says she is "hugely excited" at the prospect of transforming the use of ICT in the school – so watch this space!

Vikki Bunce



Vikki Bunce joined us just after Christmas this year and has settled in really well. She has taken over school hockey at a good time and has already shown she has the expertise and enthusiasm to take it even further. Vikki has 13 GB caps (she has 85 outdoor Scotland Caps and 20 for indoors), she was in both 2004 and 2008 Olympic training squads – an outstanding hockey CV! Great to have her on board!

And finally...

Though it has been a quiet year for the stork, there have been several marriages over the last year:

David Somerville (Modern Languages) married Tori on the 3rd July in 2008 in N. Ireland.
Lynsey McCulloch (Modern Languages) married Wayne Smith on 11th July 2008
Jonathan Christie (Director of IT) married Caroline on 30th May 2009
Lesley Smith (Home Economics) married Euan Ross on 9th July 2009
Morven Jones (English) married Ian Ovenstone on 23rd July 2009
Scott Graves (IT Technician) married Elaine on 12th September 2009
Christine Cameron (Human Resources) married Jimmy O'Ready on Saturday 3 October 2009.



EVENTS





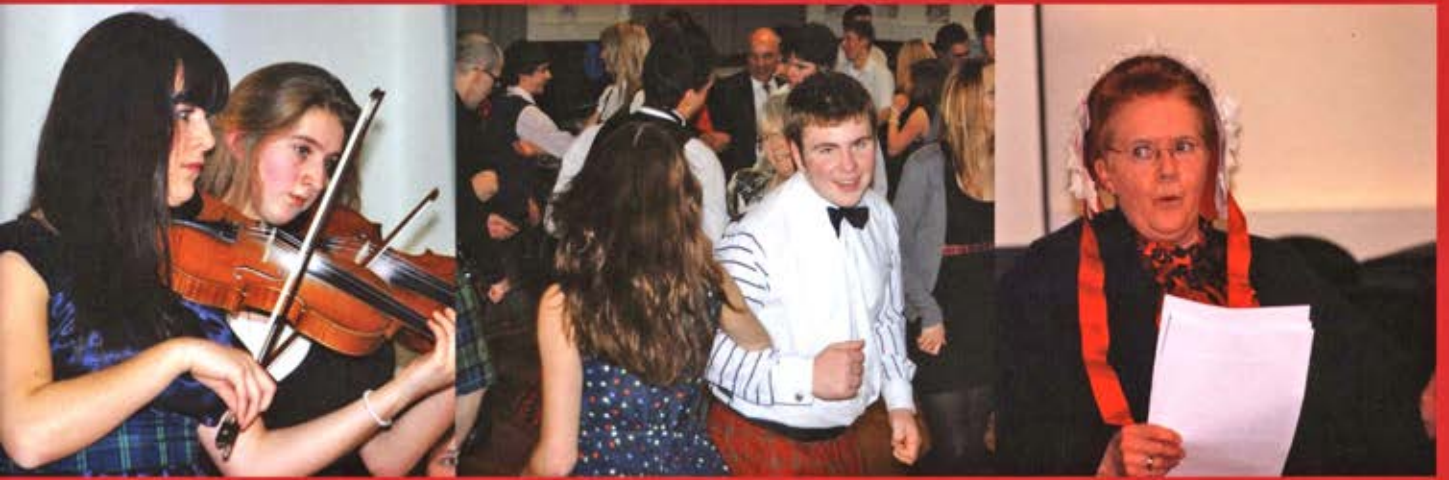
ARMISTICE



2008



BURNS



SUPPER



*"Fair fa'
yer honest
sonsie face"*





BURNS SUPPER

"The mirth and fun grew fast and furious;
The Piper loud and louder blew,
The dancers quick and quicker flew,
The reel'd, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit..."

No, not Tam O'Shanter's witches this time, but the enthusiastic participants at January's Burns Supper – and not very complimentary either, for such a glittering gathering! Staff and F6 pupils got together to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth with an evening of traditional fare, dancing, music, speeches and recitation.

Dr Halliday started proceedings by welcoming the assembled guests, followed by the Selkirk Grace, said by Mr Tinson. The haggis was borne in, accompanied on the pipes by Cai Wardle: Alistair Brown brandished the knife, plunging it into the waiting haggis and the feast began!

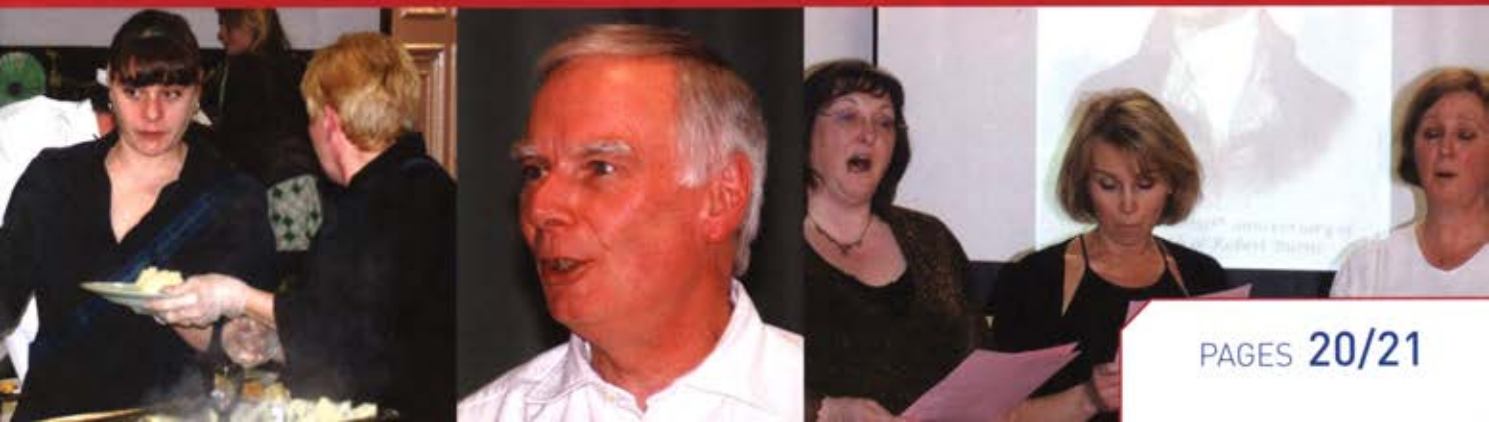
Later, comfortably replete, the company settled down to enjoy an unusual and interesting Immortal Memory, given by Mrs Goddard, who for the evening became Jean Armour, reflecting on the life and work of her husband Robert.

Throughout the evening, there were plenty of opportunities to work off the supper, with lots of dancing and there were also musical treats from fiddlers Marion Dobson, Morven Lean, Rona Leese and Amy Watson. There were also songs from Matthew Powrie, who gave a stirring rendition of Scots Wha Hae and those three graces, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Keogh and Mrs Phillips, who sang Ae Fond Kiss, accompanied by Mrs Scott-Brown at the piano.

No Burns Night would ever be complete with recitations of some of Burns' poems and Mr Durrheim gave the company an outstanding Tam O'Shanter while Miss Owens, Ayrshire lass that she is, obviously enjoyed reciting To A Louse for the assembled east coasters!

Burns' fondness for the lasses is well-known, so there was of course an address to the lasses, cheekily delivered by Mr Illsley, with a spirited reply from Jenni Hagan.

Dr Halliday, as chairman of the evening, gave his closing remarks, then more dancing followed as "The minutes wing'd their way wi' pleasure" - until all too soon we gathered to sing Auld Lang Syne and the evening was at an end. It was a wonderful evening and who knows – we may even gather to celebrate Burns' 151st birthday next year!





BBC'S NICK CRANE VISITS HSD



BBC presenter Nick Crane paid us a visit in February, ahead of a guest lecture at the University of Dundee.

Nick, best known for his appearances on the BBC's Coast and Map Man programmes, delivered a talk to a class of third year pupils, followed by an informal question session.

Nick was accompanied on his visit to the School by the chief executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Mike Robinson.

As well as television, public-speaking and journalism, Nick Crane has also published several books of his own journeys, including Clear Waters Rising, Two Degrees West and Mercator: The Man who Mapped the Planet.

PIANO DAY



More than 100 pupils from the school took to the stage in February in a celebration of piano music.

Every pupil who has lessons in school took part in the event, with the youngest performers just seven years old.

The day consisted of Performance Classes for all age groups, followed in the evening by recitals for both Junior and Senior pupils. Piano teachers Mr Armstrong, Mr Burke and Miss Evans also participated in a themed lunchtime concert, while pupils Laura Lee F3, Amy Watson F6, and Lewis and Nicol Foggie F5, all of whom have achieved Grade 7 or 8, had the opportunity to take part in an advanced master class with former High School pupil Norman Beedie, Professor of piano at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.



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CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

2008





CHESS CLUB

The High School of Dundee Senior Chess Club

The Club runs from 1.15 pm on Thursdays, in Mr Durrheim's room (RF16), as it has done for many years. One or two enthusiasts arrive much earlier than 1.15 and more serious players are often flurrying to note down their positions at 1.50 pm when Period 6 beckons so they can continue the game next time. Players also arrange to meet to complete competition matches during other lunch breaks, when the deadlines begin to loom.

Bettering last year's enthusiastic entry, even more pupils put their names down to compete for the glittering prizes. A significant and welcome change to this year's competitions was the influx of several keen girls, and so the Girls' Chess Trophy was competed for in earnest. It was eventually won by Jenny Zhan (F1). Repeating his triumph of last year, King Hang Chan (F3) won both the Beckingham and the Intermediate Competitions, although there were some promising challengers.



However, the club also opens its doors to the casual players who drift in and out during the session and who enjoy the occasional friendly game rather than competing more seriously. So, whether you play chess already or just want to learn, come along and we'll make you welcome.

DEBATING REPORT

FIVE OUT OF THE SIX TROPHIES...



There are six trophies up for competition on the university one-day tournament circuit in Scotland; this year, five of those six are to be found in the display cabinet of the High School of Dundee. Starting in the Glasgow Union in November, Lauren Pringle and Scott Ralston F6 defeated 36 teams and won the final opposing that motion This House Would fear Russia. They went on to triumph in Dundee and also Edinburgh, a tournament which we last managed to win a decade ago.

Meanwhile Rachael McLellan F5 and James Wood F6 recorded two victories in the St Andrews debating chamber; their win in the St Andrews tournament qualified them for an invitation to the Ross Cup 'Champion of Champions' concluding debate of the season in May, where they were again declared winners.

As will also be seen from Miss Jones' report on Junior Debating, this has been an exceptionally busy year. Counting only the senior competitions, teams involving 14 pupils took part in 13 external competitions involving 10 evenings, five days out of school,



three Saturdays and two full weekends. Speeches 255. Minutes at lectern 1315. Experience gained in a life skill which will take you places - boundless.



One of these places, the summit of every school debater's ambitions, is on a plane bound for somewhere exotic as a member of the international team. As mentioned in our last

report, Lauren Pringle F6 was selected to be one of the five-strong team representing Scotland at the World Schools Debating Championships in Washington DC in September 08, where they reached the semi-finals in a tournament with 37 teams.

Less than a month later, not only was Lauren reselected for the 09 team but for the first time ever, her partner

Scott made it two out of five High School pupils in the team. This time the plane flew to Athens; arriving finally at 1am after a catalogue of weather-related delays and errors which might even have been funny, such as the steward accidentally deploying the emergency chute on the tarmac in Edinburgh, so that we eventually left hours late after they had packed it all up again like a giant air-bag. This time Scotland were slightly disappointed to be knocked out in the quarters; drawn against the home nation in front of a partisan audience, they felt the dice had been a bit loaded. But then finishing 7th in the world out of 39 is not bad!



No sooner were we back from Greece than the big English tournaments were under way; top of the tab and first and second on the speaker tab, Scott and Lauren were thought by many to have won the Cambridge Union final, only to be declared runners-up - with

Lauren named Best Speaker - by the judging panel. Since this competition was originally entered by over 700 teams, this was fairly impressive. Shortly afterwards two High School of Dundee teams qualified for Oxford finals day out of the seven which went to represent Scotland; editorial apologies are offered for the fact that a photo was not taken of Scott and Lauren, Rachael and Jamie round the famous Oxford Union brass plate. Placed 4th and 5th respectively on the speaker tab out of 176, Lauren and Scott were by a long way the strongest Scottish team there and finished overall 7th in the UK out of 88 teams at finals day.

We mentioned earlier just how many hours of actually standing at the lectern have been undertaken this year by our senior speakers alone. This however represents only a proportion of the time devoted to reading, brainstorming and thinking which goes into making a

debater capable of standing up at 15 minutes' notice to give a coherent speech on aspects of international relations or political philosophy. Lauren has not forgotten her very first attempt, 5 years ago, to argue for the disbanding of NATO when she scarcely knew what the organisation was! As she and Scott leave us to take up places at Oxford to read Law, several of the next generation of junior debaters have signed up to attend Debate Academy over a long weekend in July at Oakham School.



Mrs McGrath, meanwhile, has her hands full on the wider stage. Manager of the Scottish team for the last three tournaments and now organising the selection process for the team for 2010 in Qatar, she will be the Convenor of the 2011 World Championship which is to take place in Dundee that August with the backing of Dundee City Council. More will obviously be heard about this nearer the time! - in the meantime, all members of the High School community might wish to note that on Sunday 21st August 2011 the School will host two rounds of the preliminary debates, involving anything up to 40 competing nations. Your attendance would be welcomed!

We have failed so far to mention the Senior House Debate, won in December by Matthew Powrie and Scott Ralston for Airlie, with Scott awarded Best Speaker. As with all other aspects of School endeavour, the constant challenge is to keep starting afresh, as no sooner have pupils reached the stage of winning all these trophies than they are off to pastures new and intellectual demands aplenty. If there was a moment when you sat listening to the House debate thinking 'I could do better than that'; if you have growled with rage at aspects of public life but found no outlet except throwing something at the television; if you secretly read *The Economist* and long to feel confident at your University interview - debating could be for you. Mrs McGrath's room - Monday and Thursday lunchtimes.

Irene McGrath

YOUNG SPEAKERS' CLUB

If you like talking, come to the Young Speakers' Club. It's held on Tuesdays at 1.15 in Mr Durrheim's room.

"Young Speakers" does exactly what it says on the tin - lots of young people and lots of speaking! This year F1 and F2 have clamoured to participate in their favourite talking activities. Just a Minute and the Balloon Debates have been just as popular as the more serious issues which included MPs' expenses and teenage crime. Highlights of the year include a mock trial in which a pupil was tried for the heinous crime of kidnapping the Easter Bunny.

Some of our best debaters and public speakers have cut their teeth in the club but we encourage everyone, even those who merely want to watch their friends show off, to come along and join in. If you like practising your skills as a speaker or a debater, or if you just like talking, come along and join us.

Tom Durrheim

JUNIOR DEBATING

FROM NEWCASTLE TO ABERDEEN ...

...and every school in between; Junior Debating has attacked every junior debate with dedication and gusto this year. The year began in Newcastle in September where our young and entirely inexperienced teams developed a taste for the challenges of short-prep debating. Having just fifteen minutes to prepare enough content for a five-minute speech on topics such as This House Would pay pregnant women to stop smoking was a severe culture shock. But undaunted, all four - Adam Powrie F1, Lewis Davie F2, Hannah Thomson F3 and Matthew Wood F4 - were quickly preparing for the next round of debates.

Adam partnered Megan Wallace F1 for the Courier debating competition and they seemed unstoppable until their age finally counted against them in the semi-final when they succumbed to the greater experience of older teams. April Shepherd F3 joined Hannah and also reached the semi-final of the Courier. Lewis partnered Cameron Pringle F2 and both worked exceptionally hard to reach the Grand Final held in Lower Parliament Hall at St Andrews University in February. They made strong contributions throughout the debate and were judged to have come third, thus missing the prizes!

April then partnered Joanna Tait F3 for the English Speaking Union Juniors debating competition and fought hard to reach round two where they were appalled to be drawn against our other team, Zara Evans and Joanna Tinson, both F3. Both teams put in strong performances in the second round but only one could progress to the regional final.

Eventually the judges deemed Zara and Joanna Tinson to have given the strongest contribution and they represented us in the regional final held at Madras College. They battled hard on the motion This House supports Scottish independence, but it was Aberdeen Grammar who progressed to the final in Glasgow.

Bolstered by these achievements, we turned our attention from long-prep debates to short-prep, one-day tournaments. First was the qualifier for the International Competition for Young Debaters, which involved April, both Joannas and Hannah. Having romped through the rounds, with April coming top of the speaker tab, the girls were thoroughly disappointed to discover that our qualifying team of April and Joanna Tait were unable to attend ICYD finals day in the Cambridge Union as it clashed with the School's Spanish exchange.

To make amends we entered three teams for the Auld Hoose, an invitational junior tournament run by Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. For Adam and Megan it was a chance to meet many of the Scottish teams. Laura Lee F3 and Cameron Pringle joined forces for the first time and performed so well that Cameron was named top second-year pupil on tab. April and Hannah narrowly missed breaking to the final and would have done so had it not been for the second round motion: This House Would ban the BNP, where lack of experience meant that neither was sure how to set about opposing a political motion.

Our tour from Newcastle to Aberdeen has involved eleven pupils making sixty-one speeches on fifteen separate dates and in eight schools, some of them visited several times. While we do not have any silverware to illustrate our journey, all eleven pupils are raring to go next year when we are confident of winning a trophy or two. If you fancy joining us, we need people to compete and to help prep the motions. If you have plenty of ideas or just like talking, come to Young Speakers (F1 and 2) or Senior Debating (F3 -F6).

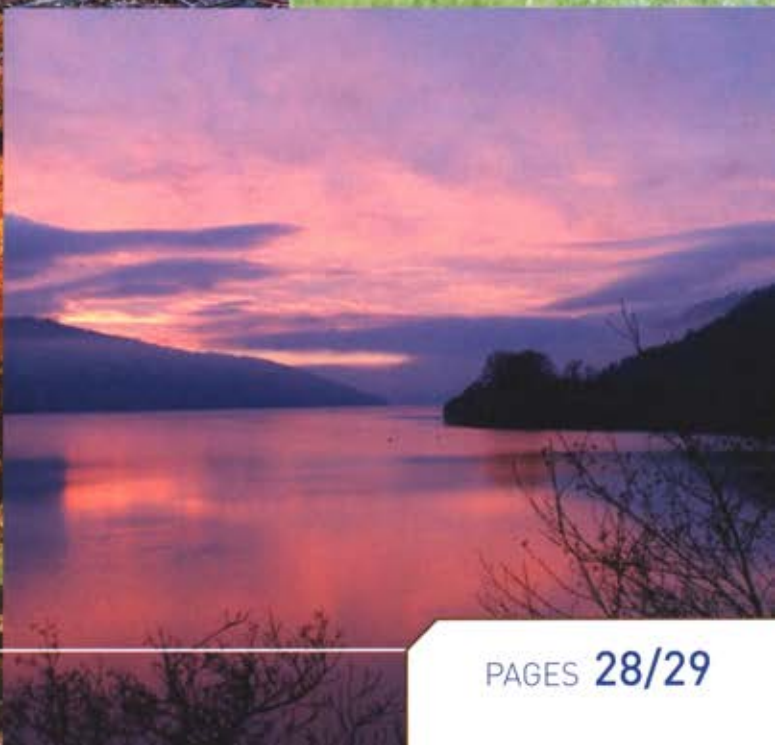
Morven Ovenstone-Jones



Cameron and Lewis prepare for battle.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

High School of Dundee
REVIEW 2009





DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY



INLINE SKATING REPORT

Dr Taylor qualified as an Inline Skating (rollerblading) instructor last October and decided to offer free inline skating lessons for the staff. Six members of staff, from Senior School, Junior School and Support Staff, get together every Wednesday they can manage and learn how to look graceful on eight wheels. At the first get-together, they had a second skating instructor come up to hire out skates and help with the instruction. The group started off in the back playground, but this was a little too rough for beginners and they have now moved on to their secret all weather skate location in the heart of Dundee. The group has a mixture of abilities and all are progressing well. Dr Taylor is currently looking into the feasibility of providing inline skating lessons for pupils in the near future.



GOLF

REPORT 2008

This golfing season has been a notable one which will be remembered for many years to come, both in terms of pupil achievement and innovation.

Unquestionably the greatest achievement was by Ailsa Summers, who is in Form 3. Ailsa, in addition to winning the Angus County Women's and Girls Golf Championships, qualified for the knockout stages of the Scottish Ladies Amateur Championship and surpassed even these achievements by winning the Scottish Schools Championship for the first time. She has also been chosen for the four player squad to represent Scottish Girls. Her victory in our own Recordon Salver was a minor footnote in such a stellar year (though it is worth noting her score would easily have won the boys championship!); however, it was pleasing that we saw an increase in the numbers of girls playing this year and it was a great opportunity for the other girls to compete alongside someone who is destined for the very top in Scottish Amateur Golf.

The Trophy was generously donated by Stuart Gordon's parents, who also kindly travelled from Fife to make the award. It commemorates one of the High School's bravest pupils. Stuart was born with Cystic Fibrosis and despite ever-deteriorating health determinedly completed Senior School and remained throughout an enthusiastic and keenly competitive golfer, who never once complained or made an excuse about his disability, despite the very obvious problems that it caused him. Andrew Gibson's name, therefore, is the first of many that will appear on a trophy that celebrates the life of a High School pupil whose memory deserves to be remembered.

In the Boase Medal, also played at Kirriemuir just three days later, it was very much back to a usual Scottish summer, with a temperature of 9°C and bracing north east winds. Tom Ogilvie, of Form 3, showed younger brother Harry what was required by putting in a very strong finish to tie with defending champion Paul McNulty and fellow 3rd



The most important innovation this year was the inaugural Stuart Gordon Trophy for the Champion Junior golfer of the High School of Dundee, which was played on Monday 1st of June. For once 'flaming June' lived up to its reputation as the thermometer nudged 25°C in the shadow of the beautiful Angus Glens at Kirriemuir. Eleven Junior School golfers participated in the tournament and after a gruelling four hours of closely fought, but enjoyable competition, the Stuart Gordon Trophy was won by Andrew Gibson, L7C, with an excellent Stableford score of 31 points. Harry Ogilvie, L7A, rued a calamitous closing stretch, scoring only three points in four holes to finish just one shot adrift. Fraser Brown L7D and Campbell Gibson L5C finished joint 3rd a further two points behind.

year George Sampson on 48 points. Following a count-back of the last nine holes, Harry was declared the winner. It was particularly pleasing this year to see so many promising younger golfers emerging in the school: undoubtedly many of them have very bright futures in the sport.

Finally, in the annual Staff versus Leavers match, the pupils snatched a fortuitous 2-2 draw at the Panmure Golf Club. Typically, the P.E. pairing of Mr Gallacher and Mr Jack let the staff team down by being the only losers on the night: clearly a case of too many barbies and too little practice!

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 involving schools from all over Scotland. Teams comprised, at most, four individuals, with the best three from four scores counting.

The first team to compete was the Junior trio of Jessica Tinson F1, Madeleine Tinson L6, and Grant Harley L6. Unfortunately Katy Allen L7 had to withdraw as her pony was lame. Despite being hampered by having only three team members, the youngest team at the event rode superbly. All three gave a solid dressage test and all three had double clear rounds in the show-jumping. Out of sixteen teams they came 7th in the dressage, 3rd in the show jumping and 7th in the combined training. In addition to this Jessica was 3rd individually in the show jumping.

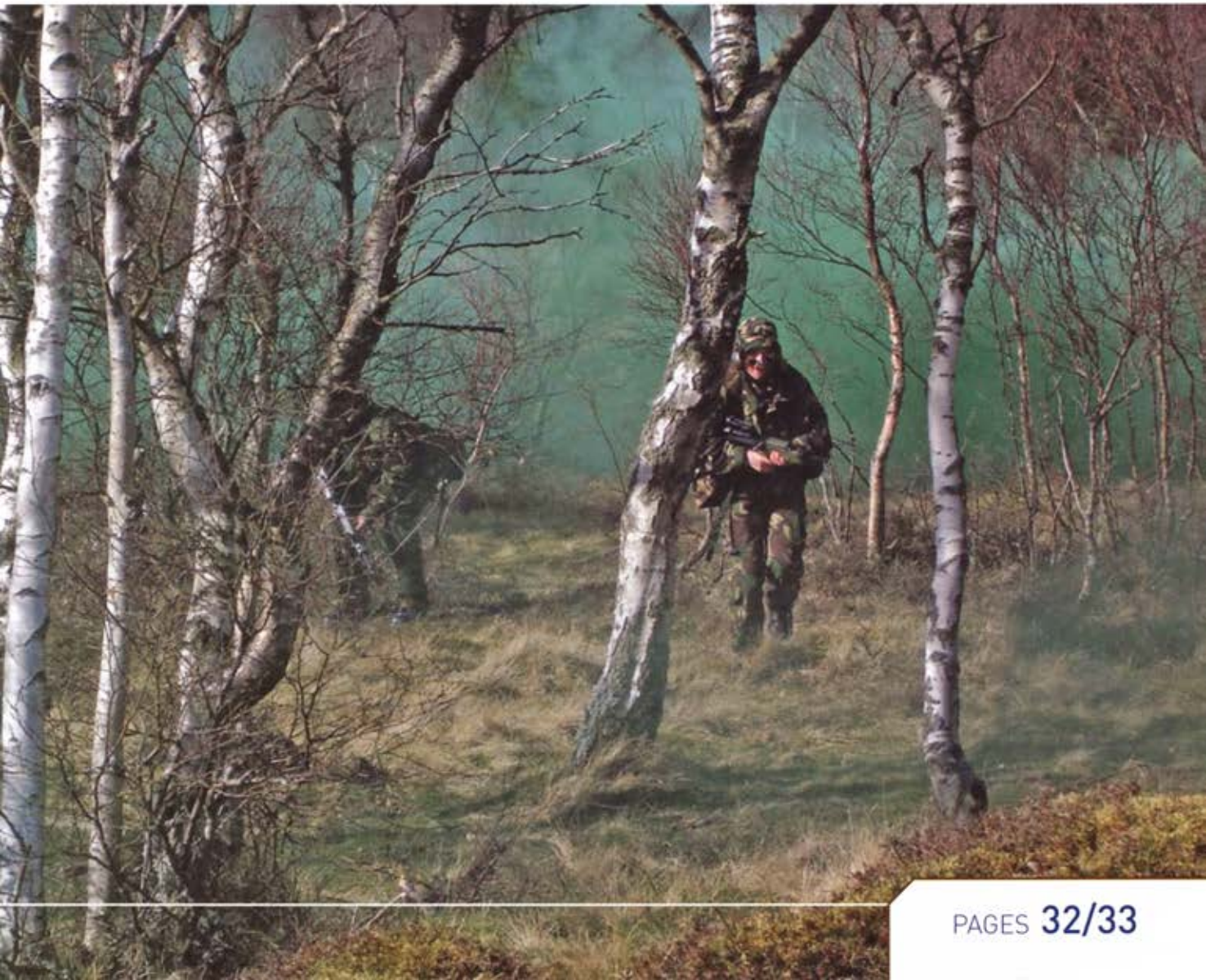
Next on show was the Intermediate team of Georgina Black F2, Lucy Harley F2 and Catriona Wallace F1. All three gave a solid dressage test and were one knock down away from potentially winning the show jumping. Like the Junior team, they were under the extra pressure of all three scores needing to count, as unfortunately Kerry Voice F2 had to withdraw due to lameness. From twelve teams they came 7th in the dressage, 6th in the show jumping and 7th in the combined training. Individually, Lucy rode like lightning and was 2nd in the show jumping.

Finally it was the turn of the Senior team consisting of Kate Foubister F6, Mike Harley F4, Barbara Shaw F3 and Rosie Allen F2. They did not disappoint and after their impressive dressage tests, they jumped superbly over a very challenging course. From twelve teams they finished a very impressive 3rd in the dressage, 3rd in the show jumping and were 2nd overall. Individually Rosie was 3rd in the dressage.

The teams accredited themselves superbly and were immaculately turned out on the day. 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. Special thanks are also due to some very famous grandparents from the equestrian world who stayed all day to watch their many grandchildren compete and to support the High School teams. Thank you Pat and Ian Harley. Finally, a huge thanks to Lord of the Manor II, Bureside Bouncer, Bunbury Czar, Catchpenny, Kiltinane Andrew, Wizard, Puddledub Misfit, Meiklekins Secret, Jay and Daisy Do.



DHSCCF REVIEW 2009





A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE CCF

28 June – 4 July 2008

Sixty cadets, plus staff, embarked on an epic journey to Nesscliffe in Shropshire for the annual week-long summer camp. With adventurous activities, fieldcraft, and shooting, not to mention very early starts, it was hard work – and a trip to Alton Towers was a chance to enjoy the sunshine out of uniform! Head cadet Sarah Nimmo found herself with the new title of Sargeant Major Nim Nim, and a brand new “cadet” was recruited at camp, when Mr Ireland’s new karate dummy was dressed up, renamed Mildred, and adopted as a mascot.

“The best day was military day! We learned about arrest procedures, vehicle check points, and we did a hostage rescue using the paintball guns – we came under attack from a sniper on the way back – it was all very exciting!”

September 2008

Another year, another new intake of recruits – twenty four of them this year! The year begins with our SNCOs (Senior Non-Commissioned Officers) leading classes for cadets in Forms 2-4, covering skills including Fieldcraft and Patrolling, Skill At Arms, First Aid, Map and Compass, Karate and Shooting.

“This has been amazing – we have learned loads of new skills and met lots of new people. We definitely recommend joining cadets!”

October 2008

An overnight Recruit Camp at the start of October gave our new recruits an intensive introduction to life in cadets. This was also an opportunity to mark the special contribution of Sarah Nimmo, head cadet in 2007/2008, who bravely agreed to abandon

university for two days in order to help us out.

Winter 2008

As our training programme continues, Form 5 cadets work hard right up until Christmas to complete the Method of Instruction cadre – qualifying them to teach younger cadets.

“Moi was something we’d never done before – learning how to teach, and how to keep it interesting at the same time. You forget a lot when you’re put on the spot, and it’s off-putting when everyone laughs, but I really enjoyed the course, and it helped a lot with my communication skills.”

January 2009

JNCOs (Form 5 cadets) take over the duties of training and leading their individual sections for the first time.

26-27 March 2009

The whole contingent departs for a two-day exercise at Barry Buddon army training camp in Monifieth. Intensive training on the Thursday is followed by a competition and inspection on Friday.

“The overnight exercise was great – it gave me an insight into what camp would be like, and what it would be like to be a leader. The night time platoon attacks were great fun – especially when Mr Rodger accidentally set part of Barry Buddon on fire with a flare.”

April – June 2009

As Forms 4-6 are tied up with exams and revision, Form 2 and 3 cadets enter a programme of summer activities, including Karate, Fitness Tests, Climbing, High Ropes, First Aid and Team Games.





PIPE BAND





INTER SECTION COMPETITION





DHSCCF REVIEW 2009

SUMMER CAMP





**SARAH NIMMO
WITH PATE TROPHY 08**



SNCOS AND STAFF AT ARMISTICE PARADE 2008



FORM 6 LEAVERS AT ARMISTICE PARADE 2008

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For further information and availability, please contact us at info@fabfloridavillasrus.com

Villa Hermosa



RATES FOR 2010

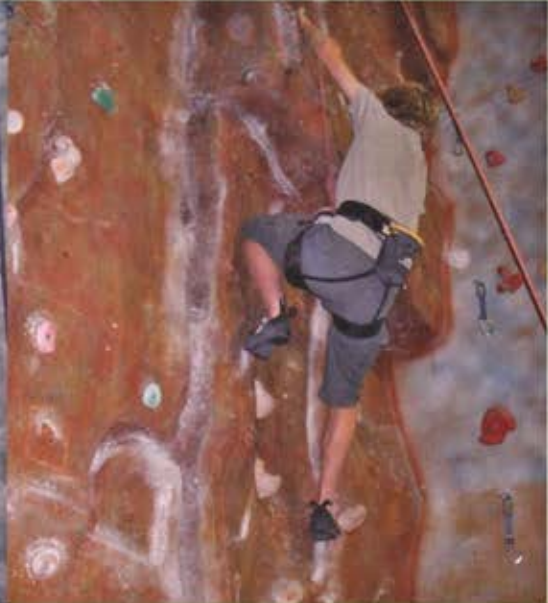
LOW SEASON	\$245 PER NIGHT
MID SEASON	\$295 PER NIGHT
HIGH SEASON	\$349 PER NIGHT

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OUTDOOR EDUCATION



MATTHEW WOOD ICE CLIMBING



RICHARD ABEL INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING

CLIMBING CLUB

F1-3

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB





2008 CLASS

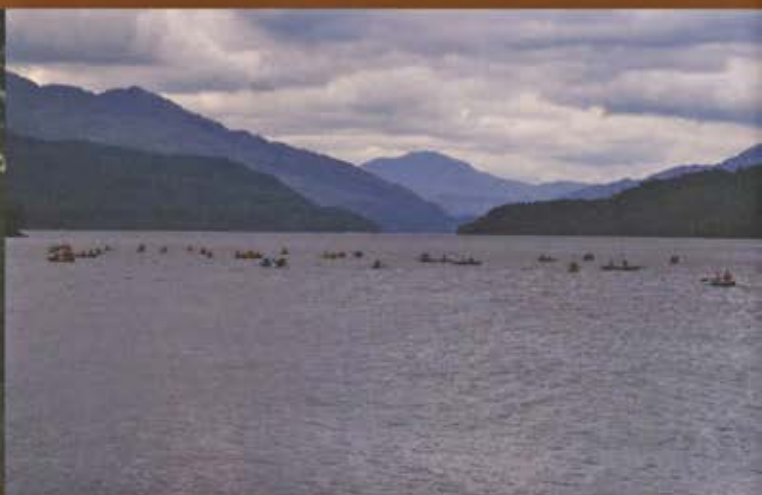


PETER ROBERTSON ON LOCH VOIL

F5

EXPEDITION TO STRATHYRE

LOMOND CHALLENGE TRIATHLON





DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

MY DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPERIENCE

When I first decided to sign up for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award way back in Form 3, I had no idea that this seemingly small decision would lead me onto completing my silver and gold awards then finding myself back in the hills some three years later, helping out on bronze expeditions.

I've always loved being outdoors, so when I first heard about the Duke of Edinburgh's award and the expeditions, it was a natural decision to sign up. Soon after I realised that the D of E award is about so much more than the expeditions. The award in itself is an experience comprising many areas: service, skill and physical recreation and these categories are as an integral part of the award as the expeditions are. From all the sections of the award that I have made many new friends, gained new skills and grown in confidence and maturity.

The effects the award has had on me have been immense and very positive, and I have changed greatly since the bronze award. I vividly remember putting on my carefully packed rucksack for my first bronze D of E expedition with fear rising up inside me, and thinking that I was never going to be able to do it. However I managed of course and returned from the expedition with one of the best feelings in the world. I had achieved something that when I set out I had no idea that I'd manage. It was this feeling and the sense of challenge that the award brought, that had me going on for more.

As a group, my friends and I were so lucky that for both our bronze and silver expeditions we had brilliant weather. I remember the highlight of the bronze award was exploring a waterfall that we passed on our expedition, on one of the sunniest days of the year and the photos I have show just how much fun we all had that weekend! As for the other parts of my bronze award, I played hockey for my physical recreation and did choir for my skill – both at school. For the service section of the award I worked at a local cattery and helped out by feeding and cleaning out the cats. So by the end of third year I had happily completed my bronze award, and I was impatient to start my silver award to see what new adventures and challenges it would bring.

And so onto fourth year and the silver award, and I decided to carry on with the service, skill and physical recreation sections, which I had done for bronze. The only difference this time was the expedition, which we continued to do on

foot and was an additional day and night. These expeditions saw the beginning of some great teamwork, as our confidence with map work and navigation grew and we felt more independent as a group. Though the walking got harder we managed to navigate our way around Loch Tay to Comrie. Then on to our final expedition which took us to the Linn of Dee by Braemar. An added benefit of these expeditions was that we became much closer as a group. We really started to look out for each other even when the going got tough. When two members of our group had to go home on the third day due to illness, we pulled together and managed to navigate our way through a tricky bit of the woodland, back to Mr Ross and the welcoming warmth of the minibus.

Gold really was the climax and the ultimate of the D of E award, and there was absolutely no doubt in my mind that after completing silver that I was going on to do gold. The gold award brought to me some of the best experiences of my entire life, and although it also presented me with some of the greatest physical and mental challenges I have ever faced, it has brought me some of the best feelings of achievement, appreciation and determination I have ever felt. For the gold award there are four other sections outside of the expedition section, as in the gold award you also have the residential section, where you have to spend at least five days and four nights away from home doing an activity that isn't usual to you. For this section of the award I was fortunate to undertake a week long voyage with Ocean Youth Trust Scotland on board a 70 ft sailing yacht. There were 18 of us all together on the yacht including sea staff and we all shared cabins together down below. We sailed from Helensburgh over to Bangor in Northern Ireland and then onto the Isle of Man, before returning again. It was an amazing experience, as everyone really had to put in a lot of team work to sail the yacht. Many members of the crew were a bit younger we had to really encourage them when everyone got a bit tired and lacking in energy. One of the highlights of the voyage was sailing to the Isle of Man over night and lying on the deck during a break and staring up to see millions of stars and the band of the Milky Way across the sky, and hearing the sound of the waves passing by. Arriving in the marina in Douglas was an unforgettable experience as it was so dark, quiet and magical. One of the hardest moments of the voyage was trying to take down a sail to put up a storm sail in very rough weather when the sea was really choppy and it was pouring down, whilst already suffering from major sea sickness. Pulling the massively wet sail down below and trying to pack it away whilst the boat was lurching about all over the place were both physically and mentally very challenging.

For the service section of my gold award I decided to finish my work at the cattery and become a volunteer play helper at Dundee Disabled Children's Association (DDCA). This involves helping at weekly youth groups with children with a wide range of disabilities from age five to around eleven, and mainly playing with the children and making sure they are having a good time as well as occasionally accompanying them on outings. I have now been a volunteer for almost two years and it has been such a





MY DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPERIENCE

rewarding experience. A really special moment occurred was once when I was shopping in the local supermarket. One of the little girls who goes to the youth group spotted me and came running up to me and gave me a massive hug. It may not sound like much but it really made me appreciate the difference you could make without even noticing it. I felt on top of the world. Through the youth group I got to know a little boy and his parents and I now work as an occasional carer for him. It can be demanding at times, but is also a very rewarding job through the trust I have built up with him and his parents. I love the feeling when I make him laugh.

For the expedition section of our gold award we completed a five day, four night expedition up in the Cairngorms, as one of only two groups that decided to walk for gold (which is clearly the harder choice... although any canoeist will disagree with this!) We set off in torrential rain in Blair Atholl and walked up Glen Tilt towards Braemar and then towards Glen Derry and up round past Loch Morlich to Aviemore. Although we set off in conditions that most people would run for cover, our spirits were high and we pushed on well as a team through a tough first day in the mountains. The second day really was a shock to the system as we battled against more hard weather and some testing navigation. We struggled on through the long 25 km day. When we eventually reached the camping location we all felt so relieved to be there and a bit emotional as we took off our packs for the night. The last two days weren't as tough as it brightened up a bit and we supported each other as a group and made it to Aviemore and then back to

school. We even managed to go out that night with all the leavers even though we were all knackered and dancing in heels really hurt!

Helping out on the bronze expeditions has really made me reflect back on the whole award and how much it has brought me and how much I have grown in confidence and maturity since beginning my bronze award. Watching the Form 3 pupils setting off on their expeditions really reminded me of myself when I put on my pack for the first time. Then watching them struggle to find things on the map reminded me of my initial fears of not knowing what I was doing, which has now been replaced by confidence in knowing what I'm doing when I am out in the hills with a map (I still have lots to learn though!). It's not just the expeditions that have made me more mature and experienced though, the whole experience including DDCA has made me the person I am today. I realise how much I have learned and gained from it. I can decidedly say that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been the highlight of my school career as I have had so many unforgettable experiences along the way, and made some friends for life. My original bronze D of E group and I are all going on holiday together three years after panicking about the weight of our packs! It has been such a great experience and adventure and I can't wait to come back next year to help out on more expeditions when I will hopefully have spent even more time out in the hills and be more experienced.

Of course I'd like to thank all the staff and everyone who has helped out or supported the award whether it be for bronze, silver or gold, and especially Mr Ross as without his patience and kindness it wouldn't have been at all possible in the first place.

KATIE MAIN

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPEDITIONS



Although Duke of Edinburgh consists mainly of several months of services, skills and physical activities, the mention of the Award usually conjures up an image of a troop of teenagers carrying ridiculously large rucksacks and dangling map cases, traipsing through valleys and mountains, jumping over streams, cooking over stoves and camping in fields. It's the most exciting, memorable part of Duke of Edinburgh: the expedition.

Going on an expedition, getting through and enjoying it requires a fair amount of madness - the whole way through my Gold Final, I couldn't understand why I had let myself get into this, but at the same time it was one of the most fun, worthwhile experiences I've had.

Any expedition will have its unforgettable moments: there will be the time you were chased by a cow or fell in a burn. It is physically and psychologically demanding but at the same time extremely rewarding to realise how much you

are capable of - you will look back and find yourself wondering how you possibly managed it.

Everyone learns a lot on expeditions, not just about camp craft and navigation, but about the friends they're with and themselves. Everyone gets a lot closer and you end up with silly jokes that won't be funny to anyone else, but to your group are absolutely hilarious.

Life is stripped back to the essentials: all you need to think about is food, water, keeping warm and dry, and finding your camp for the night. It gives you a real sense of self-sufficiency and freedom to know that everything you need is on your back and that you are about to explore some beautiful wild places.

Typically within the few days that an expedition lasts you will experience massive highs and lows: plodding up a steep hill in pouring rain, hungry and not entirely sure if you're going the right way may not be one of the most enjoyable parts. But later on, after pasta and hot chocolate, cosy in your sleeping bag and looking out of the tent at the stars, you wouldn't be anywhere else.

So when you're trying to edge around a nasty-looking sheep, clinging to the heather on a steep hill, hopping from rock to rock over a flowing river or being squashed by your snoring friend in the tent because you stupidly chose the downhill side, remember how funny it will all seem and how brilliant and adventurous you will feel telling the story to those who sensibly stayed at home.

SARAH ACHESON

BRONZE PRACTICE EXPEDITION - LINN OF QUOICH



GROUP 4 AT SPEED



GROUP 8 IN BRAEMAR AREA

BRONZE TRAINING - SIDLAWS



GROUP 1 LEARN CAMP SKILLS



GROUP 8



NAVIGATION TRAINING

BRONZE FINAL





GOLD FINAL EXPEDITION - LOCH NESS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

SUCCESSFUL GOLD AWARD HOLDERS

Congratulations on the following leavers for successfully completing their Gold DofE Award

Sarah Acheson
Emma Bankhead
Jennifer Grewar
Andrew Hayes
Duncan Hedigan
Rachel Jones
Sarah Low
Emily Lucocq
Katie Main
Danny McGuff
Kirsty Morrison
Conor Ogg
Lauren Pringle
Rachael Sinclair
Laura Sim
Amy Watson



**GOLD AWARD PRESENTATION
HOLYROOD PALACE JULY 09**

SPORTS REPORTS

High School of Dundee

REVIEW 2009



UNDER 15'S BOYS HOCKEY REPORT

The season of 2008-2009 was a very productive year for the Under 15's Boys team. We endured many ups and downs but came out the other side a far improved team with better experience and knowledge of the game. Our Saturday morning games provided an excellent chance for us to hone our skills and gain the sporting mentality needed to win. Spirits were always kept high and a strong bond of teamwork grew throughout the season.

The whole team saw a lot of development to find our strongest formation and where our key players would work best. Our forwards consisted of the massive striking power from the stick of Greg Hutcheson and the swift and clever set-ups from Jamie Daw. In midfield, we had Mark Cant whose consistently reliable passes always kept our team driving towards the opposition's goal. The smallest member of our team (but by no means small of heart,) Chris White took up the other position in midfield, creating many opportunities for our forwards and keeping a smile on the whole team's face - no matter what was thrown at us. Our awesome vice-captain, Frazer Docherty, held up the back bone of the team, consistently playing with passion and determination, always offering advice to players on and off the pitch, whilst dancing around the opposition with his amazing stick skills during the games.

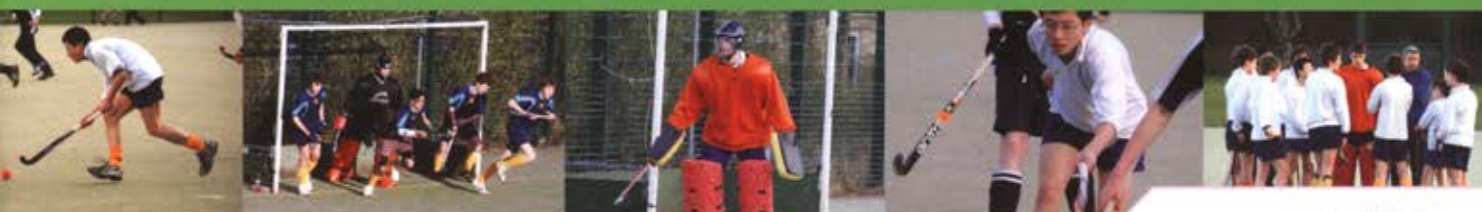
On our wings, we had our two swiftest members of the team; Joe Gibbins who, although starting as one of the youngest members of the team, quickly rose up the ranks to become a key team player and receiving the honour of player's player of the year. Running up the right wing was the lightning quick King Han Chan who, after receiving the ball, would shoot up the sidelines like a bullet and no matter what they threw at him, the ball would stick to his hockey stick like a magnet.

In our defence stood the immovable force of Cameron Spencer, saving yours truly, the goalie, a lot of work by acting like a wall of defence against the opposition's attackers. His massive clearances and good understanding of game play and tactics stopped the opposition's momentum in its tracks. Playing an equally strong defensive game, Dan Barton often saw off many attacks at our goal. Our defence further strengthened when Oliver Baker joined the team, and, although he started quite late into the season, he quickly tuned into the game and his stick skills greatly improved. At the back, as Captain, I filled the position of goalie, taking hits and falls to defend our goals and honour at all costs and pushing the team to perform with strength and enthusiasm. We were privileged to have many subs who supported us throughout the season with great loyalty and, although their game play was limited, it was appreciated by all.

Rigorous training and commitment from all members of the team allowed for the potential of the individuals and the squad to really develop, and it showed in the vast improvement of our match play over the season. We extend our thanks to our coaches: Andy Wood, Dan McKillop and especially Mr Nicol (who was the driving force behind the team.) Mr Nicol has kept us motivated and has honed us into an all round better team with his team talks, demonstrations and his joyous fitness sessions.

As a result of the immense commitment every member of the team showed, our determined attitude towards the game and the excellent coaching we received, we have become a much stronger team: quicker, fitter, focused, and looking forward to the next season of 2009-2010.

Peter Vannet (F3)





SENIOR HOCKEY

REPORT 2008/2009

After a hugely successful tour to Holland in April 2008, we couldn't wait for the 2008/2009 hockey season to get underway. Despite hearing about the imminent departure of our much loved coach and mentor Mrs Stott, we were encouraged to start the season strongly.

Our first match was against Albyn, Dr Halliday's old school. We were apprehensive as both squads had never played together before and felt that we needed to make a good first impression. We came away with a triumphant win for both teams setting high standards for the year.

Following this, the 1st XI played in two tournaments, one at Madras and one at Strathallan. The team were outstanding on both occasions getting through to the final and beating many other Midlands teams. Rumours flew that the High School of Dundee were "the team to watch this year!" Unfortunately, after reaching the much anticipated finals, both chances slipped through our fingers as both games went to sudden death penalty flicks. We were narrowly pipped at the post and were devastated. At least we were spared our captain Vicky Emslie's teary speech.

Our last game with Mrs Stott as our coach was the Midlands Indoor Tournament. Once again we reached the

final coming up against our nemesis Strathallan. However, the tables had turned – the team came away victorious giving Mrs Stott the best possible end to her time at the High School.

The hockey season continued with Miss Bunce, a GB team player as our coach. We continued to go from strength to strength. We even managed to power through the brute force of the 6th year rugby boys when we came head to head for a duel at Dalnacraig. Emily Richardson scored the winning goal and all we can say is "Up your game next time!" (An infamous quote by Allan Drysdale!!)

All in all, the 2008/2009 hockey season was enjoyable for all senior players with the 1st XI remaining undefeated in all their Saturday matches.

We want to thank all the girls for their great work and dedication throughout the year. A special thank you also to Miss Bunce for taking us on half-way through the season and to Mrs Hutchison for her coaching and guidance throughout the year.

Vicky Emslie (captain), Kate Foubister (vice-captain) and Kirsty Morrison (secretary)



Mrs Stott receives a presentation from members of the hockey team.

CRICKET



HSD CRICKET TEAM

NETBALL SEASON '08/'09

It has been another action-packed season for F1-3 netball.

As well as the weekly practices, all netballers have got into the spirit for house competitions, Christmas games and other fun tournaments. The teams have played a number of friendly fixtures against local schools, including Kilgraston, Madras College, Morrisons and Strathallan. The girls experienced success in many of these games and enjoyed the opportunity to improve their skills.

For the second year running, the F2 and F3 teams progressed well through the Scottish Schools Cup. The F2 team played a good standard of netball and reached the quarter finals of silver section. Following a victorious first round, the F3 team entered into the gold section. They meet a strong Glaswegian team, Holy Cross in the quarter finals and were beaten in a very exciting match. Neither team could have achieved this standard without the help and support of our coach, Mrs Rudman.

Overall, 2008/09 has been an enjoyable season and we, the F3 team, will be sad to say goodbye.

Ellen Andrew





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RUGBY

REPORTS 2009





JUNIOR HOUSE RUGBY



I am sure you will all agree that this year's House Rugby was exciting as ever and standards were set very high for years to come. On the day, every player was filled with adrenalin and every team had every right to believe they could win. The first scheduled matches were Lindores vs. Aystree and Wallace vs. Airlie. Both were very exciting matches but both Wallace and Aystree came out on top. However the competition was still open and the next matches were imminent. Next to play were Wallace vs. Lindores and Airlie vs. Aystree. Again both Wallace and Aystree won their matches leaving it all down to the last game. Suddenly a real passion appeared on Mayfield and all teams were fired up, there was the battle to win and the battle to avoid last place embarrassment. Both matches were very exciting and at halftime it was still all to play for, however in the end it was Wallace and Lindores who won their matches and therefore the final standings were as follows: In first place Wallace; second was Aystree; third was Lindores and Airlie fourth. Congratulations to Wallace on their victory but to the other houses as well for the very good standard of rugby played.

Hamish Conway F1





RUGBY REPORT



The High School 1st XV team was this year a relatively inexperienced team with most of last year's team leaving in the summer. Despite this the team had formed bonds and were eager to develop as a squad and with this in mind a narrow loss to a visiting RG'S was welcomed as a positive stepping stone for the season ahead.

These foundations were built on as a trip to the Madras Tournament resulted in the High School winning the competition. A solid victory over a strong Strathallan side in the group stages boosted confidence and there was a belief among the team that Dollar could be beaten in the upcoming fixture. This belief was proved correct as a heated contest resulted in a 19-16 victory over our arch rivals.

Disappointingly the Caledonia super 10's competition was rained off and we were unable to

defend our trophy; however this did allow us to retain the cup for another year. A series of injuries weakened our side to face Edinburgh Academy and a heavy defeat ensued dampening the expectations built up over the season. However a run of four games unbeaten once again raised the morale and put belief back into the team and raised expectations for the main focus of the season, the Bell Lawrie Scottish Schools Cup.

The previous team had earned a high seeding which allowed for an automatic place in the 4th round against a physical Portobello High. The team rose to the challenge and set up a last 16 match against George Heriots, a team we had lost to earlier in the season after a late collapse leading to the score line appearing worse than in reality. The game was therefore always expected to be a tough one and it proved so with a disappointing but narrow loss.

RUGBY REPORT

The exit from the cup allowed for a youthful team to emerge, developing next season's talent. Lower down the school the U15 team with a string of victories leading them to the final of the bowl competition where a substantial Bell Baxter team overpowered the young side. The first and second year teams also provided hope for the future with strong seasons, with the first years only losing two matches all season.

At the tail of the season the sevens and tens tournaments ensured the season did not end. At the George Watsons 7's tournament the side proved no pushovers with a record of 2 victories and 1 loss. A trip to the north of England to compete in the Sedbergh 10's competition, a contest involving the best rugby schools from across Britain, can only be classed as a learning experience with strong opposition in every match.



UNDER 15 RUGBY

In the 2008-2009 Season, High School of Dundee U15 XV made it to the National Plate Final. It was a surprising turn of events when the High School U15s managed to turn round a huge early season losing streak into a final run of eight wins out of eleven games.

The first win in the Plate run was a hard fought win over Belmont Academy, High School winning 24-72, man of the match - Niall Moorjani. Next was a 44-0 win over Banchory Academy. With the team finally starting to click, it faced its first challenge against Aberdeen Grammar School. It was a very tight match and they so nearly made an incredible comeback from two tries to nil down to lead 15-12 but with determination to go forward and calm heads the HSD U15s crossed the try line with only two minutes remaining - HSD winning 20 - 15. Man of the match Grant MacFarlane.

So to the semi-final, confident with the successful run in the U15 Plate, we were again drawn against St Aloysius College. A boiling day in Glasgow saw a tense semi final. St Aloysius had already beaten us five tries to one earlier in the season. This did not phase a now self confident HSD side. St. Aloysius took an early lead with two penalty goals. But late in

the second half came a big hit from Jack Paladini that caused a free ball. The chance for an interception was accepted by George Sampson, he finished his run with a score. The kick was converted by Tom Ogilvie and the High went into the lead. Assurance of victory did not come until a clearer step and good pace put Grant MacFarlane under the posts. Tom converted again and the High won 14-6. Man of the match Grant MacFarlane.

The final came and so did the wind. A cold day in St Andrews and the usual wind associated with Station Park - a gale. Unfortunately the Bell Baxter (Howe of Fife U/15 XV) side proved too much of an opposition and they played well. The High fought hard but struggled to break down the Bell Baxter defence. Bell Baxter scored twice and the High had no answer. The final score 14-0 to Bell Baxter; Man of the match, Tom Ogilvie.

A wonderful team effort over the whole season saw a High School of Dundee U15 XV make a final. It was a most enjoyable year and hopefully we can continue this progress next season in our Senior Rugby.

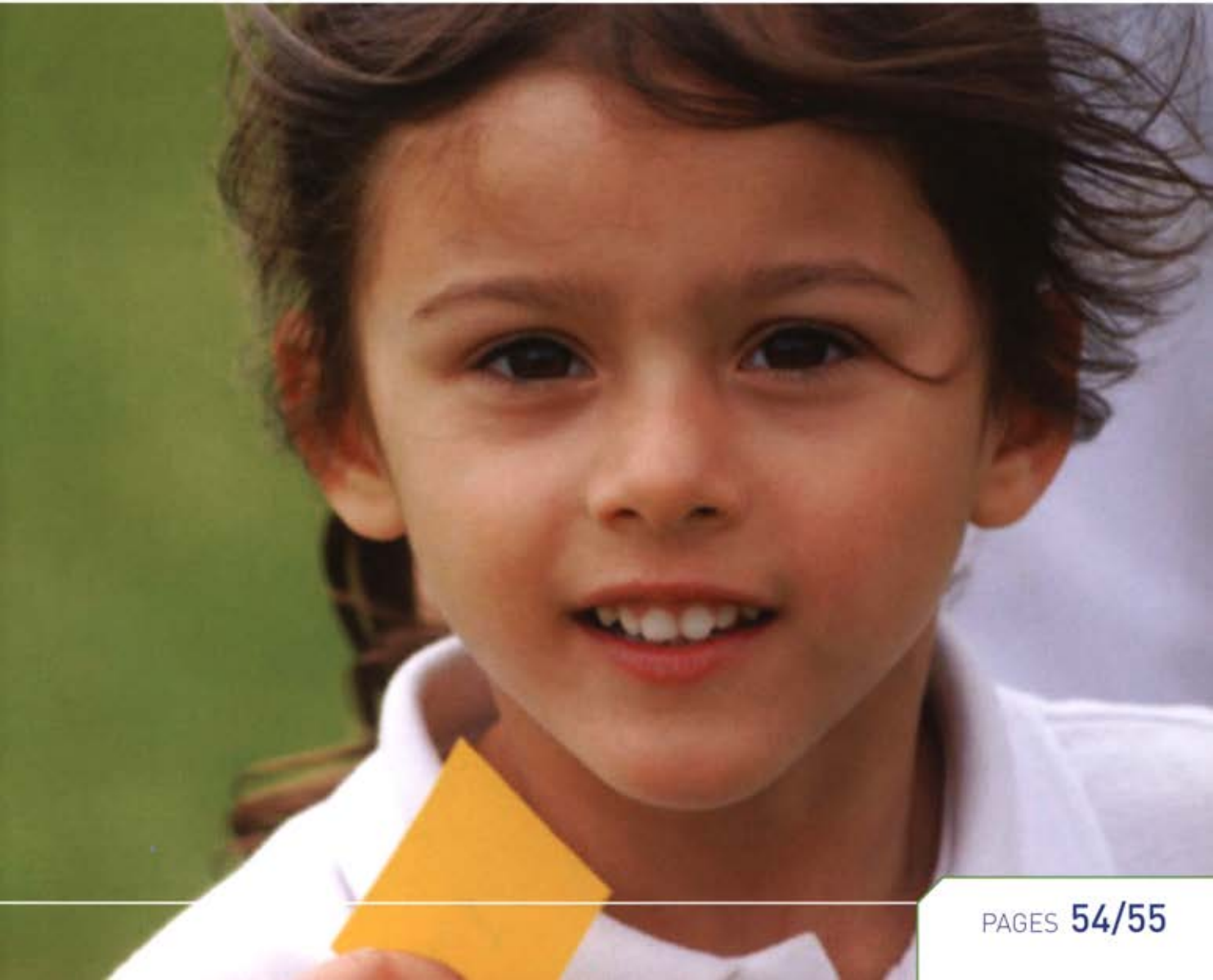
Niall Moorjani F3





SPORTS DAY

2009





High School of Dundee
REVIEW 2009

SPORTS DAY 2009





SPORTS DAY 2009





SPORTS DAY 2009



SWIMMING

REPORT



Another successful year at the High School for the swimming team! Swimming continues to be a very popular sport, shown by the popularity and enjoyment at the school's swimming gala. The swimming team performed very well at district and national level this year, reaching many finals and winning lots of medals.

The Midlands District Championships (Nancy Riach) was held in October at Olympia, this competition consists only of freestyle events. It was a very successful start to the season. The boys relay team came 2nd; Alex Sharpe, Callum Rennet, Harris Brown and Glen Milne. Well done boys! Claire Dobson also won gold in the girls 100m freestyle. Well done to everyone who competed at this gala!

The Tayside Schools were held in October at Olympia and was full of fantastic swims. This gala enabled many swimmers to qualify for the Scottish Schools later on in the year. In total five gold medals were won; the 13-14 boys relay - Harris Brown, Callum Rennet, Alex Sharpe and Jamie Mather, the 15-16 girls relay- Claire Stirling, Claire Dobson, Barbara Shaw and Eilidh Campbell, Claire Dobson in the 200m and 100m freestyle relay and Josh Rowley in the 100m freestyle. However, our favourite colour of the gala seemed be silver, with nine silver medals! Alex Sharpe in the 400m freestyle and 200m backstroke, myself (Marianne Dobson) in the 100m and 200m breaststroke, Alasdair Rennet in the 50m backstroke, Harris Brown in the 100m freestyle and backstroke, Glen Milne in the 100m breaststroke and Josh Rowley in the 100m breaststroke. Alasdair Rennet also won a bronze medal for the 50m freestyle. The 12 and under girls relay won bronze, Olivia Ritchie, Olivia Wight, Catherine Allan and Molly Duncan. Well done to everyone who competed! A very successful competition.

As a result, some swimmers were able to qualify for the Scottish Schools in Glasgow. Alasdair Rennet came 14th in the 50m backstroke, Alex Sharpe came 14th in 200m backstroke, Harris Brown was 16th in the 100m freestyle, Claire Dobson was 10th in 100m and 9th in the 200m freestyle, Marianne Dobson came 8th in the 100m breaststroke and 5th in the 200m. The best result was from Josh Rowley who came 4th in 100m freestyle (and who also does the least training!).

The school swimming gala was held at Olympia and was a great afternoon out for the whole school, with junior pupils, senior pupils and even teachers taking part. Everyone swam very well and competition was fierce! In the end the House Champions were Airlie, 2nd was Aystree, 3rd Wallace and 4th Lindores. As House Captain I would like to add in a huge thank you and well done to Airlie! Well done to all the pupils and teachers who took part.

On behalf of the swimmers I would like to thank the P.E department, in particular Mr Jack and Mr Beckett, and also Mrs Powrie for all their support and guidance throughout the year at all the galas. This year was my last year swimming for the school, I have thoroughly enjoyed it and want to encourage everyone to keep it going, keep training and keep having fun! Good luck for next year!

Marianne Dobson F6





SWIMMING GALA RESULTS

8 & UNDER CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Susanna Porter	Aystree	1st	Glenn Davie	Lindores
2nd	Mhairi Pratt	Airlie	2nd	Alfie George	Lindores
3rd	Lucy Darroch	Aystree	3rd	Thomas Jarron	Airlie

AGED 9 YEARS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Sophie Davidson	Aystree	1st	Finlay McKillop	Airlie
2nd	Lorna Husband	Airlie	2nd	Jack Sampson	Wallace
3rd	Victoria Vitale	Aystree	3rd	Malcolm Campbell	Lindores

AGED 10 YEARS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Rachel Murie	Aystree	1st	Matthew Fagerson	Lindores
2nd	Rachel Chalmers	Airlie	2nd	Andrew Elliot	Airlie
3rd	Louise Clark	Lindores	3rd	Euan Strachan	Wallace

11 & OVER CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Olivia Ritchie	Wallace	1st	Alasdair Rennet	Airlie
2nd	Catherine Allen	Aystree	2nd	Euan Rose	Airlie
3rd	Molly Duncan	Airlie	3rd	Zac Inglis	Wallace

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Barbara Shaw	Airlie	1st=	Alex Sharpe	Airlie
2nd	Amber Merry	Wallace	1st=	Harris Brown	Wallace
3rd=	Jenna Low	Aystree	3rd	Peter Vannet	Wallace
3rd=	Jenny Allen	Aystree			

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1st=	Marianne Dobson	Airlie	1st	Josh Rowley	Aystree
1st=	Claire Dobson	Airlie	2nd	Glen Milne	Aystree
3rd	Claire Stirling	Lindores	3rd	Matthew Powrie	Airlie

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	AIRLIE	3rd	WALLACE
2nd	AYSTREE	4th	LINDORES

GIRLS' TENNIS

REPORT 2009

The tennis season at the High School is one which is short but always sweet. This year saw numerous girls from Forms 4, 5 and 6 trying out to get a place in the prestigious 1st VI and 2nd VI. When the lucky twelve were chosen our first match was against Kilgraston School. Well known for their tennis abilities we were a little scared, but our concerns were soon to be short lived. Our talent shone through when we won both fixtures on home soil. The victories just kept coming as we beat Madras and St.Leonards. This was partly due to the excellent coaching we received from Andrew Fairley during the Development Squad sessions and from Steve Montgomery who worked at improving our skills at team practices. As per usual a few of our games were cancelled due to the unpredictable Scottish weather. We never did get a chance to play our rivals Dollar or Morrisons but we would have hoped to have won anyway!

On a hot, hot, hot Thursday afternoon during study leave the annual, and extremely competitive, Senior House matches took place. Some felt it was a little unfair this year as Wallace had four of the 1st VI! However Airlie, Aystree and Lindores did not let this put them off. They fought hard and came close to getting some games out of the Wallace teams but nothing would stop them getting to the top with Aystree and Airlie joint 2nd and Lindores 4th. It was a fun afternoon and a well deserved break from studying. The Junior House event later in the term was also dominated by Wallace. Congratulations to all the players who represented their House.

The annual Glenalmond Mixed Doubles Tournament came rolling around on a rainy day in May. Charles Adams, Max Paladini and Matthew Hay were the talented boys chosen to compete. Although each

couple played brilliantly, sadly none were to take away any medals. Charles and I were disappointed to narrowly miss out on third place in the 'A' section. Another mixed doubles event for the Form 6 pupils was arranged at the end of May. This produced some awesome tennis and hilarious moments; Thomas Thomson providing some of the former but much of the latter!

The season came to an end in June with our fixture against St.Leonards. The conditions in St Andrews were poor but we bravely battled through the wind and the 1st VI managed to rise to victory yet again. The 2nd VI was narrowly beaten and the Junior sides won two out of the three fixtures. This was culmination of a mixed season for the younger players that saw a large number of F1 and F2 pupils being given the chance to play for the school.

The tennis squad would like to say a big thank you to our coaches Andrew Fairley, Steve Montgomery and Mrs Spowart. Also to Mrs Christie for selecting the F2/3 teams and Mrs Hutchison who coached the Form 1 squad. We have again been lucky with our sponsorship of team tops for all the girls from The School Wear Shop. We all really appreciate the on-going support of Mr McGhee.

THANK YOU!

It's been a very successful season with a lot of ups and very few downs. Well done to everyone involved, the Seniors and the Form 1, 2 and 3 players. I feel we have done the mighty High School proud. Good Luck next year!

Jo Reid (Captain) & Rachael Sinclair (Vice-Captain)





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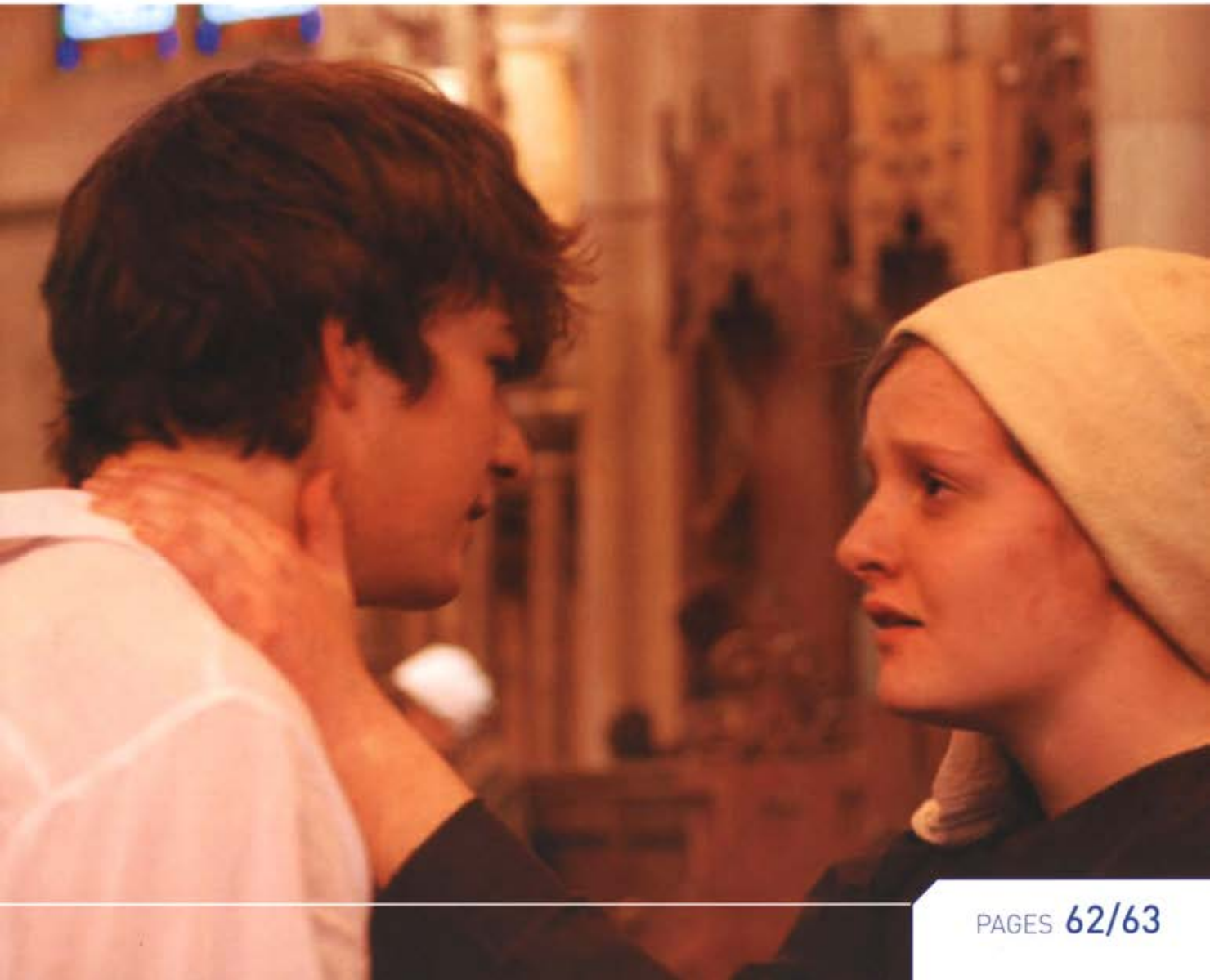
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THE CRUCIBLE





THE CRUCIBLE REVIEW

BY MORVEN JONES

Creaking open the heavy panelled doors of St Paul's Cathedral, the audience was greeted by the gloomy, serious Reverend Parris, played by Alex Dolan, and several male cast members handing out programmes with such stern faces that they overshadowed the bright June sun illuminating the stain glass windows. As lively chatter bounced around the majestic building the Reverend became visibly displeased. Reading in the programme that "nineteen men and women, all having been convicted of witchcraft, were carted to Gallows Hill, a barren slope near Salem Village, for hanging" and that "hundreds of others faced accusations of witchcraft and dozens languished in jail for months without trials", the audience were in no doubt that this would be a tense, hard-hitting drama. What was a surprise is how forcefully teenage actors portrayed the hysteria and true terror of a community destroyed by vengeance and lies.

In keeping with the venue, the play was opened by the organists (Hannah Gibson and David James) playing Psalm 100, "All people that on earth do dwell", joined heartedly by the audience. The Cathedral rang with joyful singing which was soon drowned out by the lively shrieks of young girls led by Jennifer Lothian in the part of Abigail Williams. One brooding look from Reverend Parris conveyed the

sharp contrast between the oppressive rules governing these girls' behaviour and their natural desires. Jennifer's powerful portrayal of a spiteful, vengeful girl finally given a voice within her community fully reveals Abigail's pent-up anger at the life enforced on her.

The focus for the building hysteria became Betty Parris's immovable body, whose white nightdress acted as a stark contrast to the formal black and brown attire of the other girls. Amy Grieve gave a highly energetic performance as Betty swung from silent and unreachable to distraught and uncontrollable. The other girls, Sophie Craik, Gabi Laverty and Sinead Pounder shared her enthusiasm as collectively they revealed the influence Abigail Williams had on all subsequent accusations of witchcraft.

In the course of Act One the secret fears and vendettas of each villager were voiced, from Ann Putman (Heather Simmonds), who pushed for the hanging of the midwife who delivered three of her seven dead babies, to Giles Cory (James Orr), who was appalled when his concern that his wife (Melanie Matthew) read the wrong books ended in her conviction for being a witch. By Act Two forty women have been arrested, Elizabeth Proctor among them.





Lindsey Docherty gives a moving and controlled performance as a good, upright woman who admits to being a cold wife and whose feelings of inadequacy leave her unable to plead for her husband's life.

Her husband, played by Gordon Dick, became the key spokesman for common sense and reason. From his first entrance, John Proctor showed that it was his sin of "lechery", combined with the discovery of the girls' forbidden dancing, that started this chain of malicious vengeance. His energetic, exuberant movements contrasted sharply to his wife's barely perceptible gestures and suggested the impact that a strong man, prepared to clash with authority in the name of reason, might have on a cloistered teenage girl like Abigail Williams. Sophie Craik in the role of Mary Warren found herself caught in the middle

between Proctor and Abigail and later between Proctor and the Court. Sophie gave an emotive portrayal of an agitated, choked girl finally understanding the terrible repercussions of her pretence yet too terrified of the noose to tell the truth about Abigail's accusations.

There was a notable change in mood after the interval as Act Three began with subdued singing of Psalm 51 "Oh God be gracious to me". As Act Three gathered momentum and accusations of witchcraft filled the court, the chancel of St Paul's Cathedral provided the perfect focus for the girls to call upon the Goodness of God and to profess their own love for God in order to add weight to their feigned bewitchings. The words, which were sometimes lost due to the acoustics, were outlined by the scenes depicted in the stained glass windows clearly





showing the Grace and Mercy of God, a fact entirely ignored by the Salem Judges, led by Iain Cowieson in the role of Deputy-Governor Danforth and assisted by Danny Macpherson as Judge Hawthorne. The harsh, immovability of authority figures was fully shown by both actors, who followed the letter of the Law with no compassion for the innocent or acknowledgement that the accusers had much to gain.

As the villagers became divided into the accusers and the accused their motives become clearer; Paul McNulty, as Thomas Putnam, exemplified the coldness of a man driven by profit who cast doubt over those whose land he might acquire. The terror of the villagers was fully conveyed by Andrew Kilgour, playing Francis Nurse, who gave a moving portrayal of a man unable to protect his gentle and God-fearing wife. Other villagers adopted roles within the court and revelled in the power accorded to them. Eoghann McGregor and Euan Paterson showed clearly how unaccustomed authority not only changes character but instils terror and frustration in the heart of the community.

By this stage in the play being of good name no longer mattered and even Reverend Hale, who entered in Act One weighed down heavily with his books listing all the manifestations of the Devil,

found his expertise and authority of little interest to a court which had placed its entire faith in the understanding that "the voice of Heaven is speaking through the children". Iain Kennedy gave a moving portrayal of a man who inadvertently placed decent people in danger and whose frantic attempts to make amends were insignificant and ultimately futile. The full extent of the unfairness and injustice reaped on these people is illustrated by Jenni Hagan's quiet portrayal of Rebecca Nurse who chose the cold noose over acquiescence with the Salem court and the required damnation of her fellow accused.

The only light relief was provided by Sascha Brooks-Mathieson and Louise Soutar as convicted women whose miserable experience in their bare cell drove them to near madness and drunkenness. It was a bitter laugh as the cell was cleared to make room for those who would hang in the morning. The production left the audience in no doubt that "the basic rights of fairness and justice... are universal and enduring" (Lindsey Drummond).

Many thanks to all the actors, the stage manager, Kirsty McEwan, the stage crew, Allan Drysdale, Amanda Somers and Jaimie Macgregor and the directors, Lindsay Drummond and Iain Cowieson for this powerful and thoroughly enjoyable production.





CHARITIES

REPORT

The Charities Committee started this session with a change at the helm. One of the founder members of the committee, Sarah Fletcher has just completed her last stint as Head of Charities. She has always believed in the pupils looking outwards to those less fortunate, and when it comes to organising events she is something of a human tsunami such is the huge commitment, energy, imagination and enthusiasm she brought to every fund-raising initiative she has led in the school. The last one of these, her super-sized human Red Nose, is something many pupils will never forget. She leaves her post with the school involved in a huge range of activities. Although the committee is now in the hands of the equally capable Mrs Spinks, Mrs Fletcher has promised to continue an active role with Charities in the school. Many thanks to her for the hard work so far.





CHARITIES REPORT



The Charities Committee and High Helpers have been very busy this year with projects involving the entire HSD community. Our first major event of the year was the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which involved a lot of balloon and banner madness for the sixth years. Pupils sold various Macmillan merchandise and refreshments at the pillars and raised a grand total of £400.00.

Home Economics and Bonar saw queues (ably patrolled by Mrs Quigley) developing within seconds after the Armistice Parade with pupils desperate for hot chocolate and doughnuts. High Helpers worked like clockwork, selling over 500 doughnuts in the space of only 30 minutes! Alongside our mass poppy selling, £800 was raised for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund and Help for Heroes.

The next event was the Charities Christmas Fair at the beginning of December which certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit. Many local charities came to Trinity Hall selling Christmas cards, crafts, handmade jewellery and scarves. In all, £1100 was raised and shared among the charities present.

The breakfast club (hugely supported by Mrs Madden) has once again been feeding hungry mouths providing a boost of energy to get through the school day. On Tuesday and Friday mornings, High Helpers sold a range of cereal bars, fresh fruit and smoothies in the Home Economics Department and with the addition of free refills on tea and coffee this year, many staff have been seen in the department having a quick cup before registration! This year we raised money for DNIPRO, Plan International and Thirsty Planet Aid, helping to provide nutrition, sanitation, clean running water, education and medical treatment to children all around the world.

The biggest event of the charities calendar was Comic Relief 2009 where the school came together to 'do something funny for money!' Friday 13th March saw over one thousand pupils and staff take to the playground in an attempt to create Britain's biggest Red Nose. Staff and pupils dressed in red for a non-uniform day and assembled in the playground to form a giant 'human' red nose, whilst Mrs. Vannet snapped some superb photographs from the top of the D.C. Thomson building opposite the school. We were even lucky enough to have a photograph taken by a circling plane from RAF Leuchars in Fife!





The Drama department organised a Comic Relief Talent Store which ran at lunchtimes throughout the week, ending with a sell out performance on Red Nose Day itself. Staff and pupils entertained the crowds with a variety of acts including a rock group, Phonejacker, a 'Form 3 music' band, leg waxing (plenty of screaming there!) and not to mention a guest appearance by the Spice Girls (Mrs Spinks, Mrs Smith, Mrs McDonald, Miss Campbell and Miss Douglas) proving that HSD definitely has talent! A total of £2800 was raised to help children both at home and abroad.

Many other charities have been supported this year outwith Charities and High Helpers through activities ranging from individual sponsorship to whole school events, including a Junior school read-a-thon and Nativity, Moonwalk and some wonderful Music concerts. Congratulations to the Interact club and Form 6 pupils (as well as a few teachers in disguise!) who raised a whopping total of £3000 for Glenlaw House and Braes Centre by putting on a fantastic fashion show in the school's Trinity Hall.

All together the whole school has had a fantastic year raising well over £24,000 for so many different charities and our thanks go to Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Spinks, Mrs Boath and the High Helpers, The Charities Committee and to all who have contributed to make this such a successful year.

Kirsty Scragg and Rakhee Vasishta (F6)



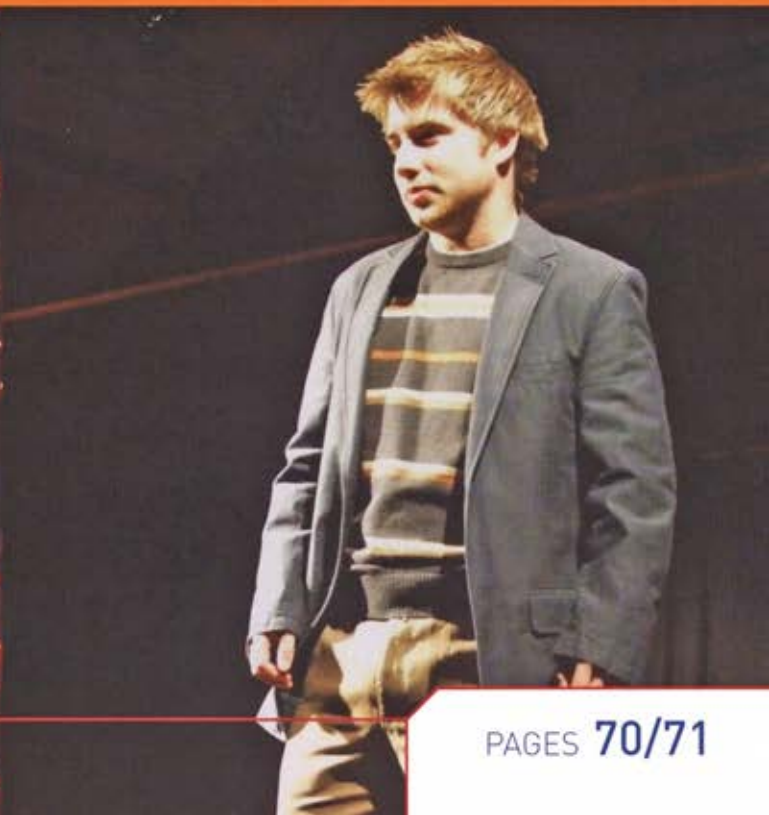


TALENT STORE





FASHION SHOW







FASHIONSHOW



MR McADAM MEETS HIS MATCH

In June, Mr McAdam took part in a race - humans against horses - for the Meningitis Trust, for which he raised over £300. He did actually manage to beat quite a few horses as well as humans but the overall winner was a horse. The photo shows him commiserating one of the horses he beat. So it is official: two legs good, four legs better.



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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TEXTILE & JEWELLERY DESIGN LUNCH CLUB

This year a large number of F1 pupils came to the Art Department on Monday lunchtimes to learn how to make felt scarves and pieces of jewellery including neckpieces, rings and bracelets.

These pieces were made to a professional standard using specialist materials and equipment. Pupils learnt how to make felt, stitch, manipulate wire, texture metal amongst other things. At the end of the club we had an exhibition in the library which gained lots of positive feedback.

Staff members were also involved. Miss Anderson and Mrs Spinks helped with the Textile Club with Miss Douglas running the Jewellery Club. We also paid a visit to Dr Taylor in the Chemistry Department and learnt how to colour metal to create patterns.

Also this year F2 pupils who came to the Textile Club last year came back to lead the club – Niamh Carey, Lauren Barnett, Ellie Shepherd and Tara Smith. Without these F2 pupils the club would not run – a big 'Thank you'.



FEAST FOR THE EYES IN JUICE BAR

Earlier this year Art & Design Teacher and Brodies owner Cate Brodie got together to discuss pupils' art work being exhibited in Cate's new juice bar on Bell Street.

An exciting opportunity for pupils to have their work exhibited in a public environment whilst the customers of the juice bar are surrounded by exciting pieces of artwork. Amongst the work currently on show is Sarah Hay in Form 2's still-life study. The plan is to rotate the work on show so as many pupils from different year groups get the opportunity to exhibit.



Findlay Young, F1



Catherine Mackay, F1



Stephanie Baker, F1



Molly Wilson, F1



Gallery



F1 animation project: Megan Wallace, Barbara Braid & Pallavi Pillai



Laura Strachan, F1



Craig Morrison, F2



Betty Henderson, F1



Fiona Smith, F2



Holly Gilmour, F2



Karyn Joss, F1



Logan Kilcullen, F2



Kirsty Gray, F2



Calum Archibald, F1

Ailsa Johnston, F2



Ellen McLean, F1



Kirsty Stout, F2



Hannah McCollam, F2



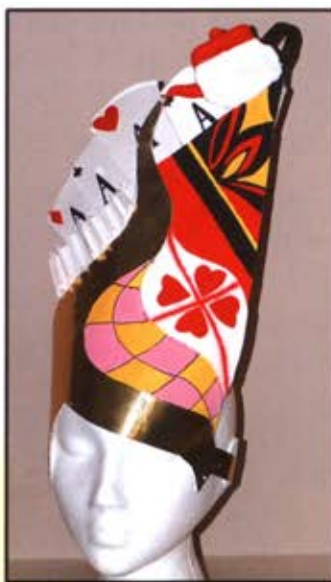
Daniel Davidson, F1



Ailsa Purdie, F2



Kathryn McIntosh, F4



Rebecca Reid, F4



Kasia Thomson, F4



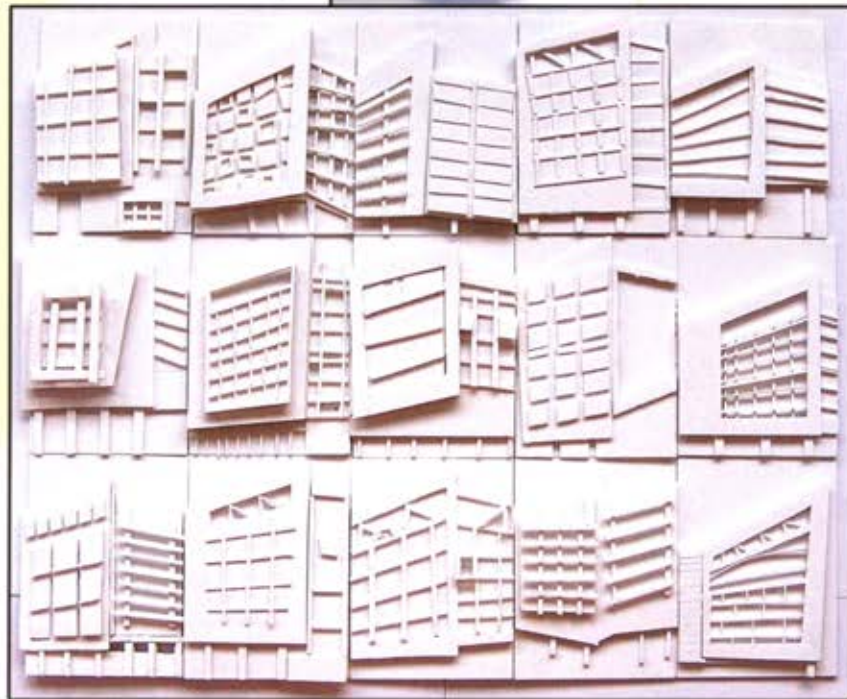
Michelle Arnot, F3



Madeleine Adamson, F4



Callum Edwards, F3



Class mural, F3



Anna Mackenzie, F4



Beth Spowart, F5



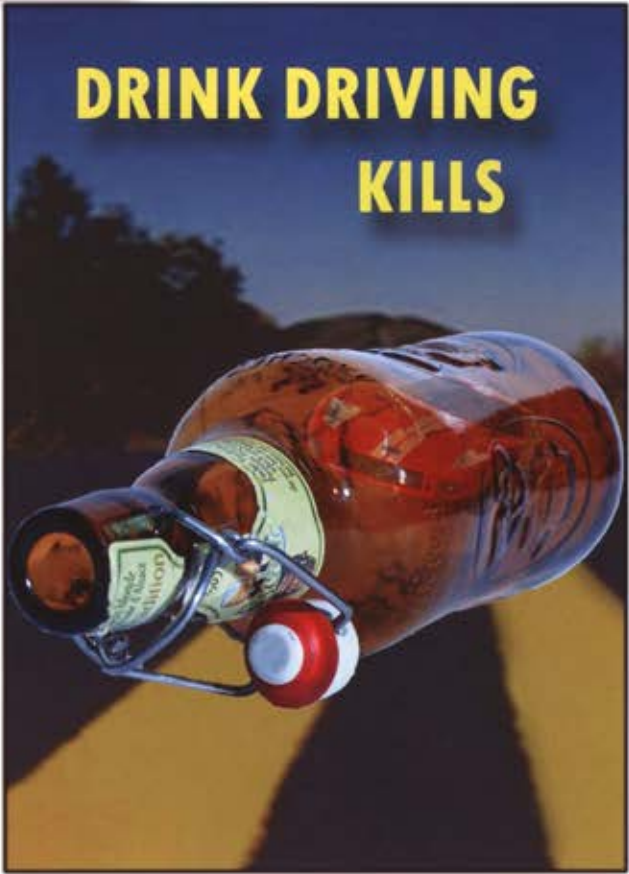
Jemma Chalmers, F4



Elizabeth Webster, F4



Sophie Craik, F5



Calum Walker, F5



Rachel Jones, F6



Caroline Milne, F5



Amy Shearer, F4



Emily Richardson, F6



Stephen Gardiner, F6



Yasmin Mselli, F5



Rob Madden, F6



Josh Rowley, F6



Kirstie Macfarlane, F6



Anna Souter, F6



Joanna Reid, F6

Rosie Gray, F5

Rachael Sinclair, F6

LONDON

ART & DESIGN TRIP EASTER 2009

This Easter a group of F4/5/6 pupils met staff (Miss Douglas, Miss Campbell, and Mr Armstrong) at Dundee Train Station for a very successful four day trip to London. Once we checked into the hotel we met back in Reception for our evening meal before heading into the West End to see 'Wicked' the Musical. The show was amazing with great costumes and set.

The next morning we had an early start and headed to the Portrait Gallery where Miss Campbell and Miss Douglas gave a talk on some of the work on show. The sun was shining so we sat in Trafalgar Square and had lunch, dodging the pigeons, before going to a workshop in the National Gallery. Next it was a visit to the Tate Modern to see some interesting contemporary art. A quick freshen up back at the hotel then out to see 'Blood Brothers' at the Phoenix Theatre again in the West End.



Next day, there was an early wake up call from staff and we headed to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London where we saw a great exhibition by top milliner Stephen Jones. After that we headed to the O2 venue where pupils chose their lunch venue - majority Starbucks! The next exhibition was an interesting one called 'Body Worlds'. This exhibition was very informative and educational.

This night we didn't have time to get freshened up so it was straight to a nice Italian restaurant then a trip on the London Eye. Not good for Miss Douglas as she is scared of heights!

Next morning pupils (and staff) were given another early call and another full cooked breakfast before we went to the nearby Barbican Gallery to see an exhibition on Le Corbusier the architect and furniture designer. Prêt a Manger for lunch then back on the train. By this time the pupils (and the staff) were exhausted and there was lots of snoozing and magazine swapping on the journey home.

The pupils not only behaved excellently but they were great company too!





BUSINESS STUDIES

REPORT

Along with the daily academic routine the Department has seen a number of activities taking place in the course of the session, here are just some of them.

Enterprise group 'clean up' with the cash

A business venture by Aisling Goodey, Josh Ivinson, Tom Walker and Ewan Macmillan took place, the company name was 'Bonar Holdings' and the group produced a tea towel incorporating self portraits of the Junior school. The budding entrepreneurs experienced setbacks and challenges but ultimately achieved their goal of profit and the relief and satisfaction of selling all their stock. They even decided that they should operate a Public Relations policy and donated some of the proceeds to Amnesty International. Their polite comments on the venture



"many valuable lessons were learned from the experience" but they are still all friends which should be the ultimate aim of successful business today, next to lots of profit!

Investment Tips

Pupils enjoyed some 'hot tips' from some members of the Investment team at Alliance Trust who gave up their time to come and talk to interested pupils taking part in the student Investor game. Pupils enjoyed an excellent talk with the investment team and very interesting points of economic significance were made along with market news. The credit crunch has bitten many and the pupils found out first hand with their portfolios. There were around seven teams playing the investment game but the pupils found this to be a really bad year for investing with the pupils learning some serious financial lessons in the world of investing but luckily their £100,000 portfolio was virtual money and not the real deal.



The Investment Club is very popular with pupils eager to make a good return on investments and ultimately learn more about the world of business and economics.

Invited to Lunch

A group of sixth year pupils were fortunate enough to be invited to lunch with RBS economists and local business customers and listen to presentations and discussions given by RBS economic advisors. This was a very valuable experience to the advanced higher economists in the group, the discussion



forum was of particular interest as the thoughts and views of the invited audience of business people expressed concern for the economic climate and future outlook of their businesses.

Gone with the wind

Following class discussions in F4 Economics on rising oil prices, one thing led to another and the future of the economy without oil was discussed which brought up the subject of alternative energy sources. It was only fitting that we visit the newly completed Drumderg Wind Farm, near Alyth to see the sustainable approach to energy. SSE is the UK's leading producer of renewable energy and the group were enlightened by the Operations Manager and his team into the development of 'Airricity' and the sustained growth of renewable energy through massive investment in the years to come. The young economists were impressed by Drumderg which generates renewable electricity to power 20,000 homes, they also learned that there will be many jobs for people like themselves in the future in many different areas of renewable energy generation.





CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

CHEMISTRY CLUB.

Open to all of F1, the Chemistry Club met every Thursday lunchtime in the Chemistry Department, with the invaluable help of three F5 girls. The F1 pupils carried out fun practical activities ranging from simple chemical experiments through to the chemistry of everyday things (such as Smarties and Rice Crispies!). As with most co-curricular activities, the emphasis was on having fun, but the Chemistry Club also provided a lot more. It enriched the curriculum and gave extra opportunities for pupils to experiment with hands-on chemistry. Their improved practical abilities then helped in all their Science studies. The Chemistry Club also provided an extra opportunity for us to show how much fun Chemistry can be.

We have started establishing cross-curricular links with art and there are plans launch joint activities in the near future!



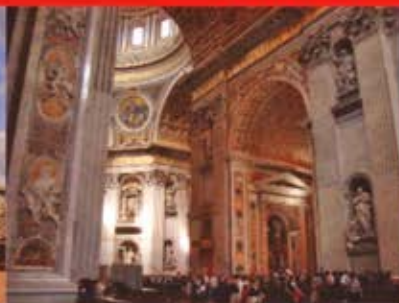
SALTERS' CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Dr Taylor took a team of four F1 pupils to Heriot Watt University to take part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry, with teams from twenty schools. Part of the day was the Salters' Chemistry Challenge, where the team had to use chemical analysis and team-work to solve a murder. The High School team won (of course), beating George Watson's and James Gillespie's into second and third place.

The team (Bethany Brown, Gordon Robertson, Duncan Raitt and Olivia Tait) won certificates and prizes and also won molecular model kits for the school worth over £100.



CLASSICS TRIP TO ROME APRIL 2009



They say all roads lead to Rome and ours certainly did, when a party of thirty pupils and four members of staff set off from HSD on the 1st April, via Newcastle Airport, for the Eternal City.

Our arrival in Rome was perhaps a little inauspicious: it was dark, rainy and we were all tired and hungry as we straggled down the few hundred yards to our restaurant, the Taverna Lino, where we had an interesting supper, before heading, exhausted, up the labyrinthine corridors and stairs to our rooms.

What a difference a day makes! Next morning, refreshed and well breakfasted, we set out in brilliant sunshine for the start of our day's excursions. Our destination that morning was the Colosseum, scene of many a battle and we had something of a battle ourselves, through the crowds in the metro to get to the site. Once there, Mr McKellar gave us a short talk on the building, its history and the events and spectacles which took place there, before we made our way in for our exploration. That visit marked the start of our time in the city, in which we took in the classical sites, including the Forum, as well as the splendours of St Peter's and the stylish ambiance of the Piazza Navona; the Victor Emmanuel Memorial, looking for all the world like its local nickname: "The Wedding Cake"; and a trip to the Spanish Steps by night, where we gaped at the prices in the designer shops in the adjoining streets.

Saturday morning, and we were off to Sorrento, stopping at Cumae on the way. This fascinating site is where the cave of the Sybil was supposed to be. She wasn't at home that day; nor did we find the entrance to the underworld, I'm happy to say, though it was also reputed to be there. We did see lots of wild dogs lying among the ruins, enjoying the sun, while some of the boys made it their mission to catch some of the many lizards darting about the stones.

Mission unaccomplished though as the lizards outsmarted our boys almost every time! Final score: Cumae Lizards 26 - High School of Dundee Boys 1.

Sorrento is a picturesque town nestling by the sea on the Amalfi Coast. Our weather continued glorious and that first evening we strolled through the pretty streets, lined with lemon trees, down to the harbour in the Saturday evening passeggiata! We cut quite a dash, it must be said! On Sunday morning, it was back into our coach for the trip to Pompeii, where we wandered among the ruins of this famous ancient city, which was obliterated by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. This was a stunning visit and it was quite poignant to see all the little relics of everyday life that were cut short by that disaster. Our visit to Herculaneum the next day was equally fascinating. Compared with Pompeii this is a small site, partly because so much of it remains under the volcanic rock and mud which had covered it for centuries. This volcanic mud is the secret of Herculaneum's preservation as it solidified and sealed in the town, preserving much more of the houses that lay entombed below.

Any report of our visit to Italy in April must mention the terrible earthquake which hit the town of L'Aquila while we were there. Fortunately, we were well out of the area affected. There were a few anxious phone calls, though happily we were able to reassure everyone at home that we were fine. Such huge and devastating natural occurrences were fairly uppermost in our minds that same day, as we climbed the pathway up Vesuvius to see the crater, still steaming away...

We returned to Scotland late on Tuesday night, after a fantastic week in Italy. Thanks must go to Mr McKellar for organising everything and for all the talks at the various sites. The staff and pupils had a great time together - one which they will remember for a long time.





TRIP TO HADRIAN'S WALL



On Friday 12nd June, classicists from Forms 1 and 3 visited Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Jupiter was clearly smiling on us as the weather was, for once, glorious. We arrived at around 12 o'clock and enjoyed our picnic in the grounds of the Roman Army Museum, only slightly marred by Apollo's decision to send a plague of midges along with his rays of sun. We then took a walk 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.

In the museum we were given a talk by a weapons expert. He explained a bit about Roman life near the wall and showed us the weapons and armour used by soldiers in the area. His detailed descriptions of the heat of battle were especially memorable and when he asked for volunteers almost every hand shot up. The lucky ones chosen each got to try out a

piece of Roman weaponry or armour. 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, then a chance to look around the rest of the exhibits before we headed off for the fort and village of Vindolanda.

This is the most fascinating archaeological site in the country, and Justin Blake, the chief archaeologist, 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! 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 sun continued to shine on us and Mr Meehan dazzled Miss Stewart with his Latin knowledge. Eventually, having examined the fort and vicus, we arrived in the beautiful valley to examine the Roman tombstones and altars, and also the only surviving Roman milestone in Britain. 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.

DRAMA

DEPARTMENT REPORT



From Very Good to Great....

We started our year on a high, buoyant from all our 'Very Goods' from HMIE the previous session and a wonderful set of summer results. However, sometimes one of the hardest things in teaching is opening your notes/folder/books and going back to the beginning again at the start of a new school year with each new class. So we were Very Good to start with.....

The great thing about teaching drama is that it constantly changes. This may be from the plays we see, the texts we study or how different pupils interpret the same stimulus for performance. From a given stimulus our F6 pupils this year devised some incredibly creative, technological and thought provoking pieces of drama as part of their Advanced Higher course. They showed that drama in school is not just about 'learning how to act' these pupils used many skills to create work of this standard - the studio was packed at lunchtimes as word got around that these were worth seeing! This was also the case with Perform at The Rep this year whereby all the schools taking part had the same Truth or Dare stimulus - excellent work was on show from all the schools exploring themes such as knife and gang culture, politics and social issues which affect young people. Our F3 pupils gave a slick, imaginative and mature performance; it was gratifying to see them show much support and encouragement towards other schools (which is of course why we do it really!)

Through the department trips many pupils have had the chance to see some great and some not so great theatre but the very good thing is that they have been able to recognise it! We have also invited Dundee Rep and Roughshod Theatre Company in for workshops - enriching opportunities for pupils with an interest in the performing arts.

For the third year running we have one of our pupils heading south to study at The Welsh College of Music and Drama. Sinead Pounder will be taking their degree course in Stage Management and Technical Theatre - we wish her well. Our FP's already there must be doing something right!

A further opportunity for change came with the production of this year's senior school play The Crucible. I decided that I would like to present Arthur Miller's tale of accusation, witchcraft and religion in a church. St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee with great generosity kindly obliged; a brave action indeed considering some of the lines uttered...This kind of opportunity to perform in a site-specific location is rare and even more so for schools so I am personally hugely indebted to the church and school for making my ideas possible. We had an extremely talented cast who gave three memorable performances of this gigantic play. Anyone who saw it commented on their powerful and moving performances which showed a maturity and insight way beyond their years. Once again it was a real ensemble piece and without the support of all the cast it wouldn't have enjoyed the success it did. I am always amazed by the pupils capacity to work so hard particularly during the pressures of exams which only finished two days before we opened. It was a testament to their determination and courage, which I have only ever encountered in HSD pupils. I owe a big debt of thanks to Mr Cowieson who took on a large role rather late in the day. He gave a tremendous performance and greatly added to the pupil's enjoyment. Working out with the school community was a valuable learning experience for the pupils, although I did feel strangely adrift from our own community during production week but change is great!

So what we did last year will almost certainly not be what we do this year, change is good, it means that we might go on to achieve greatness - or even excellence but it will always be different!

Lindsay Drummond



THIS YEAR IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



This session got off to a typically busy start, with theatre visits which continued throughout the year. Pupils from all year groups piled into coaches and headed off to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Perth to see *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hobson's Choice*, *All Quiet On The Western Front* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, while the Form 1 went through to the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh just before Christmas to watch *The Lion*, *The Witch* and *The Wardrobe*. This Christmas, we return to more traditional pantomime when we will go to Glasgow to see *Aladdin*!



Form 1 boys - not frightened by the White Witch

There have been one or two joint ventures with other departments this year too. In November, we teamed up with the Drama department to take part in a workshop on *Macbeth* where Form 4 pupils who were studying the play had the opportunity to watch a performance of the play and take part in a question and answer session about the play and its staging. Towards the end of the year, English and the Library collaborated in arranging for F1 pupils to take part in a Virtual Author Event with the brilliant Anthony Horowitz, where, along with hundreds of pupils across Scotland, they watched the event through GLOW, the Scottish schools intranet hosted by Learning and Teaching Scotland.

Creative writing continues to thrive in the High School, and just some of the excellent work done by pupils in the school can be seen elsewhere in the

Review. Just at the end of last session, Form 6 pupils were invited by Kirsty Gunn, Professor of Creative Writing at Dundee University to participate in a Writing Workshop at the university, while some of our Form 2 pupils entered the Royal Mail letter writing competition, when they had to write to their heroes – a number of pupils received certificates of commendation for their efforts.



Writing Workshop

Inspiration.....

This year we take leave of Mr Michael Stewart, who leaves us to go to live in Sudan, with his family. With his kindly, good-natured interest in their development and well-being, Michael helped his pupils to success in their English exams and led them to an appreciation of the subject. Not only will the staff of the English department miss his good humour, his reasoned approach and his unfailing professionalism and hard work, but he will be missed by his pupils too.



Mr Stewart, trying out one of his farewell gifts from the English department – a Really Useful Hat.

HOME ECONOMICS REPORT

Rotary Young Chef of the Year 2009

In October two budding chefs Jamie Clark F1 and Jamie Ford F2 took part in the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition. The judges praised all the chefs for the high standard of dishes and the wide array of ingredients used.

Jamie Clark was highly praised for his outstanding three course menu and his calm demeanour in the kitchen and was selected to go through to the next round for the District Finals.

Jamie's menu was as follows:-

Gairloch Crab & Avocado Salad, garnished with Smoked Salmon & Tiger Prawn

Seared Haunch of Estate Venison with Blueberry & Port Sauce, accompanied by Balsamic Roasted Beetroot, Leek Mash & Fine Beans

Dessert was Fresh Pineapple Infused with Passion Fruit & Lemon, & Vanilla Yoghurt



Jamie at work.

Unfortunately Jamie was not selected for the Scottish final but he was given a special award for his use of more unusual ingredients. Jamie's prize was dinner for his family at the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews and a tour of the kitchens by the Head chef.

National Futurechef Competition

The school heat for this national competition was held in the Home Economics dept in September and the five competitors of Jamie Clark, Findlay Young, Adam Powrie and Araminta Yates, S1, and Jamie Ford S2 battled it out to go forward to the regional final. The standard was very high with some very exciting and innovative dishes, such as butternut squash risotto with sea bass and filo haggis baskets with potato puree and turnip.

The winner was Jamie Clark with his pan fried gammon steak with haggis sausage, pea puree and sweet potato stack in an apple jus reduction.

Jamie then went on to compete, against much older pupils, in the regional final where he produced an equally impressive standard but was unsuccessful in making it through to the next round.

Well done to all the pupils who took part in both competitions.

Fair Trade Fortnight

In February the dept took part in raising awareness of Fair Trade and Fair Trade products by having a week where all S1 and S2 classes used Fair Trade products during their Home Economics lessons. The initiative culminated in a bake sale at morning Interval where bananas, Geo bars and Fair Trade baked muffins were sold to pupils and staff. The profits went to supporting our two sponsored children in the Philippines.



Breakfast Club / High Helpers has proved a successful venture this session with a number of pupils availing themselves of a hot drink and snack in the Home Economics dept before school starts. The warmth and the opportunity for some friendly banter have attracted a number of loyal supporters. Michael Ferguson, Lewis Williamson, Keir Will, Adam Powrie, Mark Smith and Andrew Kelly, all Form One and Jamie Ford Form Two, deserve special mention for their support and commitment to the club. Various charities have benefitted from the profits.

A special initiative to raise money for a water pump costing £250.00, raised this and more, in the summer term, through the sale of Thirsty planet water and smoothie ice lollies. This bought a pump which supplies a permanent fresh water supply to a village of 500 people in Africa.

Many thanks go to everyone who has supported the Breakfast Club this session.

LIBRARY REPORT



2008-2009 has been a very exciting year in the school library and I am again amazed by the many uses the library is put towards by both staff and pupils.

The year began in earnest with preparations for an author visit in September. This year we invited Cathy Cassidy to come along to school and speak to F2 pupils. She gave a very interesting talk on her characters, writing techniques and answered many questions from pupils. Borders kindly supplied books for the pupils to purchase during Cathy's visit. Cathy interestingly made a deal with all pupils whose books she signed; they in turn had to sign her book of names, so we never know a character in a future Cathy Cassidy novel may be named after one of our very own pupils!

September also saw the school taking part in the Doors Open Day and the library, working with the Development Office, had some old books and other artefacts from the schools history on display. This was a very busy morning with some former pupils and members of the public enjoying a slice of the school's history.

October saw Book Week and lots of different activities for the junior classes. L6 were all bidding frantically in our annual book auction and L7 transformed into book characters for the second series of Book Brother. The finalists were all grilled during a diary room interview and then had to complete a challenge before the class voted for their winner. Unfortunately due to staff illness the annual High IQ quiz for F1 and F2 pupils was cancelled this year but there are plans to re-instate it next session.

As October rolled into November we celebrated Halloween in the Reading Café with a fun-filled

bonanza where the pupils had the chance to bob for apples and complete a creepy horror book themed quiz.

F1 pupils were in the library during October to start the research for the annual Biology poster competition. This is a busy time in the library with pupils honing their research skills by using a variety of resources, including non-fiction texts, magazines and websites. All F1 pupils have the opportunity at this stage to use the library catalogue and practice writing bibliographies.

The library is an important resource for all pupils, especially F6 who had a fantastic opportunity this year to visit the library at Dundee University and Abertay University during November. The librarians at both universities were very happy to show our pupils around and gave them tips on effective research, reinforcing the work being done in school. During December I bravely stood in front of all F6 to deliver a lesson on effective research, the pitfalls of online searching and the seriousness of correctly referencing all their written work.

As well as a place to learn valuable skills, the library is also a place of fun! This was shown in our Christmas competition Wacky Snowman where pupils from both the junior and Senior School were invited to design a Wacky Snowman and they decorated the library for the festive season. The winning entry for senior school was Barbara Braid with her Elvis snowman. The annual Advent Calendar also saw staff and pupils competing together to solve the riddle each day in the daily bulletin.

With the New Year came a visitor in the library; a lucky Chinese Dragon. This was part of the Junior





assembly. I believe he made a great guardian of fiction.

Back by popular demand the Junior School took part in a nationally recognised Readathon in February, raising money for CLIC Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation. This was a first for me, and I was a little nervous, but the pupils were amazing. They were all given time in the library to choose books to get them started and L7 pupils were allowed to borrow not two but three books for the duration of the Readathon. All pupils had two weeks to read great books and collect sponsorship for doing so. By the end of the two weeks 240 pupils had read 1638 books and raised an astonishing £5459.95. Congratulations to all pupils and thanks to all parents for helping the Readathon run so smoothly.

World Book Day starts March off with a flourish and a slam. It has become a great tradition over the years for our F6 pupils to delight the junior school with book slams and this year was no exception. Over 30 F6 pupils volunteered to go and slam the junior classes and entertain them with a poem or short story, which meant that every junior class got at least two visits throughout the day. I did ask one F6 to sum up this experience for me and it all came down to one word "Fun!" Senior pupils had a mind-crunching time in the library following the clues around the 4 areas of a deserted island till they found the lost treasure, pirates were in abundance ready to strike if they caught a glimpse of gold.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations we had a visiting author, John Fardell. He spent the morning with all three L5 classes and had them all involved in creating a story through drawings. He talked about his new book and how he gets his ideas. After joining the L5 teachers for lunch John was happy to stay and sign books. I decided that the story L5 had created was so good that it needed finishing and I set all L5 pupils a challenge: finish the story you had started. Over twenty pupils competed and wrote very different accounts of the adventure they had begun. Malcolm Campbell was our overall winner and received a signed set of John Fardell's books and an Easter egg. A special thank you to Borders, Dundee for financing and organising this event for us.

Another eye-opening use of the library occurred in

March. I was approached by the F6 Interact team and asked if the library could be used as a dressing area for their upcoming fashion show and also if I would like to star in this fashion show. Well of course I couldn't say no to the chance of strutting my stuff on the catwalk but it was with great trepidation that I agreed to their other request. However there was no need for me to worry, as I was regularly assured, the F6 were amazing. The library did indeed resemble the backstage area of any New York fashion show with racks of clothes, make-up, hairdressers and beautiful models on the night but in the morning carefully and safely returned to the library we all know and love.

I hope that this has given you a glimpse into the many diverse ways both pupils and staff find to use their library and also an idea of how busy the library can be. For me, it has been a very successful year and I am already preparing questions for the first round of the High IQ next session. As I write this I have today enjoyed the screening of F1 animation projects at lunchtime and been enthralled by the junior school actors practising for their musical *Treasure Island*.

Reading Café News

The Reading Café has proved popular this year and has been involved in many book related activities. As well as the Halloween party there was a Christmas party with traditional party games. The highlights of the year have been a graffiti wall filled with book reviews and recommendations that was on display in the library foyer, creating comic strips using photographs and ComLife software and for the final few weeks of the year voting for the winner of the Red House Book Award, after reading all three short listed books.





MATHEMATICS

REVIEW 2007-2008

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 team competition of the year was the Enterprising Maths Day held at George Watson's College, Edinburgh in October. Mrs Craig accompanied the team of Form 3 and 4 pupils, which comprised Alistair Lynch, Ross Macdonald, Daniel Barton and King Hang Chan where they participated in a variety of mathematical activities. Thirty teams from Scotland's independent schools took part and the competition was as fierce and enjoyable as ever. For the first time this year the UK Mathematics Trust extended their Senior Maths Team Challenge to Scotland. Students competing in this competition work in groups and are given practical tasks as well as theoretical problems to solve. The competition was held in the Fairplay Library at the University of Edinburgh in November. The team selected from Form 5 and 6 were Josh Ivinson, Thomas Thomson, Alex Montgomery and Louise Soutar.

In March it was the turn of Form 1 and 2 pupils to complete in the UKMT Maths Team Challenge, which was again held in Edinburgh. Hannah Arnold, Andrew Kelly and Louise Pattullo fought off tough competition from the other 28 teams. The High School team achieved third place which was an excellent performance. This year we had record numbers of pupils entering the Scottish Mathematical Challenge. The Scottish Mathematical Challenge is a problem-solving competition open to all pupils in Form 1 to Form 6. The Mathematical Council have been running this competition since 1976 and they aim to promote Mathematics as a source of interest and pleasurable achievement. The following pupils did exceptionally well and were invited to attend an Award Day at the University of Stirling in June:

JUNIOR DIVISION

Gold: Bethany Cessford, Tracy Chan, Akdas Hussain, Andrew Kelly, Campbell Macleod and Duncan Raitt.

Silver: Hannah Arnold, James Lucocq and Marshall Macleod.

MIDDLE DIVISION

Gold: King Hang Chan.

Silver: Charlotte Keatch, Laura Lee and Ross Macdonald.

SENIOR DIVISION

Gold: Josh Ivinson

Silver: Fabliha Hussain

The UK Mathematics Trust runs three annual UK Maths Challenge contests, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. This year pupils from Form 1-3 competed in the UK's biggest National Maths Competition. Unfortunately, pupils from Form 4 to 6 were unable to compete this year due to exam commitments. The Intermediate Maths Challenge held in February saw our Form 3 pupils gain a total of 44 certificates. Gold certificates were awarded to Lucy Arthur, King Hang Chan, Sarah Lothian, William McBride, Kirsty Macpherson, Duncan Strachan and Chris White. A further 12 Silver and 25 Bronze Certificates were awarded. William McBride and Christopher White both qualified for the European Pink Kangaroo follow on round and were both awarded a Merit Certificate for their achievement in this competition. Duncan Strachan was awarded best in school and along with King Hang Chan they both qualified for the follow on Olympiad round. King was awarded a Merit Certificate from Olympiad paper and Duncan was one of three from Scotland selected to attend a Summer Camp at Queen's College Birmingham for a week in July.

In May, 150 pupils from Form 1 and Form 2 competed in the Junior Maths Challenge. A record 20 pupils were awarded Gold certificates, 43 Silver and 35 Bronze. Harry Carstairs achieved best in school and qualified for the follow on Olympiad round, which he will sit in June. Congratulations to all the pupils who were awarded certificates from the Maths Competitions and we look forward to continued success next session.

MODERN LANGUAGES

FRANCE 2009



2008 saw the school's first visit to la Châtelleraie in France's Cantal region. The hype surrounding last year's trip made us very impatient for June 2009 to come round, and for it to be our turn! Mr MacKinnon's cunning plan of holding a prize draw each evening resulted in the following diary entries charting our week in the hot French sunshine...

Wednesday 17th June

Like clockwork, our coach turned up at the school gates at 6.30 am and we were off! In what seemed like no time, we had swapped a grey, Scottish morning for the glorious sunshine of Toulouse, where we touched down at lunchtime, ready to be transported to la Châtelleraie, our home for the next week, complete with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, activity trail, mountain bikes, boules and all kinds of sports facilities. Most importantly, we met the wonderful Aggie, who looked after us beautifully with her team. As we dined outdoors on the terrace this evening, it was hard to believe that, only yesterday, we'd been wrapping up warm to keep out the chill of a Scottish summer!

Thursday 18th June

A gloriously sunny day, our first full day in France. We were split into two groups for horse-riding, which was a fabulous day out. Yannick taught us how to saddle up, then, after a chance to get used to being on horse-back and learning how to steer them (!) we set off through the fields and rivers in this idyllic spot. The big excitement was wondering how Mr MacKinnon managed to get his horse to bite Mr Jack – he denied all responsibility, but we're not sure...

Friday 19th June

Helen's birthday! What a place to spend it! We

visited the medieval clifftop village of Rocamadour this morning, climbing down – and up – 233 steps and wondering how the Christian pilgrims managed to do so on their knees! The afternoon was spent underground in a boat, in the spectacular caves of the Goufre de Padirac – eighth wonder of the world? Fabulous birthday cake tonight organised by Aggie – spectacular!

Saturday 20th June

Market day in Figeac, where we finally understood the importance of learning all that vocabulary carefully! A nameless person found this out the hard way, mistaking croissant for poisson, with some rather whiffy results! We enjoyed the colour of the local market and made a serious attempt to get rid of some of those holiday euros! Snails and frogs' legs for lunch today ... let's say that the jury is out! More on snails later...

Sunday 21st June

Today was certainly a day to remember! Although it was an early start, spirits were high as we headed for le Lioran, a ski resort transformed into an adventure playground in summer. First off was the mountain climb – a chilly yet nice start to the day, with a great opportunity for group photos at the summit of 'our' mountain, Plomb du Cantal. However, the walk back down the mountain was a bit too slippery for some, proving to be more challenging than expected. The highlight of the day was by far the high ropes course, which caused a few memorable looks on the faces of the teachers! The various stages of the course proved enjoyable for some yet a challenge for others. Overall the great efforts and admirable conquering of fears produced another fantastic day and a great achievement for all. C'était une journée incroyable!

FRANCE 2009

Monday 22nd June

Great excitement today – last year's group reckoned this was the best day of the trip, and it did not fail to impress. The atmosphere on the coach was buzzing as we travelled to the river Lot for a day of kayaking. We quickly got to grips with our kayaks and headed for the rapids. Everyone got soaked, and there were more than a few capsizes! The highlight of the day was the entertainment of watching Mr MacKinnon attempting – and for the large part failing – to re-enter his kayak following his eight capsizes – or was it nine? A game of kayak-catch proved fun, and the laughter all along our 10 km course epitomised the spirit of the day.

Tuesday 22nd June

Heather spent her birthday acquiring an interesting insight into French life, with a visit to a snail farm. We learned all about the life of snails – the limits of our French vocabulary were soon made apparent when Mr MacKinnon was required to extend to us information regarding snail mating, something evidently not taught in school textbooks but intriguing nevertheless! A special mention should go to those who braved snail slime in the name of beauty (with Angus even putting it on his face!)

We realised that we must have learned some French later, when, doing a bit of shopping, we had to convince a security guard of our innocence when he thought we were shoplifting!

An afternoon spent relaxing by a lake in the glorious sunshine kept everyone entertained, whether with long-distance swimming or sunbathing on the beach.

The day – and our trip – was rounded off with a delicious barbecue then marshmallows toasted on the campfire for us by the teachers.

What an amazing trip! The week flew by with delicious food, glorious weather, fun-filled activities and fantastic hosts. We spoke French and felt that we had had a chance to experience life French-style, off the beaten track. C'était fantastique!

Contributors include

Fiona Allison & Suzy Boath (F5)
and

**Callum Leese, Hannah Sampson, Kasia Thomson,
Alex Batchelor & Elizabeth Scott (F4)**





GERMAN EXCHANGE 2009

Finally the waiting was over! After weeks of waiting, the day of the German exchange finally arrived. The bus and plane journey seemed to fly past and in no time we were on the train to Treysa! The nerves kicked in and everyone was worrying about their partners. We were greeted at the train station with German flags and smiles. I think most people went to bed soon after that- we were all so tired from the journey! After all, it had been a 3am start.

Waking up in a bed that wasn't mine felt a bit odd, but I soon remembered that I was in Germany and I was looking forward to seeing everyone at school. It was good to see everyone again- even the teachers! After a tour of the school from Herr Gora, we went to classes for the day with our partners. This was very different to school in Scotland! No uniform to start with! In the afternoon we all went home with our partners again.

On the first Friday we went climbing as a group on an indoor climbing wall. Afterwards we went tobogganing- great fun- and then we went to see the biggest ski-jump in Europe.

The weekend was spent with our host families and so everyone did different things. Some people went shopping or swimming, whilst others went to visit some grandparents and then went out for a nice meal. Another highlight for some people was a trip to the Edersee and a castle. This was fun, but unfortunately it was the wettest June weekend in Germany for 30 years!

On Monday we went on a day trip to Giessen. Here we went to a maths museum (more interesting than it sounds!) and then we spent the afternoon shopping.

Tuesday was a day that we spent in school. First lesson- German! This was the hardest German lesson I have ever had. They were doing Shakespeare's (Schiller's) William Tell. I have never felt so confused and lost in my life! I was sitting with my exchange partner and she said that she did not understand it, so there was no hope for me! After German was English and I thought it was weird that no one was leaving the classroom. Then it clicked- the teachers come to the pupils in Germany- so you can't be late! English with Herr Gora was a lot of fun. They are all very good at English! Then there was a small break and we went to a kind of assembly for Year 9 only. It was held in a small shed, with candles everywhere and the music teacher happily playing the piano. We sang some hymns in German and then a story was told- if you listened carefully you got the gist of it. After this we had French with Frau Gora in the cafeteria. She told us that we could just eat if we wanted! The Germans fed us so much. I am sure that I was a couple of stone heavier when I came back than when I went. The Germans definitely like their food! After this we had economics and history and that was the end of the school day- 1.15pm! Perfect! We then got the bus home and had lunch. That evening some of us went swimming which was great fun.

On Wednesday everyone went on a day trip to Marburg. Unfortunately the rain never stopped. However that still did not stop us shopping! Before we went shopping we had to do a quiz about Marburg, which involved walking around the town and trying to find out about it. Shopping was really good, but it was still raining, so we went to have coffee and cake, only to find Mr Summerville, Mrs Mackenzie and Herr Gora all munching away on their own slice of cake! In the evening Hannah's





GERMAN EXCHANGE 2009

partner Meike had organised a BBQ and about six of us went to this. The BBQ was really good and we all ate way too much again!

On Thursday it was a local holiday so we didn't have any school or trips- instead it was a day that most people spent with their families. Some went to see the Hercules monument in Kassel and then in the evening it was time to pack our bags, ready for the journey home.

On Friday we all met at Treysa train station at 11.30 to get the train to Frankfurt. After checking in our bags at the airport, we had some time left for some last-minute shopping. After a lot of security

checks, we were allowed to board the plane on time. We arrived back in Dundee at about 7.30- happy to see our families again!

We all learned a lot of German and the exchange was a great life experience for everyone involved this year. Thanks to Mrs Mackenzie and Mr Summerville for taking us!

**Rebecca Campbell
Sylvie Clarke
Katy Coward
Hannah Robb
Joanna Waller (F3)**



GERMAN COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to Christopher Acheson & Bethany Cessford (F2). Both pupils entered a national competition run by the UK-German Connection-

Their task was to invent a new German word!

Christopher won the competition with his new invention- Lieblingsreifillchesterpaprikaüberpudertgeräuchertapfelholzcheddarbasiertkäsebrett. Roughly translated this means favourite mature ilchester paprika dusted smoked applewood cheddar based cheese board.

Bethany was a runner-up with her word- Ausziehbarfleischaromatisiertehundleine, which in English is an extendable meat-flavoured dog lead. Well done to both Christopher and Bethany!

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



REPORT 2008-2009

As another session draws to a close it is amazing to reflect upon the amount of music making that has gone on during the course of the year and to the commitment and loyalty shown by our pupils and staff alike. This session we welcomed five new visiting instrumental staff – Ms Jennifer Prestana, upper strings, Mrs Alison Beck, voice, Miss Louisa MacPherson and Mrs Karen Hamilton, both woodwind, and Miss Toni Russell, clarsach. They are now firmly established in their posts and we wish them well for a long and happy association with the Music Department.

No sooner had the session begun than auditions were taking place for the Junior School Musical, *Treasure Island*, which is being staged in Trinity Hall as this article goes to press. Also being planned was the Music Trip to Berlin. Forty of our Form 2 to Form 5 instrumentalists and singers signed up for this performance tour which is presenting three concerts in prestigious venues in Berlin. This, too, is happening as I write, and I would refer you to the separate articles for both events.

Our singers have had a very successful year with NYCOS auditions. Anna Burns successfully auditioned for the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Lauren Clayson, Jenny Allan and Kirsty Mitchell for the National Girls Choir and Rona Leese and Amy Grieve for the Training Choir. Euan Strachan, Alister Goodfellow, Ruairidh Ogilvie, Callum Strachan and Daniel Baker became members of the National Boys Choir and Rhys Paterson the Changed Voice Choir. In Junior School we are always delighted to recommend our young choristers to the Dundee branch of NYCOS and are

pleased to note that our pupils make up a considerable proportion of their choirs.

The Leng Silver Medals were won by Euan Strachan, Calum Archibald and Claire Dobson and we were delighted to have thirteen entries representing the school in the Gold Medal Competition.

Anna Burns and Amy Grieve took part in Scottish Opera's workshops throughout the session.

Instrumentalists, too, have been very successful with Louise Patullo and Ailsa Purdie taking part in the National Youth Training Schools Week. Ailsa also participated in the "Stringfest" at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Lucy Arthur and Lucy Abel took part in the Scottish Independent Schools Training week at Glenalmond College. Alasdair Rennet won the Open Woodwind class at the annual Perth Festival.

The Senior String Ensemble gave their usual polished performance to prospective pupils and parents in Trinity Hall on Open Morning while the woodwind and brass ensembles became wandering minstrels for the morning and performed in various locations throughout the school.

For the second year running Laura Lee won the Nora Leggatt prize for the highest mark in Dundee for Grade 6 or Grade 7 pianoforte of the ABRSM exams.

One of the highlights of the musical calendar, and one in which the whole school and local community can take part, is undoubtedly our Annual



Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall. Taking part were our six school choirs and the Concert Band. The Senior Brass Ensemble opened the evening with a fanfare and the HSD Symphony Orchestra accompanied the community carols. There were also selections of delightful seasonal readings recited by junior and senior pupils. We were delighted to donate £5,000, the profit from the concert, to two very worthy charities, Sense Scotland and Music in Hospitals (Scotland).

The following night saw the Senior String ensemble back in the Caird Hall performing *Walking in the Air*, with Callum Archibald as soloist, excerpts from *The Carnival of the Animals* and a selection of carols at Tayside Health Board's Malcolm Sargent CLIC concert. We are always delighted to be asked to perform at this concert which is one of the highlights of the Dundee Christmas music calendar.

Christmas is always a busy time musically and this year was no exception. Music Department staff were very busy rehearsing the music for the L1-3 Nativity Play which culminated in three delightful performances in Trinity Hall.

As well as performing at the Carol Concert the Senior Choir and a Wind and String group entertained patients at the Carseview Centre in the grounds of Ninewells Hospital. Our carol singing and playing was warmly received by staff and patients who were able to join in the carol singing. A string group visited the Whitehall Theatre Club to play at one of their fundraising activities. The Senior Choir rounded off our Christmas music making by singing Rutter's arrangement of *Christmas Night* at the end of term service in St Mary's Parish Church.

No sooner were we back at school after the Christmas holidays when it was time for our Scottish modules to start in the classroom and preparation for the Leng Medal singing competitions for solo, unaccompanied Scots singing. With Burns Night approaching instrumentalists and singers in both the junior and

senior schools started preparing for the forthcoming L5 and F6 Burns Suppers both of which were very enjoyable occasions with excellent performances from the musicians.

The highlight of the second term for our pianists was the Piano Day which took place in early March in Trinity Hall. It was a spectacular occasion with over a hundred piano pupils taking part. In the morning all pupils played to each other in their year group and at lunchtime the piano teachers gave recitals. Master classes were conducted in the afternoon for Amy Watson, Nicol Foggie, Lewis Foggie and Laura Lee. We were delighted to welcome Professor Norman Beedie to give of his experience and expertise to our most advanced pupils. The Junior and Senior Piano recitals took place in the evening to a large and appreciative audience.

The Annual School Music Competition took place over three days in March and saw 290 pupil performances across the entire range of instruments and voice taught throughout the school from L3 to F6. Our guest adjudicator this year was Mrs Alison Waller. The winner of this year's Premier Quaiich for the best all round instrumentalist/vocalist was Amy Watson who gave a stunning performance of Monti's *Czardas* on her violin. The winners of the Southgate Prize for Ensemble playing were Amy Watson (violin), Samir Eljamel (cello) and Lewis Foggie (piano) for their performance of the second movement of Mendelssohn's *Piano Trio Op 66*. The top prize winners in the Junior Competition were Heather Goodfellow (violin), India Stobbs (clarinet) and Alasdair Rennet (alto saxophone and tenor recorder).

The Spring Concert in the Caird Hall was a delightful evening of diverse music making with all of the choirs taking part along with the Concert Band, Pipe Band, Symphony Orchestra, Training Orchestra and Training Band. There was music for everyone's taste and judging by the reaction of the audience, thoroughly enjoyed by all.





The term ended with the F1-3 girls' choir singing Chilcott's Keep it Good at the end of term service in St Mary's Parish Church.

The summer term opened with our Advanced Higher Music candidates giving a recital of part of their SQA recitals to parents and friends. After all their hard work on these programmes it is wonderful to hear such lovely performances from our most senior pupils. We wish them well for the future and trust they will continue their music making which will give them so much enjoyment in the future.

On what promised to be a rather dismal Sunday in May some of our string players and pipers closed their revision books for the afternoon to perform at the Foundation Garden party. Fortunately the sun decided to shine eventually so that everyone could enjoy their performances.

Some of our pipers and a drummer were privileged to be asked to record a CD of a specially arranged version of Highland Cathedral by Noel Rawsthorne, former organist of Liverpool Cathedral. The arrangement is for organ, pipes and snare drum and the recording took place in the Caird Hall in early June with former Dundonian, Gordon Stewart, playing the organ along with our pipers and drummer. We look forward to hearing the end product which is being sold to raise funds for the upkeep of the Caird Hall organ. This should be available in the autumn.

The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations continue to attract large numbers from within the school. This session has seen around 170 entries in a wide variety of orchestral instruments and voice from the Preparatory Test through to Grade 8. Results are, as usual, of a very high standard

The end of session this year is, as always, another very busy one for our musicians and staff. On 5 June we had a wonderful Summer Concert in St Paul's Cathedral in which our smaller ensembles took part. There were outstanding performances from the various groups – strings, woodwind, brass and percussion and guitars as well as some chamber music groups.

We also have a Music Trip to Berlin where we will perform three concerts – at the Berlin British School, the Heilig Kirche with the Clara Schumann choir and be participating in La Fete de la Musique in the Senatsaal of Humboldt University, Unter den Linden. As well as an extensive programme of sight-seeing we will also be attending a Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra concert conducted by Sir Simon Rattle in the Waldbuhne. While the seniors are in Berlin the juniors will be staging their production of Treasure Island in Trinity Hall. We wish them every success for what promises to be another fantastic production. To round off the session the Senior String Ensemble will perform at our Annual Prize Giving ceremony in the Caird Hall with the pipers performing in the City Square before the event.

Next session promises to be just as busy, if not more so, with many dates already in the diary for our musicians. Amongst those for the autumn term are a Rotary Concert in Aviemore in September, a Party on the Pillars in October, Open Morning music and a lunchtime recital concert in St Paul's Cathedral in November, an Anniversary Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall and the Tayside Health Board CLIC Sargent concert in December.

MUSIC



SCHOOL TRIPS

MUSIC TRIP TO BERLIN

16 TO 23 JUNE 2009

On 16 June, a group of 40 pupils from F2 to F5 and five staff, Mrs Melville, Miss Simpson, Dr Duncanson, Mr McAuley and Miss Evans, set off by coach on a music trip to Berlin, Germany. We had been rehearsing throughout the session and had put together a versatile programme for the various ensembles that had evolved – an orchestra, a string ensemble, various wind groups, an SAB and SSA choir, a Highland piper and a Highland dancer. After two days of tiring but enjoyable travel by coach and overnight ferry we arrived at the Generator Hostel, in the former district of East Berlin. The following morning saw the first of our sightseeing activities – a very interesting tour of various contrasting districts of the former east and west sectors. Highlights for photo calls were the Brandenburg Gate and a section of the Wall. In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the remains of the former concentration camp, Sachsenhausen, at Oranienburg just outside Berlin. This was a particularly sombre experience. We learnt that it started out as a camp for political prisoners and one in which inmates were required to work long and exhausting hours in a nearby factory to manufacture bricks for Hitler's "showpiece" Berlin. It then became a death camp in which many were exterminated. It was a grim reminder of the evils of the Nazi regime. Other sight seeing activities included a boat trip on the River Spree through historic Berlin and an extremely interesting tour of the Reichstag Building, home of the German parliament. Renovated by the British architect, Sir Norman Foster, it combines the past with the present from the graffiti of Russian soldiers in 1945 to the magnificent glass dome with stunning views across the city.

Being a music tour a visit to the Berlin Philharmonie was a prerequisite. On the Saturday morning we set off from the hostel by local train to Potsdamer Platz which is now home to the Sony Centre. A very short walk found us at the Musical Instrument Museum where we had a very informative tour of the extensive collection of instruments. Among the highlights was a Stradivarius violin valued at several million euros. To round off our visit, our guide, who had managed to play at least one instrument from every family, gave us a magnificent recital on the Wurlitzer organ, a stunning instrument with fantastic effects. In the afternoon we visited the Berlin Philharmonie and were shown around by two very enthusiastic guides who allowed us to go on stage in both the main concert hall and chamber music hall. An impromptu rendition of "Scots Wha Hae" resounded around the main concert hall and we felt privileged to perform on the same stage as world renowned orchestras and conductors.

The first of our three concerts in Berlin was for the middle school of the Berlin British School which is set in the enchanting, wooded area of Charlottenburg near the Olympic Stadium. Our audience were very enthusiastic and particularly enjoyed "The Cuckoo" from "The Carnival of Animals", Ben's Highland bagpiping and Amy's Highland dancing. The young choir of the Berlin British School had been practising two verses of "Auld Lang Syne" and had been eagerly looking forward to our visit so that they might perform it with us. This was a lovely occasion for both them and us.

Our second concert was hosted by the Clara





Schumann Kinder und Jugendchor in the very beautiful, modern Heilig Kreuz Kirche. The Clara Schumann Choir welcomed us with a selection of songs from their repertoire which included Naplan's "Hine Ma Tov". Again our Highand bagpiper and dancer were enthusiastically received. Anna and the string ensemble gave a beautiful rendition of Vivaldi's "Nulla in mundo pax sincera" and Kirsty and Gillian an equally beautiful performance of "The Evening Prayer" from Humperdinck's opera "Hansel and Gretl". The forty strong choir performed all of their choral items including the Renaissance "Canzonetta", Rutter songs and a Scottish selection culminating in Auld Lang Syne and the clarinet ensemble performed two of Mozart's Divertimenti. After the concert we were treated to a magnificent spread courtesy of the parents of the Clara Schumann Choir. The highlight had to be the delicious Russian soup!

Our final concert was to a capacity audience in the Senatsaal of Humboldt University on Unter den Linden where we were surrounded by portraits of Einstein and numerous other Nobel Prize winners. This concert was organised for us by the Berlin Choral Society as part of "Fete de la Musique", an event that takes place throughout Europe on the summer solstice every year. Our music making was very warmly received and this gave an opportunity for the full orchestra to perform more extracts from "The Carnival of Animals" and "Greenlands" with piper Ben. All in all, three very successful concerts in different locations to different audiences proved that our versatile

repertoire could fully sustain three separate hours of varying high class music making. Well done everyone!

Although our schedule was very busy we did manage to have time for a little evening relaxation. One evening was spent at the IMAX theatre in the Sony Centre where we watched "State of Play", a political thriller starring Russell Crowe and Helen Mirren. Another evening we went 10 pin bowling which was great fun but the highlight had to be the open air concert in the Waldbuhne, an open air arena close to the Olympic Stadium. We were amongst the tens of thousands of spectators who attended this annual concert by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of their principal conductor, Sir Simon Rattle. The performances of extracts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor, soloist, Yesim Bronfman were brilliant. The climax was, however, Stravinsky's Rite of Spring - a magnificent performance. Sparklers around the arena during the encores added to the fantastic atmosphere of an unforgettable experience. What did it matter that it started raining at the interval.....

Sadly, next morning, it was time to board our coach again with our friendly and very helpful driver, Mark, for our journey back to Amsterdam to catch the overnight ferry to Newcastle. This was certainly an excellent trip that has left us all with wonderful memories that will last forever.

J F Melville
Tour Leader



SKI TRIP

On Friday the 13th of February 2009, a group of over forty third year pupils huddled outside the school in the snow, anxiously saying their goodbyes to their parents before boarding the ski trip bus bound for Austria!

Thirty-six hours later, after several stops, a ferry ride and many films watched- we were there! The trip was to the small Austrian town of Golling in the Sportswelde Amade ski area. We all walked up to the hotel and settled into our rooms, ready for the very busy week ahead of us.

The next morning we had to get up bright and early at 6.30am! We had breakfast and set out to hire our equipment. Once everything was hired, we could finally head out to the slopes, to be split into groups for our first skiing session. There were four skiing groups, and the instructors were really nice. They were called Annalina, Manuel, Sarah and Frankie. The day was fantastic; it was such great fun being able to ski alongside your friends. After a very busy day, we all headed noisily back to the bus, to return to our hotel.

Every night after tea we had an evening activity planned for us. Our first activity was going to the local swimming pool, which had a flume and even an outdoor pool- which was freezing! We had a great time.

Gradually, we all got into the routine of getting up early, ready for another fun day at the slopes. Although we were all very tired, nothing could stop us from having a great time as we were constantly busy, heading from skiing to another fun activity at night. These activities included ice skating, pizza night in a nearby restaurant, a disco on our penultimate day- held with other schools who were also on a ski trip. On our last night we went bowling, where we got separated into our school houses and it got very competitive! Every one of these activities was amazing fun and everybody looked forward to them.

One of the funniest things everyone will remember from the trip is the fluorescent bibs. These bibs were awarded every day to one boy and one girl, for doing or saying the silliest thing of the day. If you





SCHOOL TRIPS



were unlucky enough to receive a bib, it had to be worn at all times- from the bus journey home, to the evening activity, on the slopes the next day and then you could finally return it to the teachers on the bus journey home the next day.

By the end of the week absolutely nobody was looking forward to going home. It had been the best week ever and leaving Golling was very sad, especially so as we knew we had another 36 hour journey ahead of us. However, even the journey home was fun, as the teachers presented awards to every pupil along the way. The awards were announced on the bus microphone and your prize

was a bar of Milka chocolate! These awards included 'the award for the worst karma'- given to someone who tried to push over a teacher at the ice rink, and fell over themselves, and 'Mr and Mrs Golling 2009'!

Everybody on the trip would agree that it was absolutely amazing. We all had so much fun, which was down to all the teachers who came on the trip- Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. McAdam and especially Mr. Jack who organised it. We all have so many great memories of our time in Austria, which will never be forgotten!



PUPIL NEWS

DRUMMING AT THE TATTOO

This summer, Fiona Smith from the class of 2007, is taking part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo playing the tenor drum for the Royal Highland Fusiliers. She started playing the tenor drum in the School CCF Pipe Band and continued to play when she joined the City of Edinburgh Officer Training Corps. She will be part of the massed bands of pipes and drums alongside her counterparts in the Scottish Universities OTC. Fiona will return to Edinburgh University in September where she is studying medicine.



TOP MARK FOR LAUREN



The top mark in the SQA Higher History examinations 2008 went to Head Girl Lauren Pringle.

Lauren's mark of 98% put her at the top of the 8,125 candidates who sat the exam in 2008.

This is the fourth year out of the last five that the High School History Department has scored Scotland's top mark. Lauren's result follows on from the Department's best Higher mark in 2007 and 2004, and the best Advanced Higher mark in 2005.

"I'm very, very happy with this result," said Lauren, "History has always been one of my favourite subjects, but the Higher course allows you to study some fascinating topics, and apply a much more in-depth process of analysis. I particularly enjoyed our study of the way democracy evolved in Britain, because we had never studied it at that level before."

"All three of my teachers at Higher level gave us some fantastic tips, and the way they taught the course made it something I wanted to learn about. They really care whether or not we're interested, and work hard to make sure that we are – it's a really nice way to learn!"

HOUSE REPORTS

AIRLIE HOUSE REPORT

Well the pressure was on this year, Airlie has won the house cup for the past few years and this year we had a reputation to live up to. At the start of the year we were not sure what this year had in store for us! All we knew as naïve 5th formers was that we would have our photographs on the Airlie board. This year turned out to be a little more than that! Airlie has put up a fantastic fight for the all important house points, with lots of victories to our names. But most importantly this year has been great fun and full of team spirit. As House Officials we would like to say here, that through the house events, we have really enjoyed getting to know pupils from other year groups and having a great time with them.

Our most successful victory was the swimming gala where we convincingly won, our luck that most of the swimming team seem to be in Airlie! Barbara Shaw won the intermediate age group and the Dobson sisters were joint first in the senior age group. At netball and hockey the girls, with their red war paint and ribbons, tried their very best. The senior girls, even although we don't seem to be as good on land as we are in the water, came a respectable 3rd in the netball and joint 3rd in the hockey. The adrenaline was pumping for the house tennis and we surprisingly pulled a joint 2nd out of the bag! The junior girls had more success coming 2nd in both the netball and the hockey.

The boys began their efforts in the swimming gala, with a stellar performance from Matthew Powrie who gained an over all third. The combined Airlie effort, from supporters and swimmers, ensured a momentous victory. Then it was the turn of our debaters, Scott Ralston and Matthew, to guarantee yet another win for Airlie, keeping our bid for the title on track with Scott also winning the best speaker! Well done boys! Yet, our efforts on the rugby pitch were not quite as flawless. With heroic efforts all round, our boys managed a magnificent first in the intermediate rugby. The senior boys came second after a battering defeat from Wallace ending any hopes of winning that day.

We would like to thank everyone in Airlie for being such a great house and for making this year so much fun and such a success. Thank you to all who competed and to those that supported the events with our paper banner that lasted the whole year! Also thank you to Mrs Hutchison and Mr Spowart for all their help. Best of luck to next year's officials – and we ask one thing of you; that you sing our newly composed Airlie song with pride!

Guthrie, Marianne, Allan and Amy

AYSTREE HOUSE REPORT

This year Aystree decided they were going to buck up their ideas and give the other houses (especially Airlie and Wallace) a run for their money- and we have to say that we have done just that! We decided that we had been the kind, generous house for long enough and we wanted to change. As if to reinforce this, Aystree won both the Senior Girls' House Netball and Hockey tournaments, and we also came second in the House Debate. For the first time we can actually remember, Aystree actually came first in a rugby event- the L7/F1 boys beating Wallace in an exhilarating final match. Although, as usual, the rest of the boys let us down (we don't hold it against you though!)

Despite all this competitiveness, Aystree has remained a very close house. What with Josh's marvellous cakes, Rona's blue face paint and Laura's blue ribbon for every house event, the

other houses haven't stood a chance!

Present Aid- how can we forget that! Aystree annihilated the other houses and managed to raise almost double what the other houses raised, although most of the credit has to go to Iain and his Bobby the Buffalo which became Aystree's mascot.

We would just like to thank everyone in Aystree for helping to make our last year so much fun, and the people who have taken part in the house teams for putting up with us pretending to know what we are talking about and often taking the competitiveness a tad too far...!

Many thanks and best wishes for the future,

Rona, Josh, Laura and Iain.

LINDORES HOUSE REPORT

Complete with our new team of House Officials (Emma Scahill, Thomas Thomson, Kate Foubister and Liam Eyles), Lindores were geared up for the new school session.

A mascot, face paint and pom-poms were in place for our first house event - hockey. Our senior team was put to the test, but we were able to pull through thanks to a few pep talks by Kate. Overall we came third, but we didn't feel we had let ourselves down. The junior teams achieved a similar result and we were all impressed by their sense of team spirit!

The house netball proved to be more of a success with the senior team taking second place, losing first place only on goal difference, and the juniors also gave it their best.

Our Christmas Present Aid appeal was both a fun and meaningful event. Following a house assembly there was some healthy competition between the houses to raise money. Lindores made a generous contribution and as a house we were able to buy four herds of goats which were sent to a village in Bangladesh.

House rugby was slightly disappointing for Lindores as all of our teams came in last place. Unfortunately our senior team was not at full strength, but again those who could play fought hard for the house.

Thank you to those who participated in the swimming gala and debating. Although the results may not have been what we hoped for, everyone's enjoyment was again great to see.

In the summer months came the Senior House tennis, where Lindores came third, thanks partly to Emma Bankhead who was roped into play tennis and to swim in the gala at the last minute! Junior tennis was a success with the girls achieving second place.

Overall we have really enjoyed ourselves this year. Thank you to everyone who participated or came along to support at all of our house events and good luck for next year ...!

CPS: ... and a special thanks to the Lindores officials. Mr Stuart and Mrs Brown were very fortunate in having such an enthusiastic and capable team for our first session in our jobs!

GLOBETROTTING

TANZANIA



As Sixth year began to draw to a close and I prepared for my final set of High School exams the prospect of my gap year lay ahead. I did not want to waste this year and decided to use it in such a way that I could see the world and gain life experience particularly in the field of medicine, as I hope to read medicine at university upon my return home.

I thought about a lot of possibilities and I chose in the end to travel to Tanzania, on the south east coast of sub Saharan Africa. In particular, the town of Arusha, situated on at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. The prospect of opportunity for adventure and spectacular views attracted me specifically to this area. I shall be travelling with a company called "Projects Abroad" and during my stay, lasting just under two months, I shall be working in a number of medical environments, all of which will be considerably deprived in resources. Because of this it will no doubt be a hard hitting and eye opening insight into medical care in the less economically developed world.

After returning from Africa in the summer I plan to spend more time abroad by going on a longer stay to India, gaining more medical experience. After all this, it's back to Scotland, where I hope to study medicine at university.

Andrew Ferguson F6.

B.S.E.S. AMAZON EXPEDITION



Arrival



We arrived in Iquitos in the early hours of the 24th of June. After collecting all our luggage and kit we got a bus to the hotel which was a nice B&B called Pascana.

After a few hours rest, we went to a bar for our lunch. It was set on stilts over the river and had some beautiful views. When we had all eaten lunch we got split into our "fire" groups. The fires "Jaguars" and "Anacondas" would be together on one boat and "Macaws" and "Monkeys" would be together on the other boat. I was in Jaguar fire.

Jaguars and Anacondas were taken around Iquitos and shown the "safe zone", while we were doing this it started raining incredibly heavily so we decided to go to the swimming pool and do our swim test. For this we had to swim 50m and be able to tread water for two minutes. Everyone passed.

That night we went out for a meal. There were a lot of options that were very unusual for us including turtle soup and garlic alligator, but I think many of the YE's went for spaghetti bolognaise.

The Boats



The Clavero

The following day we went down to the harbour ready to get the boats upstream to the Samiria River. The two

boats that we would be on were called the "Lobo de Rio" - which means river wolf and is what the Giant River Otter is called - and the "Clavero" - which is the oldest boat on the Amazon.

Richard Bosner who is in charge of the conservation in the Pacaya-Samiria Reservation, spoke to us about the boats and the work that we would be doing in the reserve. He explained the importance of the surveys that we would be doing and how the results reflected on the whole ecosystem of the reserve.

It took three days of travelling up first the Amazon River, then the Marañon River and finally up the Samiria River to reach my boats stopping point at Hunguari (the Clavero stopped a few kilometres further downstream at Huista). During the journey we were given briefings on the science work and jungle living.

The Science Work



During a Terrestrial Transect

On our first day at Hunguari the Anaconda Fire set off on their five day trek on their canoes and the Jaguars started the science work.

We were split into two groups and my group did terrestrial transects for the first three days and then turtle surveys of the second two days.

Terrestrial transects involve walking through the jungle for 5km, preferably in as straight a line as possible and making a note of all the animals spotted. Including number of animals in the group, the activity they were doing such as feeding or resting and the perpendicular distance from the transect of the first animal seen.

As we were the first group to do the transect we had to do a fair bit of chopping with the machete so we didn't see many animals the first day with all the noise we were making. However the next two days we saw many, including Squirrel Monkeys, Redhowler Monkeys, Monk Saki Monkey, Red and Black Squirrels and even a Brazilian Tapir.

For the turtle surveys you had to float downstream with the current, you weren't allowed to have the engine on as the noise tends to scare the turtles so they stay in the water rather than sunbathe on the beaches. You would travel downstream for about 5km taking note of the species, number, distance and activity of the turtles. The two species that we were investigating were the Yellow Spotted River Turtle and the Great Amazonian Turtle.

If you were doing turtles during the day then at night time you would go out to the beaches along the river and look for turtle nests. To find a nest, you poke a stick into the sand and if you find a soft spot you dig to see whether or not it is a nest. Once a nest was found the eggs were carefully removed and taken back to Hunguari to the guard hut, where they were buried in an artificial beach next to the hut where they could be protected from poachers. This has been happening now for 12 years, it takes eight years for a turtle to be big enough to come out of the water and sun itself so the conservationists have only just started seeing the effects of this activity now.

The anacondas returned from their five day trek, and the next day we Jaguars went on ours.



The Five Day Trek

The first day we travelled 11km up the Hunguari to a camp that the Anacondas had made. We saw lots of birds including Hoatzin which are supposed to be closely related to Archaeopteryx, the prehistoric bird/dinosaur fossil. The chicks of the Hoatzin are born with claws on their wings. During our lunch break we also managed to nearly sit on a Common Lancehead Viper.

That night we slept in hammocks and under an A-frame structure to keep the rain off. However unfortunately one of the beams that was supporting the hammocks broke in the middle of the night, causing us all to fall to the ground.

The next day we canoed another 10-11km upstream. This time when we made camp we took the decision to string our hammocks to the different trees from one another. That evening when it started to rain we all went out in the canoes and showered in the rain.

The following day we decided to try and make it to Hungari Cocha. It involved paddling upstream for another 9km and then when it got too shallow to canoe any more we got out and trekked through the jungle.

Unfortunately we never got to the cocha as we reached our turn around time before we reached it. On our way back downstream we saw many caimen. We arrived back at camp just as it was getting dark.

On the fourth day we paddled back to our first camp. We arrived at around midday and it started to rain. So we all showered in the rain and then sheltered under the A-frame until it stopped. When the rain stopped a few of us decided to go fishing. We managed to catch a couple of decent sized fish. While we were sitting on the boat a family of giant river otters came to the river.

On the fifth day we canoed back to the Lobo. We arrived back before lunch. That night we had a salsa party with the Peruvian biologists and crew on the boat.

On the last day there were many sad faces when we had to leave Iquitos and say goodbye to all the friends we had made.

Iona Innes F6



*Our Hammocks
Under the Shelter*

HIMALAYAS

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS



James Wood of F6 spent five weeks of the summer holidays with a group of 40 young people on an expedition with the British Schools Exploring Society in Ladakh, a remote region of the Indian Himalaya. As well as climbing two Himalayan mountains, both about 5800m which have never been conquered before, the groups researched the effects of altitude on teenagers, climate change, insect pollination and the impact of tourism. Their findings will be passed on to several organisations and academics for use in larger research studies. James first decided he wanted to go on the trip two years ago when a friend of his father told him about a similar BSES adventure he had been on a quarter of a century earlier. He then had to undergo a rigorous selection process and months of fundraising and training. He said: "There's obviously lots of fitness - going up hills with weighted rucksacks and running and things like that because we've got to be very fit for what we're doing. On top of that I had to fundraise for myself. I held ceilidhs and sold my car. It was one I'd been restoring, a 50s Morris Minor, so I was rather upset."

It was a huge challenge and a great experience and James hopes to use what he learned on his trip in a future career. However, he has already set his sights on his next big adventure - an expedition to ANTARCTICA!!

CREATIVE WRITING

FORM 1 POETRY



Clouds, by Kirsty Mellor, F1

The cloud is a playful kitten,
Small and white,
She rolls on her back.
With her delicate paws
She batters the raindrops
As through the sky she peeps.

During the long summer
As the bright sun beams
The kitten stretches out,
Her tail curled close
As she fades away.
The cloud kitten will come another day.

The Wind, by Jack Cannon, F1

The wind is an eagle,
Strong and silent,
Powerful and fast,
Always on the move,
Watchful and daring.

The wind is an eagle,
Graceful and elegant,
Swooping from the skies,
Flying through the trees,
Proud and bold.

The wind is an eagle,
Gliding silently,
Swooping down over the world
Through sleep, rain, snow and hail.

My Friend, by Jessica Tinson, F1

My friend's hair
shines like the sun,
Her eyes shimmer
like the sea in summer.
My friend's voice
is like a twittering sparrow,
her clothes are summer flowers,
bright and colourful.
My friend is very funny;
She has a wide smile like a banana.

Gems of Nature, by Michael Fergusson, F1

Cushats and collared doves
In skies of cornflower blue
Or wandering the pastures
Of glistening morning dew.

A speeding silver arrow
In streams clear and shallow.
A speckled body and fanned out tail,
The anglers are on the salmon trail.

In the woods of dappled shade
Where fresh spring leaves are coloured jade
Lives the handsome fallow of speckled brown
Shy of disturbance from the town.

Or yet the flitting admiral
Of dazzling scarlet hue
Which creates a golden memory
For the likes of me and you.

Christmas, by Erin Smith, F1

I remember the tree
Glittering and sparkling with
Fairy lights and tinsel,
The star glowing and shining
At the top of the tree,
Decorations festooning the house.

I remember the dinner,
Hot turkey, melting
In your mouth,
Homemade trifle,
Sweet and creamy,
Candles and crackers,
Hats and jokes.

I remember the presents,
Large and small,
Bright and shimmering,
Ribbons and tags,
Bows and bags,
Wrapping paper everywhere.

The Holiday, by Matthew Wiggins, F1

I remember the caves, the tunnels cool and dark,
Moulded by the sea over millennia,
Searching around, searching for
Yet another cave to explore.

I remember the waves, towering over me,
Rolling up the shore,
A rubber ring bobbing up and down,
The breakers catching me and
Tumbling me up the beach.

I remember the pools, the water so cold,
Yet refreshing,
The sound of splashing
As children dive, jump and swim around,
The tang of chlorine in my mouth
As I dive under the water.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Chase, by Harry Carstairs, F2

It's tonight. The blackness has descended, the moon casts its silvery shadow across the waves, and the beast unravels its coils. It knows its purpose. Its fuel is hate. Slithering, snarling. Can you feel its hunger? Crimson flashes through its mind. Clawing, snatching, desire overpowering sense, sense overpowering thought, it spreads fear through the putrid air. And as it breaks the surface, it has awoken, the beast has been rekindled. This time it will win.

You get so lonely sometimes. You look out across this endless desert of water, and you feel so terribly far away, so detached, so alone. Has it been days, or weeks, or months since you last saw your family? Sometimes even the sight of an albatross, gliding effortlessly, spreading its magnificent wings out to catch the gentle breeze, feels like the sight of a friend. If you're lucky, you'll see smooth, curved backs dipping and jumping alongside you and you feel like you have a companion. But now it's cold, it's winter and even nature turns against you, throwing gales and blizzards in your way. Today it is calm, and the worst thing is the dreadful, eerie quietness. You sing to yourself if it's only to break the brittle silence. You tie your nets together for the night, and climb beneath the deck. You get so lonely sometimes. But tonight you know you're not alone.

The pain is growing, slashing, gouging you open from inside out. And every second it sees clearer. It sees prey, and it senses fear. Where are you? It is sharp, it is cold. Hard stone, bitter teeth colliding, slicing through flesh. It tastes blood. But it only wants more. The hunger spreads like fire, burning, biting. You must be somewhere. Probing through salty blackness. Searching through inner depths. Time is slowly running out. The chase is on.

You slowly move your hand up to shield your eyes from the sunlight now pouring through the glass. Your hand is sweaty, in fact, your sheet is damp from sweat and your body feels cold and clammy. You try to ignore the sick, bulky feeling in your stomach because the last thing you need is to fall ill now. It keeps nagging at the back of your mind, that something isn't right. When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Is it you? Whatever it was that you felt yesterday, it feels closer today. You're trying to work out what it could be; perhaps there's a storm on the way. Or maybe a whale close by. After being here for so long you're able to feel these things, but you know this time it's different. Something much closer. You wipe the sweat from your brow then pull on a jumper and crawl out into the open air. That's when you see it, you see cracks and splinters running along the decking, shards of broken glass, red smeared along their edges. You see the guts of a fish that has been torn apart into a bleeding carcass. And as your fingers start to tremble, and your feel your heart thumping in your chest, you wonder what creature could have done this.

Crushing coldness, heavy and dark. It squirms and slips, it swerves its way upwards. Black slits for eyes and slimy scales and tangled fur. It escapes from the cage of

thought. Breaking its chains once more. Roaming, rampaging, free again. It is the hunter but it knows it is hunted. Something, dark shapes, somewhere, moving. It is not alone. Then why does the world seem so empty? But no time for thoughts. Screaming and tangled confusion. A maze of horror. Knots and traps, breaking and snapping, growling and wrenching apart. Full of anger, the beast sinks away into the waves.

This morning it's raining, it's raining hard and cold and fast, like sheets of ice falling from the sky. The sound is what wakes you, and you force your heavy eyelids open. Flashes of darkness flicker through your mind, a scream, a nightmare. But as you try and recall it, last night's dream slips away like water from cupped hands. Your head feels like a lump of lead, and when you try out your voice, it comes out hoarse and weak. Once again your bed is damp and salty, and as you wipe the sweat once more from your face, you notice the roughened, red marks around your wrists, and the raw burns along your arms. The creature of yesterday has been back, you can tell. And it feels closer than ever before, and you know it's after you. Something is out there and it wants to get you.

You fight away the exhaustion to drag yourself onto the deck, patched and repaired from the night before. The rain stings your face.

Now you know that the creature is getting closer. Next to your right arm lies the tangled remains of your net, torn apart and useless. You can't go on like this, it is time for you to get your revenge, so as the sun sets, you load your rifle carefully and lie in wait. You wait, and wait, and wait. By moonlight you watch, waiting for the creature to arrive. Midnight passes and you are fighting to stay awake, but still you wait. Silence. Loneliness. Darkness. Nothing. The early hours of the morning tick by slowly. Your body is aching and numb, but you refuse to move. And when the first rays of light begin to illuminate the sky, you realise your trap has been useless. The sun peers above the horizon and at last you give up. Just another day, and by the time you fall into bed tonight, you will have put it down to your imagination and dreams. Your mind has left the horrors behind and you couldn't care less about a few broken ropes. You don't realise the danger.

While the slow, thick blanket of night wrapped its grip, the great grey beast lurched and roared from its stomach, rekindling its hatred, awakening its hardened spirit. Destroying, clawing, racing through the dark. Faster. Can you taste its desire? So much time wasted, so little life left. Driven by starvation, powered by thirst. It grows and grows, faster and faster. Blood. Hunger. Panting. Piercing, ripping, snarling. Can you smell its fear? It is your fear. Huge, darting shadows. Thunder. Faster. Stronger. Fangs poised. Shrieking, lifeless, torn apart, you have found your victim.



The Arrival of Winter, by Karyn Joss, F1

At the arrival of winter everywhere there is harmony.
I rejoice as dainty snowflakes stroke my face.
The dawning sun casts an array of colours throughout the sky:
Pinks, purples and blues outline the tranquil landscape.

Feet create intricate patterns in the snow
While smiling faces invite me into this seasonal bliss.
Icicles reflect the light like diamonds and send shimmering sparkles everywhere.
I am snug under layers of clothes protecting me from the icy chill that numbs my nose.

A gust of wind snatches my hat and it becomes a game,
like the snowball fights in the slippery street.
The water in the stream stops to catch its breath
and I stare intently at my reflection in the fragile mirror.
Birds soar high in the sky, their songs heard for miles around.
I too feel I can fly with the magic of winter.

Nature, by Daniel Davidson, F1

Clouds
High clouds soar
Like a gentle breeze
Peaceful and still like new snow.

Sun
Pouring light
From its massive heart
Forever burning

Breeze
Gentle wind
Rushing past my ear
Quiet echoes in my head

Snow
Quiet, still,
peaceful white blanket
Covers all in its still fall

Lightning
Crashing light
Scorching heat, power,
Striking down all in its path

Tornado
Twisting around
Sucking up nature,
Spinning them around violently.

The Pier, by Annie Muir, F3

As a child, I remember my father being quite withdrawn. He seemed scared of me, almost, like he thought that if he touched me he would break me, as if he was afraid I wouldn't like him. He would never pick me up or carry me, or even hug me or sit me on his knee. My mum was always the one to take me out places, or play with me, or talk to me when I needed someone to talk to. And to this day she still is. Well, I don't have much choice. I also remember that Dad always looked sad, like something was upsetting him or troubling him all the time, and he got easily embarrassed. Mum told me that he hadn't had a very happy childhood and he was taught never to talk unless he was spoken to. His dad had gone missing when he was fourteen.

Dad got up one day and then he was gone. No one knew where he had gone, but I don't think anyone missed him. Mum told me he 'drank like a fish'. When I was around thirteen, Dad came home early from work one day. He and Mum had had an argument the night before. He left without saying goodbye: he slunk through the living room and made his way through to the kitchen, his shoulders bent over and his head hanging. I look like my dad. I have bad posture and my hair was messy and swept over my face. I had his rosy cheeks and bright blue eyes. He ripped off his tie as if it was strangling him and poured himself a glass of whiskey. He swirled the brown liquid around in its glass and took a slug of it. He didn't talk very often, but when he did I listened to every word he said, taking in everything he said and savouring the sound of his deep, coarse voice.

"Do you want to go out for a wee while?" he asked, gazing out of the window. I looked up at him. His question had taken me aback and I didn't know what to say.

"Don't you have work or something?" I stuttered, still surprised by his sudden question. I had been lying on the floor, doing homework and watching TV, so I wasn't sure whether I wanted to go out or not. But then the thought of spending some time with my dad made me regret asking him if he had work.

"No. No work. In fact, I won't have work for a long time," he said, gazing out of the window again, this time deep in thought.

"Well, OK. Where are we going?"

"Get in the car and we'll see where it takes us," he told me, with an encouraging smile on his face. But the smile was mainly to encourage himself. Not me.

We got in the car and we drove, but I knew that Dad knew where he was going because he didn't once hesitate with his choice of roads and turn offs. We were going somewhere I had never been before. I was unfamiliar with the road and the surrounding area. We were driving for what seemed like an eternity as I looked out of the window, an abundance of green flashing by. Trees surrounded us. We were on a long strip of road with no ending. We were both sitting in silence. Both of us awkward and uncomfortable, but he looked at me now and then. I could see it from the corner of my eye but pretended not to notice. Eventually Dad slowed the car down and turned onto a desolate, snowy road, bumpy and uneven. Trees leant over our heads and droplets of melted snow trickled onto the windscreen. The car stopped and parked itself in between two old trees. We were overlooking a lake. It was miles long and lying completely still, no ripples or disturbance. We were the only people there. There was a long pier stretching outward, blanketed in snow. The water was clearer than anything I'd ever seen and the sky was clear apart from the odd cloud painted here and there.

"Come on, then," he said to me, getting out of the car steadily and standing tall and confident, looking out on the lake. I got out and the air was fresh and crisp. I walked slowly towards the edge of the lake, my feet settling in the snow, leaving my trace behind. The cold air burnt my skin and steam rushed off my breath. My father was already half way down the pier, turning back and nodding as an indication for me to follow. The pier was old and the wooden supports stretched down to the very end where the snow lay thick and untouched. I reached the end and stood beside Dad. We both had our hands in our pockets and our eyes fixed on the scene in front of us.

"It's beautiful, isn't it? I come here a lot. It helps me think. The wide open space clears my head. Well, sometimes it does, but you can never get rid of all your problems." He sighed. "It's nice. I like it." He had a faint smile on his face.

Mountains rose up at the opposite end of the lake, dusted with snow.



"Well, I thought it would be nice for you to see it. So if you ever have any problems or anything then you can come up here and it might help. It's one of my favourite places," he said, looking down on me, but I didn't look back. In the next two minutes my dad had spoke to me more than he ever had before. I don't remember what we talked about. We stayed there for a while, just wandering around and talking about things. It was all a bit too much for me.

That was the last time I spoke to my dad. It was the last time I would go anywhere with him. Two days later he was gone. His car wasn't in the drive. Mum already knew he had left and I think she knew where he had gone. The police had found him, Well, not him – his body – about 50 miles from our house, at Lake Corrigan. His heavy footsteps had shown that he had gone straight to the end of the pier, no sidetracking, with heavy stones in the pocket of his jacket.

Lake Corrigan. That's where he had taken me two days before. That's where we had shared secrets and talked about our worries. He confessed to me that he had been fired from his job and that he was worried about his debt. It didn't seem weird because I didn't know what a father was supposed to tell his 13-year old child.

When they told me, I felt nothing. No pain, no remorse, no

sadness. All the time he was alive he had been dead to me anyway. I felt a sudden pain, not for him. For me. He had never truly loved me or shown me affection. He had ignored me and I had ignored him. I was only sad that I never had the chance to get to know him. Mum always spoke about him as if he was an entirely different person to what I knew him as. I had never felt comfortable around him. I had clung to every word he had every uttered, I had tried to love him, but I never could. I decided not to tell Mum that he had taken me to the lake – it would have upset her.

I've grown up since then and I have children of my own. I've never spent one night away from them. I listen to every single one of their worries, regardless of how silly or insignificant it is. I haven't mourned my father yet. But one day I went on a drive and found myself going somewhere I had promised myself I would never go. I knew the exact directions. All the trees were covered in snow, just like they had been twenty years ago. Everything was the same: the trees still hung over my head as I drove down the abandoned road towards the pier. I walked to the edge of the pier, the air stinging my skin, my heart beating in my chest; I could hear it in my ears. I walked to the edge of the pier but I couldn't bring myself to look into the water. Maybe it was me all those years ago who didn't give my father a chance, not the other way around. I sat on top of one of the supports. Thoughts of my childhood flashed through my mind. I sat there. Just thinking. Just clearing my head.

Sometimes I wonder if I miss you too much.
I wonder if I am the only one who feels this misguided longing for you,
Restless and unsatisfied with your absence.

Does the couch in my living room
miss the weight of your legs
hanging from its arm?
The train station must feel incomplete
without your lop-sided footsteps on your
arrival and departure.

I wonder if the strings of my guitar
long to be strummed by your fingers again,
If the creases in my mattress are desperate
to fit the contours of your body.

This city misses you.
The streetlights blink out so no-one can watch them weep;
The clouds shield the sky from the memory of your departure;
The ground mutes the steps you look on
the day you left me, and my city, behind.

CREATIVE WRITING

Revenge, by April Shepherd, F3

The driving rain lashed down on the shadowy corner of the prison car park where Fred Smith crouched, hidden from view. His mouth was stretched into a manically triumphant grin, lighting up his haggard face, and for the first time in fifteen years his piercing blue eyes had lost their dead, unseeing stare and looked alive. The howling wind tugged at his lank, greasy, straggly hair and whipped it about his shoulders, but the weather was of no concern to him. Finally he was free. After fifteen years spent rotting in that dank, damp little cell, fifteen years of painstakingly plotting and masterminding every last detail of his bid for freedom, he'd done it. Fred Smith, convicted murderer that he was, had finally managed to escape.

But he couldn't hang around in the shadows of the car park all day, or should that be all night? The sky above him was starless and jet black, the tiny sliver of moon shrouded by the huge ebony clouds which gusted across the sky, bringing with them the torrential rain that Fred eagerly turned his face towards, after all, it had been so long since he'd felt the rain. Though he couldn't let himself get distracted by trivial things such as the weather. They'd have noticed he was gone by now and he couldn't afford to get caught, not now he'd gotten this far. He took one last look at the vast grey walls of the prison he'd been forced to call home for the past fifteen years, before skulking through the shadows towards the outside world.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, David Matthews was sitting in his study listening to the moan of the wind and the whoosh of the rain outside the window. A sudden gust of wind had the windows rattling in their panes and sent a shiver down David's spine for a reason he wasn't quite sure of. "Don't be daft" he muttered to himself, before turning to the TV and switching on the News at Ten.

"And of course our main headline tonight, a high security prisoner has absconded from Glenwood Prison within the last hour. Fred Smith, a convicted murderer, had served fifteen years of his life sentence before making his escape earlier tonight. Prison officials have issued this photo of Mr. Smith and are warning the public not to approach him as he may be dangerous. Police are beginning the search for Mr. Smith and are suggesting that the motive behind his escape may be revenge."

Fred Smith, murderer, escape... revenge. David's blood ran cold. One glance at the TV screen confirmed his fears. For there staring back at him, though barely recognisable, was his oldest friend. Fred's once handsome face was now gaunt and emaciated, the bright blue eyes, once filled with sparkle and life, were dead and dull looking. David thought back to the last time he'd seen the man who had once been his closest friend but was now staring at him out of the TV as a prison escapee. It must have been fifteen years ago, at the trial where he'd been sentenced to life in prison. Although David kept telling himself that Fred deserved it,

that he had got what was coming to him, he couldn't get rid of that niggling little doubt in the back of his mind that it was his fault Fred had been jailed and that maybe, just maybe, when the news reporter said he was looking for revenge, it meant he was looking for him. David shook his head, Fred couldn't really blame him for fulfilling his duty as a citizen, could he?

A dark figure prowled along the gloomy alleyway, shrinking into the shadows. He'd heard the news, floating out through someone's open window as he crept through the all consuming darkness outside. Fred couldn't believe that for once, those prison people had actually gotten it right. Couldn't believe that they had been able to identify his main motive. Revenge. Upon the man who had once been his closest friend but had ended up turning him into the police.

Fred hadn't meant to kill the guy, all those years ago, he just meant to teach him a lesson, show him not to pick a fight with Fred again. But things had gotten out of hand and before he knew it Fred was responsible for the death of another human being. Obviously he'd covered his tracks, removed all evidence that pointed to him. The police would probably never have figured out who was responsible but Fred's conscience had weighed him down. He'd had to tell someone, but it had to be someone he could trust. Obviously, he'd turned to his closest friend, thinking that he would support Fred, keep his awful secret quiet. But he hadn't. Of course he'd told Fred that he'd never breathe a word of it to anyone but then he'd run off to the police, betrayed Fred and gotten him a life sentence. 'Yes', Fred thought, 'David Matthews has it coming'.

Fred smiled as he slunk through the streets that would lead him to the traitor and, ultimately, to his vengeance. It wasn't difficult to find David's house, after all, he'd been living there for the last twenty years. Fred could still find it, even after all that time wasted in jail. Wasted because of David. He'd ruined Fred's life, and now Fred was away to ruin his. He crept silently up the garden path and gave three resounding knocks on the front door. He laughed under his breath, this was going to be an interesting reunion.

David started when he heard the knock at the door, his heart beginning to pound. Who was that? What were they doing at his front door at this time at night? What if it was Fred, come to have his revenge? What if- "Don't be so stupid". David thought to himself, cutting off his ridiculous notions midflow. He was just being stupid now. He was a responsible adult, what was he doing having these silly, childlike thoughts? He turned the TV off and got up to answer the door. It was probably someone completely innocent, he thought to himself, there was no way it could be Fred. But as David opened the front door to reveal an all too familiar face he realised that his fears weren't quite as silly as they seemed, for there, staring

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back at him, was the same face he'd seen just moments ago staring back at him out of the TV screen. Except this time there was no screen between them and there was something different. Could've been the manic grin that was stretched across Fred's face, or the deranged look that now occupied the piercing blue eyes, or maybe it was the large silver knife that Fred now had in his hand, pointing directly at David.

David tried hopelessly to shut the door again, to keep Fred out, but he had no chance. Fred forced his way through the front door, still wearing that delirious grin, and began to advance on David, who was now backing desperately down the hallway. He lunged into the kitchen, hoping to find something to defend himself with but he hadn't gotten across the room before Fred was right up in his face.

"Missed me?" he hissed threateningly.

"Come on Fred, what else could I have done?" David pleaded uselessly, now forced up against the wall with no way of escape.

"What else could you have done?" Fred thundered, his eyes rolling wildly. "You could have kept quiet! You could have been a real friend! You could have not ruined my life!"

"I didn't see any other option, I'm sorry Fred" David desperately tried to reason with the madman who was now holding a knife to his throat, while his pulse raced and his head began to swim.

"It doesn't matter now I suppose" Fred whispered, lowering the knife as he spoke. David held his breath, unsure whether it was too early for a sigh of relief, as his heart still pounded with fear. "You ruined my life, now I'm about to ruin yours. Well, not so much ruin as end I

suppose", Fred continued, shrugging his shoulders nonchalantly.

David's eyes widened in terror, he didn't even have a chance to scream before Fred brought the knife slashing down and he felt the agonising pain in the top of his arm. He could feel the blood running down his arm and dripping onto the floor but he was paralysed with fear. Couldn't move, couldn't speak, couldn't scream. He felt the slash of the knife a further three times, the agony searing through his other arm and both his sides. He collapsed to the floor screaming as a pool of blood began to gather around him. He tried to move but he couldn't feel his limbs, couldn't see anything except a black haze advancing towards him. His head was swimming and everything seemed to be fading away except the pain. The last thing he heard was Fred's triumphantly hysterical cackle, before the most agonising pain yet and then blackness.

As Fred stole away through the shadows, the rain washing the blood from his hands as he went, he heard a news bulletin floating out of someone's window.

"The body of forty five year old David Matthews has just been discovered in his home in Glenwood. A neighbour found Mr. Matthews' body propped up at his kitchen table after hearing a disturbance and going to investigate. Officials are saying that Mr. Matthews' death was caused by five stab wounds, one of them to his heart and his murder is being linked to Fred Smith, the prisoner who absconded from Glenwood Prison earlier this evening."

Fred smiled to himself as he crept away into the darkness. "Yes", he mused, "David Matthews had it coming".

The Testimony of Miss Jessie Wood by Heather Simmonds, F6

March 14th 1966

My name is Jessie Wood and I graduated 13th in a class of thirteen at New Eden Comprehensive for Girls. I've been helping my Ma and Pa out at our hotel in New Eden, Wisconsin for the past two years or so.

The day when all this stuff happened was kinda rainy and wet, the kind of autumn weather where you end up dragging loads of sticky leaves into the house no matter how hard you try. Ma was out back sorting out the linen for the winter, when guests would start asking for more sheets and hot water bottles, and Pa was in the office sorting out some of our guests who wanted their things taken out of storage.

It was pretty quiet, which ain't unusual when it gets to wintertime, since most people want to be with their families and stuff come winter. The first guest was an old guy by the name of Hank, who everyone knows even though he lives in the next town and only comes to the hotel when his wife throws him out. Once, ages ago, they came to stay together for a weekend or so. They argued the whole time and we could hear her screaming at him for hours.

But today he was nice enough and I sold him one or two of the Christmas cards me and Ma had made for a little extra money.

He got Room Thirteen because it has better heating than the others and I felt sorry for an old guy living all on his own for a week or so in the damp. My Pa came out of the back office to help him with his bag, which he said was full of wood for selling, but they all knew it was full of stuff his wife had let him take before she chucked him out.

The next customer was Marnie. I mean Miss Kohler, but we always called her Marnie 'cause she always spoke to a person like she never quite knew what was going on or where she was. Kinda up in the clouds, if you know what I mean. I knew her from high school, so I felt obliged to say a few words, asked her how she was and what she was up to for the holidays.

Sorry, can we stop a minute?

Anyway, yeah, I gave Marnie Room Ten.

Visitors aren't common in New Eden, so all of this took till about four in the afternoon. I was in the back room taking a break over some cookies and coffee when I heard the bell ring at the desk. I poked my head out the door and saw a man standing at the desk, looking kinda impatient. I remember he had to stoop a little as he stood in the room, seeing as it's so small, and I noticed there was dirt on the knees of his jeans. I finished up my snack and hitched on a smile before walking over to talk to him.

"You're lucky; you just caught the last room going," I said. He grunted and recognized him as one of the guys the farmers



hire out sometimes to help with the harvest. Then I had to take the man's bag to Room Five while he used the payphone outside. The bag was heavy and felt like it was full of heavy books or something, because whatever it was kept shifting about inside the bag. I had to put it down so that I could use two hands to open the door to room five because the lock stuck in that room.

I had just got the key to turn when I heard him come thundering up behind me. I wasn't sure how, but something about those big, beetle-crushing boots suggested noise and pain. Before I knew it he had the bag up off the floor and was looking down at me like I'd just maimed his aunt. I half expected him to yell at me for damaging whatever it was in that bag (maybe it was really valuable books or something?) but he just shoved past me, muttering "Thanks." I thought then that he was a bit creepy, but let it go cause I didn't want to upset Pa by making any fuss.

Looking back, I didn't know how I dared do it, but I stuck my foot in the door before he closed it and told him that dinner was at eight and could he please do something about his jeans 'cause Ma would have a fit if the guests weren't dressed proper for dinner. All he did was grunt again and shut the door on me, but still I can't believe I did that.

Walking back down the hall I said a quick hello to the other guests and stepped into the kitchen to give Ma and Pa a hand. I remember Benny Goodman was playing on the old radio and I thought it was funny how the oven clanked in time to the cello player's bass.

As it happened no one got to have dinner at eight that night and the state of anyone's jeans were of little concern to anyone except maybe the police, because at 7.55 Hank could be heard hollering to the skies that Miss Marnie Hapton had been murdered in her room.

Me and Ma ran down to Room Ten to see if this was true or if Hank was just drunk again. But seeing Marnie's body on the bed and her head balanced on the headstand was enough to convince Pa to call the police. He also shut the door to Room Ten, but not before I had got a good look at what the murderer had done to Marnie. I saw that although her hands, feet and head had been severed, they had been placed right where they should be, like she was one of those paper dolls you cut out of a magazine, with all the limbs separate but you have to pin them together so that they still move. I don't remember detail, but there was an awful lot of blood and I saw that her clothes and everything had been thrown around the room like after a hurricane.

The police arrived at about 8.10. I knew 'cause I'd stayed out front at the reception desk, staring at the clock the whole time, wondering about what had happened. Sherriff Hapton and a couple of others were stood around questioning people about what had happened, although the Sherriff was particularly interested in talking to me seeing as I'd known Marnie the longest.

He asked me how long I'd known her and so I told him all about how we'd gone to school together and how she was supposed to be going up to Fox Point for the holidays to see her dad. He

asked me if I knew anyone who'd want to hurt Marnie (the way he said 'hurt' instead of killed made me think that he didn't know I'd seen what had happened to her, like I was stupid or something) but I said I knew no one except maybe Shelley Beuchamp who'd been sore at her for not going to the spring dance with him last year.

Hapton give a look to the guy standing next to him, out of the corner of his eye, when I said that and then I started to feel a bit indignant, but I didn't say anything on account of how him and my Pa are good friends. Plus I reckon anyone who'd seen what had happened to Marnie might not be doing too well in the head. Not that I'm criticizing or calling him a crazy or anything - I'm just saying he might have been temporarily distracted as they say.

But as I was saying, just as Sheriff Hapton gave this look to the other guy we heard this big commotion coming from outside. Now I don't know quite what I was expecting, maybe Marnie's dad standing out there making a fuss cause his daughter's dead and all, but instead I see it's the guy from Room 5. Jacobi or whatever he's called.

I just think I need to say right now that I for one don't believe a word of this guy's story about him coming to pick up Marnie and posing as her father until they get somewhere they could get married on the quiet. I mean, he's at least ten years older than her and she ain't- sorry, wasn't even twenty. But anyhow, there's this guy Jacobi out in the front yard struggling with two of the sheriff's guys and hollering out this story about him and Marnie, as if anyone would listen to him. Then the sheriff asks me if I know this man and I say "Yes, sir. He's the man in Room Five." And immediately the sheriff storms off to search it while I watch them get Jacobi into a car. They searched his bag but all they found were stacks and stacks of papers that he'd written, stories, stuff on people he'd met and a few letters. Saud he was a writer and liked to keep them for inspiration. He probably hid whatever it was that he used on Marnie out in the woods, seeing as that's where the police said they picked him up.

Sir, we're a tight-knit set of folks. Everyone's known everyone since they were this high and to put it blunt-like, everyone knows everyone else's business. And everyone knew that Marnie's Ma wanted her to settle down with a local boy so that they could keep her Pa's gun-shop open. So why would a sweet, kind girl like Marnie agree to go off with an outsider? I mean, sure I'd seen him a couple of times before, but he ain't from around here. When he came we made sure he knew that and as far as I know he never had a problem with it, at least until now. It's funny how people just turn around and surprise you like that for no reason at all.

But in the end I don't suppose it matters if they find out what he used or if he didn't have any blood on his clothes. I believe, and this town believes, that he killed Marnie and if the state doesn't do what we want and give him the chair then I reckon there's going to be rioting and all sorts of trouble. There: I'm done.

Can I go home now?

End of Testimony of Miss Jessie Wood, March 14th 1966



Glossolalia,
by Kirsty McEwan, F6,
winner of the Bloc Prize 2009.

"Empty words so free of connotations,
All dreams come to an end.
Codify your utterance, communicate your
needs,
Prepare your vocabulary."

"You're so disorganised."
"Yeah I know."

"How could you do this, go through all the work for your Gold
D of E, and then not even send away your book! Stupid girl."

"Mum, I don't care about meeting Prince Philip, I did the award, I
know it, and it doesn't matter if he shakes my hand to seal the deal
or not does it?"

"Pfft! Like I give a toss whether you meet him! If you don't get the
certificate then there's no proof that you've done it."

"But I know I've done it mum, I was there. All five days and nights
of it. You made me soak my boots outside for a few days because
they were so dirty. I had to walk home, remember?"

"It means nothing without the certificate! Why are you doing this
to me?"

I didn't say anything. And yes, you see that she utterly ignores her
blatant abandonment of her only child in a time of need. I did have
to walk home. I had no money, and no lift. Everyone had left and I
waited still for her. But that part gets left out in her version. Every
argument ends like this. Every slight of thought or slip up is a sign
of a personal vendetta against my mother. I don't think it's ever
occurred to her that I must just be that stupid that I don't think to
send things away! I wanted to shout the truth and tell her;

"Well, mother dearest, I didn't send away the daft wee book
because I had also left my dissertation and about forty million
nabs until the very end of term, and I decided that since you clearly
care more about the grades than my sanity I should prioritise
them since I have until I'm twenty five to complete Duke of
Edinburgh, but I have about four hours until the deadline for my
dissert is due in. Oh, and my geography teacher held my book
ransom until I returned a cadet uniform, which I had intended to
keep, hence, I missed the deadline. Happy?"

But I didn't. I thanked her for the lift and got out the car. I realised
that the car journey was the first left I'd had with her since about
Christmas time. I vowed not to rush to the next opportunity, as I
live in a place where everyone I want to see is about walking
distance away, give or take a few special cases.

If there's one thing I've learnt it's that learning to talk is one of the
most dangerous things a human can learn to do. Talking back
perhaps is slightly more dangerous, but then again, so is saying
nothing.

D of E in particular is a great example of how talking makes the
time go fast, makes experience bearable. We spilled our hearts
out, to the hills and the heather and the rain whilst we climbed
glens as big the Tower of Babel.

Humans can talk for hours, and we certainly put this theory to
good practise. We talk fast, slow, lightly, when no one's listening,
tensely, for the hell of it, of somebody, of the devil. We talk in a
rhythm and a tune, and we call it a song. We chat, converse,
discuss, orate, speak, gossip, natter and whisper from when we
are about five months old. When we grow teeth our vocabulary
expands to include words with "s" and "t" in them.

With this ability we learn to lie. We learn to deceive our elders
about where we've been, and to trick our juniors about tooth
fairies and magic. We learn very soon to consider out words
carefully, because more often than not

"It isn't what you said it's how you said it."

We have to learn to talk with our bodies and our eyes. We can
convey an entire message over somebody's head by raising an
eyebrow or rolling your eyes. We quickly decipher that if an
interviewer sits back in their chair, places their arms across their
body and sighs that we have most likely not been successful. We
become sceptic, and find that the more people will deny
something, the more likely it is true.

One thing for certain is that we are all fans of communication. It's
something humans can't avoid. By sitting on our own quietly in a
corner we convey we're feeling a magnitude of emotions, without
ever having to tell a solitary soul that we are feeling at all. I'm
intrigued by this fallacy of communication. And I suppose it was
this interest which led me to delve further into language and
discover other ones.

Revising for Higher Spanish last year (On duke, incidentally - they
are always so well timed, just a week before the finals) was
something I won't forget. My friend also took Spanish and we

would try and hold a conversation in Spanish for as long as
possible. I still do this now before my Spanish NABS and finals and
pre-lims etc. I try and translate songs and what teachers tell us to
do. It often fails miserably, but I try, and I suppose that is enough
to receive some Kudos from my tri-lingual Spanish teacher, who
says she dreams in French, Spanish and English depending on
which country she is in.

This makes me wonder - if there wasn't language, would we think
at all? I'd imagine that we would maybe think in pictures, but then
to formulate pictures and even colours we need to have a word for
them so our brains and figure out what we are thinking of and
produce a picture in our mind of what we wish to see.

Where did language come from? If what we are told is true, and
cavemen grunted around a fire bashing sticks together, what on
earth made them decipher the grunts and make them develop
into the words we form everyday, most of which don't even sound
anything like a grunt? If all children are born with the ability to
speak, yet not with a predisposition of which language they will
speak.

Many experiments have been done to try and prove this. The first
recorded case was Herodotus, an Egyptian historian who told of a
Pharaoh who ordered two children to be raised by death-mutes, to
see if they would pick up a language at all. The first word they said
to him was Phrygian for "bread." Similar experiments were done
closer to home, by King James V, whose child allegedly spoke
Hebrew.

So, seemingly by a miracle, it decreed that by the time my group
and I were old enough to embark on Duke of Edinburgh, the act of
speech seemed to be a fairly solid concept. I have done all three
stages of the award, though as of yet I only have one certificate for
silver. Still, each time I can strongly recall the patter of our group
flowing like the melt water streams we waded through, the gossip
bubbling with the water we tried to heat to pour onto Oxo cubes
["We need the salt,"] or hot chocolate ["We need the calories,"] or
tea ["Well, we like our home comforts, even with UHT milk."], our
stories unravelling like the instant pasta we feasted on. Talking is
how we got through, blocking out the harsh reality with tales of
home, childhood and "mad mental antics."

Talking with intention is a slightly different matter. No one really
understands the experience unless they were there. Duke,
incidentally, is a perfect example. We've told countless people of
how our bags were lifted by the wind during the night, or how
whilst crossing a fairly deep river in the Highlands (the name of
which, fortunately, has escaped me) a water bottle popped out of
secure pocket, and bobbed merrily along the with the bracken
and twigs and the hope of the group down a valley, never to be
seen again, but ever remembered.

I often can relate to people who say they can't explain it. I admire
those who try. There have been some nights of my life I will
remember forever, and forever will I try and explain the emotion
of feeling or whatever it was that pulsed through my body, but I
will never find the words to do it justice. I can recall lying on a stony
river bank with my friend, staring up through the trees and the
canopy and the rain clouds to a flurry of stars, while the river rose
and we lay motionless, in swimming trunks from Spain which
were about five Euros but lasted us for the entire Duke of Ed
experience nonetheless. There was almost a pain that came with
the beauty there, a static in the air that forbid speech and
rendered us powerless to stand or voice our thoughts on the
ethereal modesty of this regal sight.

Yet still it rained. We were soaked right through. The weather and
the wind and the tide and all the other elements ever made apart
from the carbon in our minds did not care about our inability to
speak. Neither did our instructor, so it seemed.

You wouldn't believe what they put us through.

"Walk five miles that way, and then walk back to here."

"Is that a joke?"

"Blatantly, it must be a joke. No one is that cruel"

"I'm being serious girls you need to add a bit on to your route for
today."

"Could have told us that when we plotted the thing, idiot."

"Pardon?"

"Nothing. Can we leave our bags?"

"This is Duke of Edinburgh. You never get to leave your bags. Now
go, you've got the rest of the route to complete before four as well
remember."

Anarchy. Anger. Harsh words, about D of E, the teacher in question
and especially about our bags. So anarchic, so angry, so harsh are
our words that he backs down, and we trudge on, brows so
furrowed that it keeps our noses warm. It's a shallow victory; we
were never going to do it anyways. We grumble along,
conversation stilted and snappy, to the Gold Award, which
apparently no one will believe we have done, and we don't have the
strength to talk about anymore.

I can't remember a time when I haven't felt this way. A vicious lump sits in my stomach and gurgles when I panic for its own entertainment. It feels the jealousy I feel when I see a family man with his baby in tow and it stirs. It murmurs when I see a woman with jewels dripping from her neck, sparkling in the sun in time with the diamonds on her ears and fingers. And it even gurgled when Eleanor Adams had a lunchbox with a pink power ranger on it in primary school.

"Tell me about when you first felt like this."

I'm three years old, and it is several days before my birthday, and Christmas. My mother is shouting at my father for cutting too much off of the top of the Christmas tree. My father slams down a glass and amber liquid pours everywhere, so my mum shouts at him for doing that as well. My little sister is in floods of tears as she's found out that my brother has stolen the head of her dolly. I am hanging decorations on the lower branches of our decapitated tree, with a cup of hot Ribena and a carrot on the table beside me because I want to be extra prepared for when Rudolph and Santa come.

I can't reach up to the next layer of branches. Spikes stick in my eyes and my neck as I strain to reach them. I give up, and cradle my cosy juice, watching the familiar Christmas scene unfurling around me. It begins to blur into one sound in my head, and I shake my head to get rid of the noise. I try and ignore it, and get up to out the carrot by the fireplace, but the noise pins me to our red Christmas cushions.

I sit in terrified silence, testing each limb to see if it moves. They can't. I'm panicking. A tiny lump stretches in my stomach and rubs its eyes to a new life. My eyes are bright red to try and stop the lump from exploding put of them, until it overpowers my tiny form and erupts from my tear ducts, pouring over my face like hot lava.

"What's wrong with you?"

My brother is staring at me, having noticed my shaking. I cling to him, soggy with tears and screaming silently. I look up and whisper -

"Nothing."

"Try and picture a time where you didn't feel this way"

My eyes are closed, so the nurse with her scraped back hair and acrylic nails can't see me roll them skywards. I nod to her, and pretend to relax into the leather couch, the Bakelite telephone is especially off the hook for these sessions.

She had better not be looking at me, I think. I can't deal with this if she is looking at me.

"Ok, now that you're feeling relaxed, and slowly heading off to sleep, try and let your subconscious mind take over. Focus on the beta waves; let them flood your mind..."

She's trailing on, my eyes are still closed, and I can smell the leather on the couch, and the Methyl Methacrylate from her nail varnish and can sense the calls the Bakelite telephone can't receive. I hear a bird outside cheeping.

She is looking at me. She hates me.

Thoughts start to flicker across my cerebrum, like a broken reel in a murky picture house. My eyelids flicker with them.

"And now your mind is empty..."

Thoughts fill my head.

"All you can hear is my voice..."

Outside, a bird cheeps, a child shouts, a family man is laughing with his wife, and with the jewels she is wearing. She's still staring. She hates me.

"And you let what I say filter through to your subconscious..."

That bitch hates me.

And a familiar feeling begins to engulf me. A wave of panic, terror and anxiety. The lump has stirred within me.

Blood drains from my face, and is pushed through my heart far too fast. I shake. I sweat. I begin to breathe heavily to accommodate the extra oxygen in my blood as the adrenaline kicks in. I whimper, internally. My face screws up with hidden agony while inside me, the lump shrieks.

A million thoughts are surging around my brain. The session, the Bakelite phone and its unanswered calls, that staring bitch, the kid outside, the man with the jewels, and the woman with lunchbox and the baby in it. Confusion reels in my pupils as I snap my eyes open and gasp.

I have to get out of here.

The Starer, with her scraped back hair and acrylic nails is staring at me, and I fidget, and move for the door. I don't say a word, I can't say a word. I close her door calmly, then I let the lump win, and I am flooded with tears and I run for outside, for fresh air, a fresh outlook and a place to hide my panic.

The Starer has followed me. I cower like an animal in irrational fear, a panting and convulsing mess. I can almost hear the lump inhaling and exhaling, in time with its shell, my body. It gurgles with joy as it defeats yet another session, and has consumed me once more.

She tells me to calm down, and pushes a pill into my mouth and thrusts a plastic cup of water into my juddering hand. She's routine about it. She shows no emotion. I focus on the cup. It's like the ones you get at the dentist, and he fills it up with pink mouthwash which you don't want to swallow. It sickens me, so I want to spit out the water, but I'm frozen. It trickles out of a gap between my lips and onto the asphalt I'm lying on. The Starer sits me up, and I tremble, hugging my knees to try and comfort myself back to life.

The smell of the dentist fills my nose, as I lie tentatively in his black plastic chair. That clinical smell of latex gloves, mouthwash and floor cleaner. A light shines down my throat, and the dentist cleans his instruments. Tommy Tooth stares at me from the wall opposite and he tells me to brush twice a day. His hands are holding a yellow toothbrush, and a tube of toothpaste specifically designed for children my age. It has a picture of Mickey and Minnie Mouse brushing their teeth. A box of stickers for good behaviour taunts me from the corner of the bright office. I am five years old. My mother sits not too far away, so she can grab my hand if I cry but can still speak to someone more important on the phone. I'm cold, I remember.

My mother is still chattering on the phone, and the dentist speaks to his assistant about shifts and x-rays or gamma rays and the UV light in the cupboard in the back room. He brandishes a tool in my face, and tells me to "Open up!" I'm shaking, it must be the cold. My stomach hovers, the lump rising on its claws as it flutters to life again. The nurse taps my arm, and I look up at her worried face.

"She's pale. Are you alright sweetheart, you're shaking?"

She and the doctor look at me expectantly, and my mother talks on the phone.

Why are they looking at me?

I can hear a drill next door and my mother's voice, and I begin to cry. I screw my eyes shut and let the lump take over, and I panic right in the dentist's plastic chair. My mother squeezes my hand and lifts her head from the

phone

"Don't worry sweet pea. It's over soon!"

And returns to her call.

They're still looking. I curl into a rigid ball, and shiver on the chair, unable to move or explain why I have done so.

I come round on the asphalt fairly soon. The Starer is sitting beside me and a doctor in a green fleece is taking my dentist's cup from me, shining a light near my face and asking me to open my eyes fully so he can shine it in them.

You all hate me, I think. This is a punishment; you don't need to look into my eyes. You want to hurt me. I recoil at first. Then I give in and obey him, squirming as the sharp waves hit my retina. I'm weak from my panic. Lump wriggles triumphantly, settling in its poisonous home within me, lying in wait for the next hint of fear, when it will rise again, shifting effortlessly through my nervous system and making my veins work so hard they sweat.

The Starer's nails scratch at the crook of my elbow as she coaxes me back inside the hospital. The doctors green fleece is soft on my bare arms where he has propped my armpit on top of his shoulder to holster me up. People have swarmed around me, forcing water at me and clapping me on the back. I withdraw from them like a shying horse, jerking my head in the sunlight away from their prying hands.

They don't want to help. They want to interfere. They want their hands in my brain; they want to squeeze my brain until the lump escapes.

Before I know it, I am crying inside the Starer's office again. Her scraped back hair and her nails are exactly as they were before, a true sign she was not afflicted by the lump's outburst. She just doesn't care. No one cares. I shake my head, trying to rid it of that thought. This time there is a doctor in his fleece and two more men by the door.

I sit like a fervent rabbit. Her hair is so scraped back it looks like her eyes are ready to burst out of their socket. She and the men stare at me, as if ready to pounce if I move. I sip from the dentist's cup, and a smile squirms across my face. She clicks her pen and writes something down in a notebook, which is leather like on couch I'm sitting on. I feel heavy, and I sink into her presence and give in to the pill she slipped into my mouth.

I'm numb. The lump sleeps. When I stand up she gives me a slip which I grip clumsily, smiling dreamily, eyelids creeping together against my will. I don't resist it though. They close and I sway in her office, smiling. The doctor takes the slip from my hand, and then holds me upright. He glances at Starer, and she stares at him, conveying a message to go as she jerks her head towards the door.

Why does she stare so much? I never stare.

The doctor and the men lead me to a room. It's big and white, and it's comfy in here. There's a bed. I smile at them, broadly, my body seems to have too much gravity, and my eyes don't see like they used to. The men don't look at me. The doctor pins my slip beside a small window of the door to the white room, and the men put me inside. The door shuts behind me, and they are on the other side.

They don't stop staring now. They watch my every move. A different woman with acrylic nails and a high pony tail writes down things about me outside they door. What does she write every day? They come in twice a day, and give me another pill. I'm sedated. Sated. Sated, the lump rests.

Blood

By Gail Watson 2LI2

Blood. Smell so strong, so salty. Burning nostrils, burning throat, salivating uncontrollably. Pain, such pain, such unbearable torturous hunger, claws ripping insides to shreds. Prey escaping, shooting past, must catch prey, must relieve pain. That juicy rabbit darting into the trees, heart fluttering in its chest, so loud, so fast, too tempting. Blood surging through its veins, warm, not hot, not burning like this pain. Pain of desire; desire for warm, juicy flesh, young and succulent, alluring; delicious.

Hellish agony, throbbing paws pounding the ground, in pursuit; too slow, clumsy. Rabbit dancing through the forest, sprightly; delectable. Too fast, can't keep up, damp fur; damp spirits. Prey slowing, limping to a stop; its leg torn; gushing blood. Smell overpowering; too intense – throbbing pain. Seeing red; red stars – blood red, delicious blood. Heart throbbing too fast; lunging towards defenceless prey. Gravel crunching, prey within reach. Claws tearing, teeth ripping, screams of pain. But there is no pain; only bliss – warm sweet blood extinguishing the fire.

He woke with a start, his heart racing, his breathing shallow and fast. His brow was hot under a greasy layer of sweat, but his hands were cold and clammy and he was shivering. A wave of nausea passed over him, as he gulped lungs full of putrid air which burned his throat and made his eyes water. The tears cleared some of the sticky liquid from his eyes but they still felt tired and heavy as they did every day. He sat up and the room spun as he fumbled for his bedside lamp, his wardrobe and his chest of drawers suddenly orbiting his head. He grabbed the bed post to steady himself. Even though he had been awake for almost a minute now, he could still feel his heart thumping against his ribs, his blood coursing through his veins at break-neck speed.

He couldn't understand why he felt so tired, so confused yet he felt this way every time he woke up. He shook his heavy head, trying to clear the fuzziness and see through the thick fog of his thoughts, but it didn't make things any clearer. Nothing made sense; he barely knew who he was, yet he was sure of just one thing. There was something out there, behind his dark heavy curtains, that was watching him and was aware of his every move; something that was coming closer – hunting him down. He had only ever seen it in his dreams and yet he knew that it was real and not just a figment of his imagination. Every night it came to him while he slumbered, casting dark clouds across his thoughts and draining the energy from his body. It wanted his life – he was sure of that – and he knew that this monster was coming soon.

The fire is back; the living hell, the never-ending pain. Ambling through the night, blood must be near. Starvation is torture, must find blood, must drink, must cool the flames. Desperation, yearning, lust. Blood is near. A heart is beating, pumping luscious blood. Must find it, must pierce and hold prey, must tear through tender flesh. Out of the forest now, smell is stronger, carried on the wind. Entering nostrils, fanning the flame of thirst. Claws digging into soft grass, scent of victory, so close yet so far away, still out of reach. Anger brewing, rage as hot and excruciating as the fire. Tearing the grass from the ground, screaming inside and out. Will find prey, will eat, will survive.

He woke screaming, images of the beast darting through his head. It was coming closer – he was sure of it; hunting him down, intent on ripping his entrails out of his body, gulping his blood and wolfing down his flesh. The thought terrified him; the pain of an encounter with an animal such as this seemed too excruciating to imagine. He knew he wasn't ready to die, especially not such a horrific death as this. It was still dark but he got up, took his rifle from its "safe place" at the side of his bed, and tip-toed down the stairs, holding his breath. The house was silent. The only thing he could hear was the sound of his own heart, pounding away inside his chest and voices inside his head, screaming at him to turn back and jump into the safe haven of his cosy bed while he still had the chance. Yet he carried on through the house, too scared to go back to bed and wait for the beast to come and tear him to pieces. Eventually, after what seemed like an age, he reached the front window and as he pulled back the heavy dark curtains, he screwed his eyes shut, expecting that when he opened them again he would be greeted by the huge shaggy head of a monstrous beast ready to devour him whole in a matter of seconds. He stood trembling for a few moments then took a deep breath and cautiously peeked out from behind his eyelashes. Nothing looked any different. He moved closer to the window and peered out across the lawn, his breathing rapid and noisy. The elm trees in the forest were gently swaying in the chilly breeze and casting

CREATIVE WRITING

High School of Dundee
REVIEW 2009



long, elegant shadows on the grass. The stars and the moon smiled down at him from the velvety black sky, bathing his garden in a gentle glow. Everything was silent and peaceful, yet he was not at ease. As he stood against the window pane with his rifle under his arm, he knew deep down that the beast was still out there looking for him. And it was coming closer.

It is near; life is near. Special blood – pain subsiding, internal fire ceasing to exist. Rich salty blood, like icy water, dousing flame – numbing agony permanently. Not yet however, legs, arms head still throbbing, like the beating heart pumping blood; wonderful blood, quenching thirst for ever. Still searching though. Unbearable pain. More prey – a dog. Small snack; irresistible – beating heart, warm blood; bliss. Lurching forward, dog fighting; small and feeble. Its neck unprotected; lunging, tearing, ripping. Hot blood; salty, scrumptious. Fire cool for now.

The putrid stench of festering carrion aroused him from his sleep. He didn't know who he was or where he was but he didn't care in the slightest. He was too tired to care anymore about anything other than the fact that the beast had almost reached him. Every breath he took drew more and more of the life out of him and on this particular occasion the air smelt so bad that he was reluctant to draw any into his lungs at all. His head flopped on his pillow like a dead weight and every bone in his body ached more than could ever be imagined. With as much effort as he could muster, he hauled himself upright and allowed his legs to flop over the edge of his tatty old bed. At his feet was a sight that sent shivers down his spine and caused his stomach to heave so much, he felt he might snap in half at any moment. Lying on a bloodstained rug at the side of his bed was a corpse that had been picked clean of all edible flesh and was now nothing more than a mangled pile of bones. These bones were the bones of his watchdog. This was the work of the beast; his exhausted mind was certain of that. The beast had slaughtered his dog and now he was convinced that he himself was set to be the next unfortunate victim.

And so, the next day he used all of the strength he had left in his weak and feeble body to build a trap for the beast, as had been suggested by his neighbours. He worked non-stop all day and by evening he had built the most magnificent trap that anyone had ever seen. It was hair-trigger sensitive; the slightest stimulation would cause its huge, pointed teeth to snap together, slicing anything in their way, thanks to a hugely powerful coiled spring mechanism. He set up his trap in the porch and, feeling hugely exhilarated, skipped up the stairs to bed, excitedly anticipating the slaughter of the creature that had caused him grief for a long time.

A few hours later his neighbours heard piercing shrieks coming from his house but it was still the middle of the night so they saw no need to go and investigate further. They assumed that he had got rid of the beast once and for all, and they were glad that they would no longer have to put up with his relentless twittering about damaged gardens and dead watchdogs.

In the morning, at what seemed like a more respectable hour, the neighbours got up and proceeded to his house to see if his trap had been successful in catching his beast. They knocked tentatively on his door but there was no answer. After calling on him for quite a few minutes they grew concerned, and so they let themselves into his porch. Nothing could have prepared them for the sight that awaited them. There he was in his wrecked porch, lying naked in the trap. His neck had been severed and so now his head was only attached to his fragile body by no more than a thin, bloody strip of skin. There was no sign of the beast and the neighbours knew that it would never be seen, heard or cause damage ever again. Because as long as he was dead, his beast was gone forever too.



Home

The doorbell shrills bri...ing
The front door slams BANG!
Basketball sulking thud ... thud
Football answering WHAM!

Clitter clatter, claws on parquet
The cat is smiling, cheeky.
Mum is squealing desperately-
"Quick, the puppy's leaky!"

I pods, TVs, MSN, Wiis,
Shaggy hair, odd shoes, teenage moods, cat fleas!
Burning food, wrinkly clothes, rugby, netball, shopping
Home from school, I dump my bag, I'm absolutely dropping!

Home is family, chaos and fun
Home is for my family, each and every one!

India Moorjani. F1

Home is...

Home is where I can feel secure
Where hate does not enter.
My home is my haven.
The whistling of the kettle,
The bark from the dog, the ticking of the clock
Are things that make our house our home.

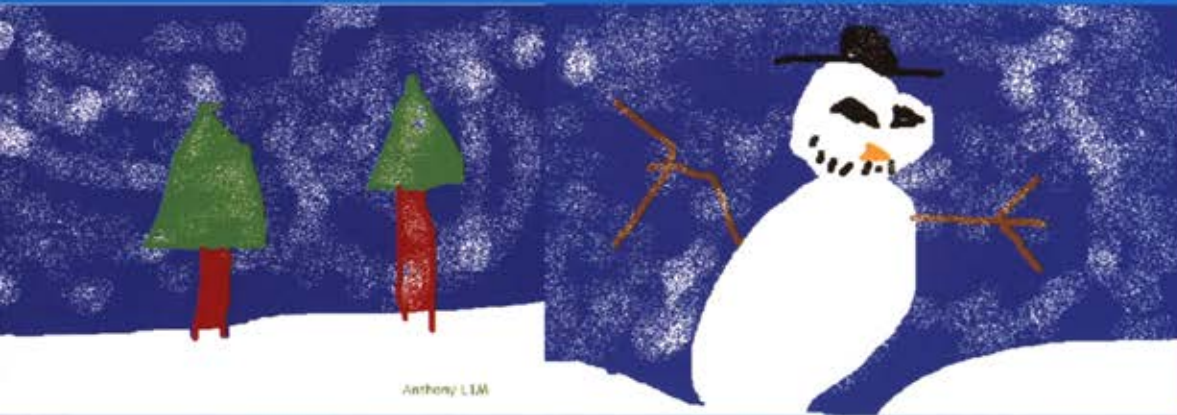
Heating might be there – or not - ,
The warmth through the house
Will always be
The same.

The wind will batter the walls,
The rain will drum on the window
But my home will
Never change.

The fire burns brightly,
Shooting stars up the chimney.
In the kitchen, the feeling is warm
And the scent of warmth fills the room
Comforting like bread or a scone.
The dog pursues the cat
Like a wild hunt round the house.
The air is filled with talk and laughter
My home is my home
And it will always be
The same.

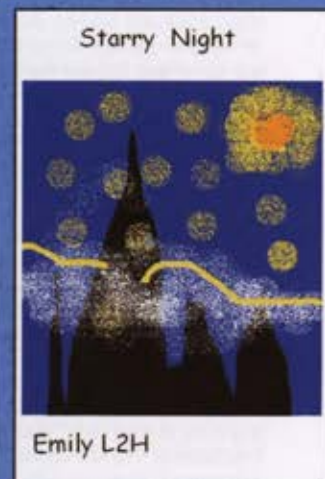
Callum Sinclair. F1

JUNIOR SCHOOL



ART

L2 ARE INSPIRED BY VAN GOGH



L3 ARE INSPIRED BY PICASSO





L1 WINTER PICTURES



CARD MAKING IN L6

This year Miss Hulbert offered a card making class to the pupils in L6. So many pupils were interested that Miss Hulbert decided to offer a six week course in order to make sure everyone could take part.

All sorts of cards were made and different groups made different cards depending on the time of year. For example, some of us made Halloween cards, Christmas cards and Valentine's cards while others made Mother's Day cards, Easter cards and Father's Day cards.

We learnt all sorts of tips and tricks and some of us went on to make our own cards at home. We enjoyed it a lot and gave our cards to our families and friends. All the other L6s that joined in loved it too.

Nicholas Ramsay, Iain Wallace. L6





THE NATIVITY 2008

Last Christmas L1-3 put on a fantastic performance of a story called Countdown to Christmas. I was little sister of Finn Morran who was the big brother. We were both children of Robbie Coupar the dad and Kate Anderson, the mum. It all started with Mum being terribly disorganised. Mum had to get everything without any help from her family. Suddenly some sparkling dust flew about the room. A fairy appeared but there was something unusual about her. She was called Fairy Clockmother with friends call Tick and Tock. My favourite bit was when we went to Stavros' Greek restaurant. This is where the L2s did a funny dance. We raised over £1000 for charity.





TREASURE ISLAND



TREASURE ISLAND



TREASURE ISLAND

This year the Junior School Musical for L6 and L7 was an adaptation of the classic adventure, 'Treasure Island'. This was a real challenge for us as we had to perform with a cast of 140 in Trinity instead of the Gardyne Theatre. Preparations began in term one with the auditions for dancers, singers and actors. The competition was really fierce but after several rounds cast one and cast two were selected. Rehearsals began in January which were great fun and many of us discovered talents we hadn't realised we had. By the time we got to term three the school was a hive of activity with palm trees in the corridors, a variety of brightly coloured costumes hanging in classrooms, ghost pirate make-up practices and ticket sale reminders along with the continual sound of pirate songs being learned in every spare minute. All the staff and pupils of L6 and L7 were involved and by the week of the performances we were all excited and ready to go. It was a super show and we all enjoyed it so much we didn't want it to end. Congratulations to all who took part, it was a true adventure and one that we won't forget. Squawkk!!!!





L6 TRIP TO BOTANIC GARDEN, ST ANDREWS

At the end of March, L6 visited the Botanic Gardens in St Andrews. We had been learning about tropical rainforests in Geography and went to learn some more. We were split into our classes and each group completed three different activities. My favourite was the delicious banoffee pie we made when learning about bananas. Another activity was a visit to the cloud forest to find answers to some questions and stick particular leaves and bark to activity worksheets. The most interesting leaf was the rhododendron leaf because it was smooth and waxy on the top but underneath had an orange, velvety coat. Our third activity was the making of a model rainforest in a large sweetie jar. This allowed us to see the water cycle happening, in a miniature form. The weather was kind so we ate lunch and played outside in the middle of the day and, all in all, had a great time.

By Anna Brown (L6C)

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

On December 11th the L6s had their Christmas Party. There was lots of excitement in the year. The boys looked smart and the girls were beautiful! Some of the games were Corners, Musical Arms and the Mars Bar Game. We enjoyed learning dances such as the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant and the Canadian Barn Dance and they all went smoothly. Overall the pupils and teachers had lots of fun.

By Emma Duncan & Anushka Pathak

L4/5 FUN AFTERNOON

On Friday the 15th of June we set off to Mayfield for our Fun Afternoon. We were all put into teams. The team names were; Orange Owls, White Wallabies, Purple Penguins, Black Bees, Green Gorillas, Yellow Yaks, Red Rhinos and Blue Bears. We all had to wear t-shirts or shorts to match the colour of our team. We had lots of fun taking part in the imaginative activities. The activities included an obstacle course, where you had to burst through a mat, a parachute where you shook it and all the balls came flying off and you had to put them back on, a sports area where you kick a ball into the goal and a relay area where you had to beat the other team at running, skipping and space-hopping. In the middle we got to stop for a much needed water break and then we carried on with our fun activities. On the bus ride back to school, we sang some songs. We came back feeling really relaxed. We all had a great time and we can't help looking forward to next year's Fun Day!



By Nena Nurbhai and Kirsty McRobbie

L4 FRENCH DAY



L6 GO TO DALGUISE

On Friday, 8th May, L6 pupils set off, in much excitement, on their three day trip to PGL Dalguise.

After an hour's journey, we finally arrived. We enjoyed a warm welcome from our groupies, Skipp and Matt. When our luggage was taken off the coach, we found our accommodation, the newly built Skiach dormitories. Our rooms were great (apart from the mattresses which were not very comfortable.) Each room had its own shower so there was no excuse for going home dirty!

The groupies occupied us between meals and activities, teaching us lots of new songs and games. The meals were quite enjoyable with plenty of choice, though unfortunately there was only water to drink rather than flavoured juice. In our opinion, the Giant Swing was the best activity of the weekend. When the pupils clambered off the

swing, all reported that it was scary at the beginning but definitely worth a second go! The most nerve-wracking activity was the zip wire. This is where you are attached by a harness to a wire, several metres high, and after stepping off a high platform, go zooming through the air.

After tea, we visited the tuckshop where we bought sweets and presents.

In the evenings, groupies organised more fun for us. Activities included Giant Cluedo, an egg challenge and a disco.

After a fantastic weekend, we packed up our dirty washing and clambered sadly on the bus to go home.

By Eve Cowan (L6C)

L7 FIRST AID GROUP

During the first two terms of L7 twelve of us started with the First Aid Group. We learned the skills needed to help someone, and hopefully at the end we would receive a St Andrews Ambulance Association First Aid Certificate that would last for 3 years.

The club ran from 4-5pm on a Wednesday after school. During this time we learned many techniques and bandages such as CPR, the elevated sling and treatment for burns. Not only that but we also acted out some scenes for example a car crash, which was the scene we used for the School's Open Morning.

We all enjoyed it and would like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Halliwell, Mrs. Gill and Miss. Cardno, as well as Michelle and Ruth from Senior School, who taught us the skills and helped us all to pass the test at the end of the course.

Lynsey Patterson and Heather Duncan, L7



JUNIOR SCHOOL CHESS CLUB

The continuing development of ICT throughout the school has been positive in so many areas, not least in the activities of the Chess Club. Online interactive sites allowed for the group teaching of 10 beginner players from L4 to L6 at the start of this session. A further 20 players from L4 to L7 continued to improve their skills as the year progressed.

Once again the draw of the Annual Chess Tournament proved irresistible to players from L4 to L7, so many applied that an initial knock-out round was needed! A total of 18 players went through to the round-robin tournament and the following were the successful winners in their respective year groups; Brian Lim L4, Rory Johnston L5, Iain Wallace L6 and Qing Qing Zhu L7. After a further set of matches between the year group winners, Qing Qing and Brian took 1st and 2nd places respectively.

L6 FUN DAY REPORT

L6 had an afternoon of fun at Mayfield on Friday, 29th May. Our clothes had a Hawaiian theme so there were lots of colourful shorts, t-shirts, shades, hats and even the odd grass skirt. 10 teams took part in a potted sports competition. We played basketball, badminton, football, hockey and lots more. Everything was played at a fast pace and in glorious sunshine. We had great fun. In the end, the winning team was the Pink Dragons with an amazing 189 points. Thanks go to Mr Beckett and his team for a great afternoon.

By Sophia Singh L6C



L1, 2, AND 3 MONSTER FUN DAY.

On the 29th of May, L1, 2, and 3 went to Monster Fun Day at Mayfield. We were split into all four houses. The first thing Wallace did was play with the parachute. Instead of sharks and fishes, we played monsters, pulling feet. We went to the obstacle course next. We were swinging on ropes and crawling under this big net. Then we had monster crisps and monster drinks. Then we went to monster chase. It was great fun and you weren't allowed to step on the floor—we were only allowed on the equipment. The last place we went to was monster swamp. We had to step on the sharks and then bounce on the space hoppers, then lift hula hoops over our heads and then jump over these triangular shaped boxes, then try and feed the monsters. It was a splendid day.

By Ailsa Macdonald L3C

On the 29th May 2009 L1-3 got the bus to Mayfield. When we were there we went to our first monster game called monster chase then we went next door to monster swamp. You had to jump from mat to mat. I had a great day.

By Rheanna Mitchell L3C

I went to Monster Mayhem on Friday the 29th of May. We all had a great day. I dressed up as a zombie. Some other people did as well. Some people as Dracula, bats and skeletons. We got split in to our houses. The courses were monster swamp, obstacle course, chasing and parachute. My favourite was Monster swamp. It took place at Mayfield. When we got back we watched Monsters inc. I went home with most of my face paint off and I looked normal except for my hair and outfit, What a good day!

By Katie Anderson L3C

The L1-3s went to Mayfield on the 29th of May for Monster Fun Day. We all dressed up as Monsters. There were zombies, ghosts, ghost pirates and many more scary creatures. We played lots of games with the parachute. I liked monster chase the best because I like getting chased by my friends. We had a fabulous time playing all the games. I wish we could have it every day.

Katie Bonnyman L3C



CRANNOG TRIP

The Celts

In the first few weeks of L4 the two classes visited The Crannog Centre beside Loch Tay which set the scene for the first topic, 'The Celts'. We took a step back in time to immerse ourselves in how it felt to be living alongside a Highland loch all those years ago. Luckily the weather was fair for us, but even so we could feel the damp chill of the loch as the easterly wind whistled beneath our feet and gusted around the sturdy log crannog supports, causing the timbers to gently creak and groan with the movement of the loch water beneath.



Wood turning, fire-lighting and 'stone-pecking' were some of the many skills practised at the Loch Tay Crannog Centre.

It was fascinating to witness the expert guides who ably demonstrated how to 'turn' wood, peck at stone, manipulate a drop spindle or gradually coax a fire to burn using only dried bracket fungus.



Wood turning, fire-lighting and 'stone-pecking' were some of the many skills practised at the Loch Tay Crannog Centre.

These experiences lead to wonderful creative writing, covered many areas of maths, allowed a great deal of ideas to develop in design and technology, inspired superb art work and much more as we became members of four imaginary crannog families.



Crannog Adventures Board Games Designed by L4



Board games took us on journeys to escape the Romans, to go trading and hunting and on many other adventures - though there were lots of dangers and obstacles to overcome to reach 'home' at the Crannog.



In the classroom we formed Celtic families and became that character: thinking what jobs we would have done and imagining what it would have been like to live as the Celts did.

SENSATION TRIP

We had great fun at Sensation learning about the tuning fork, how it vibrates in water. Our second work shop was how to keep our body healthy. I met a new friend called Stuffie. We took out all the organs and he started to cry. After that we went to the park. L3 had great fun.

Aamira Okhai L3C

L3 went to visit Sensation Science on the 14th May. We left at 9 o'clock to go on the bus. The bus was very long to get the whole of L3 on. Soon we arrived at Sensation Science and we went to the first workshop. Linda helped us to do experiments with lab coats on. We did experiments with vinegar, acids, alkalies and bicarbonate of soda, a tuning fork and smelling. Next we did experiments with cabbage water. It turned pink, blue and purple. Next, we had a snack soon we were ready to go to the next workshop. Jillian showed us the way in and some of us took things out of Stuffie. It was great fun with Julian. It wasn't very long but I liked it. Soon it was time to go. Then we went back on the bus to go to Camperdown Park. Then went back to school and then back home I liked the day it was fun.

Sarah Boyle L3C

On the 14th May L3 went to Sensation to learn more about the senses. We all went upstairs to the lab. Linda let us where the lab coats so we looked like real scientists. We were doing all sorts of experiments like using the tuning fork. After that we got to play on the head. Then we opened up "stuffie" with Jillian. There were balloons some of the class had to get the bubble to the bottom. It was a great day.

Rachel Rose L3C

We went to the first work shop in Sensation with the tuning fork to make and then had a snack after that we went to the 2nd work shop and we took stuff out of Stuffie and after we went to Camperdown Park and we had a great day.

George Davidson L3C

The L3s went to Sensation. It was Sensational! We learnt science and body parts with Linda and Jillian. I was surprised when acid and alkali were mixed together to make neutral. I like taking organs out of Stuffie. It really made me understand the senses.

Finn Morran L3C



GARDENING CLUB HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS YEAR

The highlight of our year was the Official Opening of the Courtyard Garden which took place on Thursday 30th April. A large number of ladies from the Old Girls' Club Committee, which donated £1,500 to set up the garden, attended the opening. Miss Morag Stalker, President of the Old Girls' club, unveiled a clay plaque to mark the occasion. The plaque itself was designed by L7 pupils, with support from the School's Art department, and includes three-dimensional garden creatures, ranging from butterflies to snails.

This year we have learned how to grow potatoes, sunflowers, herbs, bulbs and a host of flowers. We are hoping the sunflowers grow tall as there is a prize for the tallest three sunflowers.

Our courtyard is also used as a meeting place for L7 pupils, who are in charge of keeping the area tidy, while infant classes use the space for story or singing time during nicer weather.

L5 BURNS CHALLENGE DAY

On Tuesday, 27th January, L5 held the annual Burns Challenge Day. The morning consisted of group activities such as designing a 'Tammy', working out mathematical problems such as the quantities of ingredients for shortbread for the whole year group and making invitations to the Burns Supper the same afternoon.

L5 BURNS SUPPER

Our Burns Supper was held to celebrate the life of Robert Burns, the famous poet. We were all seated in Margaret Harris Hall at tables with very nice place mats (with songs and poems by Burns on them). The haggis was brought in by Hamish (White) who followed behind a piper (Hannah Robb, F3). Then Mrs Vannet addressed the haggis and everyone got to taste it along with shortbread and pancakes. After that it was entertainment time and some of the L5 pupils danced, sang, said a poem or played an instrument. At the end everyone sang Auld Lang Syne. It was a great day, full of fun and enjoyment!

Alex Smith and Charlotte Morrison L5P

L6/L7 HOCKEY REPORT 2009

This year has been a very successful year for the L6 and L7 hockey team. Training began on Mondays and Saturdays to improve our skills and game play. During the first few weeks of matches we won many of our games, this gave our confidence a huge boost! One of the highlights of the year was our 8-1 win against Mary Erskine. We have travelled to many schools in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, although these are only two of the places we have been to.

This year has been great and all of the girls have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of hockey. Many people have contributed to making this year so special such as other schools and parents, we would like to thank them all but we would especially like to thank Miss Bunce and Mrs Rudman for the great coaching they have provided us with.

We hope that next year's team will have as much fun as we did!

By Ella Hudson and Molly Duncan

MATHS CLUB

During the year L6 and L7 pupils met on a Monday at 4-5pm to Negotiate Notorious Numbers and Specify Surprising Shapes at Maths Club. It is important, and a great deal of fun, for pupils to notice just how much maths is around us in our everyday lives, as well as being clearly apparent and fascinating in all aspects of nature. We all worked as one group, sometimes on number puzzles, sometimes on making extraordinary constructions or complex patterns. Our most successful, yet difficult, topic was the maths we did on Open Morning in November. This was a task to recreate the stained glass window in Trinity Hall, using eight different mathematical procedures. Each group produced their own version of the window with much mathematical mayhem and a great deal of fun! To feel the enthusiasm bursting from the children on occasions like this gives a new lease of life to mathematics, and hopefully a renewed interest and confidence to the fundamentally important work carried out in the classroom.

Mrs I Goddard

JUNIOR WARHAMMER!

Although a complete beginner at this most complex of games, I was fascinated to watch, each week, the procedures involved in setting up and implementing several complete battle scenarios every Friday evening, at the meeting of the Junior Warhammer Club. The elaborate strategies and intricate manoeuvres needed to successfully outwit an opponent were most impressive, as was the nimble counting of complex value points for each piece on the board! The boys involved always worked in imperial units, so it was interesting to hear them talking confidently of measuring and moving a piece between "one and six inches" in order to score a successful hit on their enemy. The boys needed to use skilful tactics and a great deal of patience while continually consulting an erudite book called the "Codex", which kept all movements in a battle fair and accountable. I have become something of an admirer of this pursuit realising just how many skills are needed to carry out a successful "game" and hope others in L6 and L7 will continue to develop their interests in Warhammer next year. Who knows, maybe one day I will understand enough about Warhammer 40,000 or Lord of the Rings to join in! My most grateful thanks go to Iain Kennedy for being outstandingly helpful and patient with the starting of each session and the innumerable questions and appeals he dealt with so competently.

Mrs I Goddard

NETBALL REPORT

It has been a great year for netball in the Junior School, both the L6 and L7 teams have worked really hard, improved their game and had lots of fun!

The L7s have participated in the Winter League, The Kennedy Cup Knock-out Tournament and the Summer League. We played our best at each match and appreciated the opportunity to play against other teams. We won some of our games, drew one match and lost a few, but we always came out smiling!

The L6s have made a lot of progress and we think that they are going to do very well next year. They took part in the Miss Ward Road Trophy and did very well to reach the final.

One of the most exciting matches we played was the staff v. pupil netball match. It was a very tense match with great play from both the staff and pupils but we had the edge and won 14 - 12. Thank you to the teachers on the team and better luck next year!

We would also like to thank Miss Alexander, Mrs Gibson and Cheryl Macintosh for all of their encouragement and coaching throughout the year. Thank you to our parents who have been great supporters at Ward Road Gym.

India Stobbs, Emma Walker and Jessica Findlay

L7 PARIS TRIP 2009

High School of Dundee
REVIEW 2009



On Friday 20th March at 8.15pm the High School of Dundee playground was full of excitement! Everyone was getting ready to board their coach to Paris. At 8.30pm the coaches left and we were all set for a long journey, although we slept overnight on the coaches there and back. Finally we reached Fiap Jean Monnet in Paris.

First of all, we had a safety talk and then we were told our dorms. After we had unpacked and freshened up, we went downstairs for our tea. The meals were varied and had a lot to choose from. That night we played bingo in French and had a disco.

The next morning we were woken up at 7.15am for breakfast and then we got on the coach to go to Sacre Coeur, Montmartre and then a boat ride down La Seine. When we arrived back in the hotel we had our tea and then back on the coaches to see Paris by night.

On the third day we were woken up early for probably the best day.... it was Disneyland day! Disney was so much fun. There were lots of fun rides and great souvenir shops. After tea back at the hotel, we played lots of quizzes and won euros!

We all made the most of our last full day. We went up the Eiffel Tower and swam and played at Aquaboulevard, a fantastic water leisure complex. That night we packed and had a fun disco. Even some of the teachers started dancing!

Wakened up for the last time in Fiap Jean Monnet, we had breakfast then pulled our suitcases to the coaches. We stopped in Calais for lunch and some shopping then headed for the Eurotunnel and back home.

Au revoir Paris! I liked being with my friends and altogether I found the Paris trip really fun and a great experience.

By Olivia Wight and Catherine Allan, L7



TECHNO-CHALLENGE REPORT 2009

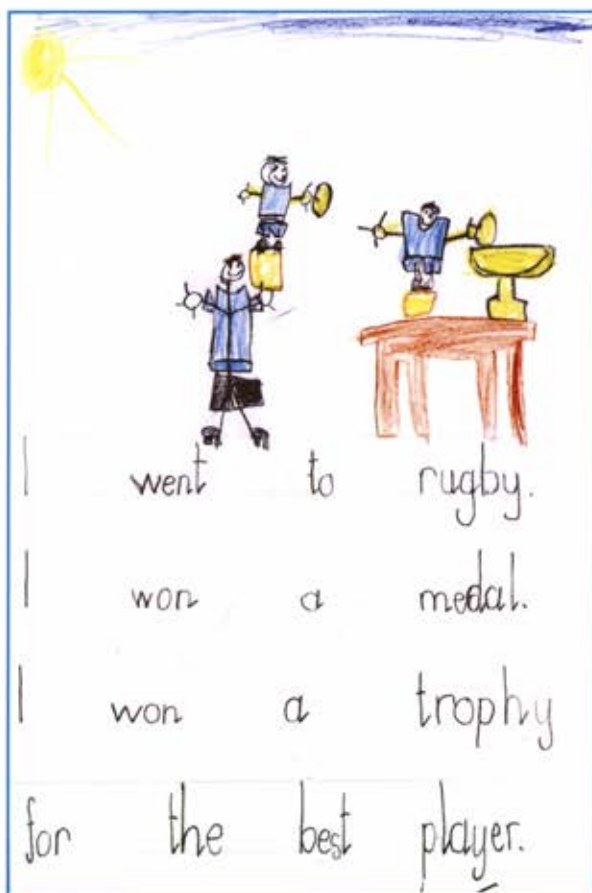
On the 30th April four L7 pupils travelled to the St. Leonards Techno-Challenge in St. Andrews. We arrived there at 10.30am and were given our guide, Kirsty Black. Firstly, we went to the Maths Dept. We had to complete three challenges: fraction dominoes, making cubes into different shapes then drawing these on dotted paper and a problem solving sheet. After this we went to the Science 2 activity, which involved making a rocket with a plastic bottle as the launcher then firing the rocket to see how far it could go. This didn't go to plan, as it went up into the air and landed behind us! Onto Science 1 with hopes of doing better! We had to make a house from newspaper. This seems easy but one person was taken away and shown a section of an already made structure then returned to the group and only allowed to describe what they saw but not take part in making it. After a certain amount of time another team member was taken away and shown a further addition to the structure and again was only allowed to talk but not take part. The whole thing was tricky as it had many different additions and details. Although it wasn't easy, we all thought that we did quite

well! Time went quickly and soon it was lunch in the Hall. Next was ICT where we had to make our dream birthday party on Microsoft Visio. Some of the things that we did were a party at Disneyland Florida and a disco on the Eiffel Tower! Queen Mary's library was our next item which took the form of a general book knowledge quiz. We completed this challenge quickly and only missed one question. It was then time for juice and biscuits back in the Hall before the fast and furious part of the day which is the Maths Relay Race. For this we had to pair up and answer short maths questions as quickly as possible. Finally, it was the prize-giving ceremony. We were eager to find out if we had won, but unfortunately we lost out to worthy winners George Heriots. Before we boarded the bus back for school Mrs. Smith treated us to an ice-cream! We all felt that we had enjoyed a great, fun day and the four of us came back to school with great memories!

Molly Duncan, Eilidh Lockhart, Andrew Guest and Euan Strachan, all L7.

JUNIOR SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING

L1 CREATIVE WRITING



HOW THE HEDGEHOG GOT ITS SPIKES

In the forest under a bunch of leaves a plain hedgehog crept slowly out. He went to play with his very good friend Ellie the elephant. It suddenly started to rain but THEY didn't care. It grew quite late and it was still heavily raining. Ellie was feeling quite tired so hedgehog decided to go home. When he arrived he snuggled up tight and went to sleep but when he awoke he pricked his finger "Owww!" he said. He went to his mother who said "You've caught a cold. Remember you were playing in the rain." She took a closer look "Wait a minute. You have spike a titus." Hedgehog went back to bed for the whole day! Morning came and Doc.Hedge arrived. You are the second hedgehog who has them for real. And that is why today hedgehogs have spikes.

By Anna Hudson
L3C

JUNIOR SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING

A butterfly is colourful and beautifully patterned with lovely rainbow colours over its delicate wings. As it goes from flower to flower it sucks up nectar with its long tongue. It is very graceful and lands softly on a flower.

Ailsa Macdonald L3C

A butterfly dances across the quiet garden in search of food. It lands on a flower and receives the sweet nectar. Then it takes off again into the warm summer air.

Finn Morran L3C

A butterfly is a beautiful insect. It is elegant, delicate and often rainbow coloured. It flutters gently and gracefully as it floats flower to flower. It lands carefully on a petal and drinks the sticky nectar.

Sarah Boyle L3C

The beautiful butterfly floats in the warm breeze flitting from flower to flower sucking up sweet nectar and sprinkling pollen. Its wings are multi coloured and patterned, beating silently as it floats by.

Willie Laird L3C

The beautiful butterfly spreads its technicoloured wings and flutters away.

It floats gracefully on a breezy day. The butterfly's fragile wings feel like silk. The butterfly touches down on a flower to eat the sweet nectar.

Robbie Coupar L3C

The Butterfly

I have seen a butterfly that glitters as bright as gold. It flutters from a flower hoping to find fragrant nectar. It's wings are very delicate and beat so quietly. I can't hear it when it lands on my window.

Rachel Rose L3C

The Butterfly

The butterfly is beautiful and elegant as it flutters by. Its wings are covered in rainbow-like colours. It floats in the summer sky like silent clouds. It is searching for food.

Katie Anderson L3C



THE LIFE OF A RIVER

The clear pure water trickles down from the hard rocks!
It giggles and ripples over the big boulders.
Other bubbling streams struggle to meet it.
It then becomes a foaming river.
At the foot of the mountain it slows down.
The river now begins to meander across the flat land.
It grows faster and faster as other racing tributaries rush to meet it.
It starts to race towards the sea.
It is filled with rocks and boulders.
It flows fast until it meets the mouth.

William Laird L3C

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Have you ever heard
A flower growing in your garden,
Or the clouds rushing across the sky?
The birds laying their eggs,
Or salmon lying in shallow water?
The earth turning slowly,
Or the pheasant flying up to roost?
No – These are the sounds of silence.

Harry Hardie L3C

Have you ever heard the sun shining on the ground or a baby's first lovely smile?
Have you ever heard the frosty winter snow falling on the ground or Santa putting presents under your Christmas tree?

These are the sounds of silence.

Have you ever heard the Easter Bunny putting Easter eggs all over your house or a beautiful butterfly flying?
Have you ever heard someone thinking about a question in maths or your hair growing?
Have you ever heard a spider spinning its web or a fish swimming in the sea?
Have you ever heard a dragonfly skimming across a lovely green pond or somebody breathing?

These are the sounds of silence.

By Charlotte Sharpe L3F

Have you ever heard
Mice, scurrying into the hedges,
Or ants marching under your feet?
The butterfly floating in the air.
Or the spider laying its eggs?
Meteors colliding into the sun
Or your body growing everyday?
The trees developing new leaves
Or a shark eating it's dinner?
No, these are the sounds of silence.

By Robbie Coupar L3C

THE VILLAGE BY NIGHT

I see
The stars twinkling and glittering in the midnight blue sky,
The snow falling gently on the hard gloomy ground,
The huge trees covered in soft white snow
And the postman in his van trying to get up a steep driveway.
I hear
The wood fire burning and flickering in the dim light,
The church bells ringing at midnight,
The wind blowing the snow everywhere.
I feel
Warm and happy inside my house.

Katie Bonnyman L3C



WANTED

BUBBLY THE BUCCANEER

Wanted for the crime of killing a woman and two kids; only one and two years old. He has a white top with a rip in the right arm near his shoulder. He has big, black boots. He has a red belt with purple spots on the front. He has dark black trousers and a hairy nose. He has a green and purple tattoo on each arm and has the same pattern. He has a blue and white striped bandana. He has a gold hook on his right hand; he also has a long moustache with a curl at each end. He has very tanned skin and sea blue eyes and a gold earring on his left ear. He likes sucking his thumb. He has pulled off someone's head with his hook. He is a very fast runner. He will jump onto your back and try and pull off your head so beware of him. He was last seen drunk on the Crow's Nest pub floor. If you find him you will get 10,000 Guineas.

Signed Admiral Ana
Ana Cowan L4M

CAPTAIN CUTLASS

Wanted for the crime of killing his wife. He has black untidy strands of hair and he has blue and dark green eyes, a roundish nose and rosy cheeks. He also has a golden tooth. He speaks Welsh and some Spanish. He usually wears a brown long coat and grey trousers, a black hat with a brown feather. He has a red and blue parrot. He goes around on the ship throwing pirates overboard. Approach with caution. He was last seen at the Tap Inn. Reward - 3,000,000 Guineas and 50 Gold Crowns to Admiral G. Davie.

Glenn Davie L4M

ONE EYED JACK

He is wanted for the crime of murdering the Captain's daughter on Tuesday the 19th May 2009. He is wearing a red puffy shirt with blue parts on it. He has pale skin and stormy sea blue eyes. He has a scar on his right cheek. He has a big nose and a friendly smile with a golden tooth at the front. He is wearing black trousers and brown boots with gold buckles. He has black hair, a black pirate hat and a red bandana. He also has an eye patch on. He has a habit of wobbling his golden tooth. He is juvenile, wicked, nasty and annoying (of course!). He has dirty talk and isn't nice to anyone but himself. He was last seen stumbling out of The Barn (the pub) on the High Street. The reward is 2000 Guineas. Thank You!

Signed Captain McRobbie
Kirsty McRobbie L4M

CAPTAIN BUGSWATER

Captain Bugswater has a weakness - he is terrified of bugs! He is exactly 6ft 10" and he is very strong. He is scrappy looking and he has an eye patch on his left eye and a diamond tooth and two scars: one over his right eye and one just to the left of his mouth. He has a hook replacing his left hand and 100 bullets going from his right shoulder to the left side of his body. He has curly black hair and a small curly black beard. He has a bright blue eye and a rainbow parrot that sits on his right shoulder. He has tatty trousers and black buckle shoes. A skull and cross-bones tattoo sits on his right arm. He carries a sword and a pistol and he wears a red striped shirt. If you carry a cup of bugs and then release them he will run around screaming so you can catch him. If you manage to capture him you will get some money in return: 60,000,000 guineas.

Nena Nurbhai L4M





A WINTER CASTLE

By Rachel Guest L5C

It was a frosty, cold December night. The air was filled with twinkling stars and a hanging moon like a polished plate. As the trees swayed, a wolf howled with the wind like a song of winter. Finally, the last tug of thick, oak branches and there it was- a white castle like a ship on the ice. Suddenly, the icicle fell like a dagger flying through the air onto the crispy and crunchy leaves, smashing to pieces. I felt all cold now, but a flickering light in a narrow slit window made me feel warm again. I saw a guard asleep with frostbite on his fingers. Five other guards were making sure nobody got in- especially me. I heard a bell ring for midnight. Sir Robert came and blew out the flickering candle. Unknown to him we were ready to attack.

A WINTER CASTLE

By Aaron Inglis L5C

It was cold for December. The snow was glistening and the birds weren't singing. It was quiet. The starlit sky was crystal clear. The moon was like a diamond with a golden eagle imprisoned in it. The eagle had a ruby heart which was projected through an opal which made the snow covered forest light up. The trees were pure white and as the snow fluttered down on them like feathers, the wolves were howling behind us. We passed a spiders' web with dangling silver liquid drops. When I breathed, my breath froze to solid ice and smashed as it hit the ground. It melted into water and evaporated into breath again. There was a castle in the distance. It was covered in frost. It was glowing as if the sun was shining inside it.

CLUMSY THE LIGHTHOUSE DRAGON

By Alex Vagg L5C

My dragon, Clumsy, has very bright eyes and loves to fly out to the dark purple sea when the stars shine as bright as his eyes. He perches as close to the beautiful sea as he can get, until he spies old fishing boats, brand new, huge cruise ships and any other boat he can see. Then he gets up from his comfy place on the sand and flies over to the rocks and hovers above them. Then he blinks and blinks until the boats have moved past the rocks.

SCARY SCENE (inspired by Tam O' Shanter)

By Hannah George L5C

Tam was riding home from the tavern. It was a stormy night. The tall silhouetted trees towered over Tam and above the trees was the dark night sky with only a slither of moon to guide him. Tam, by now, was getting very worried and anxious about what Kate, his wife, would say when he got home. Suddenly, there was a huge thunder roll and a tremendous flash of lightning. This spooked Meg and she whinnied and stumbled back in fright. Tam was getting even more scared as he passed along a very narrow path with big, high moss covered walls surrounding it. Just then, very heavy rain came down- splashing everywhere and drenching Tam in a matter of seconds. Tam heard the whistling wind howling in the darkness and Meg's hooves moving faster and faster. The rustling bushes kept on giving Tam the instinct that someone was following him. It was very cold and Tam could feel his nose going bright red. The condensing water on the branches was making the air very damp and Tam could feel the enclosing mist. The rain was still coming down hard and Tam's damp clothes were sticking to him. Meg's strong leather reins kept pulling him along though. They rode round a curvy bend and saw Kirk Alloway. But something was wrong with it! Light was pouring out of the little windows and there was bagpipe music. Tam was very curious but Meg wouldn't go any further. With a bit of coaxing though, she cautiously trotted up to the Kirk. When Tam looked through the window...

LIFE BOAT STORY

By Charlotte Jones

The Jones family were at the beach in Broughty Ferry having a lovely time on holiday. Joshua and Jenny, the children, were having a great time and then decided to make sandcastles. They became bored and decided to go in the water with their rubber dinghy. They started splashing water at each other. Suddenly the children looked up and discovered that they couldn't see Mum and Dad anymore! "Help" shouted Jenny. "Save us" screamed Joshua. The children started waving for Mum and Dad. Mum and Dad saw the children waving. Mum pulled out her mobile and dialled 999 for a lifeboat! The lifeboat men jumped in a lifeboat and raced out to see! The children saw them and began to wave anymore. The lifeboat men saw them and roared the boat towards them. The lifeboat men threw a rope across the dinghy and stopped the boat drifting further. The children swam to the rope and climbed up it. They were happy that they had been saved but sad at all the trouble they were in. Mum and Dad threw their arms around them and told them how much they loved them but also how much trouble they were in. They were all friends with the lifeboat men and thanked them for their bravery.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

L6 CREATIVE WRITING

People fighting for their lives
Our men living in muddy trenches
Parents sending knitted socks
Perilous battles fought in muddy fields
In the tunnels the soldiers dig
Ever lasting fear
Soldiers sacrificing themselves for their country

Glen Wilson L6

Poppy day, a time to remember those who gave their lives
for us
Our own people on the front line defending us from the
enemy
Poor soldiers on the line, no help, no hope
People forced to continue fighting
In trenches they lived and fought
Enemy they fight and they are triumphant
So will you wear a poppy?

Tom Hayes L6

People, brave people, went to war for others freedom
Out on the battle fields a lot of men died
Parents and family prayed for their relatives in the horrific
war
Peace was the ultimate target
In their hearts they thought of us and on the outside they
fought for us
Ever since then, the brave and willing
Soldiers are remembered by us

Rehan Baig L6

When running along the street to school
Poor Bob was run down by a bull
It stamped on its head
He fell quite dead
So be careful when you go to school

Madeleine Tinson & Marcus Wadland L6C

There was a young lady from Surrey
Who ate a very hot curry
It was so spicy and hot
She shouted "Great Scot!"
"I'd rather have a McFlurry"

Sophia Singh & Glen Wilson L6C

There was a young lady from surrey
Who liked to always eat curry
The waiters got fired
Because they were too tired
And never brought the food in a hurry

Anna Brown & Tom Hayes L6C

TINY TIM

Tiny Tim is the sort of boy who would always try to be happy even in times of hardship. Tiny Tim is small, mucky, but there is also a sparkle in his eye that gives off a feeling of kindness. He is weak and sickly but tries to look as strong as he can. His clothes are tattered and his shoes are full of holes. His hair looks like it hasn't seen a brush in weeks. His illness has made him pale and fragile, it looks as though if knocked over he would shatter into a thousand pieces. His clothes are very worn and look like they have been worn by many families members. Even from a distance you can see that this boy is not going to live a long happy life.

Emma Walker L7

BILL SKYES

Bill Skyes is a suspicious character who should not be trusted. He wears a battered top hat and has uncut hair. His sideburns are so long that when he evilly grins it looks like he has a giant hairy smile. His eyes scan the area like a hawk looking for anything to swipe. He carries with him his stick which never leaves his side. His dog slumps after him, not daring to leave his side. His heavy cape is filled with pockets full of swiped items. Hanging out of his waistcoat a smashed up pocket watch dangles, the time always being an hour ahead. His trousers are worn and look as though they've been on for months. His scruffy boots look as though they've seen better days. The sole is hanging off one boot and through laziness there's nothing left of the laces because he's not bothered to tie them. One certainly wouldn't want to meet this guy in a dark alleyway!

Fraser Husband L7

DESMOND SWINDLE

Desmond Swindle was a sly businessman. He always managed to negotiate a good deal. He wore an immaculate and well pressed brown striped suit with silver cuff links. A hat lay tipped to one side covering one of his beady eyes. His hair was dark brown and well groomed. His voice was low and deep and his blue eyes were almost never seen. Everything he wore was expensive, it was if he was made of money. A dark smile only ever appeared on his tanned face when he was pleased with himself. He maintained his tanned complexion as he was always on "business trips" around the globe, paid for by someone else. His long black pointy shoes were so well polished you could see your face in them. His tall muscular body was well kept and he could talk his way out of anything. He was a man who meant business, and crooked business at that.

Mac Duncan L7

OLD GIRLS' PRIZE FOR CREATIVE WRITING

A DESERTED CLASSROOM

As I walked towards the dusty, rotting door of the classroom I thought of just turning round and walking away but something inside me was telling me to go inside. I turned the handle and opened the door. The floorboards creaked as I walked further into the room. I could immediately tell the classroom had been used for Science. Rows upon rows of labelled test tubes lined the walls. There were textbooks lying on the desks gathering dust. Everything in the room reminded me of a graveyard. Suddenly, the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end as if they had been struck by lightning. Then I heard it, a snuffling, growling sound like a lion stalking its prey. My heart clenched as if a fist was tightening around it. I turned round. The room was as deserted as before but I was sure I had heard a noise. Yes, there it was again, only louder. Now I heard footsteps coming closer, closer, closer! Then I saw it! A dark figure beside the door. Standing taller than a man, the creature's head was almost touching the ceiling. As it moved towards me I saw its razor sharp claws glinting in the moonlight. I wanted to shout, wanted to run but fear froze me in place. The creature raised its claws ready to strike. I opened my mouth to scream...

THE BLACK LANDS

I reached out to open the rotting garden gate at the side of the house. Suddenly, all the houses and the trees started to shrivel and the colours blended together like a water colour painting left in the rain. I felt like I had swallowed a lightning bolt. After a few agonizing seconds my vision cleared and I gasped in shock!

I was standing on the top of a volcano which was at least as tall as Mount Everest. The rock from which it was made was as black as charcoal. As I looked around I saw that I was on one of many volcanoes. Thousands of feet below a massive castle loomed menacingly through the thick haze of fog. The castle was made of blood red stone and the many towers and parapets had wooden torches burning from them like the faces of the dead. I could hear loud banging coming from the castle and realised there were ten men on one of the tallest towers who were repairing a massive hole in the side of it.

I looked up and saw that there were three suns blazing bright against the night sky. I felt really scared but was also quite proud because I had discovered a new planet. Then my pride turned to horror as I turned round and saw that the garden gate was gone. I was stuck in the Black Lands.

By Euan Chalmers, L7S



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