

Review 2010







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Editorial

You will no doubt have noticed straight away that this year's Review has a new look, but I am happy to reassure you that its pages are as full as ever of pictures and reports of all the lively happenings in our School. And what a remarkable year it has been! It started with a flourish when we were visited by HRH Princess Anne; then there was the sensational Party on the Pillars in October; the huge Christmas Concert in December – and High School pupils continued to amaze us with their skills, performances and (in some cases!) sheer grit and determination in all the various activities they have undertaken throughout the rest of the year.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening in and around the High School of Dundee this year.

Mrs Jane Phillips, Editor



Rector's Report

In my report for the Review 2010, I should say something about the past year – and what a purposeful and action-packed one it has been. The autumn was dominated perhaps by all our anniversaries, celebrated formally with the visit by Princess Anne, with gusto at the Party on the Pillars and in style at the anniversary Christmas Concert. At that concert we witnessed a world première, namely *Our Memories Will Sing* by Margaret Scott Brown. For all of us the memories of 2009-2010 will sing loudly for many years to come.

How good is our School? How do we know? I do not have the space to report in detail on all of the fine achievements of this past year. I have endeavoured to do so through the media of newsletters, website entries and indeed the photographic sequence shown before the Prize-Giving. I will therefore try to restrict myself to a few select and salient features of the past twelve months.

The High School is in very good health. We have just over 1000 pupils on the roll, with a turnover of over £9 million. The School produces a healthy surplus each year which is reinvested in resources, facilities, accommodation and of course staff. The recruitment of pupils has remained very encouraging, despite the double challenge of the recession on the one hand and demographic trends on the other. We hope that the economy will slowly pick up again in time. However, the number of school-age children in this area continues to decline. Despite this, and thanks to the excellent work by the staff, both in the admissions office and generally, the recruitment of pupils remains healthy. In fact in 2010, for the first time ever, we will have three L1 classes instead of the usual two.

At the same time, however, we have also seen increased demand for means-tested bursaries, with 15% of the Senior School in receipt of the £600,000 allocated this year. This is another fine High School tradition, going back over 150 years, in which pupils whose parents would otherwise not afford the full fees are given the opportunity to receive a High School education.

Over the past year there have been a number of major developments. We have been focusing heavily on communications and on ICT in particular. We have now completed installation of our new Management Information System. This we hope will enable us to manage data in a more sophisticated way and produce more information and reports more efficiently, including information for parents. All has gone smoothly to date but please bear with us if there are any early gremlins at the beginning of next term. The second major ICT development has been the development of our own Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which was launched last session. This is an online resource for learning and teaching which is open to all members of the High School community, including parents. We have

even got a name for it: The Highway. Initially this will be used as an online resource library for academic departments, guidance and the co-curricular programme. Over the next year we will be seeking to make it steadily more interactive to enable pupils to communicate online with their teachers and each other, either individually or in groups.

Our website and email addresses have now also been rationalised and relaunched under the banner of www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk. Please change all your settings now!

How the School presents itself to the outside world does matter. In concert with these developments we have therefore also been engaged on a rebranding strategy. Thank you to those of you who took part in the cluster groups organised by the firm that has won the contract. They have been charged with producing a co-ordinated approach to all of the School's published materials, such as the Review, the Pillars, but even down to our stationery. By the time you read this you will already have received the first edition of the new-look Pillars newsletter.

Over the past year there have been a number of major developments. We have been focusing heavily on communications and on ICT in particular.



What of the pupils' achievements? Academic excellence will always be at the core of the High School curriculum, and the results for 2009 were once again the deserved reward for all the hard work invested by our pupils and their teachers. It is interesting to note that whilst the High School educates approximately 5% of children in Dundee, 32% of all Advanced Highers in the city are sat here. And last year's F6 achieved the 7th best pass rate at Advanced Higher in Scotland. At F5 Higher, 92% of papers were passed. Of these 52% were at Grade A, and the percentage of As and Bs placed the High School 6th in the country. 19% of the F5 pupils obtained 5 A grades: a remarkable achievement. F5 pupils passed an average of 3.8 Highers per pupil.

The results for Form 4 were at least as impressive. Standard Grade and Intermediate results demonstrated a combined pass-rate of 98%, with 74% passed at the top grade. This was not only well above last year's figure (66%) but also substantially better than the average percentage of top grades at other independent schools. My congratulations to all.

The reason these results are achieved is through the commitment to excellence at all levels. This does not come about by chance, rather by dint of commitment and challenge. As all athletes know, the secret of how to increase strength is to practise resisted movements. We do not achieve these results by a *laissez-faire* approach. It is our ongoing commitment to excellence in the curriculum.

At this point I would like to say something about our position in relation to the government scheme to transform Scottish education, namely the Curriculum for Excellence. The Curriculum for Excellence is technically not a curriculum as such. Nor is it specifically geared towards achieving excellence. It is more a methodology, and one which is alas not particularly methodical as yet. I cannot argue with the fundamental principles it aspires to. There are also interesting ideas in relation to inter-disciplinary work, co-operative learning and, if they work, thinking skills. However, there is as yet too much fog and confusion for us to be entirely confident about it as a model for the High School.

I would urge you not to be spooked or worried about the recent negative publicity in the media that has surrounded Curriculum for Excellence. As an independent school we remain committed to genuine excellence. We are not obliged to follow the government scheme in its entirety, if at all. Our pupils' education is far too important to us to gamble with half-baked experiments. We are therefore committed to developing our own excellent integrated curriculum. We will not be making substantial changes in the next few years. Rather we will be improving and developing our curriculum incrementally, to ensure that our pupils are prepared as well as they can be, not merely for national examinations, important as they are, but for life.

I should also comment briefly on the new exams – the so-called National 4 and 5 exams – that are to replace Standard Grades and Intermediates in 2013. The pupils entering F1 this autumn will be the first to sit the new exams that emanate from the Curriculum for Excellence. I am entirely confident that our current curriculum is already very well suited to achieving excellence in these exams, whatever they look like. At present it is not clear what their precise format will be. All of us in senior management, in liaison with the Heads of Department, are monitoring the situation very closely, so we can react swiftly if needed. The message is, however, please do not worry about it as we will prepare all our pupils thoroughly for any public examination.

In the meantime we are pressing on with developing our own High School Integrated Curriculum. This aims to build on the excellence that is already there by developing a more systematic focus on the different learning styles required for lifelong learning, combined with the so-called soft skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication, creativity, enterprise, enthusiasm and of course a sense of responsibility to our global community. I will be communicating more in this vein in the year to come.

In sport our pupils achieved great success in a number of areas.

Our equestrian teams came away with several awards and places at the Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships and our girls' football team swept all before them to win the Scottish independent schools' championships. In hockey, the U18 side were runners up in the final of the U18 Indoor Youth Cup and our F3 netballers made the semi-finals of the Scottish Schools' Cup. Our U15 rugby boys went on to defeat Hawick HS in the final of the U15 Schools' Plate competition at Murrayfield but perhaps our skiers won the most plaudits as individual gold

medals were won in three out of the four categories at the Scottish Schools' Championships, with two golds and a bronze in the team competition.

Music remains a hugely important part of School life, with over 600 music lessons being organised each week. There were many high points of course but the link with drama and art and design were most striking in the Junior School nativity and the stunning performances of *Dido and Aeneas* only last week. Two pupils have gained places in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and one even performed alongside Nicola Benedetti at a recital in Perth.

Debating and public speaking remain strong, and with the High School co-hosting the World Schools Debating Championships in Dundee in August 2011 it was great to see our first pair winning the ESU Mace, and our Juniors crowned regional champions in the East of Scotland final.

Developing the whole person though outdoor challenge is also a key aspect of what we offer and so the success of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is very gratifying. This year saw bigger numbers than ever involved, with 78 youngsters participating in Bronze, 51 in Silver and 29 in Gold. Meanwhile the 28 pupils and 4 teachers of Team Llama and Team Alpaca have been making final preparations for their month-long expedition to Peru, where they will be working in an orphanage, exploring the jungle and trekking in the Andes.

The Charities Committee, under the leadership of Gayle Spinks can look back on another successful year. After a bumper year with the hugely successful red nose day we did not expect to match the amount raised. But we did, collecting a total of over £24,000 in the course of the year, a fraction more than last year. Thank you to all for your energy and generosity.

I should also like to say something about the work of the Foundation and the Development Office. The Foundation is a charity established to provide funds for the High School, in particular, but not only, for bursaries. It is the Foundation which organises appeals and fundraising. In 2011 the Foundation will be celebrating its tenth anniversary, a milestone worth commemorating, as this year alone the Foundation has been able to pass on £300,000 to the School for bursaries. Thanks must go to everyone who has supported the work of the Development Director, Wendy Fowler, and the Foundation, and especially to the Chairman, Mrs Sheena Leadbitter, and the Foundation Trustees, Mr Adrian Stewart and Mr Colin Graham. Their work has changed the course of the lives of able pupils who might not otherwise have the opportunity of benefiting from all that the School has to offer.

My final words are always those of thanks to the many people without whom this School could not function and I could not do the job I do. The work of the Board of Directors under the hugely supportive leadership of Adrian Stewart goes almost exclusively unseen. However, the unpaid and generously given time and expertise on the various committees – Finance, Estates, Education, Bursaries, Remuneration, as well as the Full Board – ensure that the School continues to move in the right direction. At this point I would like to thank all my colleagues on the staff – the senior management team, the heads of department and guidance, the teachers who look after your children and of course all the support staff – my PA, the Estates, Office and Bursary staff, the lab and ICT technicians, the classroom and playground assistants, the catering, grounds and cleaning staff and last but not least, of course, the janitorial team under the leadership of Kevin Gilmour.

In addition it has been a pleasure working with the Parents' Association, the Old Boys and Old Girls' Clubs, the Appeal Trust Fund, the Nine Trades, the Guildry and many trusts, all of whom have contributed substantially in different ways to the ongoing health of the High School.

My final thanks go to the people who are our *raison d'être*, namely the pupils, led by the F6 and the Senior Prefects. Gordon Dick as Head Boy displayed excellent judgement at the end of last term, in dropping me just as I was getting going at the crease in the staff v F6 cricket match! Helen Coleman has been a fine Head Girl who led by example, and my thanks also go to their deputies Aman Bailwal and Joanne Mulford. I hope that the memories of all our pupils this year will sing even louder than mine.

On a final note to our F6 (and F5) leavers I would like to end with the words of Eusebius, a late Ionic Platonist of whom almost nothing is known, not even the precise date at which he lived, apart from this wonderful prayer.

"May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides. May I never quarrel with those nearest to me; and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly. May I never devise evil against any man; if any devise evil against me, may I escape uninjured and without the need of hurting him. May I love, seek and attain only that which is good. May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me . . . When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends . . . May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent . . . May I reconcile friends who are angry with one another. May I, to the extent of my power, give all needful help to my friends and to all who are in want. May I never fail a friend in danger. When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain . . . May I respect myself . . . May I always keep tame that which rages within me . . . May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with other people because of circumstances. May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps."



Dr John D Halliday BA PhD
Rector



Prize list 2010

L4 and 5

The Marshall Prize for Descant Recorder
Robbie Prize for Public Speaking
Anoushay Okhai

L6

Academic Merit Prize
Mariam Alijani
Katie McLennan
Catriona Murphy
Alex Smith
Gregor Vagg
Iona Wallace
Elle Wyatt

The Prize for Brass
Sandy Adamson

The Special Prize for Chess
Simon Allen

The Old Girls' Prize for Piano
Malcolm Campbell

The Stark Cup for Public Speaking
Euan Foulis

The Prize for Strings
Mhairi Millar

The Prize for Bagpipes
Emily Wilson-Pearce

L7

Academic Merit Prize
Emma Duncan
Andrew Elliott
Anushka Pathak

The Leng Silver Medal for Singing
Louise Clark

The Prize for Guitar
Rory Forster

Walter Smith Memorial Prize for Drama in L7
Nathan Moorjani

The Russell Trophy for Chess
Iain Wallace

Academic Merit Prize
The Prize for Woodwind
Miranda Cook

Academic Merit Prize
Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing in L7
Maya Nurbhai

Dr Rita Forrest Prize for Art in L7
Hutton Prize for Environmental Studies in L7
Glen Wilson

Old Girls' Trophy for all-round ability in L7
Sally Burnett

Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)
The John McLennan Prize for Proxime Accessit
Madeleine Tinson

The Woodman Trophy for Mathematics in L7
The E. M. Stewart Prize for Dux of the Junior School
Kenny Matheson

Form 1

Academic Merit Prize
Molly Duncan
Ella Hudson
Caitlin Richardson
Carys Stirling
Catriona Strachan

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Daniel Baker

Tie for International Recognition (Skiing)
Fraser Buchan

Tie for International Recognition (Skiing)
Kirsty Guest

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Rhys Paterson

Tie for International Recognition (Triathlon and Snooker)
Alasdair Rennet

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Euan Strachan

Prize for Most Improved Academic Effort
Matthew Reid

Academic Merit Prize
Academic Effort Prize
Andrew Guest

Girls' Chess Trophy
Intermediate Chess Club Trophy and Prize
Qing Qing Zhu

Academic Merit Prize
Alexander Mill White Prize for all-round ability in Form 1 girls
Sophie Kroboth

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Alexander Mill White Prize for all-round ability in Form 1 boys
Robertson Prize for Dux of Form 1 boys
Alister Goodfellow

Florence Whytock Memorial Prize for Dux of Form 1 girls
Eilidh Lockhart

Form 2

Academic Merit Prize
Hannah Arnold
Alice Burnett
Hannah Douglas
James Mather
Olivia Tait
Megan Wallace

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Alison Ross

Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)
Catriona Wallace

A S Drummond Prize for Public Speaking in Forms 1-3
Zara Billah

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

Andrew K Paton Memorial Trophy for All-Round Sporting Ability in Form 2 boys (joint)
Christopher Jollands
Duncan Leese

Academic Merit Prize
A S Drummond Prize for Public Speaking in Forms 1-3
Andrew Kelly

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

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Leng Silver Medal for Singing
Prize for all-round ability in Form 2 girls
Karyn Joss

RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux of Form 2 boys
Marshall MacLeod

RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux of Form 2 girls
Barbara Braid

Form 3

Academic Merit Prize
Charlotte Collison
James Lucocq
Campbell MacLeod
Morven Millar

Tie for International Recognition (Skiing)
Katie Guest

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Sarah Hay

Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra)
Ailsa Purdie

Larg Prize for Brass
Eilidh Affleck

Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Lewis Davie

Chris Rea Prize for Games in Form 3 boys
Craig Morrison

Chris Rea Prize for Games in Form 3 girls
Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)
Georgina Black

Academic Merit Prize
Larg Prize for Woodwind
Harry Carstairs

Larg Prize for Piano
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Leeann Chen

Academic Merit Prize
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Eleanor Robson

Academic Merit Prize
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Gail Watson

Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra)
Jane Spiller Prize for Dux of Form 3 girls
Louise Pattullo

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux of Form 3 boys
Jakob Kroboth

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize
Daniel Barton
Donald Campbell
Ross Mulford
Joanna Tait
Hannah Thomson

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Jennifer Allan

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Oliver Baker

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Elliot McKillop

Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra)
Joanna Waller

Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Matthew Clark

Dennis J Paterson Prize and Trophy for the Best Individual Speaker in the Inter House Debates
Zara Evans

Larg Prize for Guitar
Duncan Strachan

Academic Merit Prize
Beckingham Trophy and Chess Club Prize
King Hang Chan

London-Angus Association Trophy for Reading and Public Speaking F4-6
G H Philip Prize for Public Speaking F4-6
Holly Maxwell-Stevenson

Academic Merit Prize
Consulate General's Prize for German in Form 4
William McBride

Tie for International Recognition (Golf)
Games Merit Scarf (Golf)
Ailsa Summers

RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux of Form 4 boys
Cameron Richardson

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux of Form 4 girls
April Shepherd

Form 5

Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Music in Form 5
Eilidh Campbell

Prize for Computer Studies in Form 5
Fraser Dougan

Prize for Drama in Form 5
Olivia McGregor

G H Philip Prize for Public Speaking F4-6
Catherine Gordon

Isabella Hunter Award for Art in Form 5
Hannah Henderson

Prize for Higher Philosophy
Tristan Leicester

E M Stewart Prize for English in Form 5
Cameron Milne

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Kirsty Mitchell

Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Classical Studies in Form 5
Rebecca Oakes

Prize for Higher RMPS
Kasia Thomson

Robert Biggar Prize for Geography in Form 5
Hannah Sampson

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Higher Latin
Madeleine Adamson

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Spanish in Form 5
Lauren Clayson

Tie for International Recognition (Skiing)
Games Merit Scarf (Skiing)
Charlie Guest

Tie for International Recognition (Squash)
Games Merit Scarf (Squash)
David Jones

Academic Merit Prize
Isabella Hunter Award for Art in Form 5
Anna Mackenzie

Academic Merit Prize
James Stevenson Memorial Prize for French in Form 5
Helen Main

Jane Rae Prize for Home Economics
Richard Beaton Prize for Practical Cookery
Gavin Tallett

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship
Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy and Book Prize for Chemistry in Form 5
Matthew Wood

University of Dundee Prize for Excellence in Economics (F5)
J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics in Form 5 boys
Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Physics in Form 5
Ross Macdonald

Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5 boys
Alistair Lynch

Glenday Award for Biology in Form 5
Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for History in Form 5
J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics in Form 5 girls
High School Quaich for the Best All-Round Instrumentalist
Caroline S Low Prize for Dux of Form 5 girls
Siobhan Chien

Form 6

Form 6 Leaver Award

William Arnott
Saeed Asif
Grace Batchelor
Natalie Bennett
Alistair Birse-Stewart-Bell
Sascha Brooks-Mathieson
Conal Brown
Betty Buckman
Nicholas Cargill
Carissa Chan
Rebecca Chapple
Leo Coyle-Smith
Howell Craske
Andrew Dailly
Michael Devlin
Lewis Foggie
Nicol Foggie
Andrew Gerrie
Andrew Guy
Rachel Herron
Fabliha Hussain
Lyndsay Hutcheson
Alix Inglis
Jonathan Irons
Andrew Kilgour
Ethan Killick
Kirsteen Lamont
Deborah Lawrie
Caroline Li
Danny Macpherson
James Matossian
Yunis Mattar
Melanie Matthew
Eoghann McGregor
Jaimie McGregor
Colin Miller
Caroline Milne
Amy Mitchell
Charlie Mitchell
Yasmin Mselli
Kirstin Murdie
Vanita Nathwani
Euan Paterson
Tegan Paul
Rory Proudfoot
Chloe Rayner
Adam Reid
Katy Rodger
Charlotte Rowe
Gordon Russell
Gregor Sim
Louise Soutar
Jessica Stirling
Alicia Storie
James Sutherland-Harper
Oliver Thomas
Philip Thomson
Ash Treece
Andrew Tweedie
Calum Walker
Sandy Walton

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Richard Abel

University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Form 6 Leaver Award
Ewain Black

University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Form 6 Leaver Award
Suzy Boath

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Nicola Collison

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English Form 6 Leaver Award
Sophie Craik

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Steven Devlin

W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computer Studies Form 6 Leaver Award
Samir Eljamel

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship Form 6 Leaver Award
Matthew Emslie-Smith

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Rosie Gray

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Jamie Johnston

Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award
Kirsty Kilpatrick

University of Dundee Advanced Entry Certificate Form 6 Leaver Award
Jennifer Lothian

William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies Form 6 Leaver Award
Victoria Nicholson

Alan Hall Prize for Dux in Technological Studies (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award
Peter Robertson

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award
Amanda Somers

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award
Rachael Spink

Prize for Higher Physical Education (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award
Claire Stirling

Low Prize for Latin and English Form 6 Leaver Award
Lucy Taylor

Prize for Higher Physical Education (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award
Ruairidh Voigt

Prize for Higher Accounting Form 6 Leaver Award
Mark Wallace

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award
Cai Wardle

Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography Form 6 Leaver Award
Meriel Young

Alan Hall Prize for Dux in Technological Studies (joint) Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Waqas Arshid

Dott Prize for Dux in Music Larg Prize for Strings Form 6 Leaver Award
Anna Burns

Caird Prize for Higher Business Management Armitstead Trust Prize for Higher Modern Studies Form 6 Leaver Award
Heather Gray

Larg Prize for Voice Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award
Amy Grieve

Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Dux in Classical Studies Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4-6 Form 6 Leaver Award
Jordan McLaren

William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics Form 6 Leaver Award
Alex Montgomery

J Torrington Bell Prize for Dux in Art Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport (joint) Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Beth Spowart

Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education – girls Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award
Lindsey Docherty

Prize for Higher Accounting W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics Form 6 Leaver Award
Duncan Fraser

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French Eiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Modern Languages W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish Form 6 Leaver Award
Eleanor Mackie

Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Girl Form 6 Leaver Award
Joanne Mulford

Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education – boys P Gordon Grant Trophy for Games Tie for International Recognition (Cricket) Games Merit Scarf (Cricket) Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Boy Form 6 Leaver Award
Aman Bailwal

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

Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics Dr Evelyn Gow Prize for Science Form 6 Leaver Award
Fiona Allison

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in German Sir John Leng Prize for Dux in History Edinburgh-Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies Form 6 Leaver Award
Rachael McLellan

Lowson Prize for Head of School (Girls) Form 6 Leaver Award
Helen Coleman

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

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

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

Welcome

Susie Gallagher

Primary Department



Susie was born and grew up in Alloway, Ayr. She obtained a degree in Physical Education at Moray House College in Edinburgh, graduating with honours in 1997, but she moved to Dundee because Niall (her husband in waiting) came to work at the High School as a PE teacher. Initially, she worked as a peripatetic primary PE specialist for the Monifieth cluster of primary schools, during which time she realised that she preferred working with younger children. So, she went back to university, to do a one year Post Graduate Certificate in Primary Teaching in September 2002 at the University of Dundee, gaining merit and a letter of distinction from the Board of Examiners for her teaching placements.

She completed the then new compulsory probationary year at Seaview Primary in Monifieth, with a Primary 2 class which had thirty-two pupils – numbers we don't often encounter at the High! Having been at the school as a PE teacher, she fitted right in and was offered a permanent position at the end of that year. In July 2003, Susie made an honest man of Niall and they now have two children Fraser, five and Blair, three. Fraser will start L1 in HSD Junior School in August this year, so Saturday mornings at Mayfield are becoming a bit of a Gallagher family affair, with the entire clan gathered there!

Susie is taking the reins from Miss Alexander next session and will be coaching our own Junior School netball team. She was also in charge of the Eco team and, when she left they were working towards achieving their Green Flag having already gained their Bronze and Silver awards. Susie has just registered the HSD Junior School with Eco School Scotland and is looking forward to starting an Eco School team here next session.

Susie joined us in August 2009 and is teaching L5 this year. She loves the ethos of our School and, having enjoyed teaching the L3 multisport club this year, she is looking forward to getting more involved in co-curricular activities next session, now that she has settled into the School.

Stephen Russell

Evening Janitor



Stephen joined our janitorial team on 20th August 2009 and his friendly, helpful approach means that he is already a "weel kent" face in the School community. Stephen has had a varied career. Before joining us, he worked in Facilities Management, assisting with fitting kitchens and bathrooms, but he has also worked as a Hotel Manager and he owned and also ran a coffee shop for many years.

For the last four years, Stewart has spent his summer holidays working in Romania for The Corabia Foundation, which is a children's charity. He has been working in the village of Sardu in the west of Romania, an extremely poor area. His sponsored cycle ride from Edinburgh to St Andrews, on 19th June 2010 raised a significant sum for this charity and also raised our awareness of the situation. We are very pleased to welcome him to the High School.

Kirstin Reith

Junior School



Kirstin started at the High School in August 2009. She graduated from the Northern College in Aberdeen in 1998 with a BEd and from the University of Dundee in 2008 with a MEd. She spent her first four years teaching in Fife at schools in Cellardyke, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy before moving to The Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville Junior School in Edinburgh, where she spent seven years, before returning to Dundee.

Kirstin says that she has enjoyed her first year at the High School. Having spent the majority of her career teaching the infant stages, she says that it has been refreshing to teach the older children of L4. She has still had her "fix" of the little ones, however, from taking the L1 Art Club as her co-curricular activity! She has also enjoyed her first French Day and Pirate Day! We welcome her warmly to the High School family.

Joseph Rainey

Computing Department



Joe joined the Computing Department in August 2009, having completed his probation at Williamwood High School, East Renfrewshire. He ran the first guitar hero competition in the school, which was very successful, and an animation competition, resulting in a winner from Form 2, the prize giving being held at Manchester University during the summer with both the prize winner and Joe in attendance. He has also participated in the running of the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award, including attending expeditions.

Joe declares himself to be a fan of Apple computers and says, "My iPhone follows me everywhere." No surprise there from one of our IT literate colleagues. Making the move to Dundee from Glasgow just this year, Joe has entered into the life of the School wholeheartedly and is already well established in his post. We welcome him most warmly.

Isobel Pimbley

Science Technician



Isobel joined the staff of the High School on Monday 29th March 2010. She has worked for thirty years as a science technician, training in an Ecology lab in the plant science department for three years and then in the Forestry department at University of Aberdeen for seven years. She moved to Dundee in 1989 and worked in the Biological Sciences department of the University of Dundee. Then she moved to the University of Abertay, Dundee, where she worked in plant tissue culture.

Isobel says she is delighted to have now joined the High School of Dundee and loves working here. To relax she draws, mainly from photographs and writes poetry which she describes as "Pam Ayres/McGonagall style poetry only not quite as good!" We welcome her warmly to the High School.

Daryl Meechan

English Department



Daryl joined the English Department in August 2009. He was born in Maryhill, Glasgow in 1984, a significant year in literature, but, as his pupils will vouchsafe, Daryl is no Orwellian totalitarian. He always had a passion for reading, writing and, naturally, cartooning from a young age. He attended St Aloysius' College from 1996-2002, where he played rugby but Daryl admits that, though he was very quick, he lacked the interest to develop the sport. He has done lots of charity work for Marie Curie Cancer Care from the early age of twelve and it is an organisation he supports keenly still.

He graduated in 2006 and attended University of Glasgow doing a PGDE in English and Religious Education. He worked at Springburn Academy for his probationary year, followed by The Glasgow Academy, then up to the High School of Dundee. Daryl wasted no time in establishing a Cartoon Club, which has been very successful with a large and regular attendance of very keen young cartoonists.

Edmund Faulkes

Classics Department



Edmund joined the Classics Department in August 2009 to teach Classical Studies, Latin and Ancient Greek. Previously he taught at Stromness Academy in Orkney Islands. Edmund studied Classics at the University of Durham before teaching English for a number of years at Edwardes College in Peshawar in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. He returned to study Theology at Cambridge University and was ordained as a minister of Scottish Episcopal Church, working in Mid Craigie in Dundee and in Aberdeen. During this time, he also taught theology in the Theological Institute of the Episcopal Church, training the future clergy of the church. He has travelled extensively in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka supporting rural development projects and taking and arranging group visits to experience life in the developing world.

Edmund has three children: the eldest is about to study engineering in Glasgow, the second is studying film-making at college and the youngest is in his last year of school at St Leonard's in St Andrews. All were pupils at the High School when previously in Dundee. We are delighted to welcome him back to the High School fold.

Liz McIntosh

School Transport Administrator



Liz joined us in February 2010. She was previously working for Angus Council as an Assessment Officer in the Housing Division. She is also a High School parent; some of you may know her daughter, Beth McIntosh, who is in Form 2. Liz is mainly based in the School Office and acts as a central point of contact, co-ordinating school bus transport for pupils to and from the High School as well as for school trips, fixtures and PE/Games activities taking place at Mayfield Sports Centre. Welcome to the High School of Dundee, Liz.

Julie Hutton

Library Assistant



Julie qualified with a PG diploma in Librarianship & Information Studies from Robert Gordon University in 1995, having previously gained an MA (Gen) in Arts and Social Sciences from the University of Aberdeen in 1989. She has worked in a variety of library and archive roles including Aberdeen City Archives, Lothian Health Services Archive (housing historically important collection of Edinburgh hospital records, photographs and medical artefacts) and, latterly, part-time Information Officer at University of Abertay working on the Information Desk.

She lives in Dundee with architect husband Graeme, three kids (Thomas, Daisy and Ruby) and Diesel the dog. Her home is a Victorian terrace with new architectural interventions (no surprise there with an architect in the family!) but still some way from a Grand Design. When not chauffeuring children to various activities and trying to tame her terrier, any spare time is spent reading the latest children's fiction! Julie is enjoying her first term at Dundee High and she says that she has been made to feel very welcome by staff and pupils.

We are pleased to welcome her to the School and pupils and staff who use the Library are already very grateful to her for her patient and helpful attitude.

Frances Horne

Development Administrator



Frances joined us in April 2010 and is working as the assistant to the Director of Development. This is a change of career for Frances as she previously worked in financial services. She is originally from Peterborough and moved up to Scotland with her husband fifteen years ago. They now live in Tayport with their cats.

She is a member of a local swimming club, Ye Amphibious Ancient Bathing Association (the "Phibbies"), the club that takes part in open water swimming. Besides the occasional swim in the Tay, she also helps takes swimming lessons for the junior club members and trains with the senior squad.

We extend a warm welcome to Frances in her new post at the High School.

Stuart Hill

Physics Department



Stuart graduated with a degree in Electronics Engineering (BEng) and completed a postgraduate degree in Radiation Physics (MSc). His postgraduate research was in the Medical Applications of Diagnostic Ultrasound.

His first teaching post was Physics and Maths at Dunfermline High School followed by Assistant and Principal teacher of Guidance at Montrose Academy and Forfar Academy. He took a break from teaching and worked in industry as a Transducer and Systems Engineer, designing sonar products for military and oil industry applications, then returned to the classroom as Physics Coordinator at Morrison's Academy.

Stuart says that he has been made to feel very welcome at the High School by pupils and staff and is grateful for the "excellent support from colleagues" during his first five months. He commented on the "great feeling of community spirit in the School and a very positive ethos" and finds the pupils polite, courteous and possessed of high aspirations. Stuart stated, "I am impressed with the standards and high expectations in the Department and School."

He is taking over as a Form 1 Group Teacher and will be a UCAS Tutor. He also assists Willie Nicoll with Boys' Hockey coaching and fixtures. We welcome him warmly to the High School.

Lisa Grant

Bursar's Office



Lisa joined the School in April 2010 following a brief spell working for Sage in Newcastle. However, she moved back home because she "missed Bonnie Dundee". Prior to working in Newcastle, she worked for Abertay University, in the Students' Union, as an accounts assistant. She has an HND in Accountancy which she achieved at Dundee College.

Although she has not been at the school long, she says that she has enjoyed her time here, though she is still trying to get used to all the new faces. She hopes to be able "to follow in Isobel's footsteps" and provide the same great service to the Bursary. We are pleased to welcome her to the High School and hope she continues to enjoy being part of the Bursary team.

Farewell to a number of valued colleagues, and a warm welcome to our new faces on the staff.

Ron Oliver

Maths Department

Ron joined us on Wednesday 9th December 2009, to cover Donna Macdonald's classes in the Maths Department until the end of the Summer Term 2010. Ron is already known to many of you and is hardly a "new" member of staff. We hope he had a happy and purposeful time with us.

Some of you may have caught Ron's appearance on "The Weakest Link" and, although he didn't win, he certainly proved what we all know to be the case, that he is certainly no weak link. He was voted off after a couple of rounds when, statistically, he was far from the weakest player and, philosophically, Ron put it down to ageism. There's no need to worry about that at the High School, Ron. We value your wisdom and experience and are grateful that you came back to the fold to help us out.

Kevin Gilmour

Head Janitor



Kevin has been at the High School since 11th November 2002 and I know staff and pupils have been grateful to him for what he has done this session and in previous years. We congratulate him most warmly on his appointment which took effect from 27th July 2009.

Peter Hancock

Head Science Technician



Peter has been appointed Head Science Technician to succeed Mrs Christine Gill when she retired in April 2010. Congratulations go to Peter. The scientists already owe you a huge debt of gratitude for the sterling work you've done.

Jane Cochrane

Senior Medical Assistant



Jane took on additional responsibilities from August 2009. She is now the Senior Medical Assistant responsible for the supervision of the existing Medical Assistant (Maureen Morrison) and the Medical Centre in general on a day-to-day basis. This change has not significantly changed the day-to-day operation of the Medical Centre but it establishes Jane in a new supervisory role, making her a key point of contact for certain responsibilities. Congratulations to her.

Morag Mordente

Learning Skills (Junior School)



Morag is already a valued member of the Junior School staff and she takes up the position of Learning Skills (Junior School) teacher on a full-time basis from August 2010. The Learning Skills team are really looking forward to working with her in her new role in which we know she will be a real asset to the department and School.

Farewell

Mrs Irene McIntosh

Deputy Head – Primary



Irene has been a very familiar presence around the School for many years. She joined the School in 1986 as a supply teacher for L2. Very quickly it was clear that this was a face the School wanted to keep and she was given a permanent job teaching L6. Thirteen years ago she took on the promoted post which has become Deputy Head of Junior School.

In that role Irene has dealt with many problems but she has always been the one to see a solution rather than a problem. She is practical, decisive and knowledgeable and always puts the best interests of the pupils first. She has brought a lot to the Guidance role in Junior School, being the one to establish a Junior School Council, Prefects and Pupil Helpers. Many children and indeed many members of staff will be grateful to her for 'fixing' their worries and giving them words of advice. She has also worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition for pupils entering Senior School and to promote a closer working relationship with Senior School Departments.

In co-curricular terms, she established Rainbows here and was also part of the original team which set up the Dalguise trip for L6, way back in 1989. She was also on the very first L7 trip to Paris. Irene has always been a great believer in the wider life of the School and has enjoyed organising all the costumes for Nativities as well as being the inspiration and producer for Junior School Musicals. This was a huge personal challenge for her and one which she has enjoyed enormously.

She says it has been a real privilege to work in the Junior School with such a positive and committed staff and she feels lucky to have had so many opportunities. She is going to miss the daily interaction with the children but is looking forward to having the freedom to do what she wants to do when she wants to do it. She will be glad to be free of the tyranny of the bells.

We wish her well for her retirement and many happy days with her family and new grandson. Pupils and staff will miss her hugely in Junior School.

Isabell Hope

Bursar's Office



Isabell retired at the end of July 2010. She joined the Bursary as Payroll/Fee Administrator in January 1992 when the Bursary was located in Bonar House, making it eighteen-and-a-half years that she has been with the School. She has been an invaluable member of staff and, although many of us may only have needed her personal assistance in the event of an irregularity with tax codes or payments, she was part of the team that makes the finances of the School run so smoothly. Many of the staff also have cause to thank her for the patience with which she has administered the School's deal over car parking tickets for Bell Street. Isabell has been a loyal, efficient and helpful member of staff who will be sincerely missed.

Emma Rudman

PE Department



Sadly, Emma is leaving us to move to Edinburgh with her husband where they both intend to pursue new jobs. She says that she has enjoyed her time at the High School, stating, "It's a great start to my teaching career and thanks to all, I will miss being part of the High School community." In return, she will be sadly missed by all her Junior School pupils but especially her hockey ones.

Emma has also made great strides with the Senior School netball, entering the Scottish Cup and playing in some far flung parts of Scotland . . . Coatbridge to name but one! Like all our PE staff, she is versatile and diligent and her dedication to the School and her pupils has been exemplary.

She leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

Gillian Manzie

School Transport Administrator

Gill Manzie joined the School in October 2006 in the newly created post of Transport Supervisor with responsibility for organising the School's bus requirements. This included the services to Perth, St Andrews, Blairgowrie, Forfar and Arbroath and the shuttle service to Mayfield. In addition she assisted the PE department with the buses required for Saturday morning games and also other departments in the School involved in organising trips and visits. Being based in the School Office Gill also provided support with reception work and general duties.

She left the School in January 2010 and we wish Gill well in her new post which is not far away at the Dundee Volunteer Centre in Constitution Road from where she can still see all that is going on across the road at the Junior School.

Catherine Kirkpatrick

Learning Skills (Junior School)

Catherine left at the beginning of this session to take up a new post at Kilgraston. She has been with us for five years, supporting the Junior School pupils. We are really grateful for all her hard work and commitment during that time and wish her all the best in her new post. This session 2009-10 Catherine's duties have been shared by Margaret Wallace and Liz Batchelor. We would like to thank them for their dedication, commitment and the enthusiasm which they have brought to the job this session. This has been greatly appreciated by Mrs Maxwell, parents and pupils.

Christine Gill

Head Science Technician



Christine retired in April 2010 after serving the School superlatively for seventeen years. Christine is a real unsung hero – from First Aid to video copying to laminating to trophies to almost any job you could name. Christine is a St Andrew's qualified First Aider and, over the years, has provided essential training for High School staff. In addition, many of us may not be aware of the invaluable role Christine has performed at Sports Day and Prize Giving. Thanks to her efforts, the trophies were immaculately prepared and presented without a glitch. Her diligent and loyal service was exemplary.

I'm sure I can speak for Biology, Chemistry and Physics in stating that she has been an integral part of each department's success for seventeen years. The team just could not have functioned without the level of preparation that Christine put in behind the scene – nearly all of it intuitive – chemicals and resources just magically appear "bang on time" without needing to be asked for. Her greatest contribution in the Chemistry department is undoubtedly her excellent technical and theoretical knowledge of the subject that allows her to give the best possible support to their Advanced Higher Chemistry class – over 500 pupils (mostly now all doctors, dentists and vets) have been very grateful for the huge part she has played in helping them reach their potential.

Christine retired from the School at Easter to enjoy a relaxed lifestyle with her husband, Peter, who retired at the same time. However, even in retirement she is continuing with her First Aid commitments and many staff main still see her when receiving their First Aid training. She is a trusted and respected colleague who always goes out of her way to help – no matter the request. We will all miss her but hope she enjoys her retirement – knowing Christine, I imagine it is going to be very busy.

David Foulds

Geography Department



Sadly, David is leaving at the end of this term for a new post at Stewart's Melville in Edinburgh. He has spent three years at the High School of Dundee, joining as a probationer, following degrees in Geography and Environmental Management in Bristol, Law at Glasgow University and PGDE at Jordanhill, Glasgow.

He has taught mainly as a geographer but also helped to develop MER as an established Higher and Modern Studies for the International Issues section. After just a year-and-a-half of teaching, he was placed in charge of the administration of the Geography Department while the School was waiting to appoint a new Head of Department, a challenge to which he rose admirably.

David has been involved in various activities outside the classroom: Duke of Edinburgh, rugby coaching and field trips (including one to Iceland). This summer, as his parting shot, he is going to Peru as the Assistant group leader for the Llama group. This has involved lots of training, fund raising and planning towards the four week expedition.

David concluded, modestly, that there are lots of other "little things" in which he has been involved. Suffices to say that he has packed a lot in during his short time with us and we will be sorry to see him go. We wish him all the best and good luck in Edinburgh.

Rebecca Titheridge

Temporary Library Assistant

Rebecca joined us as a temporary library assistant between May 2009 and April 2010. She had just completed her degree in Art, Philosophy and Contemporary Practices from Duncan of Jordanstone College. Rebecca was a great asset to the library and certainly put her creative skills to good use with the exciting and eye-catching displays she produced. She has a love of literature, and a fondness for rodents, having three pet rats, and we heard some interesting rat tales when she worked with us! Rebecca has gone off to pursue her own business creating corporate logo designs. We wish her all the luck for the future.

Mrs Audrey McCabe

Classroom Assistant – Primary



Mrs Audrey McCabe has been a very familiar face in the life of the High School for over thirty years. Back in 1978 she became a part-time catering assistant and her duties in those days were to waitress in the teacher's room where up to twenty-eight members of staff would sit down and be served their three course meal.

A few years later she was appointed as the very first auxiliary to Junior School. As the job grew she was asked if she would like the challenge of supervising and starting up the After School Care Club for Junior School, which became a big success with parents and pupils. As the years went on it became apparent that the School would benefit from having trained Classroom Assistants and it was at this point she attended Dundee College and gained her Professional Development Activity Certificate and became senior classroom assistant. Audrey's experience and 'can-do' attitude will be greatly missed.

She looks forward to her retirement playing bowls, going caravanning and having more time with her family consisting of husband Ron, a married son and a daughter, five grandsons, one granddaughter and one great granddaughter.

Nancy Myles

Development Office

Nancy retired from the High School of Dundee at Easter after five years of sterling service. Nancy joined us from a similar position at King's College Cambridge and had a wealth of experience to offer. She is looking forward to having more free time for her numerous craft based hobbies and her garden. We wish her well in her retirement.

Since we last went to print, members of staff have celebrated the following events:

Weddings

Congratulations to Lesley Smith on her marriage to Euan Ross in July 2009.

We also congratulate, Christine Cameron on her marriage to Jimmy O'Ready in October 2009.

We wish them all many years of good health and happiness together.

Births

Congratulations to our Head Janitor, Kevin Gilmour, and his wife on their adoption of Casey (2) and Jemma (1) in August 2009.

Donna Macdonald is also to be congratulated on the birth of her son, Matthew George Meneely on 9th January 2010.

Lesley Ross gave birth to Flora Jane on 12 July, and Gayle Spinks gave birth to Rachael two days later on 14 July. Congratulations to them both!

Other Highlights

Our very own Vikki Bunce won her 100th hockey cap for Scotland against France in March 2010. She has also been chosen as National Player of the Year for 2010. Very well done, Vikki, we're proud of you.



A year in the life of the Development office

The Development Team work to keep former pupils, staff and friends in touch with each other and to encourage the whole School community to support the work of the Foundation, in order to raise money for bursaries and other initiatives needed by the School.



The School links spread far and wide with former pupils across the world, in touch at the click of a mouse, thanks to our Highlights, e-newsletter. To maintain those links we hold regular reunions for former pupils and in September we hosted a reunion for the Classes of the late 1960's and 1970. There was a huge turnout and lots of chatter and reminiscences of School life. At the end of May this year our reunion programme continued with the Class of 1965 with people attending from all over Europe.

During the Easter break we had a visit from one of the School's oldest FPs. George Welsh started school in 1914 just after the start of World War I and he left in 1924. He now lives in Callander and made a special trip to see his old School. George remembered his teachers and was able to tell us about his cricketing prowess and the building of the Pavilion at Dalnacraig, information we have been looking for!

As part of the Princess Royal's visit to celebrate the School anniversaries, an exhibition of the history of the School was mounted in the Board Room, and every School association manned a stand explaining their links with the School. The Princess proved to be really knowledgeable about the work of the Foundation and she spoke encouragingly about the need for a robust bursary programme such as ours.

The Foundation has had a busy year with events. Starting in September, we were delighted that three former pupils agreed to put on a stunning musical programme. The grand piano in Trinity Hall has never sounded better when Christina Lawrie, a renowned concert pianist, played several pieces for us, finishing with the rousing Mephisto Waltz. She was followed by Ken Murray, a talented singer, who entertained us with several songs including one of the famous Flanders and Swann numbers, The Gasman Cometh! Lastly, our newest former pupil, Amy Watson, played the challenging Czardas for us with great style.

In November we had our first Art Sale, Discover Art at the Eduardo Alessandro Studios in Broughty Ferry. Artists from all over Scotland took part with a lot of the artists having ties to the School as former pupils or parents.

The end of May saw the first outdoor Shakespeare production by a group of professional Shakespearian actors, The Festival Players, an all male cast who tour the country. After such changeable weather in May, their production of *The Tempest* was quite appropriate. We were, however, blessed with good weather for the evening and the audience enjoyed their picnics whilst watching the play.

Also in May we celebrated the first anniversary of The 770 Club, a new fundraising initiative named in memory of the founding of the School in 1239. This small lottery has so far managed to generate enough funds to supply one 100% bursary as well as over 70 lucky lottery winners.

The Foundation is going from strength to strength and looking forward to their 10th anniversary next year. The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has supported their work to help provide much needed funds for bursaries.

Tuesday 8th September The Royal Visit

The Princess Royal visited the High School of Dundee on Tuesday 8th September 2009 as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the granting of the School's Royal Charter, thought the first ever made by a member of the Royal Family to the School.





"It was an extremely wet day but everybody was very excited so it didn't matter."

Catriona Murphy

"Her genuine show of interest and appreciation of the effort on the School's behalf was apparent."

Helen Coleman

Princess Anne's great-great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria, granted the Charter in 1859, unifying the three schools operating within Dundee Public Seminaries to form one organisation, and formally bestowing the name of the High School of Dundee.

Braving the most appalling weather, pupils turned out to greet the Princess Royal enthusiastically! During her visit, the Princess toured displays showing the past and current life of the School, and met pupils and staff, before unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion.

Following the ceremony, the School's two youngest pupils, Elizabeth Lang and Max Blom, both age four, presented the Princess with a posy.

Speaking at the unveiling, the Princess Royal said:

"This School has set some fine standards over the years, and you have every right to celebrate. When I think of school I must admit I go back to my Oxford English Dictionary. It defines education as training for life, and I think that's what the High School here in Dundee has been doing and will continue to do, and the individuals that I have met today show that that really is still happening. So, congratulations, on looking at your past, and celebrating it, but that you can look forward with real confidence to the future."



"All the pupils were so lucky to have had a member of the royal family come to their school to celebrate the 150th anniversary."

Rebecca Malik



Departments

Art

Art & Design Lunch Clubs Jewellery & Textile Clubs

Every Monday lunchtime F1 and F2 pupils met to learn the skills of designing and making jewellery and felt scarves with the help of Miss Douglas, Mrs Sinclair, Mrs Maxwell and F2 helpers. Pupils learnt how to work with fabric, metal, plastic and wood using equipment such as rolling mills, drills and doming blocks. The culmination of the club at the end of the year resulted in an exhibition being held in the library of some of the work produced.

London Art Trip Easter 2010

Twenty-nine Form 4 pupils, four staff members and lots of tourists spent four days in central London at Easter.

The pupils visited galleries including the Tate Modern and Portrait Gallery; went to Museums such as the Victoria and Albert; viewed exhibitions; took part in art discussions with gallery education officers; participated in practical workshops; visited the cinema; went to see a West End Show; took a trip on the London Eye; ate in nice restaurants amongst other exciting and exhausting activities.

Both the staff and the pupils had a great time and felt it was good preparation for their written exam in June.



Gallery



Laura Strachan F2



Alice Burnett F2



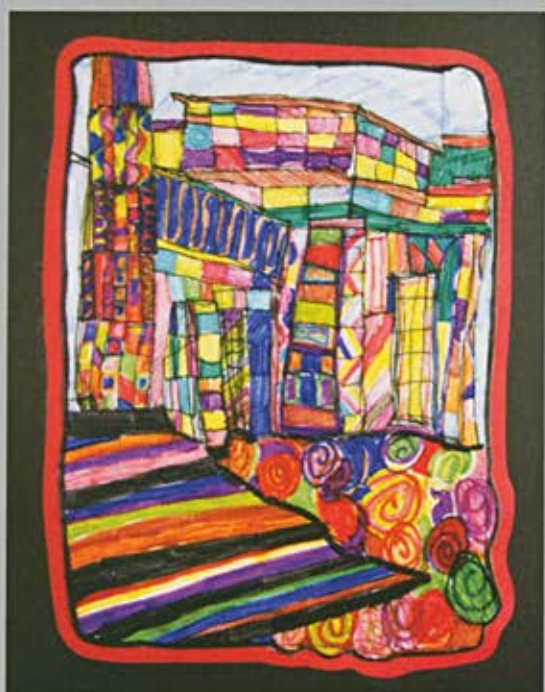
Hannah Arnold F2



Erin Smith F2



Qing Qing Zhu F1



Emma Walker F1



Nathan Bircham F1



Matthew Macdonald F1



Ronan Joy F2



Ellen McLean F2



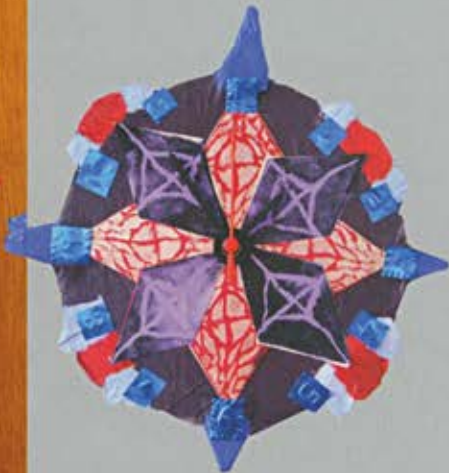
Katie Lumsdaine F2



Kirsty Grant F1



Antonia Grier F2



Nassim Branine F2



India Stobbs F1



Rachel Allen F1



Kirsty Stout F3

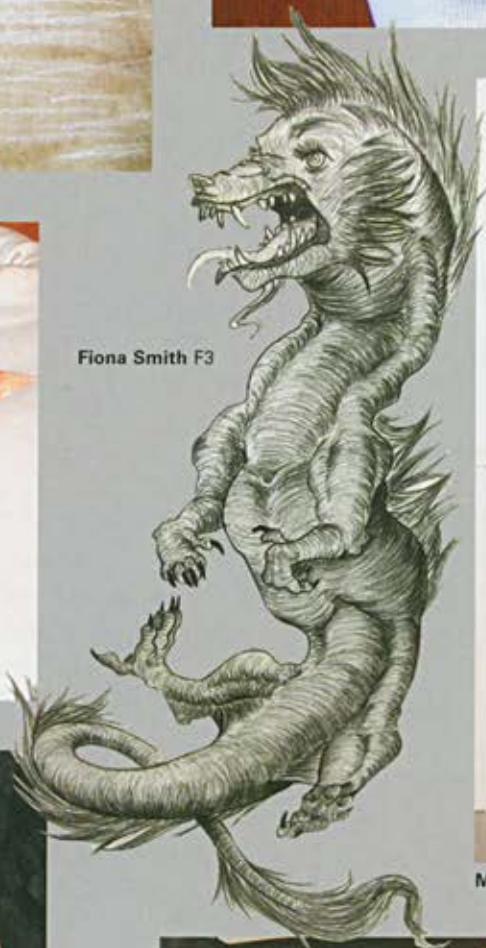


Sarah Douglas F3



Lauren Barnett F3

Fiona Smith F3



Michelle Arnot F4



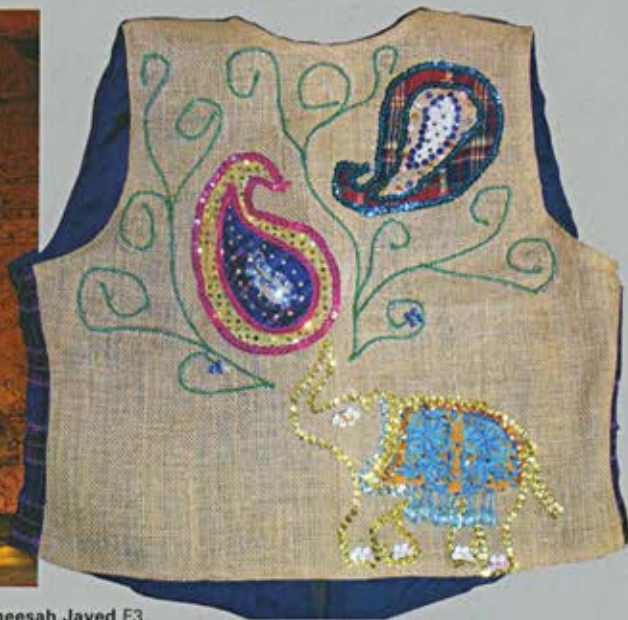
Hannah Fearon F4



Callum Edwards F4



Annabelle Muir F4



Aneesah Javed F3



Kiran Chita F4



Jessica McGoff F4



Ailsa Thomson F4



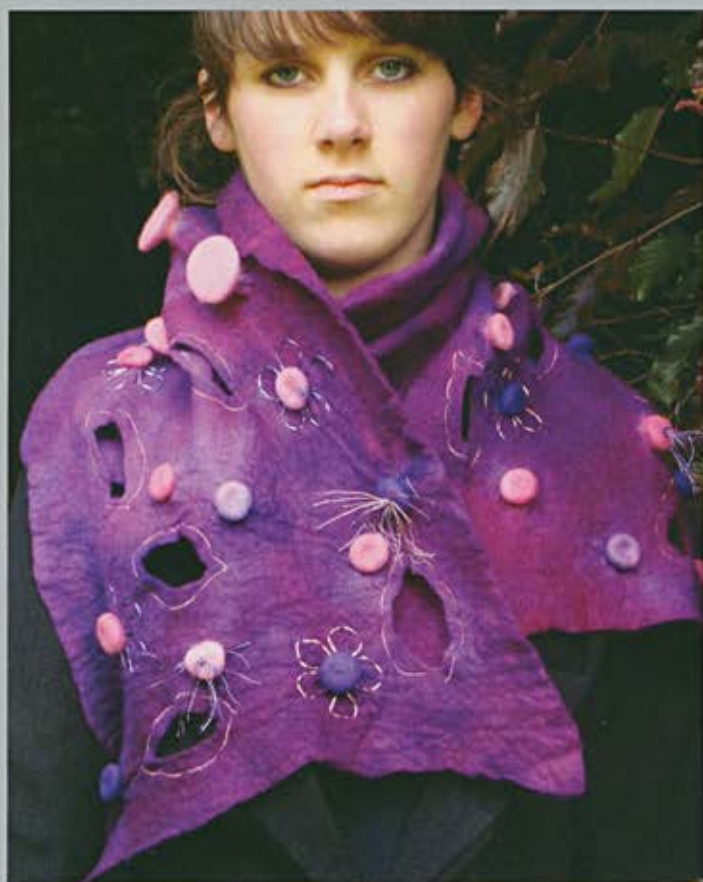
Keziah Brown F4



Kathryn McIntosh F5



Tristan Leicester F5



Nicola Collison F6



Charlie Guest F5



Hannah Henderson F5



Jessica Stirling F6



Lauren McNamara F5



Yasmin Mselli F6



Beth Spowart F6



Anna Mackenzie F5



Amy Grieve F6

Chemistry

1 2 3

1: Mr Rodger does his best to outdo the pupils

2: A visit from "Paraffin" Young

3: The Go4SET team



Science and Engineering Week Challenge

National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) is a ten day programme of science, engineering and technology events and activities across the UK organised by the British Science Association.

Last year's High School of Dundee challenge in Science and Engineering Week saw 130 pupils entering a tree-building challenge with only four pieces of paper and no glue, tape or scissors. This year's challenge was to build a tower from K'NEX to support a toy gorilla with a strict 10 minute time limit.

After 170 pupils took part, the highest tower of the week able to support the King Kong was a staggering 304cm high. The prize of £30 and a solar power kit went to the F4 team of Callum Strachan, Duncan Strachan and Oliver Baker. Well done to all entrants – we had many great designs, some grand failures and one team that managed only 18cm.

A Visit From Dr James "Paraffin" Young

Chemistry students in Form 3 were taken back in time with a visit from Dr James "Paraffin" Young – the father of the oil industry. Paraffin Young became a chemist in 1834 – the same year the High School moved into its current location. He developed a method of distilling paraffin from coal and set up the world's first truly commercial oil works in Bathgate. Paraffin Young (portrayed by an actor from Livewire Productions) talked about the formation of oil and the development of the petrochemical industry and entertained with stories of his personal memories of his early life, David Livingstone, and his many adventures. This provided an entertaining introduction to the hydrocarbons topic in Chemistry and left a lasting impression with the pupils. We hope to have Dr Young back again soon, to entertain another year group.

Pupils pass the finish line in Go4SET challenge

Six pupils in F2 completed a ten-week project to reduce waste within the School as part of the annual Go4SET challenge.

The team of pupils, all of whom are in Form 2 looked at ways of reducing waste within the School. The project included a waste audit, and an investigation of local waste management and collection services, before developing ways for the School to minimize the amount of waste that is thrown away. Throughout the project, the team was mentored by Andy Milligan, Programme Director of Interior & Environmental Design at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design.

Classics

Classical Civilisation Day at St Andrews University

Tayside Classical Association organised a day for F1 and F2 pupils from a number of schools including Albyn, Kilgraston, Madras College, the High School and St Margaret's Edinburgh at St Andrews University. So at one o'clock on the 28th April about 120 pupils from these schools began arriving by bus outside the Classics Department of the University. Representing the High School of Dundee were the 26 Form 1 pupils who are studying Latin.

We were divided into small groups and named Barbarians, Gladiators, Britons and Romans and so on and led off by undergraduate students of the University to begin the afternoon's activities.

First, was an experience of the Classical Greek language and an introduction to the Greek alphabet. Pupils were excited by learning to read the names of the heroes of Greek mythology hidden in their original script and learnt to transliterate their own names into Greek letters.

Next, a visit to the museum and our pupils had the chance to carefully handle artefacts from pre-historic Cyprus, mainly pottery from the University's collection, described with enthusiasm by a lecturer from the University's archaeology department.

Finally, a visit to another lecture hall and a brief introduction to Greek theatre and an opportunity for the pupils to explore and perform the Greek story of Narcissus, the young boy who fell in love with his reflection in a mountain pool and became rooted to the spot, thus turning into the first daffodil.

It was a great opportunity for pupils to meet and see how many other pupils in other schools are studying Classics and Classical languages, and an excellent opportunity to speak to students and staff from the University's large Classics Department. We are extremely grateful to the University for the time and effort they put into creating such an enjoyable, entertaining and informative day.

Hadrian's Wall

Eight o'clock in the morning on the last Friday of term and 33 pupils from First Year Latin and Third Year Classics are up and eager to take the bus south to visit the Roman Frontier country of Hadrian's Wall. Three and a half hours and one stop later we had arrived at Walltown Crag near Carlisle. It was a perfect day, warm and sunny and after a packed lunch we set off to walk a short but impressive section of the wall running up and along a natural cliff top. We could look north into the Barbarian hinterland of Scotland and south over the valley and moors that had once demarcated this northern limit of an empire that once stretched to the Sahara desert in Northern Africa and Turkey in the East.

We returned to the Roman Army Museum for a talk from the recruiting sergeant. Dressed in full Roman uniform, he displayed Roman fighting techniques with gladius and pilum, excited the pupils with a description of his copious rations, amused them and generally encouraged them to sign up for twenty-five years on the frontier as fully fit and fine fighting machines. Then a brief tour of the museum and a short bus ride to the well-preserved archaeological site of Vindolanda. Here the archaeologist in charge of the dig told us about the latest discoveries, showed the pupils a leather shoe dug up that morning, and spoke about the stunning and unique organic finds found in the anaerobic deeper layers of the dig, which include large quantities of leather goods such as shoes and bags, basket work and pieces of clothing as well as hundreds of letters and other documents written on thin wooden tablets. These letters written in Latin included a birthday invitation from the commander's wife to a neighbouring lady, a demand from Belgian auxiliary soldiers for more supplies of beer and a request for more warm underwear from a chilly sentry.

This talk was followed by an exploration of the fort and Roman bath houses and the excellent museum on the site. The Roman shoes perhaps brought one closest to the lives of these frontier folks. One lady's shoe belonging to the commander's wife, a beautifully made object, in a very modern design, had the maker's name still inscribed on its sole.

Too soon we had to begin the long journey home, reaching the school after nine in the evening, tired but considerably impressed by the experiences of the day.

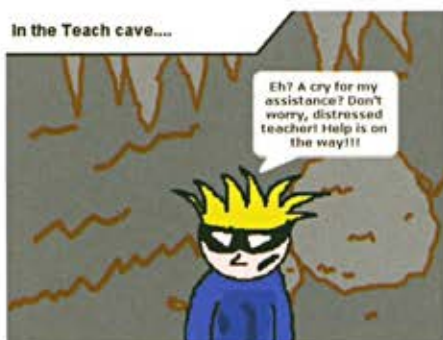
Computing

The Department of Computing has had an exciting year, kicked off by welcoming Mr Rainey to the department. Within the School we have run an animation competition and a Guitar Hero competition. We have also been successful in national competitions; performing well in the British Informatics Olympiad, the Scottish Robocode Challenge, and Animation 10; and had a very successful year of Advanced Higher projects.

Read ahead for reports from the Animation 10 competition and from one of our Advanced Higher pupils as he describes his project to make an iPhone game.



In the Teach cave....



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1&2: Ellen McLean 2A12
3: Dominic Cartlidge 2A12
4: Lewis Davie 3A12

Animation 10 Competition

This year a number of pupils from Forms 1 to 3 took part in an animation competition. The annual event, organised by Manchester University and sponsored by Electronic Arts and Google, sees entrants from all over the country submit animations they have created either as individuals or in small groups.

From the High School, 13 pupils worked hard in the Computing Department to produce their animations for the competition. Using a program called Scratch, the only stipulation for the pupils entry was that it should be inspired by the school curriculum. With some weird and wonderful animations, topics included a disgruntled teacher, magical circle people, the destruction of the school, a trip to space and, most notably, a piece of paper's outlook on life.

Competing with pupils from all over the country, the School had a successful entrant! Ellen McLean, Form 2, was announced an Official Prize Winner for her entry "Life as a Boring Piece of Paper". Ellen's animation cleverly showed a piece of paper imagining all the exciting opportunities that may be held in its future, including the designs for a rollercoaster or amazing art work comparable to Leonardo Da Vinci. Ellen was invited to attend a special prize giving event during the summer where her hard work, dedication and talent will be recognised.

We already have some pupils working on their ideas for next year's animations. The bar has been set high and we are hopeful to have more than one winner next year!



Guitar Competition

This year marked the first High School of Dundee Guitar Hero Competition! Playing on an XBOX 360 in the Computing Department, pupils and staff alike battled it out to top a series of leader boards to determine the top player. Over a two week period, participants tried to achieve the highest score playing along to the song *When You Were Young* by *The Killers*.

Guitarists were able to play at a range of difficulties from easy to expert! Scores were recorded and displayed on a department notice board and online for the whole School to see.

In the end, the competition was too close to call with two pupils neck and neck for the winning spot. Lewis Davie (3A12) and Louis Chesters (3WA1) battled it out in a 3 round match to determine the winner. With our finalists picking one song each and a final track chosen by staff, the boys faced a big challenge!

After a display of some fantastic guitar hero skill, Louis came out on top and is now crowned the High School of Dundee's Guitar Hero!



Deck It, by Waqas Arshid

At the end of Form 5 we were told to think over our Advanced Higher Computing projects for the following term. I laboured over my particular choice for a few weeks. This was mainly due to trying to meet the criteria imposed by the SQA in the time available and with a limited budget.

Inspiration struck when I considered my brand new phone, which had become a central part of my daily routine. With the excellent set of free tools now available to developers in the new version of the phone's software, I felt the iPhone would be an exciting subject for my project. I decided to build an application for the iPhone. After research looking into ideas for a suitable application, the concept that I settled on was a popular card game called *TopTrumps*. I decided that this would make a simple, fun game when played on a phone.

Building the application involved prior research into the Objective-C programming language and development practices for the iPhone platform. Getting the application to function to specification was difficult but extremely rewarding work.

As a result of this project, I have gained a much greater understanding of fundamental programming concepts as well as strengthened my problem solving and project management skills. This will be of great assistance throughout my university career and beyond.



Writing the departmental report for The Review always comes at the end of a busy year and after a School production; so it's always a bit of a challenge particularly to know where to start! So as part of the usual avoidance tactics I opened previously sent unopened mail one of which was The School Development Plan – and there I saw written 'provide opportunities to provide enrichment beyond an exam-focused curriculum. These words sum up pretty well what we strive to do in Drama, what we've achieved this year and how the pupils have been enriched by the many dramatic activities they've undertaken both curricular and co-curricular.

Party on the Pillars was an enriching experience for the whole School community. For me personally it was the culmination of much planning and angst mainly due to the weather! To see the construction of the stage and lighting rig in front of the Pillars with the striking banners as a back drop was incredibly exciting for all involved. The pupils gave some brilliant, innovative performances and the rain stopped! Of course they all wanted to know if we'd be doing it again next year . . . not sure the Bursar would want to hear this!

Apart from all the usual lunch time and evening performances the pupils have given this session, we have made theatre trips and invited visiting professionals in to work with the pupils. The Higher class were lucky enough to welcome an actor from Arthur Miller's *The Price* from The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh to talk to them about his career and deliver a workshop on their Set Text. He later invited us onstage to explore the design concepts for the play. As well as workshops from Scottish Youth Theatre, Perform at The Rep for F3 was once again a great success giving pupils an opportunity to work collaboratively with their year group, the community and experience a professional work environment. Having the chance to perform on the main stage alongside other schools provides them with an invaluable enriching experience.

With a break from tradition this year and in conjunction with the Music Department we decided to offer two productions. *Dido and Aeneas* F4-6 to be performed and directed by myself in June and *Tin Pan Ali* F1-2 directed by Mr Cowieson in the following November. I was concerned that for the Senior School pupils it can be a long time before they get the chance to appear in a whole School show. However, this is an experiment; we are a 'two man band' department so this may not happen every year!

I think that the cast of *Dido and Aeneas* did a magnificent job of bringing this early style of Baroque Opera alive and accessible to their audience. I had underestimated the complexities of the music and by the time production week started I was full of admiration for all of them. They gave an incredibly focused, mature performance and when professional musicians return to watch a piece of work you know you've got something good. The cast took great pride in their work, selling tickets at lunchtimes and promoting the show when ever they could; Matthew Wood running the last 80 metres of the 1500 at Sports Day holding the *Dido and Aeneas* banner aloft was a glorious sight to behold and really summed up the spirit of the event. The technical team this year were exceptional, it is not usual in a school production for pupils to completely run a show from start to finish including operating the Lights. The pupils designed all the masks, headdresses and constructed the set. There was also a committed and talented team of make-up/hair designers who should be commended for their organisation and their tidying up abilities!

The cast of *Tin Pan Ali* have been rehearsing twice a week since January and I'm so excited to see this talented group of youngsters – possible stars of the future!

We are always delighted to see former pupils and to hear their news. This year I wanted to share with you some thoughts from two of our pupils who started their dramatic careers with us.

Fiona McCulloch has just graduated from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a First Class degree in Stage Management.

"Stage managing the High School's production of *Romeo and Juliet* seems an age away and my three years in Cardiff have flown by. At college I was stage managing shows in London and Milan, working in the West End and at the Edinburgh Festival; it is now after half past midnight and I am finally on my way home from the south London warehouse where I am currently working. Today I have rigged and operated sound, lights and a giant steel globe for some acrobats; I have made signs and props, and counselled our lighting designer through a semi-nervous breakdown; and somehow with a bed of nails, and fire eating and over twenty aerialists we managed our first run through tonight. It is hard to appreciate how much you learn in three years until you are doing it for real and the pressure is on. It is an exciting and unpredictable life but I love it!"

Jo Van Der Ham has just completed second year of the Acting and Performance Degree course, again at The Royal Welsh College. Jo has been lucky enough to land a major TV role half way through this year.

"As a seventeen year old fresh from school the course has been a real eye opener; early starts and a lot of self analysis and self motivation required. I was able to put into perspective what mattered to me in High School and the things I used to think were important, and instead focus on feeling real emotions on stage.

"However, the course didn't just focus on stage acting (luckily for me or I probably wouldn't be doing what I am today), acting for screen was also a part of training in first and second year. I hated it. I was self-conscious, slightly dazed looking and couldn't stand the sound of my voice! But by the second year I learned to find the fun in it, and didn't take myself too seriously. I had to get over the falseness of it all. And luckily for me, I quite enjoyed it.

"At the moment, I'm putting all that training into practice. I've been filming in South Africa for nearly 3 months now. It's a programme called 'The Runaway' based on the novel by Martina Cole and is showing on Sky1 next year (do watch it). It has been such an eye-opener. I love being on-set, the atmosphere is electric because everyone is so passionate about what they do. But it's not always easy or glamorous. 5am starts are a regular occurrence, turning into 14-hour working days. And there is a lot of pressure to perform on demand; one minute you'll be talking about what you got up to at the weekend and the next you'll be attacking another character because they are trying to murder your mother . . . or something like that! When I get back I will finish my third year at Royal Welsh. I am lucky enough to have an agent now and he is getting me auditions on a regular basis so who knows, if I get another job my plans might change but as yet I feel I need to complete my training and consolidate everything I've learnt in a safe environment. And after that . . . who knows? I just want to perform. I just want to entertain and create work I can be proud of."

Just an example of two of our FP's forging ahead; the rest are yet to come!

Lindsay Drummond

English

The English department has had another busy year, with pupils going out and about and getting involved in a number of areas, both within the School and beyond.

We began the year by welcoming Mr Daryl Meechan into the department and before long he was involved in the various trips and activities – while adding a few of his own!

Form 4 travelled to Edinburgh to see a dramatised version of *Kes*, while at Christmas we had our, by now, traditional outing to the pantomime for Form 1 going through to Glasgow to the King's Theatre to see *Aladdin*.

This year also saw the introduction of the Post Box Reading Challenge for Form 1. Pupils are asked to write a review of books they have read in the form of postcards, which are posted in our lovely new pillar box. Their postcards are displayed round the department in class rooms and at the end of the year there is a prize draw to find a lucky winner among all our readers!

May 6th was the date of the General Election of course, but Form 2 pupils had a hotly contested election of their own, to persuade their fellow pupils of the appeal in the various genres of fiction! After a blistering campaign by all candidates, voting at the polls was brisk and comedy was the final winner by a large majority.



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- 1: Election day
- 2: Form 1 pupils whose *Reflections* were part of the Piano Day Recital
- 3: Form 2 pupils enjoy *The Kwyll*



Writing had a high profile this year. In February, Form 1, inspired by listening to Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, wrote a series of reflections on the aspects of childhood that the music suggested to them. Twelve pupils were chosen to read their reflections as part of the recital given in the evening of the Piano Day, the pupils' writings linking the various "scenes" from *Kinderszenen*. An example of one of the reflections was written by Euan Rose, in Form 1:

The Knight of the Rocking Horse

I'm the toughest knight in town. I gallop through the valley to the nearest castle. I'm riding the wind, faster than anyone else. I jump over rivers and streams. I charge faster than I have ever done before. I see a young woman at the mercy of a dragon. I jump off my horse and whack! whack! with my sword, I save her! I leap back on my horse and ride through the valley again.

... Only ... The valley has turned back into my bedroom. The distant hills are my curtains being drawn for the night and the fair lady I saved is my mother telling me it's time for bed!

Some more Form 1 pupils had the pleasure of seeing their poems in print, when their work was accepted for publication in the latest issue of *New Writing*, *Bust-a-Rhyme*, a copy of which is now in the School library.

In Spring we received the wonderfully exciting news that two of our Form 2 pupils had been awarded prizes in this year's Pushkin Prizes competition. This is a very prestigious award: only twelve prizes are awarded annually, so we were thrilled to learn that two pupils, Alis Reid and Chloe Collins had been selected as winners. Chloe's thoughts on winning the competition can be read in her short article in these English pages.

Traditionally, pupils' writing has been featured in the pages of *The Review* and this year, you can read some of the prize winners' writing. However, there is such a lot of excellent writing produced by our talented pupils, that for the first time, the department decided to produce our own creative writing magazine. Step forward *Kwyll*, which has been a great success, with the next issue already attracting lots of interest among pupils, keen to have their work published.

So: an exciting year for the English department and we are looking forward to what next year will bring!

The Pushkin Prizes: A Report by Chloe Collins F2

Back in February of this year, I entered *The Pushkin Prizes*, which is a creative writing competition run annually for pupils in schools across Scotland and Russia. Ten pupils are chosen from Scotland, and two from Russia, to take part in a week-long creative writing course in Inverness. Imagine the High School's delight when two winners were chosen from our entries: Alis Reid and myself!

Subsequently, on the 3rd of May, we found ourselves at a plush awards ceremony in Archer's Hall in Edinburgh, where we were presented with certificates and a selection of books written by contemporary Scottish authors. We also had the fantastic opportunity to meet Lady Butter, who is the founder and chairwoman of *The Pushkin Prizes*. Lady Butter explained that she set up the awards in memory of her ancestor Alexander Pushkin, the famous Russian playwright, author and poet. The awards recognise excellence in writing, so both Alis and I were delighted to be singled out as winners. Following the ceremony, we had photos taken with the other prize-winners – and our teachers – before leaving by coach for Moniac Mhor, the writer's centre where we were to spend the next five days.

During our time at Moniac Mhor, we attended various workshops including *Atmosphere*, which was about creating mood in poems; and *Ways of Seeing*, which taught us how to see things from different perspectives. The workshops were run by our two excellent tutors: popular writer and poet Diana Hendry, and renowned wildlife poet Gerry Cambridge. The other prize-winners were from schools across Scotland, as well as the two Russian girls who both came from St. Petersburg. In addition to the workshops, we visited Urquhart Castle, a historical ruin on the banks of Loch Ness. We also celebrated one of the other prize-winner's birthdays. We left at the end of the week with our heads buzzing with ideas.

I particularly enjoyed our evening activities, as I got to know the other prize-winners better through them. I learnt how to tidy the loose ends of my writing work, and that even the smallest detail can make all the difference. I enjoyed my time at Moniac Mhor and, given the chance, I would do it all again!

Chloe Collins F2

Geography

Once again Geography has been going places during the past academic year.



September saw a flutter of activity as the Advanced Higher group journeyed to the Kindrogan Field Studies Centre in Enochdhu. They engaged in a variety of field work activities that included stomping through saturated soils in order to find the perfect podzol, wading through rivers and mapping features of glacial deposition. This equipped them with the necessary field work skills to complete their own field work study as part of the AH portfolio.

September was an active month for F3 who ventured up to the Cairngorms on a misty and rather damp day in search of evidence of glacial erosion. There is no photographic evidence of this as the weather was so appalling and perhaps the most memorable experience was the divine hot chocolate at the Ptarmigan.

F4 had a rather drier, but no less blustery day as they headed up to Glen Clova and Loch Brandy. It wouldn't be Geography field work without the inclement weather.



The annual trips to the Yorkshire Dales in November and March provided an action packed weekend in and around the picturesque village of Malham. Pupils spent time in and around the Yorkshire Dales National Park familiarising themselves with the many features of limestone environments; this involved many challenges including: How many miles of dry stone dykes are to be found in the Yorkshire Dales? Why is the largest herd of Highland cows in the UK found in the Yorkshire Dales? And other more academically challenging questions like what factors are responsible for the denudation of a limestone pavement!

We entered two teams for the Scottish Association of Geographers World Wise Quiz and one team, comprising of Marshall Macleod (F2), Cameron Pringle (F3) and Cameron Richardson (F4) made it through to the National Final, finishing in a very respectable 4th place out of 90 teams.

Eyjafallajokull permitting we are now eagerly anticipating our summer adventure to Iceland with 40 F3/F4 pupils. I expect Stoker Geysir to perform her usual act of geographical magic and fingers crossed for a live and unedited volcanic eruption.

David Foulds will be leaving us to pursue further geographical peaks at Stewart's Melville. We wish him much success and happiness in his new role. David has contributed fully to the delivery of geography and MER across the school and has provided a huge amount of knowledge and professional expertise in departmental developments during his time at HSD.





Party on the Pillars

This wonderful party evening showcasing the multi-talented pupils, and staff, of the School was made all the sweeter by the efforts of the dept staff and Forms 5 and 6 pupils, Gavin Tallet, Fraser Sinclair, Andrew Guy and Andrew Kilgour, and Charlotte Rowe who between them, made and wrapped almost three hundred toffee apples! Needless to say the apples "went like hot cakes".

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Over thirty pupils attended lunchtime classes to complete the Skills section for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



Open Morning

The culinary talents of our pupils were again on display at Open Morning when Gavin Lynch and Duncan Shaw, Form 3 and Elle Wyatt and Rebecca Gold L6 cooked a wonderful array of foods which they have made during their coursework. Visitors were suitably impressed and a big thank you to you all, especially Duncan who stepped in at the last minute.

Home Economics

As has become the norm for the last few years, the session began with entries for the school heat of the National Futurechef Competition. It was held in October and this year attracted seven budding chefs, namely Bethany Cessford, Jamie Clark, Ashley Fulton, Ellie Hawkes, Linzi Peters, Gail Watson and Lewis Williamson. The overall standard was impressive to say the least and the winner for the second year in succession was Jamie Clark.

Well done to all the young competitors

Jamie was then extremely fortunate to be allocated a mentor chef and we are indebted to the time, encouragement and advice so freely given, by professional chef, Craig Legget, of "The Bothy" in Perth. Craig came into School on several occasions to help Jamie in his preparations for the next round on 3rd December at Perth College. Jamie also had the unenviable experience of being in the thick of it in The Bothy kitchens during a full Sunday lunchtime service. A great experience for Jamie; many thanks to Craig. Although Jamie tantalised the taste buds with his skewered chicken and red peppers served with a Thai salad and baked sweet potato with the added delectation of pancakes stuffed with spiced fruit compote, served with home made vanilla ice cream and toffee sauce for dessert, Jamie did not make it through to the quarter finals. Maybe next year?

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has proved this year to be even more successful than last with a packed room and vast quantities of waffles and hot drinks consumed weekly. High Helpers have been the mainstay of the club and the unstinting loyalty of Form 2 boys Lewis Williamson, Ray Lynham, Keir Will, Gordon Robertson, Andrew Kelly, Form 1 pupil Ellie Hawkes, Form 5 girls, Gemma Riley, Keira Ingram, Lauren Clayson and Charlie Guest and Form 6 pupils, Muhammed Gani, Richard Abel, Callum Leese, Kevin Singh and Andrew Tweedie deserve special mention.

Lots of lovely lolly!

The sale of fruit juice ice lollies in the summer term proved to be a great success and 2000 lollies were consumed over a six week period! The profits made enabled us to support Pump Aid again this year with more than sufficient funds to buy another water pump for a village in Malawi.

Many charities and projects have benefitted from the profits made from Breakfast Club this year so a big thank you goes out to all the helpers and customers for their continued support.

Library

The year got off to a great start with the return of the High IQ quiz. This quiz allows first and second year pupils to compete in a Mastermind style competition to see who will be declared the pupil with the Highest IQ. The heats were very popular, with over 40 pupils taking part, answering 20 general knowledge questions. In the end we had five finalists, Chloe Collins, Nathan Bircham, Jack Cannon, Calum Bennet and Calum Hedigan. Mr Wilson, from the history department joined us in Trinity as quiz master for the final. The finalists had each chosen their favourite subject as their specialist topic, having to answer as many questions on this topic as they could; there was also time for them to snatch more points with a quick fire buzzer round. After both these rounds the crowd congratulated the winner, Calum Bennet, who was awarded his prize and certificate at an assembly.



In February pupils in the Junior School had the privilege of spending the day with Lari Don, children's author and storyteller. Lari spent the morning in the library with L5, 6 and 7 talking about her books and the process of writing them. All the pupils enjoyed listening to Lari and some had the chance to speak to her individually over lunch as she was available in the library for book signing. In the afternoon L1, 2 and 3 got the chance to hear and see her new book "The Big Bottom Hunt", which was still in its draft version and had her own doodles on it. Before she left to catch the train home Lari decided to stay for an extra half hour and chat to L6 pupils who were in the library for their library time. She happily shared her writing techniques and listened to their story ideas. On leaving Lari commented, "Your pupils have inspired me and asked some questions that I've never been asked before. They obviously understand writing is a creative process. I've had a fantastic day".

To celebrate World Book Day in March this year we held a dinner party in the library for some very special literary guests. The twist was, however, that pupils had to guess the names of the guests from the clue on their name card and the special object beside their place setting. Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* was an easy guest to spot but not everyone had heard of Skulduggery Pleasant, the wise cracking detective from a series of the same name.

The Reading Café was again very popular this year with an average of 25 pupils turning up each week. We competed in quizzes, reviewed new books, created interesting displays and held our first Oscar ceremony. After we had chosen our nominees for each category, including 'the most evil baddie' and 'the most courageous hero', the pupils then voted for their favourite in each category and randomly chose a character to come along to the award ceremony as.

During the Easter break some major changes took place in the library; the shelves were rearranged in the senior area to create more study space for the pupils, the Young Adult section, books specially chosen for pupils in F4-F6, is now more prominently displayed in the centre of the library and the careers library has been fully updated and moved next to the reference area.

After the Easter break we welcomed a new member of staff to the library, Mrs Hutton. Mrs Hutton has spent the last term getting to know some of the pupils as well as the library. She is impressed with the variety of books in the library and, like me, amazed with the pupil's use of the facilities. I hope this has given you an insight into our busy School library, a place where no two days are the same and where there is always a new world waiting to be discovered.



The Carnegie Awards Shadowing Group

The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards is an annual prize awarded to the best examples of children's literature in both the prose and picture-book format. Shortlisted books for each format are announced in April, this year there were eight. Pupils across the UK then shadow the national judges by reading all shortlisted books and debating which one is their favourite before the winner is announced on 24th June.

Here at Dundee High, Librarian, Miss Owens and English Teacher, Mr Meechan have worked together in recent months to assemble a group of avid readers from Form 2 who have 'shadowed' the awards process and kept an online blog for pupils in other schools to read. This determined group of readers have met faithfully during term on Wednesday lunchtimes to discuss the entries for this year's Carnegie awards, as well as completing a range of activities relating to each of the shortlisted books. Given that the shortlist this year includes stories of

exploding grannies, mental asylums, vengeful gold prospectors, slavery, other worlds and a boy who lives in a graveyard, our tasks have been very . . . *diverse*, to say the least!

One particular activity which grabbed everyone's attention was our group's visit to The Howff, where we discovered many fascinating facts about some of the famous Dundonians who are buried there. Some tombstones were carved with spooky skulls and ancient symbols which we then researched using the Library's facilities. After our visit we used inspiration from the tombstones we had investigated to create some characters of our own. Here is a description of two of them: Helen and Agnes Ambrose – Helen and Agnes Ambrose were sisters.

Helen had terrible hair, and she hated her sister for having long, golden locks. One day, as she watched Agnes brushing her gorgeous hair, something inside her snapped. She picked up the sharp scissors, and snip, snip, snip went her hair, snip, snip, snip went her throat, and dead, dead, dead went Agnes Ambrose.

To discover the fate of her sister Helen, you can read our blog at the following web address:

www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/group/homepages/blog.php?GroupID=9877

May we take the time to give a BIG THANK YOU to the group of girls who so loyally attended our weekly meetings and read most of the eight books in such a short space of time. True, lots of reading was involved, but more than anything, this was a grouping of people who all share the same passion for books; a passion which fed into every activity we completed and every discussion we entered. We will run this scheme again for the 2011 Carnegie Awards: can YOU read eight books in two months? You'll find out next year!

Miss Owens/Mr Meechan

Maths

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.

Team Competitions

The first team competition of the year was the Enterprising Maths Day in September. The Maths Department sent two teams of F3/F4 pupils to take part at George Watson's College on 25th Sep 2009 accompanied by Mr Middleton and Fabliha Hussain from F6, who kindly acted as a member of staff and marker for the day. This was the Independent Schools round and the top 3 qualified for the National Final. One of our teams came third and so qualified for the final to be held at Glasgow University in November. The other team came a creditable 12th out of 25 teams.

The competition went on all day and consisted of 3 rounds: The team round, where all 4 team members tackled a variety of large and very difficult problems; the Stations round where the teams moved round 6 different stations every 7 minutes tackling different puzzles; the Relay round where the teams split into pairs and took turns against the clock and tackled short, and increasingly difficult, problem solving questions.

Team B (3rd and qualifiers): Louise Pattullo F3, Harry Carstairs F3, Duncan Strachan F4, King Hang Chan F4.

Team A (12th): Chris Acheson F3, James Lucocq F3, Laura Lee F4, William McBride F4.

In November it was the turn of the senior pupils to compete in the Senior Maths Team Challenge, held in the Fairplay Library at the University of Edinburgh. The team selected from

Forms 5 and 6 were Fabliha Hussain, Fiona Allison, Alistair Lynch and Ross Macdonald. Due to illness Fiona was unable to compete on the day and Peter Robertson kindly stepped in at the last minute. The competition was fierce and although they put up a good fight our team unfortunately did not qualify for the final in London.

March saw our Form 1 and 2 pupils complete in the Junior UKMT Maths Team Challenge, which was again held at Edinburgh University. Mrs Craig accompanied Eilidh Lockhart and Joshua McLaggan from Form 1 and Hannah Arnold and Andrew Kelly from Form 2. The High School team achieved a highly commendable second place, which was an excellent performance.

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

The Mathematical Council have been running Scottish Mathematical Challenge since 1976, aiming to promote Mathematics as a source of interest and pleasurable achievement. This problem-solving competition continued to see large numbers of pupils from all year groups from the High School entering. Hannah Arnold, Bethany Cessford, Fabliha Hussain, Akdas Hussain and Duncan Raitt all achieved a Gold Award. The following pupils gained a Silver Award; Aimee Elgin, Ella Hudson, Andrew Kelly, Sophie Kelly and Marshall Macleod and Eilidh Lockart won a Bronze Award.

UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust runs three annual UK Maths Challenge contests, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. This year pupils from Forms 1-3 competed in the UK's biggest National Maths Competition. Unfortunately, pupils from Forms 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 38 certificates. Gold certificates were awarded to Chris Acheson, Harry Carstairs, Louise Pattullo, Gail Watson and James Lucocq. A further 15 Silver and 18 Bronze Certificates were awarded. Harry Carstairs and Louise Pattullo both qualified for the European Pink Kangaroo follow on round and were both awarded a Merit Certificate for their achievement in this competition. Chris Acheson was awarded best in school and qualified for the follow on Olympiad round. He scored in the top 1% and was awarded a silver medal by the UK Mathematical Trust. This was the highest award for the Intermediate category (F3) in which he was competing.

In May, 129 pupils from Form 1 and Form 2 competed in the Junior Maths Challenge, 20 pupils were awarded Gold certificates, 27 Silver and 37 Bronze. Hannah Arnold (F2) achieved best in school and qualified for the follow on Olympiad round along with Joshua McLaggan and Jamie Mather from Form 1 and 2 respectively, which they 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

French Trip

The Form 4 trip to France's Cantal region is becoming a regular feature of the School's calendar – and this year's trip lived up to all our expectations.

Saturday 26th June

The long-awaited day finally arrived and we were on our way! We thought that the weather in Edinburgh had been nice, but our arrival at Toulouse airport was greeted by a blast of heat as soon as we left the aircraft, making Edinburgh seem distinctly cool! This was to be our lot for the duration of our stay – hot sunshine and temperatures in the high thirties – formidable!



Sunday 27th June

Sunshine, swimming and sweltering . . .
. . . were the order of the day for this, our first day at the château. We were split into two groups, and while one half of our party went horse-riding in the nearby hills, forests and rivers with Yannick, the others explored the château's facilities, trying out the various activities – badminton, football, volleyball, assault course. . . .
The evening concluded with a typical French meal and then bikes, badminton and basketball. *Chouette!*

Monday 28th June

A bit of culture and history . . .
. . . in the shape of Rocamadour, an amazing medieval village perched on a cliff top, 500 feet above a deep canyon, and home to the 12th century Black Madonna, a religious site only slightly less visited than Lourdes. Again the sun shone, but we escaped it briefly in the afternoon by descending 100 metres below the earth's surface to the astonishing goufre de Padirac, a network of underground caves and waterways. Truly awe-inspiring – *fantastique*, indeed!

Tuesday 29th June

Relaxation and boules!
Our third full day in France, and we spent the day relaxing and getting to know our local town of Maurs and its café culture. A boules tournament tested our skills and provided some excitement, with the team 'Supergrass' narrowly beating 'Charlie's Angels' in a tense final. We enjoyed the shops and cafés in town in the afternoon and were delighted to get the chance to watch the World Cup match between *l'Espagne* and *le Portugal* (yes, Mr Mac – we did notice that Portugal is masculine in French!!!) on the big screen. *Génial!*

Wednesday 30th June

High ropes and high altitude

Challenges aplenty today, with some of us pushing ourselves to new limits on the high ropes course at le Lioran, transformed from winter ski resort to summer adventure playground. Everyone coped well and I think we can safely say that we did ourselves proud. After lunch, we ascended the 'Plomb du Cantal' in the ski-lift.

Thursday 1st July

Local specialities

After a whirlwind of physical activities, the teachers wanted us to gain some cultural understanding of the Cantal, so where better to head than a snail farm and a *fromagerie*!

Most of us were very taken by the quaint little snail farm comprising 400,000 snails and one caring owner. Some were so fascinated that you might say they were head over heels about the whole experience, as Mrs D can testify. . . .

Some of us purchased pots of snail pâté – unusual presents for parents!

A lakeside lunch with swimming and football (plus that dangerous sport of 'soaking the teachers') followed before we hit the *fromagerie*, where we sampled the Cantal's finest cheeses and followed the process of production.

Friday 2nd July

A day on the water

For just about everyone, this was the best day of the whole week. A day spent in kayaks, braving the rapids both in the boats and out of them, and indulging in that most enjoyable of sports – toppling the teachers into the water, which is something we just never tired of!

After our picnic lunch, the more adventurous among us – and this did include the teachers – swam through thunderous rapids. A further round of paddling, capsizing and great fun brought this most memorable day to a close – *inoubliable*!

Saturday 3rd July

Home, sweet home . . .

. . . but not before trying our hand at market shopping in the delightful town of Figeac. Armed with ten euros apiece, we set off to see who could come up with the quirkiest purchases. A real blast of local French colour, this was a fitting last activity for us. We then had to set off for Toulouse once more, and our return flight to Edinburgh. Midnight saw us returned to the school gates, exhausted but very, very happy.

A big *merci* to Mr MacKinnon, Mrs Docherty and Mr Jack from the whole group!

Hannah Thomson, Charlie Smyth, April Shepherd, Steven Moyes, Thomas Parsliffe and Sean Walker.



German Exchange

It was a sweltering hot evening in Hessen on the 9th of June 2010, as we (12 HSD pupils accompanied by Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Oliver) arrived in Treysa, already clad in yellow, red and black apparel. The heat and our tiredness, however, could not quell our excitement as stepped out of the train doors with heavy suitcases to meet our German Exchange partners from the Christophorusschule and their families with whom we would be living with for the next ten days. After short introductions and a welcome from the Christophorusschule's English teacher Herr Gora, we made our separate ways home to get a night's sleep before school the next morning.

Unfortunately that night there was a thunder storm which resulted in many people looking rather tired by 8am, after a night of little or no sleep. However, we were awakened. We started with a small culture shock as Herr Gora guided us around the buildings of Christophorusschule and we realised the stark differences between school life in Germany and education in Scotland. No uniform? Teachers move from class to class? School's finished by half past one? Many more questions were buzzing through our minds by the time we had met the headmaster and left the school to spend the afternoon with our exchange partners. Activities that



afternoon included pedalo boating, swimming in the nearby lake and eating ice cream in the sun as we quickly made new friends and began to adapt to our new German surroundings. It felt like no time at all before we were back in our beds listening to claps of thunder and howling wind as another storm struck the villages of Bad Wildungen, Odershausen and Bad Zwesten.

On Friday 11th June the German Exchange crew made their way to a wildlife park where everybody enjoyed feeding wild pigs and deer, then meeting otters, wolves and Bison to name just a few. We then watched a bird display with falcons, eagles and vultures before heading off on a walk through the shady woods down to the lake's edge for ice creams.

Then the dreaded weekend alone with our families started. On Saturday we just spent the day with our partners, and the weather was fantastic. Really hot with a gentle breeze, it was perfect for a BBQ. Sunday was a more active day – a group of us went to see the statue of Hercules and the octagon. We watched the water play and ate ice cream. Perfect weather again for another BBQ and after the water show we went back to one of the German partner's homes and played basketball and listened to music.

On Monday morning we went to school with our German Exchange partners and went to their classes. We only went to the first few lessons then went to older years for interviews. In the afternoon we went back to our partner's houses and relaxed until the next day.

On Tuesday we went to the Edersee and had a boat trip on the lake then visited the Eder Dam. We also visited a castle on a hill that overlooked the Edersee. In the evening some of us went to the cinema!

On Wednesday we were back at school with our German partners. We once again found the lessons very different to the ones in Scotland. Harry found explaining neutralisation reactions slightly more challenging in German! After two lessons we went to Lake Singliser where we played Aquagolf. One or two targets were hit, but unfortunately no prizes were won. We were all amazed, however, when Herr Gora took up the club and hit the ball out of the enclosure without much difficulty! After a quick lunch of Brötchen, Chips and yet more Wurst we headed back to school on the bus and from there went our different ways. In the afternoon we all did the usual variety of activities. Some people played tennis; some went swimming while others had the

excitement of riding a motorcycle. In the evening we all met up again at the local cinema to see a film called *The Prince of Persia*.

By Thursday morning nobody could quite believe it was our last full day in Germany as we headed to the picturesque town of Marburg. We all went on a pleasant pedalo ride along the river before walking through cobbled streets to the fountain in Marburg's old city square. After spending some time exploring the history of the area and its tourist attractions we had a couple of hours to do as we liked. Those who didn't run straight to the shops for souvenirs and presents stayed in the square to try cake and coffee from the local Konditorei. To celebrate the last evening of our stay in Germany we went bowling. Charlotte found the pair of size 51 bowling shoes rather amusing, but once we figured out the correct size the bowling got under way. After several shots we realised that none of us were particularly good, and closed with the highest score being 77. We then had a game of Scotland vs. Germany table football, and to the surprise of all, Scotland won! Everyone had a great time, and at the end of the night we said a sad goodbye in the knowledge that the next time we would see everyone again would be at the train station.

Friday morning came, and after some frantic packing and realising not everything would fit (followed by some frantic unpacking and frantic repacking) we were ready to leave for the train station. We said our last goodbyes to our host families and walked out the doors of our German homes. We arrived at the train station and bid farewell to our exchange partners before boarding the train to Frankfurt. We all miss many things about Germany, not least the weather, but we were secure in the knowledge that we would see our exchange partners again soon.

Christopher Acheson, Harry Carstairs
and Fionnlagh McClymont F3



Music



This has been an extremely busy and successful year for our young musicians and music staff with many opportunities for all to perform regardless of whether they play an instrument or not.

Concert news Dundee

In November seven of our most advanced instrumental pupils (Grades 7 and 8) presented a concert in **St Paul's Cathedral** as part of their lunchtime concert series. The soloists were Lewis Foggie, F6 (piano and alto saxophone), Nicol Foggie, F6 (piano), Samir Eljamel, F6 (cello), Kirsty Kilpatrick, F6 (flute), Laura Lee, F4 (piano), Joanna Waller, F4 (viola) and Leeann Chen, F3 (piano). The programme, which delighted the appreciative audience and local music critic included works by Schumann, Chopin and Gershwin to name but a few.

"Saturday's performances by seven senior pupils, playing five instruments, were excellent . . . there was always a fairly high level of excellence, and each one deserves enormous credit for their performance and the unassuming way in which it was carried off."

Dundee Courier



Our **Annual Charity Christmas Concert** in the Caird Hall took on a different format this year as we celebrated the 770th Anniversary of the School. The concert opened with a brass quintet playing *Carol of the Bells* and the Senior Girls Choir singing *Procession from A Ceremony of Carols*. The L4-5 and L6-7 choirs combined to perform *Sing out with praise* with Euan Strachan, F1, accompanying on trumpet. The L6-7 and F1-3 combined choir performed *Our memories will sing*, a song specially written by music teacher, Mrs Scott Brown, to commemorate the anniversary. All of the Senior School Choirs combined and were joined by some staff and former pupils in a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* which was accompanied by our Senior String Ensemble. The Concert Band, Training Band, Symphony Orchestra and Training Orchestra all took part performing *Wondrous Star*, *The Name's Claus* and *O Come, Emmanuel*, excerpts from *Nutcracker Suite* and *A Quiet Christmas* respectively. There were community carols for all to sing and seasonal readings recited by Grace Nimmo, F3, Eve Cowan, L7, and Fraser Husband, F1. We were delighted to donate £4,750 to Dundee Disabled Children's Association as a result of our efforts.

We returned to the Caird Hall for our **Annual Spring Concert** which, too, was a great success. All of the choirs, orchestras and bands worked very hard to put together a completely new programme in the space of a few weeks rehearsal time. Opening the concert were the Pipes and Drums with a rousing performance of traditional music. The choirs enchanted us with *The Entertainer* and *Inflections* (L4-5), *The Wind that shakes the barley* and *Dance to your daddy* (L6-7), *The Repercussion Blues* and *Happy ever after* (F1-2), *Lift thine eyes from Elijah* (Senior Girls), *Hallelujah* (Senior Boys), *Fields of Gold* (Chamber Choir) and a medley from *The Lion King* (Senior Choir). This year's Leng Silver Medallists, Louise Clark, L7, and Karyn Joss, F2, sang their winning songs, *Ye Banks and Braes* and *Morag's Cradle Song*. The Training Orchestra gave a polished performance of *Tumbalalaika*, *Kalinka* and *Boogie Bass* and the Training Band of *Stomp*. The Symphony Orchestra opened with *Entry of the Masters* from *Die Meistersinger* and then gave an unforgettable performance with soloist Samir Eljamel, F6, of the first movement of Elgar's *Cello Concerto*. To round off the evening the Concert Band sent us home with the sounds of Brahms *Hungarian Dance* and Highlights from *The Rock* ringing in our ears.

On two successive evenings in June we presented concerts for our smaller ensembles. The first of these was in a new venue for us, the nearby Dundee Congregational Church. Billed as a **Summer Ensemble Concert** this concert featured the Junior Big Band (*Slice and Dice* and *Night Run*), the F1-3 Big Band (*Chameleon*, *Girl from Ipanema*, *Don't stop believing*), the Senior Big Band (*Secret Samba*, *Bari Bari Good*, *Do nothing 'till you hear from me* and *Fat Cat*), a Brass Quintet (*Prayer* and *Turkish Rondo*), a Saxophone Ensemble (*Sarabande* and *Air* and *Hot Tamales*), Intermediate Guitar Ensemble (*What a wonderful world* and *Daphne*), the Senior Guitar Ensemble (acoustic) (*Doloroso* with Kirsty Kilpatrick, F6 playing flute and *Muchachos Amigos*) and the Senior Electric Group (*F.B.I.*).



Highlight of the year for Louise Pattullo in Form 3 was performing with Nicola Benedetti in Perth Concert Hall in March. Louise made front page headlines when she was invited to play a duet of traditional music with the world-famous violinist – an experience she will never forget. Louise was also invited to play at Hospitalfield House for the National Trust in June.

On the following evening in the Chaplaincy Centre at the University of Dundee we presented a **Chamber Music Evening**. It featured the Senior String Ensemble and Intermediate and Junior string groups along with various chamber group ensembles. Notable was a composition written especially for the Senior Ensemble by Lewis Davie, F3 – *Music for the Courts*. Also taking part were the Southgate Ensemble winners playing Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet in A*, and a trio performing Faure's *Elegy*.

Our Summer Ensemble and Chamber Music Evenings raised £768.35 for the Asul Was Project in Peru and pupils will be taking the money with them to Peru to build shelters and provide resources for these homeless children.



Form 6 concert

The Form 6 (SQA candidates) concert in April featured performances from our SQA candidates who were undertaking either Higher or Advanced Higher courses or units in Performing or Sound Engineering and Production. A varied programme was offered with some excellent performances. We wish these Form 6 leavers who took part every success for the future and look forward to hearing from them with updates on their careers. Well done Nicol, Amy, Becky, Euan, Rosie and Meriel.

Guitar gossip

A not so unlucky group of thirteen hard working guitarists competed in this year's Arbroath Music Festival. The adjudicator was the Head of Guitar at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and he complimented every one of them on the very high standard of their performances.

The Grade 1 class was won by Joshua Spence, L6 with Aleksandra Jovanovic, L5, a very close second. James Currie, F2, was awarded the first prize and the Tim Bennet trophy in the Grade 2/3 class and Dino O'Neil, F1, won third place. Mark Cant, F4, won the Grade 4/5 class with Holly Maxwell-Stevenson a very close second. Duncan Strachan, F4, took first place in the Grade 5 and above class with Scott Lothian close on his heels in second place. To round things off Duncan and Scott delighted the audience and judge with an excellent performance in the Open Duet Class thus winning the Tayside Ensemble Trophy. Well done to you all.

To complete the session the Intermediate and Senior Guitar groups and an Electric Guitar Ensemble took part in the Summer Ensemble Concert in nearby Dundee Congregational Church.



String bulletin

Our string players started the session by playing to HRH Princess Anne when she visited the School in September as part of the 770 Anniversary celebrations. Later that month they travelled to Aviemore to perform at the Rotary District 1010 Conference in the MacDonald Conference Centre. They provided music before and during our annual Open Morning in Trinity Hall and took part in the Parkinson's Society 10th anniversary concert in the Mary Slessor Centre. Samir Eljamel (cello) and Joanna Waller (viola) performed solo at a lunchtime concert that the Music Department presented in St Paul's Cathedral in November. For the eleventh year running the Senior String Ensemble were invited to play at the CLIC Sargent Christmas Carol Concert in the Caird Hall and the following day a quartet performed for Dundee Rotary Club at their Christmas lunch in the Invercarse Hotel.

A string quartet provided musical entertainment at a University of Dundee Neurosurgical dinner in the Apex Hotel in March. Lucy and Rose Arthur took part in the Scottish Independent Schools Orchestra Trust Summer Course at Loretto School and in April Louise Pattullo (violin) and Ailsa Purdie (double bass) took part in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland's Easter

Course. Both girls were previously in the National Youth String Orchestra of Scotland and Louise will perform with them again this year. In July Ailsa and Joanna Waller (viola) went on tour with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and performed in the Caird Hall, Dundee, Belfast, Limerick, Dublin and the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow.

Samir Eljamel, F6 (cello), was the School's representative in the string section of the first ever Rotary Club of Dundee's Young Musician of the Year Competition. He was successful in the semi-finals and went on to compete in the final round which was adjudicated by John Wallace, Head of the RSAMD. Samir played *Prelude from Suite No 1 in G major* by Bach, *First movement* of Elgar's *Cello Concerto* and *Serenade* by Poulenc. He also took part in a master class given by the renowned Korean cellist, Su-a Lee, at the 21st Ruthven Festival.

Our young string players also formed a Baroque Ensemble to accompany this year's School production which was Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (see separate report). To complete the year they performed the *Brandenburg Concerto No 3* at this year's Prize Giving.

Wind and percussion notes

Our wind players, too, have been very busy giving their debut performance this year at The Party on the Pillars. At the St Paul's lunchtime concert Lewis Foggie (alto saxophone) and Kirsty Kilpatrick (flute) delighted the audience with their impressive solo playing. In the November diet of the Associated Board exams Siobhan Chien, F5, gained a distinction for Grade 8 clarinet. Alasdair Rennet won the School Age Instrumental Recital Class at the Arbroath Festival playing alto saxophone and as a result of an audition for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland was invited to attend their residential week in July at Merchiston Castle. Sam Cunningham, F1, won the Horn in F transitional competition at the Perth Festival and received a First Class certificate for his performance.



In October some of our pipers were involved in the making of a CD with Gordon Stewart on the Caird Hall organ. They combined with the organ to record a version of *Highland Cathedral* and were invited by the Lord Provost to a Civic Reception in the Council Chambers. The pipers also had their usual important role to play at the Annual Remembrance Parade in the playground in November and now traditionally close the Sports day event. They are called upon frequently to perform throughout the year and always do themselves and us proud.

In April we held our first ever "Wind Day" which saw performances in the morning on instruments ranging from recorder, flute and saxophone to French horn and trumpet with performers from L3 to F6. After a delightful lunchtime concert featuring winners from the music competitions there was a clarinet masterclass led by our guest musician Alison Waller who currently holds posts with Napier University, RSAMD and the North East of Scotland Music School. Clarinetists under the spotlight were Rebecca Chapple and Nicol Foggie, F6, and Siobhan Chien, F5. Matthew Clark and a string quartet were also put through their paces with a performance of Mozart's *Clarinet Quintet*.

Wind and rhythm players were asked to perform at the HMC dinner on board *Discovery* in June and they were very well received. This F1-3 Big Band gave a repeat performance of *Chameleon*, *The Girl from Ipanema* and *Don't Stop Believing* to a delighted School audience one morning interval on the Pillars during the last week of the session.

Also in June Siobhan Chien competed in the semi-final of Rotary's Young Musician of the Year competition performing works by Brahms and Lutoslawski.

Highlight of the year for the wind and percussion players was the Summer Ensemble Concert in Dundee Congregational Church. This concert featured various wind and string ensembles (see report above).



Piano matters

This year's Piano Day was a celebration of two of the most prolific writers for pianoforte, Robert Schumann and Frederic Chopin, both of whom were born two hundred years ago.

In the morning there were performance classes which gave all of our pianists from L3 to F6 the opportunity to play to their peers and parents in Trinity Hall. At lunchtime we heard the result of a wonderful collaboration with pupils from the English Department. Six of our pianists performed the complete work, *Kinderszenen*, accompanied by reflections on these *Scenes of Childhood* written and recited by English pupils. Special mention should be made to pianists Charlotte Collison, Eleanor Mackie, Nicol Foggie, Leeann Chen, Lewis Foggie, and Laura Lee, and reciters Blaine Douglas, Fraser Ashworth, Ross Findlay, Fraser Husband, Jennifer Harris, Matthew Furness, Zoe Milne, Erin Young, Iona MacRitchie, Euan Rose, Holly Strachan, Christopher Drysdale and Fergal Mackie. In the afternoon four Grade 7 and 8 pupils took part in an advanced performance class where they played and discussed their chosen pieces amongst themselves and their teachers.



The evening session started with a Junior Recital with repertoire from composers such as Beethoven and Schumann as well as some up to date "jazzy" music. Then we were treated to a repeat performance of *Kinderszenen* before the Senior Recital. All performances throughout the day were of an excellent standard and showed our pianists to be sensitive, exciting and incredibly musical performers.

In June, Nicol Foggie, was successful in the second round of Rotary's Young Musician of the Year competition playing works by Purcell, Brahms and Prokofiev thus securing a place in the final. In this exciting evening of music making by five of Dundee's best school musicians Nicol played *Adagio* from *Toccata in C, BWV 564* by Bach, *Intermezzo Op 118, no 2* by Brahms and *March* from *The Love of Three Oranges* by Prokofiev. Congratulations, too, to Nicol for gaining Distinction in his Grade 8 pianoforte exam in November. Well done, Nicol!



Singing update

With singing forming such an important part of our curricular and co-curricular programmes it is not surprising that our pupils comprise almost a quarter of the local National Youth Choir of Scotland corps. At a higher level Amy Grieve and James Matossian, F6 and Kirsty Mitchell, F5 have all successfully auditioned for the NYCOS Training Choir and will perform at Stirling Castle later this year. Lauren Clayson, F5, Jenny Allan, F4, Sarah Hay, F3 and Karyn Joss and Alison Ross, F2 are in the National Girls Choir and some of them will sing at the Edinburgh Festival this year, while Euan Strachan, F1, Elliot McKillop, F4, Rhys Paterson, F1, Daniel Baker, F1, Oliver Baker, F4 and Alistair Goodfellow, F1 are all in the National Boys Choir and will perform publicly after their residential course.

This year's Leng Silver Medals were keenly competed for and awarded to Karen Joss, F2 and Louise Clark, L7.

In September, Gillian Craig and Kirsty Mitchell joined with the Senior Strings to deliver a performance at the Rotary Conference in Aviemore. In October at The Party on the Pillars the L6-7 choir performed *This Little Light of Mine* and were then joined by F1 to sing *At the end of the rainbow* from the Junior School Musical, *Treasure Island*.

The L1-3 Nativity Play was, yet again, a wonderful event with our music staff teaching the songs and providing the musical accompaniment. Some members of the Senior Choir completed our festive music making by returning to the Carseview Centre again to sing carols to residents and staff who were most appreciative. In March the Senior Girls Choir took part in Dundee Choral Union's performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in the Caird Hall. They sung the three part unaccompanied chorus, *Lift thine eyes*, angelically, and joined the Choral for the final chorus. At the end of term service in St Mary's Parish Church in April, Gillian Craig and Kirsty Mitchell, F5 performed Humperdinck's *Evening Prayer* from *Hansel and Gretel* most beautifully.

As we go to press we look forward to our biannual senior musical production. This year we are venturing into the realms of Baroque Opera with three performances of Henry Purcell's masterpiece, *Dido and Aeneas* in Trinity Hall. (please see separate report) We understand that the Gardyne Theatre may be available for our next senior musical production and thoughts will no doubt return to staging a full scale musical as was the case up until its closure after our 2006 production of *The Sound of Music*.

Other news

In September our SQA candidates attended an RSNO Maestro Concert in Perth City Hall where they were treated to an hour long concert by the professional orchestra with a commentary dealing with various aspects of musical features in their coursework. We look forward to attending a similar event in the Caird Hall this October and hope that some of our instrumentalists may have the opportunity of playing *Side by Side* with members of the orchestra and having a member of the orchestra conducting a composing workshop in school.

October saw our first venture into Instrumental Parents Evenings. With approximately 500 instrumental lessons being delivered by an enthusiastic team of 21 full-time and visiting instructors it provided an opportunity for parents to meet their son or daughter's teacher and discuss progress. Such was the success of the two evenings that this will certainly become an annual event.

This session we presented 157 candidates in the three Associated Board exam diets in 14 different instruments. There were also 10 Grade 5 theory candidates who all passed this milestone exam. For the first time we presented Jazz candidates and expect that entries in this genre will grow in the future.

Dispatches

All in all this has been a very busy year for everyone and there is the promise of yet another one to come. I would like to thank all the pupils who have contributed to this success and to their parents for their support and encouragement. Of course none of this would be possible without the tremendous amount of work put in by our dedicated team of class and instrumental staff whose fantastic efforts on top of their teaching commitments is outstanding. A big thank you to everyone.

Newsflash

Already the diary is filling up for what promises to be yet another busy session, the main events being the Annual Christmas Carol Concert in the Caird Hall on Wednesday 8th December and the Spring Concert in the same venue on Wednesday 30th March. Also planned for the autumn term is a vocal masterclass with Pat McMahon of RSAMD on November 3rd, a return performance for the Senior String Ensemble at the CLIC Sargent Christmas Concert. More details of these and other forthcoming events will be published throughout the session.

J F Melville June 2010

Annual Music Competition results

This year the competition was for "named prizes" only.

Junior School

Marshall Prize for Recorder

Anoushay Okhai (L5C)

Prize for Brass (Grade Two)

Sandy Adamson (L6A)

Prize for Guitar (Grade Two)

Rory Forster (L7S)

Old Girls' Prize for Piano

(Grade Two)

Malcolm Campbell (L6A)

Prize for Strings (Grade Three)

Mhairi Millar (L6A)

Prize for Woodwind (Grade Four)

Miranda Cook (L7S)

Prize for Bagpipes (Grade Three)

Emily Wilson-Pearce (L6A)

Senior School

Grade Five Strings

Sarah Hay (3LI2)

Grade Five Woodwind

Alasdair Rennet (1AI1)

Grade Five Brass

Samuel Cunningham (1LI1)

Grade Five Percussion

Harry Carstairs (3LI1)

Grade Five Piano

Charlotte Collison (3AI2)

Grade Five Voice

Claire Dobson (5AI2)

Grade Five Guitar

Mark Cant (4WA2)

Grade Six Strings

Lewis Davie (3AI2)

Grade Six Woodwind

Callum Strachan (2WA2)

Grade Six Brass

Euan Strachan (1WA2)

Grade Six Piano

Olivia McGregor (5AY2)

Grade Six Voice

Gillian Craig (5AY1)

Grade Six Guitar

Scott Lothian (2AI2)

Grade Six Bagpipes

Jack Hamilton (2AI1)

Larg Prize for Open Strings

Anna Burns (6LI2)

Open Woodwind

Harry Carstairs (3LI1)

Larg Prize for Open Brass

Eilidh Affleck (3AY2)

Larg Prize for Open Piano

Leeann Chen (3AY1)

Larg Prize for Open Voice

Amy Grieve (6LI2)

Larg Prize for Open Guitar

Duncan Strachan (4WA2)

Duet/Duo Class (shared first place)

Scott & Duncan (guitars)

Scott Lothian (2AI2)

Duncan Strachan (4WA2)

Leeann & Louise (violins)

Leeann Chen (3AY1)

Louise Pattullo (3AY1)

Southgate Prize for Ensemble

Group E

Matthew Clark (4LI2)

Leeann Chen (3AY1)

Lewis Davie (3AI2)

Gail Watson (3LI2)

Eleanor Robson (3LI1)

High School of Dundee

Premier Quaich

Siobhan Chien (5AI1) – clarinet

Physics

Physics Rises to the Challenges

During this past session, the Physics Department has enjoyed achievement, development and fun – both inside and outside the labs.



Achievement in the classroom yielded pass rates at Credit level of 90% (80% at band 1) Higher 86% (46% Band A) and Advanced Higher 86% (46% Band A). Whilst it is a pleasure when pupils perform very well, it is particularly rewarding when they pursue Physics and related courses into tertiary education and beyond. Of our 14 Physics leavers last session, 9 went into Physics and Engineering, 4 into Medicine and 1 into Rural Management. This is in spite of the trend for declining numbers taking Physics, Science and Engineering nationally.

Stretching all pupils is a challenge which we welcome. Whilst we encourage and try to inspire pupils to think and analyse complex problems in the classroom, it is always encouraging to witness them applying their knowledge and problem-solving skills in unfamiliar situations.

In the summer holidays of 2009, Alexandra Montgomery participated in the Nuffield Bursary Scheme. These very prestigious awards are given to only 100 students across Scotland, for them to work alongside practising scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians. Projects take place during the summer holidays, giving students an insight into the world of scientific research and development. Alexandra's project involved 'The Growth and Characterisation of Porous Polymer Thin Films' involving high precision measurements, and a combination of scientific techniques and knowledge. She gave a very impressive account of her research at the awards ceremony at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. We are delighted that Connor McCollum (F5) has been awarded a Nuffield Bursary to study Physics this summer and look forward to his report.

Achievement in the classroom yielded pass rates at Credit level of 90%



Alexandra Montgomery

In September, the Advanced Higher pupils attended TUSLIP (Tayside University Schools Liaison in Physics) – A-H Physics workshops which offered them practical experience beyond the school lab and allowed them the opportunities to work with students from other schools.

We also encourage activities for the younger pupils. In October, James Lucocq, April Shepherd, Cameron Richardson and Donald Campbell from Forms 3 and 4, reached the semi-finals of the WOSPEG (West of Scotland Education Group) Physics Quiz after a testing preliminary round against formidable opposition.



Some of the Physics department activities

On Open Morning, the Physics department demonstrated a hive of activities and a variety of experiments. A group of very keen F2 pupils presented these with impressive confidence and knowledge. Many of our visitors praised them for their approachability and enthusiasm.

It is always a pleasure to welcome L7 to the Physics labs and this year was no exception. Their mini-project on solar-power produced a colourful display of posters with very interesting facts and information. In the labs the budding scientists were fascinated by the range of appliances and components which use solar energy.

Over the past few years the Physics department has benefitted greatly from the generous support of the Northwood Charity Trust who has enabled us to buy high precision equipment such as demonstration multimeters and an interferometer to measure the speed of light. This year we were able to purchase ionising radiation sources and a very superior digital travelling microscope. Such sophisticated equipment allows our senior pupils to make very accurate observations and measurements. Advanced Higher pupils are required to conduct a practical investigation and several of them have produced very impressive results and reports of quality well beyond school level. To become good scientists, pupils need to master practical, numerical, and analytical skills and, above all, have an inquisitive mind and a problem solving attitude. Using highly specialised equipment enhances these skills and confidence to develop their practical expertise to high levels.

Sarah H Fletcher



Scottish Space School

On the 13th of June the Scottish Space School with the support of NASA was officially opened. A total of 120 students had been picked from across Scotland to attend the Space School – including me!

On the first evening a quiz night was used to allow the students to bond with their team. On Monday the whole day was spent constructing rockets. The aim was to launch your rocket and get as close to 291 feet as possible. As for the launch site, there could have been no more picturesque place than Loch Lomond, which was described by Nicholas Patrick (NASA Astronaut), as one of the best launch sites he has visited. On Tuesday the 15th we were given an early briefing and then went to the computing labs to plan our Mars Rover Missions, using a Mars Rover Simulator. In the afternoon, after a fantastic lecture from the Dean of Science, we set out to build heart rate monitors using various electronic components and breadboards. For some reason my group managed to bamboozle the professor as it was connected correctly yet it failed to detect a pulse! The evening was spent listening to an interesting yet humorous speech from Kevin Woulwick (the world's first Cyborg!!) who gave a detailed lecture on the future of Cyborgs, then concluded with an Arnold Schwarzenegger impression of "I'll be back".

The next morning we were set the task of investigating what types of bacteria grow on us, which seemed to disgust more than one member of the Space School. In the evening we listened to our visitors from NASA, Heather Paul and Nicholas Patrick who spoke about their jobs at NASA, which were both very interesting speeches. With one and a half days left, the teams resumed their competition with each other, with the Mars Rover and Lander Challenges respectively. This proved to be highly competitive yet was great fun. The day concluded with a formal dinner and ceilidh. Finally, on the last day there was a brief prize giving, the winning team was announced.

It was an amazing experience to meet the astronauts, participate in the challenges and make so many new friends.

Kevin Singh F5

On Wednesday 16th June, eight budding physicists from Form 3 and Form 4, accompanied by Mrs Fletcher and Mr Hancock, got up early and travelled on the school minibus to the Royal Naval Base in Faslane to take part in the Young Engineers Royal Navy Engineering Activity Day 2010.

We were allocated a group containing three other people from different schools and were allowed a couple of minutes to introduce ourselves and find out a little about each other. Our first challenge was to imagine we were expert engineers who had landed somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean to help clear up in the aftermath of a huge earthquake, assuming that we had no way of communicating with the outside world. Our first mission was to use the materials in our toolbox to build a device that could remove rubble from a chasm created by the earthquake, then to build another device that would allow a car to pass safely over the chasm. We had 90 minutes to complete the task.

When we had discussed our ideas and finished building our innovative designs, we returned downstairs to test our devices. A small model had been set up in the auditorium representing the rubble-filled chasm caused by the earthquake, and each group had five minutes to show the assessor how efficient their designs were, at removing the "rubble" from the 10cm deep "chasm" and placing it in a small plastic tray, from a distance of about 1.5 metres. When this task had been completed each group then had to display the ability of their second device, to allow the safe passage of a toy car over to the other side of the "chasm". It was good fun and everyone displayed a lot of team spirit and determination.

After all this hard work and problem solving, our brains needed a bit of a rest. Luckily there was a bus waiting outside, ready to transport us to the main naval base which was a short distance away. Here we were given a short tour of the premises and told a little bit about the role of the Royal Navy in keeping Britain safe. We got to view the control rooms and we were given an insight into the type of hi-tech equipment used by the Navy. We found it very interesting to hear about their amazing complex technology, and about the simulators the crew use to train continuously throughout and ensure they are confident and able should a real disastrous situation arise.

In the afternoon we had to imagine that we were in the midst of the devastation caused by the Mediterranean earthquake, except this time our challenge was to restore the power supply to a hospital isolated from the mainland by a 40cm river, by building a suitable electrical circuit and pylons. We were also required to find a way to move the pylons to the other side of river and if necessary to create a device that would allow us to put this in place as well.

After another ninety minutes of deliberation and building, we again went down to the auditorium to test our solutions. As was to be expected, this didn't exactly go to plan for all of the groups, meaning the collapse of a few 20cm high pylons and some very incomplete circuits, however, everyone found the challenge enjoyable, if perhaps just a little bit tiring.

There were four different prizes up for grabs for the teams. Two boys from HSD were lucky enough to win prizes, James Lucocq (F3) and Jakob Kroboth (F3) each went away with a Young Engineers goody bag.

Everyone enjoyed the experience and had learned quite a bit about physics and engineering, and about the work of the Royal Navy. We had also made new friends and learned how to work in a team with everyone participating and working together to complete tricky and mentally challenging tasks and overcome the difficulties we faced along the way.

By Gail Watson F3

The Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Sociology continued with its established courses for pupils from L7 to Form 6. Visiting speakers came to present ideas on a wide range of topics from drug addiction as a moral issue to exploring the value and inspiration of religious texts in one's life. As part of the core curriculum, 239 pupils in Forms 3 and 4 achieved an Intermediate 2 unit qualification in Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies, and 12 candidates in Forms 5 and 6 sat external exams for Higher and Intermediate 2 awards in Philosophy and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies. Below are just some of the highlights from the year.

Higher RMPS class visit Buddhist Centre for World Peace



The Higher Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies class paid a visit to the local Tibetan Buddhist Centre for World Peace and Health in Dundee as part of the course studies on Buddhism. The class had the opportunity to view the centre and discuss with the centre's founder and project director, the Venerable Gelong Karma Jiga, Buddhist beliefs and moral reasoning on subjects ranging from daily life, to what happens after we move on from this life; from metaphysics to pragmatics; and from genetic engineering to euthanasia.

The hour-long session gave pupils the opportunity to raise questions and discuss key issues under consideration in the course. In the words of one pupil: "It was very interesting, and good to get a chance to ask questions about their views on things and how various types of Buddhism differ."

RMPS

Intermediate 2 RMPS Moral Issues in the Modern World

Dr Alex Baldacchino, the director of CARES (Centre of Addiction Research and Education Scotland) and Clinical Senior Lecturer in Addiction Psychiatry, in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Dundee (and parent of children in the school), volunteered to talk with Form 3 pupils regarding drug abuse in terms of criminal activity and appropriate ways of addressing the issue. Dr Baldacchino was very enthusiastic about our departmental approach to examining the roots of criminal behaviour and exploring moral approaches to punishment, and he was keen to contribute. He explained about the problems of addictive behaviour and the criminal implications of such behaviour, as well as exploring some strategies and ways of examining the law for reform.

Subsequently, pupils then paid a series of visits to Tayside Police HQ, to examine the subject from the criminal justice perspective. The visits, which include the actual processing of a "prisoner" from intake to incarceration in a cell, a tour of the control room and CCTV room, and a tour of the police museum, gave pupils a first-hand understanding of police activities. The visits helped to illustrate some of the theories that pupils were introduced to within the course, such as the purposes of punishment, ethical questions regarding offenders, and finding a balance between privacy and public safety. These visits brought the subject to life and provided pupils with the insights to form their own informed moral views on the issues.



Happy Birthday to HSD!

30th October 2009: what can we say? It was the biggest party the School had seen in its 770 years and the School decided that such a momentous occasion deserved celebration! The High School of Dundee marked 175 years of its iconic Main Building with an outstanding display of pupil talents: the Party on the Pillars.

Youngsters from L6 (Primary 6) to Form 6, together with members of staff, took to a specially-constructed stage to perform a variety of music and dance numbers in front of the dramatic backdrop of the School's pillars. We were treated to performances from the pipe band, singers, street dancing, our very own F6 boy band, pupil rock bands and of course – the astonishing Abba tribute band ... all skillfully and entertainingly introduced by our dashing master of ceremonies, Mr Neil McKinnon! Around 2000 pupils, parents and friends attended the party, which culminated in a spectacular fireworks display above the School.

The event also highlighted a series of banners, commissioned to mark the anniversary, and designed by former pupil Rachael Sinclair, who left the High School in 2008 to study at Glasgow School of Art. The evening included a special presentation to Rachael to mark the occasion.

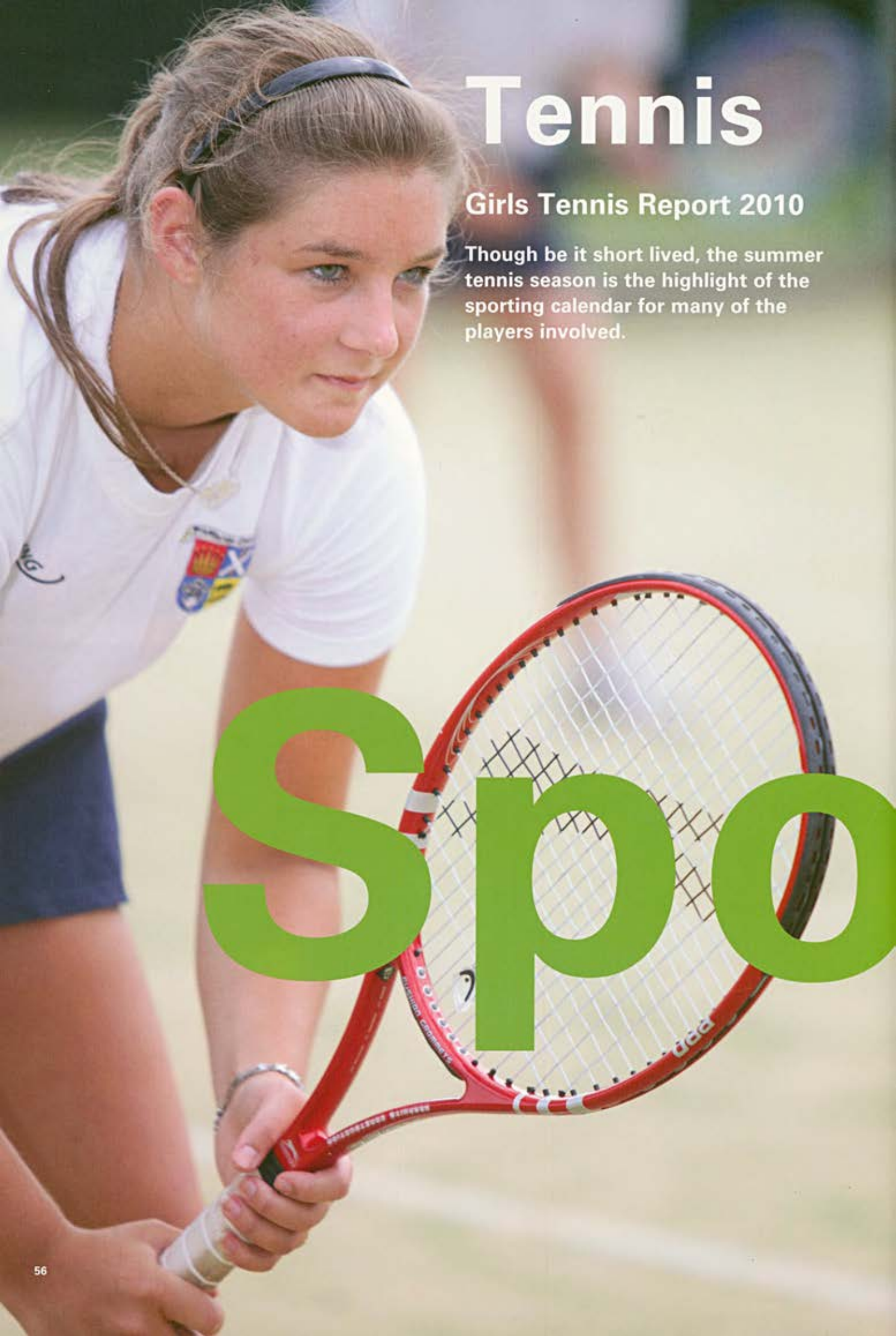
Not surprisingly, the flashlights were popping all evening, so here is just a selection of images of that fantastic occasion!



Tennis

Girls Tennis Report 2010

Though be it short lived, the summer tennis season is the highlight of the sporting calendar for many of the players involved.



Spo



Coaching this year was taken by Andrew Fairley. His talent and enthusiasm made the season ever more enjoyable and we would like to thank him on behalf of everybody who took part. The senior squad comprised of – Form 6; Alex Montgomery (Captain), Claire Stirling (Vice-captain), Louise Soutar, Beth Spowart, Lindsey Docherty and Jenny Lothian, Form 5: Cara Davidson, Hannah Sampson, Suzie Brown and Emma Pattullo, Form 4: Sarah-Jane Lothian and Holly Maxwell-Stevenson.

rt

With some pre-season training under our belts we were more than ready for the first fixture against Kilgraston. However, due to the unpredictable Scottish weather, the match had to be cancelled. Fortunately the sun shone for the rest of the season.

A tough defeat at the hands of a strong Dollar Academy team knocked some confidence but happened to be our first of only two losses for the senior teams. A terrific win against Morrison's Academy put the teams in good spirits with both the 1st and 2nd VI winning 9-0.

As usual the School put forward a talented mixed doubles team for the annual Glenalmond tournament. The team came frustratingly close to bringing home some trophies, finishing 3rd in every category, but a delicious roast lunch made it all worth while.

By far the most competitive events were the Senior and Junior House Matches. A wonderful achievement from Wallace had them winning both the Senior and Junior Events, followed by Airlie, Aystree and Lindores for the Seniors and Lindores, Airlie and Aystree for the Juniors. The individual Tennis Championship results were as follows:

Senior Championship

Winner: Cara Davidson (F5)
 Runner-up: Holly Maxwell-Stevenson (F4)

Junior Championship

Winner: Susan Graham (F3)
 Runner-up: Katie Young (F2)

L7 Girls Championship

Winner: Eve Cowan
 Runner-up: Madeleine Tinson

Further down the School the Primary pupils enjoyed participating in a couple of tennis tournaments and achieved many excellent results. Mhairi Millar (L6) and Annie Porter (L6) won the Morrison's Academy competition and were placed second in the St Leonard's New Park U/11 'A' section. Also Susanna Porter (L5) and Heidi Sampson (L5) were victorious, winning the St Leonard's New Park U/11 'B' section. There was a high standard of play at both of these tournaments and it proved rewarding for all the pupils who represented the School.

Once again we would like to thank Andrew Fairley, the PE staff and Max Palladini for coaching the teams this season. Also, many thanks to all the pupils who attended practice and contributed to making the season such a success. Our tennis teams greatly appreciate the support of Paul McGhee, owner of The Schoolwear Shop who continues to supply the teams with white polo shirts and sweat tops.

Best wishes for next season!

Alex Montgomery (Captain)
 and Claire Stirling (Vice-Captain)

Swimming

Yet again, the High School's swimming team doesn't fail to impress, with another rewarding year.

To start off the swimming year the first major event was held at Olympia, the Midlands District Schools Championships. The gala is composed of only freestyle events, including individual 100m and relays. The HSD boys A relay team got off to a flying start and were heading for a top three placing, however, unfortunately got disqualified, although the B team managed to reinstall our pride by grabbing a respectable 6th place. Yet again all the boys did exceptionally well in the 100m freestyle individual with Harris Brown just missing out on the final in 7th place in the heats and Alex Sharpe qualifying for the final in which he came 5th, also with myself (Claire Dobson) retrieving a silver medal for the girls 100m freestyle. Congratulations to everyone who participated and I hope to hear of your achievements next year in this gala.

Following this event was the Tayside schools which displayed many successful swims and entitled many to qualify for the Scottish schools later in the year held in Glasgow, Tollcross. The first day of the competition seemed to set the scene for HSDs achievements to come with Alex Sharpe finishing 3rd in 200m backstroke, Calum Rennet 2nd in 200m freestyle and 100m freestyle and myself 1st in 100m and 200m freestyle. These solid performances were continued into Thursday, firstly with the 13/14 boys relay: Jamie Mather, Alistair Rennet, Adam Powrie and Euan Rose claiming second. Continuing with the individuals: Alistair Rennet bagging the medals with his 200m backstroke and 100m backstroke swims in which he was 1st and 2nd.

This was followed by Adam Powrie who won a bronze medal in 200m freestyle and Jamie Mather 2nd in 200m breaststroke. In total Dundee High took away three gold medals, five silver medals and two bronze medals, an outstanding achievement, well done.

Therefore as a consequence of Tayside schools some swimmers were accepted and participated in the Scottish Schools. Alistair Rennet came 15th in the 13-14 age group for 200m backstroke, Alex Sharpe came 18th in 15-16 200m backstroke, I was 7th in the 100m freestyle and Jamie Mather came 4th in 100m breaststroke and 12th in 200m breaststroke. This proved to be a most rewarding gala which all participants from Tayside and of course Dundee High thoroughly enjoyed.

Of course we must not forget the School Swimming Gala, held at Olympia which saw swimmers from the age of 4 all the way up to 50 (sorry Mr Beckett) competing. Everyone showed much enthusiasm as competitive edges arose. As a result of the Senior and Junior School pupils the House Champions were deemed, Airlie, followed by Wallace, then 3rd for Aystree and 4th to Lindores. Well done to all the pupils who were involved and also to all the staff who clearly enjoyed the staff relay teams. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Mr Jack, Mr Beckett and Mrs Rudman who made the swimming team possible and successful this year.

Results

Aged 9 Years and Under Championship

1st	Mhairi Pratt	Airlie
2nd	Stephanie Mitchell	Aystree
3rd	Susanna Porter	Aystree
1st=	Thomas Jarron	Airlie
1st=	Alfred George	Lindores
2nd=	Kieran Forster	Aystree
2nd=	Nathanael Fagerson	Lindores
3rd=	Glenn Davie	Lindores
3rd=	Tom Porter	Aystree

Aged 10 Years and Over Championship

1st	Sophie Davidson	Aystree
2nd	Rachael Chalmers	Airlie
3rd=	Eve Cowan	Airlie
3rd=	Madeleine Tinson	Aystree
3rd=	Rachel Murie	Aystree
1st	Andrew Elliot	Airlie
2nd	Matthew Fagerson	Lindores
3rd=	Finlay McKillop	Airlie
3rd=	Lynden Nicely	Aystree
3rd=	Stefan Baldacchino	Wallace

Form 1 - Form 3 Championship

1st	Olivia Ritchie	Wallace
2nd	Karyn Joss	Wallace
3rd	Pyla Bird-Leakey	Airlie
1st	Harris Brown	Wallace
2nd	Alex Sharpe	Airlie
3rd	Jamie Mather	Lindores

Form 4 - Form 6 Championship

1st	Claire Dobson	Airlie
2nd	Claire Stirling	Lindores
3rd	Eilidh Campbell	Lindores
1st	Glen Milne	Aystree
2nd=	Peter Vannet	Wallace
2nd=	Richard Abel	Airlie
3rd	Elliot McKillop	Airlie

House Championship

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

I hope everyone keeps up the training and I hope to see you all participating next year.

Girls' Football



This session, the F1-3 Girls' Football team won the Scottish Independent Schools 7-a-side Girls' Football title.

The girls in the 'A' team were superb and dominated every match beating DHS 'B', Heriot's, Jordanhill and Hamilton. Our goal scorers were Lana Ingram, Beth Macintosh, Grace Nimmo and Charlotte Collison.

Our 'A' team

Iona Johnston F3
Lana Ingram (Captain) F3
Beth Macintosh F2
Hannah Stirling F3
Grace Nimmo F3
Vanessa Matthew F3
Charlotte Collison F3
Ailsa Johnston F3

Though our 'B' team was less successful, they played with a smile! Goals scored by Jemma Hudson and Kirsty Stout.

'B' Team

Jemma Hudson F2
Hannah Rhodes F1
Kirsty Stout (Captain) F3
Amber Merry F3
Charlotte Thompson F3
Rebecca Brown F1
Natasha Henderson F3
Lydia Avril F3

Thanks to Mr Middleton and Ms Smith for their work with the teams this season!



Rugby

Under 15 Rugby 2009-2010

A tough but successful season started with an away trip to Robert Gordon's in Aberdeen and it wasn't to be the brightest start to our year of rugby. Everyone was rusty and despite a massive effort we lost to a late try. Our form picked up over the next couple of weeks with first a heavy defeat of St Aloysius and then a great victory over Dollar. Next up was Edinburgh Academy, a team we had never beaten as a year group. We were carrying some injuries and the players who stepped in were key with some great individual performances. Tries from Harris Brown and Jack Paladini amongst others meant we won 34-12 and was a great performance savoured by the whole team. An away trip to Strathallan followed and this too ended in a win. After mid-term we played Howe of Fife, easy wins over McLaren High School and Bell Baxter with two fifty point wins, and after with a completely different line-up and unfortunately lost. Against Glasgow Academy a reversal of last year's result gave us a good victory.

We completed the double over Dollar in another challenging match. Duncan Shaw and George Arnott stood out in the loose. We ended the season on a disappointing note against Stewarts Melville, however, some great matches have been played in a highly enjoyable season.

The Scottish cup games were midweek throughout the year. We started off with beating Edinburgh Academy and Dollar we had high hopes going into the match but we crashed out of the cup into the plate at the hands of Stewarts Melville. It was undoubtedly the low point of the season but only made us want to win more. Wins over Aberdeen South, Bell Baxter and Preston Lodge put us into the semi-final of the plate against Boroughmuir. Again we started slowly but some good linking play pulled us away towards the end. Several players from the year below joined our squad and played well both in the forwards and backs.



A final at Murrayfield loomed and we were up against Hawick High School from the borders. Hawick are traditionally a tough, physical team and they came out of the blocks quickest. However, we soon started to dominate and after their initial try they didn't leave their own half for the next half an hour. We soon proved to be the better team with several good team tries and finally an interception by Chris Jollands gave us a 17 point lead. A fantastic defensive end gave us the trophy, winning 24-7 at Murrayfield! It was an amazing feeling and after a long, hard season to get a trophy was brilliant. When we were knocked out of the cup we knew the only way to end the season was with a win which we did. Zander Fagerson got Man of the Match after some massive tackles and Team Captain Craig Morrison lifted the trophy! Finally, Gavin Lynch's emotional speech in the dressing room topped off a fantastic day.

We must of course also thank our coaches Mr Spowart and Calum Bowie who spent many long hours fine tuning our performances.



"A big thank you to all the PE Staff and Alan, the bus driver, for making our Easter Tour so much fun."

Easter Tour

Thursday 25th March

The HSD Form 2 rugby squad left the School and began their journey to Glasgow for the 2010 Easter Rugby Tour. After two hours on the bus we arrived at Glasgow High School where we would be playing our first match. For this match we were missing a number of players due to the cadet overnight exercise they were attending. Despite a battling performance the A team lost 8 tries to 1 while the B team managed an entertaining 7-7 draw. After the match we were fed by Glasgow High School before a short journey to our hotel in East Kilbride.

Friday 26th March

After an early morning wake-up call we filled up at the breakfast buffet before relaxing in the hotel pool, sauna and steam room. For the remainder of the morning we headed to X-Scape. Our first activity was laser quest; everyone getting two attempts. The group was split up into three teams and there was no surprise that the PE staff were always on the losing side! Afterwards we had 2 hours of free time in X-Scape which was spent mostly on the arcade machines! After grabbing some lunch we were back to the bus for a short journey to Glasgow Academy where we would be playing our next match. On our arrival we met with the rest of the squad now returned from cadets. The A team put in a much improved performance to win 10 tries to 1 against Glasgow Academy. The B team kept up their unbeaten record with a 1 point victory over our hosts. Food was again provided by Glasgow Academy before we went back to the hotel to get ready for go karting. When we arrived at the karting centre we were informed about safety and how to drive the karts. We then all had two attempts at going round the track ten times, trying to get the fastest time. The evening was ended with the 3 fastest drivers being presented medals on the winner's podium. They were: 1st Brewster White, 2nd Chris Jollands, 3rd Jack Houston. After the karting we returned to the hotel for our last night.

Saturday 27th March

In the morning we got up and had another massive breakfast. We then had another chance to use the hotel leisure facilities. Following this we packed our bags and left Glasgow for home. The journey back was enjoyable as we watched the videos of our matches that had been filmed. There were also a number of awards presented on the way home. These included:

A Team Player of the Tour

Adam Powrie

B Team Player of the Tour

James Currie

Captain Slow (Slowest Go Kart driver)

Jack Cannon

The Special Awards

(For scoring a try over the wrong line)

Guy Doogan and Angus Haddow

We arrived safe and well at the School Gates at 1pm. We would all like to say a big thank you to all the PE Staff and Alan, the bus driver, for making our Easter Tour so much fun.

By Angus Milne and Adam Powrie

Participants in the F2 rugby tour get ready for departure

Boys' Hockey

Under 16s Boys Hockey

We are now at the end of another fruitful season for the Boys Under 16's Hockey Team. Throughout the season, we pushed forward with passion and came out the other side a much stronger team both physically and mentally.

Firstly, I must extend a huge thank you from the team to Mr W. Nichol, Mr A. Wood and lastly Mr J. Salisbury. Their combined coaching support helped us to achieve high levels of individual skill but, more importantly, to bond together to create a strong unity that produced the strongest team of our hockey careers . . . so far!

Throughout the season, we experienced both huge highs and the inevitable lows that come with competitive sports. Yet, no matter the result, we resolved to strengthen any weaknesses and to come out at the next match a far improved and smoother team. Hard work and commitment was expected from all members of the team and happily many obliged and reaped the rewards for their actions.

At every match and training session, the team found ways to overcome every obstacle put in place by either the opposition or our coaches – everybody can still feel the pain in muscles they never knew they had, until Mr Nichol introduced us to one of his joyous fitness sessions! We learned from experience how to go away and improve on cracks in our game and field skills. Thus, as the season progressed, we

evolved as a team, becoming a new force with new ideas and a new drive to win. Had it not been for the commitment and hard work put in by the team, we would have crumbled, but due to these traits we could all move forward as a unit and play as a team.

In the 09/10 season, we found out just how hard we had to work for wins, not only on the field but at the training sessions also, that included more fitness sessions – something that not all members of the team were so enthusiastic about. Happily we racked up several wins during the season providing a huge moral boost which in turn carried us into other games with a re-kindled desire for victory on the field. From our strikers across the field to our goalie, we came together and became a team that constantly drove forward to aim and achieve winning results on a Saturday morning whilst playing to our full potential. All of the team knows that there is so much more that we can achieve together and can't wait for the beginning of the 10/11 season.

Playing for the Under 16's Boys Hockey team this year has been a fun and rewarding experience with every member of the team leaving this season with a new found sense of teamwork, physical ability and drive to win. From this year, we have taken away a lot, both individually and collectively, and are fully ready to take that on with us into the next season. Here's to another brilliant year.

Under 15s Boys Hockey

Although the results of our matches on paper were not too impressive, they did not reflect fairly on our performances. We also developed greatly over the duration of the winter thanks to the players' dedication in training and in matches.

There was a continuous high level of attendance at training and on Saturday mornings. The standard of our hockey also improved dramatically thanks to Mr Nichol's hard work and dedication to the cause. All parts of the field were enhanced, with strength from the back starting with Richard Salisbury in his debut season with the pads on. Richard was not the only debutant, with the addition of several second years and many third years who had also never played for the team, including Jack Hamilton, Ray Lynham, and many others. A few players were moved down from the Under 16s with the addition of young, new talent to provide experience and wisdom to the Under 15 team including Christopher White and Jamie Daw. Numerous players also showed much promise to occasionally

appear in the Under 16s team – Andrew Sadler's solid defensive work paid off, the Under 15s team captain, Joe Gibbins moving from an anchor position in the midfield to a play-making wide right position. Vice captain Chris Acheson also has made the move up to Under 16s playing an attacking role up front and came up with some important goals. By the end of the season Damon Ednie and Anthony Shek were also making the team.

We lost a lot of matches but some of our victories included a 2-1 victory down at Riverside against a very strong St Leonards outfit. We also beat George Watsons comfortably close to the start of the season. The encouraging signs shown this year, would suggest we have years of success to come. This potential in the Under 15s team prompted Mr Nichol to change the format for next season into a 1st XI and a 2nd XI. This should prove valuable in the future success of Boys hockey.



Girls' Hockey

Hockey players
ready for action

This season, both the girl's 1st XI and 2nd XI hockey teams have been hugely successful, and a big thank you goes out to the girls who have worked hard, attended practices and helped build our school's reputation as a formidable force on the hockey pitch. Thank you also to Miss Bunce and Mrs Hutchison for all your advice and help throughout the season!

The 1st XI got off to a great start at the Madras tournament in September when they won their first outdoor cup for a few years. At last we beat Strathallan in a final, and from there the wins kept coming (unlike the boy's rugby). Notable successes such as reaching the semi's in both the Strathallan tournament and the Midlands tournament also added to the team morale carrying us through the season, winning all but three of our weekend friendly's. Congratulations guys, you were all stars! The 2nd XI had a lot of success too winning most of games. The team had some great fun, one example of this being when Louise donned the goalkeeping kit and played in goal in the absence of Mel. Bus banter and violent play will all be missed hugely with best wishes going to next year's team.

With the poor weather the indoor season commenced. A few intense practices led to the District Indoor Tournament in December where we came a close second to Strathallan. However, this was still enough to take us to the hotly anticipated Scottish Indoor Tournament in Perth. With a slightly depleted team, we didn't go in with much confidence. However, we pulled through, and against all odds came second in our pool taking us to the semis. A tense game once again opposing Strathallan resulted in victory after Ailsa Summers scored the winning penalty flick. The final versus George Heriot's was extremely daunting, however our exhausted players fought on and lost 4-3, which given the size of our team was brilliant, and got us a cherished silver medal.

Out with school, our girls have also received great success with Morgan Hutchison, Joanna Tait and Georgina Black playing for Midlands U16's in the Scottish Inter-District Tournament and Jaimie McGregor and Lindsey Docherty playing for the U18's. After this tournament, Lindsey was selected for the U18 Scotland trials and made the training squad, unfortunately missing out on the final cut. Claire Stirling and Lindsey Docherty also made the Midlands U18 indoor squad, coming a close second in the Scottish Tournament.

Adding a little internal competition in the school, the House Games brought some bitter rivalry to the hockey pitch (we were getting a little bored as we hadn't played Strathallan for a while). The main competition was between Airlie and Wallace, who had the closest thing to a full team. Aystree fell short (only having 7 players) but put up a good fight regardless. As per usual Lindores were gracious in defeat. Congratulations Wallace for winning on goal difference, it was a close call with 1 goal separating them and Airlie.

Highlight of the hockey season for the 6th years was the boys rugby versus girls hockey match. The boys donned the girls lycra skorts and fitted tops while the girls dressed slightly manlier in their rugby kits. After getting over Ruairidh modelling a particularly short skirt and crop top the game commenced. It was not hockey as we know it, with the boys confusing their sport with ours, taking out a few of our players and putting a brave Joanne Mulford in hospital (it's ok, she survived, but the mental scars will last a lifetime...DANNY!). This cut the game short at a 2-1 win for the girls. However, it wasn't too disheartening for the boys it was the closest thing to a win they've had all year.



Sports Day





Photographs of Sports Day 2010
courtesy of Josh Goring, Angus
Gray and Fergus Carmichael
(all F1) and Mr David Smith.

Clubs

Zara Billah and Holly Maxwell-Smith, Public Speakers winners



Young Speakers' Club

If you're the kind of person who likes a good argument or if you enjoy listening to others discussing issues or if you just enjoy talking, come to the Young Speakers' Club. Tuesday at 1.15 and Mr Durrheim's room are still the time and venue for the Club.

"Young Speakers", as the name suggests, is all about young people getting the chance to speak. It's open to Forms 1 to 3 and we offer a wide range of related talking activities ranging from the ever popular *Just a Minute* and the Balloon Debates to debates on more serious issues such as "This House would lower the voting age to sixteen" and "This House would choose Reality over Reality TV". Highlights of the year include a debate on the motion "This House thinks that Cheryl Cole is a terrible role model" and our version of *Question Time*. These were introduced to the agenda by Mr Meechan, who joins Mr Durrheim in helping to run the Club. Mr Meechan initiated and promoted a number of other very successful large scale and very popular debates which had attracted a very healthy audience of members and non-members. "There were so many clamouring to attend that they were forming human pyramids at the back in order to see," said one observer, although he is prone to occasional hyperbole!

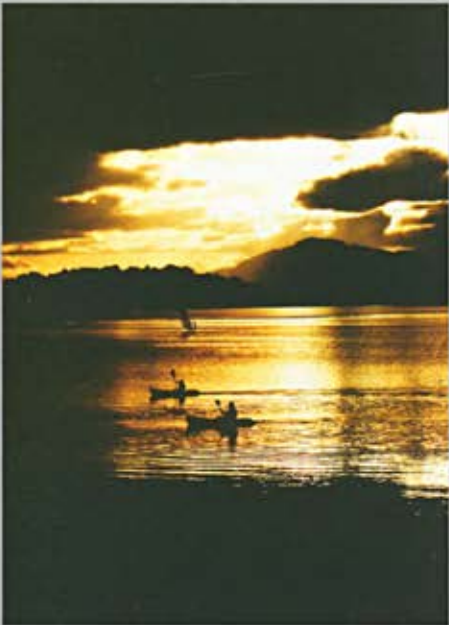
Some of the High School's best debaters and public speakers have "made their bones" in the Young Speakers' Club. This session, that includes many of those in the very successful younger teams coached by Mrs Ovenstone-Jones, who is always pinching our members! However, the Club has always been about participation at all levels. We encourage everyone, even those who merely want to watch their friends strut their stuff, to come along. If you want to hone your skills as a speaker or a debater, or if you just like a good blether, come along and join our Club.

Photography Club

The Photography Club continues to thrive with a cohort of young, and not so young, enthusiasts. This year club members have faced many photographic challenges as well as the opportunity to learn more about using Photoshop to enhance their work.

The competition in the first term attracted large numbers of entries from the whole school community, including members of staff.

Entries were exhibited in the School Library and all members of the School community had the opportunity to cast their vote for their favourite picture.



- 1
- 2 3
- 4

- 1: Philip Thomson 6AY2 – 1st (pupil)
- 2: Rosie Gray 6AI2 – 2nd (pupil)
- 3: Mr Rose – 1st (staff)
- 4: Gregor Sun 6LI2 – 3rd (pupil)



The overall winners were Philip Thomson, Form 6 from the pupil entries and Mr Rose from the staff.



Equestrian Team

The High School Equestrian Team 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.

The first team to compete was the Junior trio of Madeleine Tinson L7, Abbie Clark F1, Sarah Rowe F1 and Pyla Bird F1. The team rode superbly and finished third in the combined training and second in the show jumping, which was very good considering there were sixteen schools competing in this age group. In addition to this Madeleine was second individually in both the dressage and show jumping.

Next on show was the Intermediate team of Jessica Tinson F2, Katy Allen F2, Kerry Voice F3 and Marisa Shaw F1. All four gave a solid dressage test and they finished sixth in the combined training with twenty schools competing. Individually, Jessica rode like lightning and won the show jumping which was a fantastic achievement.

Finally it was the turn of the Senior team consisting of Rosie Allen F3, Lucy Harley F3, Georgina Black F3 and Rebecca Reid F5. They did not disappoint and after their hugely impressive dressage tests, they jumped superbly over a very challenging course. From twelve teams they finished a very impressive third in the combined training, third in the dressage and fifth in the show jumping with twelve schools competing.

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.

Junior Debating

Newcastle can be a lively place, especially in late summer when the sun shines. With five F4 girls and one (brave) F2 boy we set off for the first fixture of the Junior Debating calendar. No trophy but plenty of enthusiasm and excellent practice for the busy year ahead!

With the demise of the *Courier Junior Debating Competition* our junior speakers felt lost. Where could they try out this activity they had heard of? To the rescue came the new East of Scotland Debater competition. Megan Wallace improved on last year's success as a semi-finalist in the *Courier* to become a finalist along with Andrew Kelly. Catherine MacKay sadly succumbed to a throat infection and had to withdraw, while Gordon Robertson had his first taste of a competitive debate.

Fired up by their experiences throughout the year and their success as finalists, Megan and Andrew took on teams from George Heriot's School and Robert Gordon's College to win the final of "The Auld Hoose" Debating Competition: a fiercely fought but very friendly tournament run by Robert Gordon's College.

The Debating year ended in June with a thoroughly enjoyable evening of speechmaking in Edinburgh City Chambers. In these impressive surroundings, Holly Maxwell-Stevenson (F4) rose to the occasion and gave an inspiring speech on the topic of "Carpe Diem". As she challenged the audience to "do something no matter how bold or meek" the judges were impressed by her enthusiasm. Sadly the win went to another speaker.



If you have been inspired by these achievements come to Debating on Mondays and Thursdays in Mrs McGrath's room. All pupils, no matter their experience will be most welcome.

One big trophy

and a number of finals



Joanna and Zara Evans



April Shepherd and Rachael McLellan

With the departure for Oxford of the brilliantly successful combination of Lauren Pringle and Scott Ralston, the senior debaters always knew this year might have rather a 'follow that' aura about it. Nevertheless we have been here before, and so followed the excellent advice offered by a previous Rector of 'If you're going to win only one trophy, make sure it's the biggest one'.

Thus it was that at the end of three preliminary rounds of competition which had involved an initial entry of 80 schools, Rachael McLellan F6 and April Shepherd F4 triumphed in the final of the ESU Mace over teams from George Heriot's School, Madras College and Robert Gordon's College. This victory took them forward to represent Scotland in the International Mace, this year held in the impressive setting of Glasgow University Chapel. April and Rachael were judged to have come a close second on that occasion to a team from Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, both of whose members had already spoken in the final of the World Schools Debating Championship in February this year in Doha, and the girls were proud to have given our friends and rivals from Habs a good run for their money and to receive their certificates from Charles Kennedy MP.

During a large part of the rest of the session Rachael was concentrating on her Form 6 exam preparation and preferred not to take part in the time-consuming business of attending the many tournaments in which the High School participates. She did make an exception for the St Andrew's Day debate, which is organised annually in the Parliament by ESU Scotland. This year this event took the form of a 'Pro-Am' tournament in which school debaters were randomly allocated student partners from all of Scotland's universities. It should be noted that, given the general high standard of Scottish schools debating, it was not always clear which of the partners was supposed to be the 'Pro'! Rachael was paired with John McKee of the University of Strathclyde and was pleased to be awarded the winners' quaich.

Meanwhile the younger debaters were working hard to extend their knowledge base and gain experience of competing at the top schools level. At the start of November April Shepherd and Joanna Tinson F4 impressed us by placing 6th out of 32 teams at the Glasgow University Union tournament; they followed this by reaching the finals of the Cambridge qualifier and of the St Andrews University tournament, and by March had moved up to finishing 3rd out of 44 teams at the Edinburgh tournament.



International Mace Prizewinners



Rachael McLellan

Joanna and Zara Evans F4 qualified as one of the Scottish teams to compete at the finals day of the International Competition for Young Debaters, this year held at the Oxford Union, where they placed 11th out of 68 teams with Joanna an impressive 10th on the speaker tab out of 136. Since a whole day of debating on the Saturday necessitated two nights in Oxford, the opportunity was taken to cram in as many experiences as possible with the help of our Oxford-based FPs. The Pitt Rivers museum, Sheldonian, Bodleian, Ashmolean, Carfax Tower, Sung Matins in Christ Church Cathedral, several colleges, punting and book-shopping were duly fitted into a very busy three days and we even managed to dodge the resurgent ash cloud and get home again.

In the other major long-prep tournament, run by the Law Society of Scotland, Zara and Kiran Chita Form 4 did well to reach the last 16 from an entry of 128 teams. We are therefore invited to bring a group of debaters, both senior and junior, to watch the final of the competition from the MSPs' seats in the Parliament chamber and to contribute to the floor debate. Mrs McGrath has once again been invited to sit on the final judging panel.

Scott and Lauren, mentioned above, now both studying Law at Oxford, returned to School in December to judge the Senior House Debate and awarded the win to Airlie, represented by Head Boy Gordon Dick and Hannah Thomson, another stalwart member of our cohort of determined Form 4 debaters. Zara Evans was considered to be Best Speaker.

As we look forward to building on the achievements of the younger speakers we are sad to note that next session family circumstances are taking two of the most promising to schools elsewhere in Scotland. The remaining core of committed debaters will do their utmost to maintain our proud traditions – and would be delighted to welcome any new members who wish to join us on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes.

Perhaps the most exciting paragraph may be this last one; in August 2011 the World Schools Debating Championship is taking place in Dundee, over a period of 10 days. Mrs McGrath is the convenor thereof. The last time Scotland hosted, twenty years ago, WSDC was a relatively small event involving fewer than 20 countries; this year in Qatar, 57 nations attended and we expect to welcome over 40 to Dundee. So the world's best young debaters will be right here in our city, battling it out in classrooms which include those in our School. Lots of assistance will be required to make this a memorable event for our visitors, who are expected to number 350. If you are a pupil, you can chair or timekeep for debates or guide guests around the School. If you are a parent who is in any way able to offer support in kind or sponsorship, no matter how small, towards this most prestigious event, Mrs McGrath and her organising committee would be delighted to hear from you. Further information may be found at <http://wsdctournament.wordpress.com>

To return to our opening sentiments; one trophy, but a whole world of opportunities!



Artist Jimmy O'Ready
on his visit to the
Cartoon Club



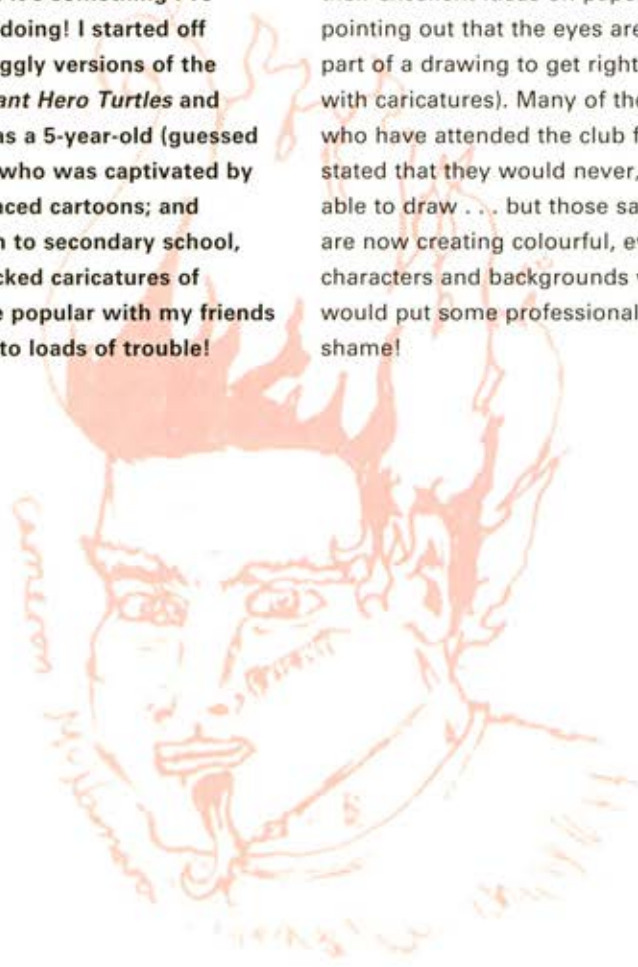
Cartoon Club

Cartoon Club was an instant hit with pupils when it launched in September 2009. You might ask "Why is an English teacher showing people how to draw?" That's simple: it's something I've always loved doing! I started off doodling squiggly versions of the *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* and *Thundercats* as a 5-year-old (guessed my age yet?) who was captivated by bright, fast-paced cartoons; and progressed on to secondary school, where my wicked caricatures of teachers were popular with my friends but got me into loads of trouble!

I have tried, therefore, to use my powers for good rather than for mischief. Since the club started, I have shown pupils a number of ways to put their excellent ideas on paper, always pointing out that the eyes are hardest part of a drawing to get right (especially with caricatures). Many of the pupils who have attended the club firmly stated that they would never, ever be able to draw... but those same people are now creating colourful, eye-catching characters and backgrounds which would put some professionals to shame!

We have created our own superheroes, brought descriptions – written by Junior School pupils – to life, and studied the works of Quentin Blake (one of my favourite artists), Jack Kirby, Disney, Studio Ghibli and even Dundee's own cartoon greats, *The Beano* and *The Dandy*. We have looked at animation and the newly-popular process of 'motion comics', and tried our hand at creating our own charity comic book (a work in progress – none of us realised how much time and energy this would require!). As this school year ends, we look forward to a visit from Jimmy O'Ready, a professional artist who will hopefully bring still more enthusiasm and inspiration to the club members! We'll be back in September when I hope you can join us; but for now, that's all folks!

Mr Meechan May 2010



The High School of Dundee Senior School Chess Club

Mr Durrheim's room (RF16) is the place to go if you want to play chess in the Senior School. The Chess Club's regular slot, of 1.15 pm on Thursdays, continues to be the official time, but a number of other lunchtime meetings have been arranged over this session, sometimes to allow members to finish matches or to play an extra "friendly" game or two. We've also extended into other lunchtimes on a more formal basis to accommodate a pupil who was very keen to play in the competitions but couldn't make it on a Thursday.

The entry for the internal chess competitions was on a similar scale to last year and the trend of keen girl players continues. As a result, the Girls' Chess Trophy was a hotly fought competition again, but, eventually, Jenny Zhan (F2) lost her crown to Qing Qing Zhu (F1). The redoubtable Qing Qing also won the Intermediate Trophy. Repeating his triumphs of previous years, King Hang Chan (F4) won the Beckingham Trophy but Qing Qing gave our senior champion a very good run for his money and, if she had been able to fit in all her matches King might have had to look to his laurels! The match she played against him was a draw. Sadly, it seems we will be losing her talents next year as her family plans to move to the United States.

Despite all that desperately competitive stuff, the club also opens its doors to the casual players and pupils who enjoy the occasional friendly game of chess are very welcome. Whether you play chess already or just want to learn, come along to the Co-Curricular Fair in August 2010 and sign up for the Senior School Chess Club.

The Warhammer Society

Warhammer is a tabletop game that combines strategy, mathematical calculations, and arts and crafts skills. It can be played in individual competitions or in teams, and games can last anywhere from half an hour to several days – depending on the size of the armies deployed.



The Warhammer Society is a pupil led organisation that meets every Wednesday lunchtime to discuss strategies, improve craft skills and engage in good natured strategic battles. This year the Warhammer Society underwent drastic changes. The year began under the leadership and guidance of two Form 6 pupils, who encouraged and brought on the next generation of leaders in anticipation of their matriculation from the School this year. Thus the year finished under the leadership of two Form 3 pupils who will guide the next stage of the society's development in the new year.

The society had outgrown the room that was previously used and relocated to a larger and brighter space in BH10. Along with the new room came a new staff facilitator in the form of Mr Goodey. The larger space provided room for different groups of pupils to engage in three to four strategic battles at the same time. This means more opportunity for involvement and less need to simply observe.

The society also received a series of generous donations from the Games Workshop® in Dundee, which included new equipment, scenery, and folklore novels based on the stories of the Warhammer armies. Additionally, following a successful presentation at the co-curricular fair and the subsequent increase in club numbers, the club was granted co-curricular funding to provide for the opportunity to purchase new playing pieces and supplies that would allow new members to have armies available for use to join in with the games while they built up their own armies.

To encourage further growth in the society in the future, as well as providing service to the School, members of the society have also volunteered throughout the year to guide and encourage pupils in the Junior School in the game and learning its strategies. It is hoped that as these pupils move up through the School they will feel a connection to the society and join us on Wednesday lunchtimes. New members are always welcome!

Burns Supper



Friday 29th January 2010 saw the glittering gathering of F6 pupils and staff that was the High School's second annual Burns Supper. Thanks to Miss Douglas and the Art Department, the dining room was transformed into a tartan-swathed, candlelit venue, where, as the evening began, the haggis – that "great chieftain o' the puddin' race" was piped in most ably by Robert Flack.



The assembled company sat expectantly, anticipating the glorious feast, as the haggis was addressed – somewhat hesitantly at first, but with increasing confidence, by Andrew Guy. The address over, we were ready to tuck in, but first we had to give thanks as the saintly Mr Illsley said the Selkirk Grace. Then it was “Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,” as we fell on the delicious supper, most ably prepared and presented by Mr Kevin McGaw and his staff.

Mr Tinson excelled as master of ceremonies and introduced the programme for the evening. Groaning and replete, the company sat back to enjoy the traditional entertainments of recitation and song. We were treated to the tale of *Tam O'Shanter* by the legendary Mr Durrheim; Miss Owen, our librarian gave us a touching rendition of *Tae a Moose*, while Mrs Vannet gave us a vigorous riposte from the mouse in *Frae a Moose* by Liz Lohead. The Immortal Memory, that appreciation of, and reflection on, Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns, whose life and work we were so happily commemorating that night was, this year, delivered by Dr Halliday, complete with song and fiddle.

Gordon Dick gave a brief – very brief – address to the lassies where he rather ruefully extolled their virtues, before being most skilfully and confidently parried by Sophie Craik.

The recitations over, there was plenty of music on the fiddle, played most sweetly by Ms Simpson, Dr Halliday, Caroline Li and Anna Burns, as well as songs from those three Graces, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Phillips and Ms Simpson accompanied by Mrs Scott Brown. Music for dancing was provided by R G Rennie on accordion and the feet fairly flew until, at last, at the end of the evening, the whole company joined in singing *Auld Lang Syne*.



Thanks to the hard work of the pupils involved in the High Helpers and the staff who run the Charities Committee we have had another great year with lots of projects involving the entire school. We kicked off the year with our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which involved a lot of balloon and banner madness for the sixth years. Pupils sold various refreshments at the Pillars, while staff got behind it by selling home-baking at coffee time and raised a grand total of £550.

Baxter and Bonar were hectic as usual after the Armistice Parade with High Helpers working like clockwork selling over 700 doughnuts in the space of 20 minutes! Through sales of hot chocolate, doughnuts and poppies, over £1000 was raised for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund and Help for Heroes.

The next major event was the Charities Christmas Fair at the beginning of December where lots of local charities came to Trinity Hall selling Christmas cards, crafts, toys, mulled wine and goodies. Local arts & crafts were also on offer; everything from handmade jewellery and scarves to cushions and leather bound books. With Brodies coffee shop on hand to provide refreshments and a fantastic raffle in aid of the Anthony Nolan Fund the event was a major success. In all a total of £3300 was raised (including the takings each charity stall made) and shared among the charities present.

The charities staff Christmas card is also going from strength to strength with £500 being donated to Action for Children. Sparkle day at Christmas time raised over £400 for the Rotary 'End Polio Now' Campaign with the Interact team also raising money for this cause through selling candy canes. The four High School Houses themselves raised £650 for Oxfam, giving enough money for the training of 6 health workers and 5 teachers, provision of safe water for 190 people and 3 pairs of goats – a great achievement at this expensive time of year.

Charities



The breakfast club and the High Helpers (hugely supported by Mrs Madden) have once again been providing a boost of energy to get through the school day. This year has seen the introduction of waffles on the menu which has been a major attraction! Charities to benefit this year have been: Capstone Projects Uganda through Coffee Exchange in Dundee and our very own retired Chemistry teacher Norman Forrest, Plan International – supporting the education of two children, one in Kenya and one in the Philippines, Sentebale – a charity which helps children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS in the family and finally the Mary Slessor Foundation (Nigeria) that I'm sure you all know has its roots based firmly in Dundee. Over £1,500 has been raised throughout this year – well done to all our High Helpers for their efforts.

2 4 6 8
1 3 5 7 9

- 1&2: Macmillan Coffee Morning
- 3: Breakfast Club Capstone
- 4: World Vision
- 5: RSPB2
- 6: Action for Children
- 7: Anthony Nolan Trust
- 8: Salvation Army
- 9: DDCA Christmas challenge

We also ran a collection for the Salvation Army Dundee this year, helping local people and families in this difficult economic climate. We provided clothes, toiletries and non-perishable food stuffs with over a thousand items delivered by our High Helpers to the local office. The Interact Club have also been busy raising money and helping local charities supporting charities such as Charlie Keane's Children's Fund as can be seen in the Interact Club section. June saw the sale of pin badges for the RSPB Love Nature campaign, which was again a great success.

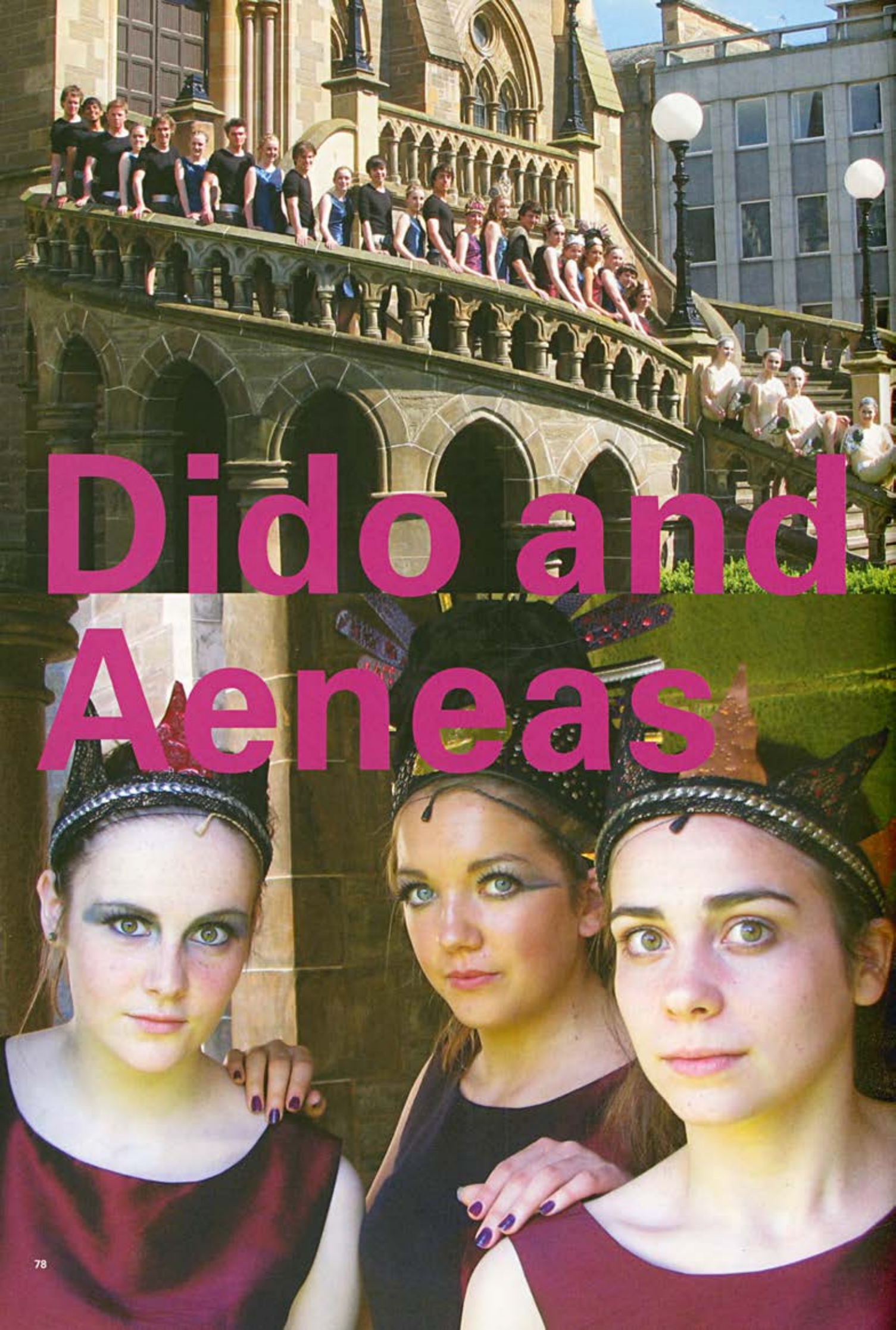
Many other charities have been supported this year through the Junior School Nativity, the Amnesty International Club, some fantastic Music concerts, a dinner dance and not forgetting the non-uniform day held in aid of the Haiti disaster appeal which took in a whopping £4000.

Congratulations to all who helped in any way, shape or form – all together the whole school has raised over £22,000 with more to come before the end of the year! So many different charities have benefited, big thanks go to the Charities committee, our many High Helpers and everyone who donated!

Marathon effort for Cyclathon team

Twenty two members of the High School of Dundee's Interact Club completed a 26-mile cycle route in September, raising funds for Barnardo's Holiday Play Club in Dundee.

The High School team was competing in the annual Dundee Cyclathon, which aims to raise funds for charity.



Dido and Aeneas



"All the dancing was choreographed by the dancers themselves and I thought the puppets of destiny was a stroke of genius."

"Such a young orchestra and I was thoroughly impressed by their professionalism. They looked great too in their formal dress."

"Amy Grieve, as Sorceress, had the most fantastic hair. She looked the part and sang with passion."

"The customised costumes added authenticity and brought the performance into the 21st century."

"I thought it was a great use of space. The long narrow stage projecting into the audience added intensity and poignancy to the fate of the characters and we experienced the range of emotions visible on the actors' faces."

"This was a fantastic introduction to the world of opera. Even the youngest members of the audience enjoyed themselves."

"Although Eilidh Campbell (Dido) gave a very moving performance in all three Acts, it was her rejection of her lover and her subsequent death scene which most captivated the audience."

"Gillian Craig gave an energetic and mature performance as Belinda and her interpretation conveyed the story line to the audience."

"The opening scene gripped the audience and conveyed the futility of war, introducing the strong hold which fate would have on the destiny of the lead characters."

"Stephen Moyes gave a commanding and powerful performance as Aeneas and broke more than Dido's heart."

"The intense rehearsal period clearly showed in the quality and commitment of the choir."

"Everyone sang well and the principal singers were well supported by the other soloists (Elliot McKillop, Jennifer Allan, Sophie Taylor, Lauren Clayson, Kirsty Mitchell and Sacha Brooks-Matheson)."

"I liked the action men best. Their fighting was fun."
(Youngest audience member age 4)

"The stillness of the dancers, complemented by the masks, was so effective that I forgot that the four dancers sitting by the side of the stage were part of the cast and not the set."

"The colourful and structural headdresses were very effective in establishing the roles played by each character and were works of art in their own right."

"I loved the set; it was simple yet effective with the highly decorated pillars and the red lights shining in the Sorceress' chair."

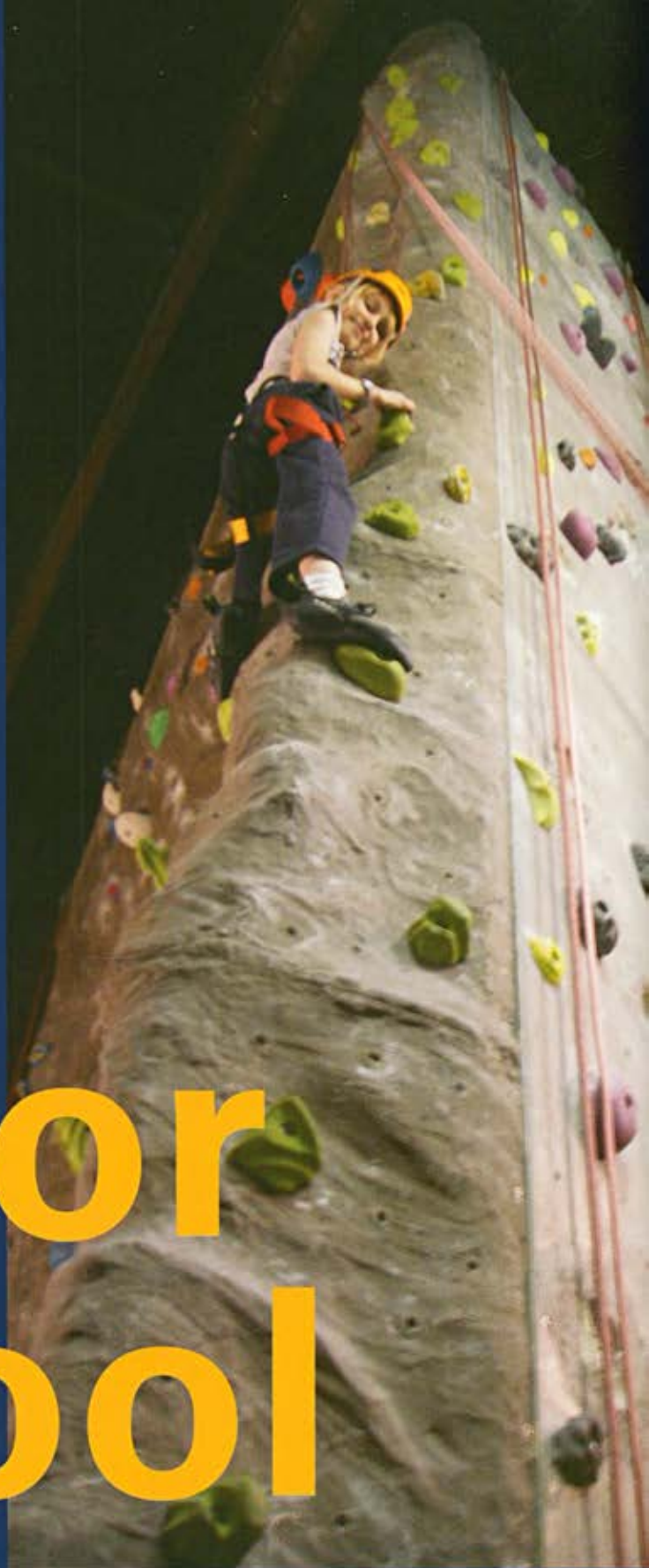
"The orchestra worked hard throughout the hour long performance with Samir Eljamel playing the viola cello continuously, along with Jean Melville on the harpsichord. The orchestra established the atmosphere as the emotion moved from grief to joy to despair."

L5 Climbing Club

Climbing Club took place on Mondays from 3.10pm to 4.30pm at Avertical World in Dundee. We got changed in the cloakroom into our tracksuits and walked there from the school with Mr Ross, Mrs Powrie and Richard Abel, our 6th form helper. Once we had changed our shoes into special climbing shoes and got all our harnesses and helmets on, we started to climb. When I put the harness on initially it felt very tight but I got used to it quite quickly and I knew it was important to be safe. When I looked up the wall to begin with I felt scared but I was determined to do it so I started to climb. Richard was encouraging me all the way to the top. When I got to the top of the wall for the first time I felt amazing. My dad was watching and he was very proud of me and told me that he would never have managed to do it. I would recommend joining the climbing club to everyone.

Struan Addison L5

Junior School





Dalguise

In April 2010, L6 went on a long weekend to Dalguise. It was a great, away-from-home experience. Unfortunately some pupils didn't manage to make the trip either because of the volcanic ash cloud or ill health.

When we arrived, we were escorted to our rooms where we unpacked and settled in. In the evening we had a race night against other schools in the giant dome.

The next morning we started our activities. There was a wide range of activities for all the pupils to do such as the sensory trail which was an obstacle course that the pupils would go through blindfolded, using the other important senses. The giant swing was the favourite of most of the year group with its frightful heights and fantastic drop. Next we had a forest trail which was a 3 mile walk around the Dalguise forests with exciting stories and features.

Orienteering was great fun while reading maps and travelling around the whole of Dalguise. Abseiling was a great attraction to all pupils with its tall features and slopes. Leaning over the edge of the tower, pupils overcame their fear of heights. The Sequoia Scramble was terrific, using our body strength and skills. The Challenge Course was great fun. It was impossible to stay clean as our leaders were throwing mud over our heads and we were crawling through mucky tunnels. In archery we needed a lot of skill and good aim to reach the target. We were taught how to hold the bow and also played lots of games. The zip wire was scary as we had to climb a large tree to reach the top. Then we whizzed through the air over rivers.

There was a very good variety of food at Dalguise. There was always a choice of more than two meals plus a salad bar and bread. We also had desserts! Every day we were allowed to spend our pocket money at the tuck shop.

Dalguise was a great trip and we all hope to go back some time in the future.

Ailsa Conway & Jennifer Coull L6C



Junior School Warhammer

They said it couldn't be done, they said no-one would understand, but that it was to show ultimate good can reign over all! What they didn't say was the person running the whole thing would be me! Providing my room for a Friday engagement between good and evil forces has become something of an institution with young boys with huge boxes of battle hardened battle pieces lining up to engage another force for good or ill on Friday afternoons.

The strategies are intricate, the monitoring of a complete army to strike carefully, to play a faultless game according to the roll of a dice is never easy, and the well-thumbed Rule book comes into its own every single minute! But so much is learned – Maths being used all the time as armies are numbered, listening to one another, understanding a dice roll, knowing how and when to lose your own major pieces, whether for good or ill and still end up understanding that evil may not have had its own way for that one day. I'm continually impressed and always promise to learn more before next year, but then I might become a player. . . . And where would I be then?

**Junior Warhammer Years 6 and 7,
Friday 3.10-4.30pm, Mrs I Goddard**

Enterprise Report

After learning, during our Geography lessons, about the dangers facing the rainforest regions of the world, we were very keen to be part of the first L6 Enterprise Group and raise money to help protect these areas. An election was held in each class and eight lucky pupils became members of this new group.

After much discussion, we decided that our project would be a 'Rainforest Recipe Book' so we set about encouraging L6 pupils (and some Junior School teachers for added 'celebrity appeal') to search the cupboards of their kitchens and come up with their favourite recipe which uses a food product from the rainforest.

This needed careful organisation, especially when we reached the stage of sorting the recipes, arranging them into sections then typing them. Is Sweet Red Pepper Dip a starter or a fun snack?

We invited all L6 pupils to enter a competition to design the cover for our recipe book and charged each entrant 20p. It was important not to miss any money making opportunities!

We made enquiries about printing costs and made our choice after looking carefully at prices and the quality of the finished product. After deciding on a printer, we settled on a selling price for our recipe book and got on with a bit of advertising. Our colourful posters decorated the School and spread the news about our money making scheme.

Eventually we reached the stage that we had all been looking forward to – selling our books and calculating our profit. Early next term, we hope to put this money to good use, sponsoring and protecting a small area of the rainforest.

We have really enjoyed this challenge. It has kept us very busy this term and we have developed lots of new skills. We hope that next year's L6 think of a good enterprise idea and have as much fun as we have had raising money.

Stefan Baldacchino, Malcolm Campbell, Ailsa Conway, Katie McLennan, Mhairi Millar, Alex Smith, Logan Thomson, Cameron Todd.

Maths Club

Junior Maths Club has met every Tuesday evening from 4pm until 5pm, and it's here that Euclid, Pythagoras, and Eratosthenes have met new and keen pupils ready to take part in debate, puzzles, problems and the wonder of numbers, enough to impress even the Ancient Greeks! We've rebuilt the pyramids (to scale of course!) sorted out how to draw a triangle without a ruler, and even used the famous sieve to find the Prime Numbers of Eratosthenes. We've looked at logic problems involving food, flats and fettuccini, so now defy anyone to say that maths is BORING! All this is done to maximise our knowledge of Numbers, Shape, Scale and Data Handling, which make up our daily Maths lessons, of course, without which we could do none of the above!

Maths Club meets from 4pm until 5pm every Tuesday evening and all are welcome! Mrs I Goddard



Snail Printing, Colour Mixing Kites, Tumbling Teddies and 3D Paper Creations

L1 Art and Craft Club

Over the course of this year, 31 boys and girls have participated in the L1 Art and Craft Club which took place on a Tuesday afternoon between 3.10pm and 3.55pm. The children attended for eight week blocks and created a new piece of work each week. They have used cutting, gluing, weaving, printing, folding and painting to create a variety of masterpieces, some with a seasonal theme. The club has allowed the children to practise their creative skills and enjoy time with their friends in a different setting. Some of the children have shared their thoughts on the club:

"I enjoyed making the playground picture."

Owen Voice, Hope Barrie, Ryan Kilburn

"I enjoyed making my bear."

Olivia Black, Megan Cant

"I enjoyed making the bookmark."

Matthew Lowdon

"I liked making the apple basket."

Elizabeth Lang

"I liked making everything because I like creating stuff."

Callum Macmillan

Miss K Reith L4 Class Teacher

L1-3

Pirate Fun Day

On Friday 14th May L1-3 went on a trip to Mayfield organised by the gym staff. We split into our houses and dressed up as pirates and did obstacle courses. The teachers all dressed up as pirates too. The first course was really fun but the second last was the best. You went on bouncy hoppers and nets then you had to swing on a rope. We had to jump on to islands and run away from sharks. It was a marvellous day.

Holly McComish L3C

Pirate Fun Day

On the 14th May L1-3 set off to Mayfield to have a fun day. We all dressed up as pirates. It was very nice of the PE staff to organise a lovely day for us. They set up the pirate training camp very well. It was funny when Cameron tried to swing on the rope with one hand. We all loved pirate tig jumping from island to island. It was a brilliant day.

Cameron Dow L3C

Pirate Day

On Friday it was Pirate Day. We all dressed up like pirates. We went up to Mayfield on the bus. We played with the parachute and played other pirate games.

Sophie Elder L1W

Pirate Fun Day

On Friday it was Pirate Day. We all dressed like pirates. We played lots of games. We played the shark game, the parachute game and a game that you had to climb through the climbing frames and go under nets. After we had some crisps and water then we went back to school on the bus.

Jenny Bonnyman L1M



L3 Multi Sports club was great fun this year with Mrs Gallagher. We learned lots of skills for different sports like basketball, football, rounders, cricket, ten pin bowling and athletics. We all really enjoyed it. Perhaps we're a little bit young for the Olympics in 2012 but we've definitely become much better at a variety of sports, so watch out for us in the future.

Fraser Coupar and Rami Abboud L3C



Nativity Report

"The Stars Come out for Christmas"

It was so close to our nativity musical and everyone was really excited. We had practised our lines for weeks and today was our dress rehearsal which meant our class had to perform in front of the whole Junior School. We couldn't wait and finally we were ready to perform. There were lots of interesting costumes, some were sparkly and frilly and some were furry. There was everything you could think of. The children in L3 had all the main speaking parts. Our characters were Chrissie Pressie, Ollie Berry, Noel Knowles and Carol Singer. There were also dancing Christmas trees, Santa and his reindeer, elves and Christmas cards. Each Christmas object was trying to win the Cracker, the prize for outstanding service to Christmas. In the end the Cracker went to "Beth" the Star of Bethlehem. We loved doing the Nativity.

Pip Forster L3W

L1-3 Creative Writing

Jack and the Beanstalk

Once upon a time there was a boy called Jack and his mother. They were very poor. Jack had to sell the cow. He took the cow to the market. Jack saw an old man. The old man gave Jack some magic beans. When Jack went home Mum was very cross. Mum threw the beans outside into the garden. Next day the beanstalk had grown Jack climbed up the beanstalk. It went up into the sky. Jack saw a giant castle. Jack knocked on the door. Jack went onto the castle. He saw an old lady she told him to hide because the giant was coming. The giant fell asleep. Jack stole the giant's bag of gold. He climbed down the beanstalk. The giant woke up and climbed down after Jack. Jack's mother got an axe and chopped the beanstalk and the giant fell to the ground. Jack ran home with the sack of gold. Jack and his mother lived happily ever after.

Fraser Smith L1W

How the Giraffe got its Spots

Long, long ago, a giraffe was playing. He suddenly felt ill so he went to shade under a tree. He didn't move for weeks so someone sent for the doctor. It took a few days for the doctor to arrive. When he did, he diagnosed that he had "giraffopox". After weeks it only got worse so the doctor said, "You're cured, but you'll be stuck with these spots for the rest of your life." The giraffe was not happy but he was stuck like that forever.

Fraser Coupar L3C

The Life of a River

The shimmering water bolts down from the uneven rocks, It gurgles and babbles over the lofty stones. Other wee streams dash to meet it. It then becomes a raging river. At the foot of the mountain it slows down. The river now begins to zigzag and weave across the deep valley. It grows bigger and more powerful, As other racing tributaries join it. It starts to sprint towards the sea, Filled with creatures. It flows rapidly until it meets the mighty sea.

Ailsa Millar L3C

How a Jellyfish got its Sting

Long ago when the world had just begun, a self centred jellyfish was having a meeting with his colourful, fishy friends under the sea.

"I should own the ocean. I have more powers than you lot."

The other fish thought this was unfair so they went to visit the sea god.

After that the sea god went to see the jellyfish and said,

"Stop being self centred. If you don't I will give you a sting."

"No you won't as it's my ocean."

"Fine then."

Suddenly there was a big bang and the jellyfish found a sting in each tentacle.

"I will get my revenge for this", said the jellyfish but he never did. After that he learned never to show off again and now none of the fish go near him because he stings!

Pip Forster L3W

How the Zebra got his Stripes

When the world began and zebras didn't have any stripes all the zebras were just all black. They liked being black but they got really hot when they were out in the sun. This made them grumpy and thirsty. One day all the zebras went to a river with chalky mud. They rolled and rolled in the mud.

The next day they all looked at each other and they were all black and white stripes. They liked their new stripes because white stripes kept them cooler so they decided to keep rolling in the mud and to keep their white stripes.

Duncan Prentice L3W

The Butterfly

The caterpillar nibbles out of its egg in hunger. It spins itself into a chrysalis and meta morphosises into a butterfly. The beautiful butterfly gracefully flies away to collect pollen on its hairy body and gather sweet nectar.

It lays eggs before it sadly dies.

Amy Bett L3C

The Butterfly

The graceful butterfly lands on a colourful flower. As it rests its beautiful wings fold straight up. It starts its search for nectar. The graceful creature looks like a caterpillar with delicate wings. It is as light as a feather. It is amazing how it flies around looking for some sweet, sweet nectar, then glides on to the next flower, searching for more food. Sadly, it then dies.

Archie Dick-Reid L3C

LOST – the Tay Whale

In December, 1883 a humpback whale was spotted in the River Tay by some people in Dundee. Whales usually eat krill or plankton, but this whale was probably following a shoal of herring and got lost from its family. Some whalers saw it as well. They jumped into their boats and went to show off and chase it. They fired their harpoons and scored a direct hit, but the whale broke free. However, it was very badly injured. It managed to swim up the coast and when it came near the shore at Inverbervie, some fishermen spotted it. It was dead. They towed it to the beach and a man called Sir John Woods put it on display for the people of Dundee.

Jamie Daniel L3C

At the beach

It was a lovely sunny day and Mark was building a huge sandcastle. Suddenly he heard a splashing noise behind him. He stood up and right in front of him was a handsome Merman. He had long yellow hair. The Merman smiled and asked Mark to come on an adventure to find a lost diamond. They went into a dark cave and they could not see each other. The Merman put on a light. They were surrounded by octopuses and the octopuses grabbed Mark and the Merman. The Merman called for help and some dolphins swam them back to the shore. Mum and Dad had not even noticed that Mark had been away on an exciting adventure.

Callum Todd



Our Class Bear

Emma the bear went to the party in the car. When she came back she ate all my cake. When she finished the cake she came out of our kitchen. Later she played with Jamie's toy car and Emma won. She then went and sat on me!

Louie Pal Kerr L1M

Beware of the Bull

One day Joe and Kate decided to go for a picnic. Mum had to go shopping so Mum said she would give them a lift to the farm. The children didn't notice the sign saying 'Beware of the Bull' in the field next to them. Joe and Kate enjoyed their picnic. Suddenly the wind blew and the napkins went high into the sky. They had to go and collect the napkins in the field next to them. Kate clambered over the gate where the bull was. Suddenly the bull spotted Kate so the bull scraped his lowered hoof and charged at Kate. Joe saw Kate and he ran as fast as he could to save his friend. Kate and Joe ran for their lives and they were just going to put their legs on the gate. The bull ran as fast as he could but he still couldn't catch up with them but Kate and Joe were very lucky that they got over without getting hurt. They ran home as fast as they could.

Melissa Mitchell

At the beach

It was a sunny day and Mark was building a big sandcastle. Suddenly he heard someone singing behind him and when he looked behind him he saw a beautiful Mermaid. She had sparkling blue eyes and lovely long brown hair and a multi-coloured sparkling tail. She asked Mark to come with her to an island because she needed to get her pearl back.

"How can we get there?" asked Mark and she said "by magic". Then he saw two sparkling dolphins.

"Climb on," she said. Then she whispered to the dolphins. They sped away. Soon they had arrived and the dolphins slowed down. They looked for the pearl. They found it in a cave. They were just about to go back when a huge octopus grabbed Mark and the Mermaid. Suddenly one of the mermaid's sisters came and tickled the octopus. The octopus dropped Mark and the mermaid. They crept out of the cave with the pearl. Her sister put magic on a feather so it would tickle the octopus when nobody was holding it. They were pleased to be out of the cave. They ran back to the dolphins and went back to the shore. Mum and Dad had not even noticed that Mark had been away on an exciting adventure.

Phillippa De Vos

At the beach

It was a beautiful, hot day and Mark was building a huge sandcastle. Suddenly he heard a swish of a tail coming from the side of where he was sitting. Mark stood up and he saw a Merman on two dolphins. Mark said "Hello". He had short black hair. He had a pony tail as well. Mark said "Why do you have two legs? I thought Mermaid's and Mermen had a tail."

"Yes they do but my feature is my tail. It can turn into two legs. Do you want to go into the ocean?" replied the Merman.

"Yes" answered Mark.

"Okay, stay calm. I am going to turn you into a Merman like me. Let's dive" said the Merman. They looked for a safe place to dive. Finally they found a place so they dived into the ocean.

"I see that your tail can turn into legs. What about the dolphins?" asked Mark.

"They look after themselves" said the Merman. "Oh, I forgot to ask you something. What is your name?"

"Mark" said Mark. "What is your name?"

"John," said the Merman, "but you can call me Merman."

Suddenly sharks and octopuses appeared. Mark said "What can we do?"

"I don't know" replied the worried Merman.

Mark had a plan. "Run, I mean swim for your life!" They swam as fast as they could. Eventually they got back to shore and said goodbye to each other.

Sandy Buchan

L3 Poetry Competition

On the 3rd of June the children in L1-3 went to the Margaret Harris Hall to hear the final of the L3 poetry competition. A lady called Mrs Thurston was the judge. She was very nice and she brought her Guide Dog, Wanda with her. There were eight of us in the final; Pip, Olivia, Nairn, Nafisah, Mirah, Hannah, Alex and me. We had to recite a poem called "Plaster" and one other from the choice of "Small Ghostie", "The Sair Finger" or "Playtime". It was hard decision for Mrs Thurston but in the end she chose me as the overall winner. I was presented with a silver cup which I get to keep for a year.

Catriona Paterson L3C

L4



L4 Pirate Day

On Friday 14th May we had a Pirate Day to "sink in" with our language project. We all dressed up as bloodthirsty pirates. In the morning we did Pirate maths. After lunch we charged across to the large gym to play fun pirate games such as Ship Commands, Pirate Keys, Pass the Bomb, Dead Pirates and Walk the Plank. After we had pirate games we came back to Captain Mordente's ship to have our horrible pirate feast where there were cannon balls, ship biscuits and rum! We had a big pirate photo at the end of the day.

Written by Pirate Rachel Rose
and Pirate Charlotte Sharpe

Glamis Visit

L4 Visit to Glamis Village and Glamis Castle.

During May and June L4 study aspects of a local village then, armed with a picnic and sketch pad, go to Glamis village and Glamis Castle for the day.

First we look at historical aspects of the village and then move on to enjoy a visit to the Castle and grounds. Disappointingly no ghosts were at the Castle that day!

L4 Gardening Club

With the very bad winter we lost a number of plants in the Courtyard Garden, but hope to plant new varieties at the beginning of next session. A real success this year was the bird cake we made for our own gardens which hopefully helped the wild birds during the cold spell. Our Horse Chestnut trees are growing strong and tall and are almost ready to plant out at Mayfield. We are waiting for our potatoes to grow and look forward to eating them, along with the herbs we have planted from seed.

Teachers beware! Pirates Ahoy!

- 1
- 2 3 4
- 1&2: This motley L4 crew were seen marauding around the School on Pirate Day
- 3: Sketching the Castle
- 4: Playing Pooh sticks in the Castle grounds

L4 French Day

On Thursday 1st April 2010, the three L4 classes enjoyed dressing-up and doing lots of French activities on their fantastic French Day. We brought in our own French food and rosé! We also enjoyed eating and drinking it at Madam Halliwell and Madam Reith's café.

Singing . . . in French!

In the morning we all did French dominoes with Madam Mordente, French numbers with Madam Reith and French singing with Madam Halliwell. Our favourite part of French day was building Eiffel Towers out of art straws which had to be exactly 28cm tall. Joint first was Kitty Mudie and Catriona Addison, and Hannah Alijani and Rachel Rose. Second place went to Luke Wyatt and Alfie George. In third place was Mia Clarke and Safia Mukri and runners up were Rheanna Mitchell and Aisling Ellis.

At the end of the day we arrived in Montmatre and drew caricatures and then sang the song again. It was a brilliant day and we said Au revoir!!!

Written by Mademoiselle Anna Hudson
and Mademoiselle Mia Brown



Budding artists try their skills at caricatures at the Place du Tetre, Montmartre.



Visiting a French Café.

French Day Challenge
To build a 2D image of the Eiffel Tower,
28cm high and made of art straws



When we first arrived we went round a small museum telling us all about Oakbank Crannog. Then we went into the Crannog. As it was a cold day the lady gave us cloaks to put on. We went in the Crannog and it was really good fun, but it would have been great to have a fire inside as it was still cold even with the cloaks on. Lastly we went to an outdoor activity hut where we could grind wheat to make flour, turn wood, chisel stones and make fire using a stick and dry leaves.

Crannog Trip

We were all very excited as at the start of L4 we went on our first school trip. It was Monday 21st September and the L4s set off to visit Oakbank Crannog on Loch Tay. The journey was long but we all played a game of Eye-Spy that the teachers had given us to do, so it didn't take too long.



Christmas Party

There was lots of dancing, fun and games at the L4 Christmas Party.



Iain and Simon battling it out in the final

L4-7 Chess Club

This year we have had pupils from L4 to L7 participating in the weekly chess club sessions where they have been learning new strategies and tactics in order to outsmart their opponent. Some of the children were just beginners at the outset but have learned the initial setup of the board and the movement of the pieces. The more advanced players have developed their understanding of some of the more complex strategies involved in the game.

The annual tournament started with forty two enthusiastic entrants. The pupils participated in a number of rounds which culminated in the final between Iain Wallace (L7D) and Simon Allen (L6G). Both boys played to a very high standard with Iain winning the game and Simon the runner-up. All the children should be very proud of their achievements regardless of how far they progressed in the tournament. Oliver Smith (L4M) and Aengus McCrimmon (L5G) should be delighted that they progressed furthest in the tournament from their respective year groups. They will be a force to be reckoned with next year along with any other budding chess enthusiasts.

L4 Creative Writing

WANTED

Norbert the Knobby Knees

For

Assassinating the King of France and Spain and injuring the King of England. Also he stole 100,000 chickens.

He has sword instead of a hand and a red and white shirt with hairy arms. He has jet black hair with a brown bandana with a red skull on it. Norbert has a black curly moustache and blood shot eyes. He has a long black scar on his face and a big black beard. He has a tattoo of an anchor on his left arm. He has a red sash and an arsenal of weapons – 2 swords and 2 pistols.

He has a parrot, a monkey and a chicken. He was last seen in the Peregrine Falcon Tavern in Norfolk. Bring him to the Tower of London for immediate execution. The reward is 100,000 doubloons.

Signed Lieutenant Luke Wyatt

WANTED

Sallywag Stubble

For

Stealing an engagement ring from Lady Beautiful and her fiancé while drunk at the local tavern.

Sallywag Stubble has an eye patch on his right eye and his left eye stares at you like it's saying "Come to me little one!" He has a red bandana which he wouldn't dare take off to show his gruesome bald head! His one gold earring jingles when he walks and the disgusting ear-wax slides around in his ear. Sallywag Stubble has a scar in the shape of a snowflake, a black tooth that he twists to try and make it fall out [but it never has!] His huge nose is like an enormous blob under his eyes and he snorts through it every minute! His moustache is always curled and his stubble is like black freckles. He has a green, blue, purple and red waistcoat, an orange shirt and a pointy hook on his hand. He also has yellow trousers and black shoes and shiny buckles.

He has a parrot who says, "Give me the treasure!" Sallywag Stubble limps and gets drunk often!

He was last seen hiding behind a tree in the forest.

500 shillings if alive, and as well as that, 40 pearls if dead. Return to Queen Rose.
Signed Lady in Waiting Anna Hudson

WANTED

Bald Rudy

For

Murdering the Queen of England and stealing all her jewels. Also, for stabbing Sir Edward and blowing up his castle.

He wears tight, jet black trousers and a bright yellow t-shirt flapping open at his hairy chest. Bald Rudy wears big, chunky brown boots with shiny gold buckles. His teeth are orangey-yellow because he never brushes them. He has got an orange scarf tied tightly around his waist. Bald Rudy has a golden earring on his right ear which glints in the sun. This gruesome pirate wears a night black eyepatch over his right eye where he was slashed by an enemy's cutlass.

You can tell who he is because he limps everywhere caused by when he was cut by a knife on his left leg. You can also tell who he is by his big, gruff voice which you can hear over 3 miles away.

Bald Rudy was last seen boarding his ship Black Dragon with his gruesome crew. His ship has a picture of a black dragon on the sail.

The reward will be 100,000 gold coins and if you bring him dead you get 100 coins more.

Signed Queen Hannah Mary at Pretty Palace

The Evening Standard

A Peachy Find!

Yesterday afternoon was no ordinary afternoon for both Miss Sponge and Miss Spiker because an old peach tree that has never even blossomed grew a single giant peach. First, the two women decided to eat the peach but then they thought they could get some money out of it. Crowds and crowds of people are coming as you read. The price to see the peach is one shilling (half price for children under six weeks old), two shillings if you have a camera. Come and see it for yourself.

Reporter: Sam Chesters L4R

The Daily News

Aunts Are Squished!

A few days ago a huge peach was growing in Miss Sponge and Miss Spiker's garden. We now return to their garden for another story. The colossal peach was moving very slightly when suddenly the peach broke off the tree! It started to roll away. The peach knocked down the fence guarding it. Meanwhile the Aunts were just getting ready for another day of money making when they heard a terrific bang. They screamed, they shouted and they ran for their lives! The peach was rolling towards them at a terrific speed, but Aunt Sponge tripped and fell, and Aunt Spiker tripped over her. The colossal peach flattened the ladies until they were as flat as a pancake. The peach then rolled on and on. All the people coming up the hill to see the peach ran left and right to get out of the way. The peach finally stopped rolling and it has just gone off the Dover cliffs.

Reporter: Katie Bonnyman L4R

Snow began to fall silently in the night,
like glitter in a picture,
Nothing stirs in this cold white world.
Outside frozen snow sparkles, like someone
has covered the land in shimmering silver glitter.
Winter, cold snow covers the green green grass,
Frozen snowman, still and proud in the cold garden.
Lakes are frozen, hard and cold, sparkle.
Animals are safe and warm in their small hiding holes,
Knee-deep snow covers the ground like icing
covering a cake!
Everything is under a white blanket of snow, even
Snowy roads are slippery as ice-rinks.

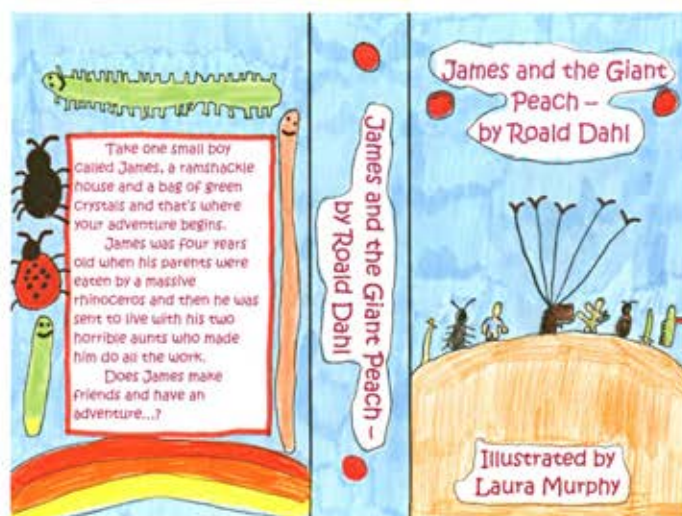
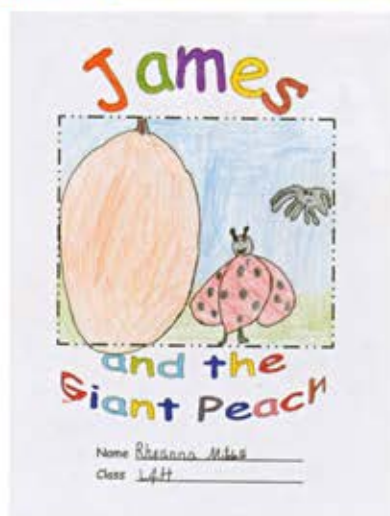
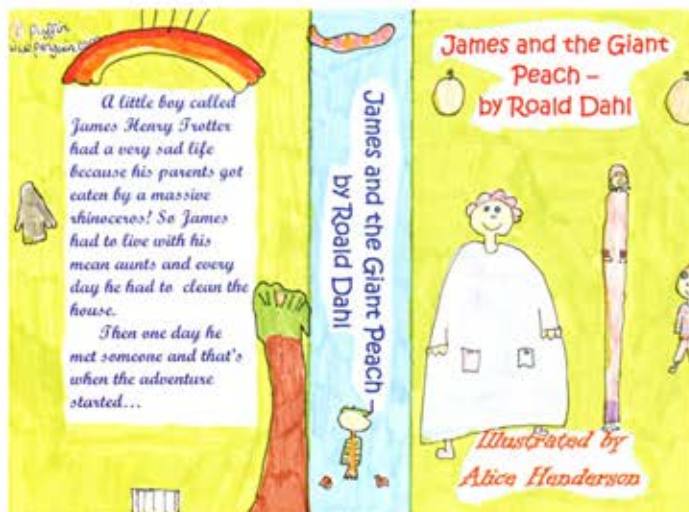
Katie Murray L4H

Soft white snow falling on the ground like
feathers falling out of a pillow,
Nobody notices because it falls at night.
Outside we go in hats and scarves,
having lots of snowball fights,
Winter is here at long last!
First thick snowfall of the year,
Lots of people having fun.
Afternoons spent building snowmen,
Keeping as warm as we can!
Enjoying a white wonderland.
Smiling snowmen standing as proudly
as straight soldiers, with their coal eyes,
carrot noses, hats and scarves.

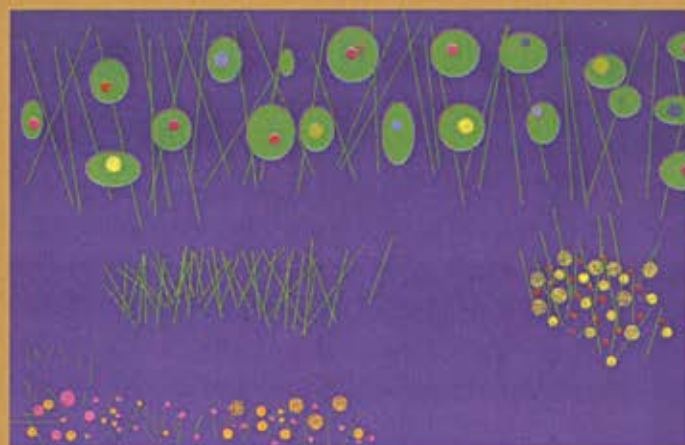
Laura Murphy L4H

James and the Giant Peach

The L4 book study is of *James & the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl. This cross-curricular topic was great fun! Writing letters, scripts for plays, newspaper articles and using artwork and computer skills too.



L4's new designs for the front cover of *James & the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl.



L4 Art

- 1 2
- 3 4
- 5 6
- 7

- 1: Monet Computer Art **Kyle Short** L4M
- 2: Monet Computer Art **Hannah Alijani** L4M
- 3: Monet Computer Art **Lucie McDougall** L4M
- 4: Monet Computer Art **Charolotte Sharpe** L4M
- 5: Origami Flowers **Katie Bonnyman** L4R
- 6: Origami Flowers **Ailsa Macdonald** L4R
- 7: Mosaic Snowflake **Willie Laird** L4R



L4 Script-writing

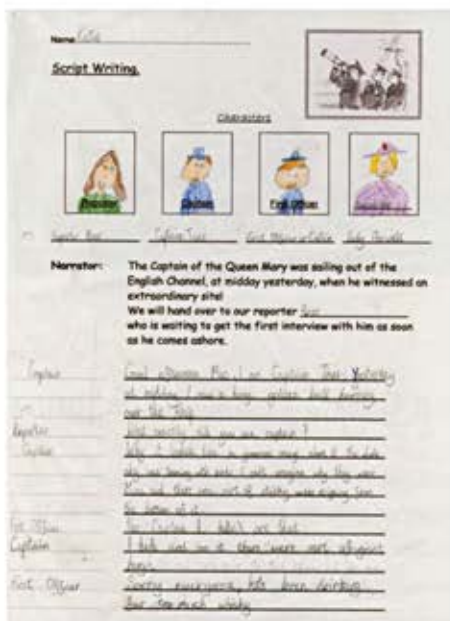
Based on James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl.

Miss Piper

Captain Tiser

First Officer Collie

Lady Dorwell



Narrator (TV newsreader)

The captain of the Queen Mary was sailing out of the English Channel, at midday yesterday, when he witnessed an extraordinary sight!

We will hand over to our reporter, Miss Piper, who is talking to him now as he comes ashore.

Captain

Good afternoon Miss Piper. I am Captain Tiser. I will tell you what happened. Yesterday at midday I saw a huge golden ball hovering over the ship!

Reporter

What *exactly* did you see Captain?

Captain

Why, it looked like a ginormous orange, above it the whole sky was teeming with birds! I can't imagine why they were there Miss, and there was some sort of sticky water dripping from the bottom of the orange.

First Officer

No Captain! I didn't see that.

Captain

I did, and on it there were sort of giant bugs!

First Officer

Sorry everyone, he's been drinking
far too much whisky!

Lady Dorwell

Well we could never see for certain because then it went into a cloud and we never saw it again.

First Officer

Sir, may I have a chance to speak?

Captain

Of course, what would you like to say?

First Officer

Well, you know how I was reading this morning's newspaper. It was from England, you see, and I think I have found a clue about what the orange ball is. It had something about a giant peach that had escaped from the garden of a ramshackle house at Upton-on-the-Hill in the south of England. And you know you saw a small boy in short trousers with short blond hair...?

Captain

(Curious) Yes, tell us more tell us more.

First Officer

There was something about that too, a small boy called James has gone missing and your description fits the one in the paper.

Captain

Does it?

First Officer

Of course! It does!
(Hands him the paper.)

Captain

It does! Call the police, I think we have found this boy and his peach! Get the telephone, quick.

First Officer

No wait a minute. It's gone now so we can't can we!

Reporter

(Cross because they have spent too much time talking.) Stop. We'd better hand back to our reporter at BBC News. Bye!

Katie Murray L4H

During the year pupils in L5 met on a Thursday afternoon to explore the world of Art. It is a club that focuses the children on using their eyes to help them draw. The children experimented with many different tools and techniques, from paper collages to still life. There was fun for all art abilities and the children enjoyed the relaxed social and fun atmosphere that art promotes.

L5



L5 Trip to Stirling Castle and Bannockburn

On Tuesday 8th June we went on a coach journey from Dundee to Stirling. I enjoyed talking to my friends and looking out of the window. I was interested to see the Wallace Monument and we saw the castle sitting above Stirling on an extinct volcano. We were lucky to see the mercat cross and the tolbooth as we travelled through the royal burgh.

When we arrived at Stirling Castle we stood below the Robert the Bruce statue. He looked strong and powerful and the date of The Battle of Bannockburn was written on the stone. We started off with a walking tour of the castle. We examined the entrances and noticed the giant hinges, the doors with metal studs and the black portcullis. Then we were off to look around the rooms of the castle. I thought the Great Hall would have been quite a small, long room and was surprised to find that it is huge! I liked that the Great Hall had a gallery for the minstrels and I could imagine the lord and lady sitting on the tall chairs at the high table.



There was a painted window in the Chapel Royal and four colourful tapestries representing a medieval story about a unicorn. On the outside wall of the chapel there was a marking on the wall – possibly a mason’s mark from long, long ago. The castle kitchens were very lifelike because of the costumed statues and it was amusing because there had been a small kitchen disaster – the scullion had smashed a jug of milk all over the floor. The kitchen cat was very happy!

A guide from Stirling Castle called ‘Sir Hugo’ then took us to the Education Room. On the way he told us a gruesome story about a man called Sir Douglas who met his death when he was stabbed in the castle and then thrown out of a window! The gardens below are now called the Douglas Gardens. In the Education Room ‘Sir Hugo’ told us about the armour and the weapons they used at that time. We were shown a model of a trebuchet and some children tried on chainmail.

At lunchtime we headed for Bannockburn. We had our packed lunches on the coach and then set off to view the famous statue of King Robert the Bruce on horseback. It was bigger than I expected and it was impressive. Then we went into the Bannockburn Heritage Centre. First we watched a film about The Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It was a very interesting and dramatic film as well as being gruesome at the end. After that a costumed guide showed us a selection of weapons, chainmail and a helmet. Next we had the chance to try on the clothes and helmets from that time. We saw a model of The Battle of Stirling Bridge. I felt as if I was actually watching the battle. There was a small gift shop where we could buy a souvenir. I bought a plastic sword which will remind me of the trip.

We travelled back to Dundee by coach and saw the Wallace Monument again as we left Stirling. I felt that the day had been brilliant and would want to visit Stirling Castle and Bannockburn again.

Alexander Berg L5



L5 Art



Clandonald School has proudly displayed their postcards from Dundee

L5 Epals Programme

L5 pupils this year have used the Epals programme to communicate, by email, with pupils in countries around the world. L5G had a lot of fun getting to know their peers in Clandonald School in Alberta, Canada. A small rural school, it is situated in a town which was founded by Scottish immigrants. They learned about life in Canada, as well as getting to know their epals a little better too.

Creative Writing

Lizard House, Dragon's Den
Other World DD8 EAT

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as I am very interested in applying for the job of a pilot which I saw advertised in Friday's Courier newspaper.

Hello my name is Zap. I am 20 years old. I got an A in my Flying, Fire Breathing and my Flare Highers. I also got First Class in my Flying Degree.

I studied at the University of Cambridge Flying. I spent two years teaching flying lessons to dragons aged seven to ten. I also taught eye sight lessons for ages ten to nineteen. I even have a current flying licence.

My skills are zapping lightning and fire breathing. I have very good eye sight even when it is pitch black outside. I can fly around the world in just two hours so people can get to places really fast.

I will come in very smart every day. I am a very punctual dragon so don't be worried about morning flights. I listen to instructions really well so I can go to the right place on time. I behave very well and I would greet the client, not eat the client. I am very positive about flying I am not scared of it. I will always do what you say.

I think I would be the ideal dragon for this job because I have all the qualifications you need for a pilot.

Yours sincerely,
Zap
Katie Young L5G

The Forest

The air was bitter to taste. Endless paths, as red as blood, forked in places and green trees swayed softly as a gentle breeze blew. Bushes like fat, green raspberries rustled as small animals rushed past. Birds sang sweetly as they flew high like multi-coloured paper aeroplanes. Trees like skyscrapers shaded the forest and in gaps I could see big, puffy clouds like marshmallows. Gentle rain fell quickly, making the forest moist. The forest was very dull and misty, bright red toadstools popped out between little sprouts of grass. Fog covered the forest like a blanket and plants covered the ground like a sheet. The smell of wet bark lingered in the chilly air.

Nena Nurbhai L5P

Magically, the breeze leaves a gentle echo in the trees. Compact earth sticks to dead branches that lie on the ground. Trees that cry sap are leaving patterns of light as they separate. Conkers that look like eyes are almost stalking me and palm like leaves are creating strange patterns on compact bushes. The air is so thick that you could cut it with a knife. Fragrances from the sweet flowers and bark are very strong. Small rivers run softly down the sides of the dirty, mucky path. Bark so sharp it could cut you if you touch it. Repetitive colours meet the eye every time you turn the corner.

Lewis Hall L5P

I breathe in the crisp, cool air as I walk through the forest. The smell of damp firewood hangs in the air behind me, but in front of me stand trees as tall as giraffes and the bark is rough and bumpy against my fingertips. Damp fog like a silk curtain starts to close around me as I walk along. Silence is only broken by the feeble trickling of a nearby stream, the squelch of muddy tracks and the swish of branches swaying in the nippy, gentle breeze. Birds are singing so sweetly it would make anyone cry with joy.

Kieran Forster L5P

Dragon's Name – Spike Special talent – Digging

My dragon's special talent is digging. He can dig through anything. Spike also can dig really fast so he can cover up recent tunnels.

Spike can get me to school on time. He can also dig to Spain and Italy. Spike can dig foundations for houses. He can help in the garden by planting flowers and trees.

Spike and I love going to the beach. We can dig massive holes. We also enjoy going to the park and playing frizbee.

Callum Paterson L5G

Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall.
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's horses and all
the King's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Humpty Dumpty's stuck on the wall,
In a flash he began to bawl.
All the brave knights and all
the kind dolls,
Couldn't help Humpty down
from the wall.

Brian Lim L5G



Geography Trip to The Botanic Gardens

On Tuesday 23rd March 2010, L6 visited the Botanic Gardens in St Andrews. There were five activities organised and each group was able to complete three. The first activity was looking at rainforest food plants and then we made Banoffee pie. The second activity was investigating cacti. When we walked into the Cacti House, a path split the greenhouse into two different habitats, South Africa and South America, which were both fascinating. Next, we looked at the Alpine Garden where we were told all about the plants from different climates. The fourth activity was studying the water cycle and then making rainforests in a bottle. We had lunch in the picnic area and played tig round the benches. Before we knew it, it was time to do our final activity, a visit to the Herbarium where we learned about epiphytes (air plants) and drew orchids before we went back to school on the bus. All of the activities were both interesting and fun and we didn't want it to end. Everyone really enjoyed the visit and we all agreed that the Botanic Gardens visit should be included in L6 in future years.

Kristin Vagg and Elle Wyatt L6C



Fun Day

On 26th May, L6 enjoyed a rainbow-themed Fun Day at Mayfield. We were very excited that morning, knowing that in our PE bags, we carried brightly coloured clothes and super-cool sunshades! Awaiting us on the astroturf were lots of activities and challenges including hurdles, beat the goalie, badminton target practice, hockey cone dribble, spacehopper racing, netball shooting and many more. We competed in teams of 6 and tried to score as many points as possible. The spacehopping challenge was one of the most difficult and most popular. Mr Beckett announced the winners at the end . . . Team 3. Unfortunately the weather was grey and cold so we spent the last part of the afternoon inside, trampolining and playing football.

This was a great day that we will remember for a long time.

Caitlin Ormsby L6C

Christmas Party 2009

On Wednesday 16th December 2009, the Margaret Harris building was the venue for the dazzling Christmas party for L6. The girls were glamorous in their party dresses and the boys were smartly dressed in their kilts. We were all set up with a fun-filled afternoon of party games and traditional Scottish dancing, all with the help of some of Form 6; nobody was without a dancing partner. After two weeks of intense Scottish country dancing practice in P.E., we all shone on the dance floor and made a great job of all the ceilidh dances. We danced the afternoon away to the Gay Gordon, the St Bernard's Waltz to name but two and we ended the afternoon with Strip the Willow. We also enjoyed light refreshments to give us enough energy for the party games which we played between dances. With games, prizes and dancing, we ended the term on a high note and everyone had a great time.

Verity Brown L6C

L6

.....

Miss Gloria Sweetheart

If you were to ever wander through the large ornate doors of Saint Valentine Academy you would probably be greeted by a tall slender lady called Miss Gloria Sweetheart. If you got to know Miss Gloria you would know that she doesn't insist upon bells or rules or even different periods of the day. She believes that if the children are happy it reflects on their standard of work.

Miss Gloria's hair flows like a golden waterfall that seems to reflect the light even in the darkest of rooms. Her golden locks only compliment her angelic and celestial face that is almost too perfect. The mere presence of Miss Gloria radiates the school. So if you aren't boarding this semester I suggest you hurry for places are extremely scarce at Saint Valentine Academy.

Malcolm Campbell

.....

Setting the Scene

As the huge, red nosed clowns let my mum, my sister and me in, I was glad it was my sister's birthday. We had come to the fairground! The huge gates leading to the fairground were striped with a gleaming gold and sparkling red, just like delicious toffee apples. Once I entered the painted iron gates, it was all I could do not to gasp with amazement. There was every ride you could imagine from the beautifully painted horses dancing gracefully but merrily around on the merry-go-round, to a terrifying rollercoaster zooming along the wooden tracks and racing through the long, dark tunnels. Luckily, it wasn't raining but it was quite cloudy and humid. As the large Ferris Wheel towered above me turning gently, the flashing lights and loud carnival music boomed in my ears and dazzled my eyes. There was the chatter and laughter of the small children

as they ran and plodded along, and there were the adults childishly giggling and screaming as they were soaked on the rides! The gentle sound of swaying water of the river softly passing by the carnival was like a melodic lullaby. Hot dogs baking in the ovens smelled as lovely as could be. We had the whole day in front of us as it was only morning, and it was going to be the best day ever.

Mariam Alijani L6C

L6
Creative Writing

.....

Inside Me . . .

There is in me a mouse
Timid, frightened, small
Runs from danger

There is in me a leopard
Skilful, cunning, aware
Ready for anything

There is in me a dolphin
Creative, graceful, beautiful
Jumps at new opportunities

There is in me a cat
Playful, clever, loveable
Always open to new ideas

There is in me a pig
Lazy, messy, relaxed
Sleeps in every day

There is in me a dog
Loyal, obedient, caring
Stays by your side whatever happens

Charlotte Morrison L6A

.....

Inside Me . . .

There is in me a monkey
Cheeky, sneaky
And likes eating bananas

There is in me a seagull
Fast, annoying
And enjoys looking around

There is in me a bear
Daydreamer, clumsy
And always forgetting things

There is in me a dolphin
Swift, quiet
And loves to swim

There is in me a dog
Helpful, caring
And fun to be with

There is in me a rabbit
Lively, soft
And always running around

Annie Porter L6A

.....

Inside Me . . .

There is in me a monkey
Cheerful, funny
Flexible at every jump

There is in me a cat
Sly, strong
Playful at good times

There is in me a mouse
Quiet, fun
Timid, without friends

There is in me a dog
Lazy, sporty
Good to be with

There is in me a panda
Sleepy, fluffy
Fluffy when I get up

There is in me a parrot
Talkative, lively
Likes to wear bright colours

Sophie Davidson L6A

It was mid January at about 10am. I could see the sun rising on the far peaks and it was baking hot. The chatter of the skiers across the slope was a faint sound compared to the rumble of the tow in the background. The fluffy snow was crumbling under my skis except when I was in the shadow of one of the many groups of trees covered in powder snow.

There were many holes which were filled in by deep fresh snow. The tows, which were only on the other mountain, seemed away in the distance. The fumes from the ski-du were overwhelming as it rushed up the hill to help the injured skier at the top. The sun was reflecting off my black helmet like the sun reflecting off a pool of water. I was baking! The shouts and cheers from the race on the other side of the tow were electrifying and the smell from the Nutella stand was sensational! I could also see all the coaches standing at the penultimate corner as the favourite was about to come down.

Scott Buchan L6C

Setting the Scene

As I wandered, bewildered into the station I was met by an overpowering smell of stale sweat, loud shouts from wardens, annoyed passengers and also the odd crying child. As I tried to make my way forwards, I suddenly realized I had walked into a crowd of people and had no room to move. I was almost pushed back by all the people rushing in the other direction. It had just turned 3.00pm. I knew this because of a huge 24-hour clock that hung in the middle of the station. I stopped at the top of a staircase that looked over the whole station. As I looked, I saw so many bright, vibrant clothes making the dull, old, rusty, metal beams seem out of place compared to the bustling of people and small stalls. Everybody was extremely focused on where they were going and didn't pay any attention to anybody else. When I got down to the platforms I saw a skinny stray cat and dog wandering around the busy station.

Rory Johnston L6C

A summer's day in the countryside

It was a warm summer's day, the sun was beaming on my face and the breeze was just right. The puffy little clouds were gliding gracefully across the blue sky. I could just smell someone cooking in the cottage nearby. I could smell the bluebells and a hint of the crops in the air. The wind was rustling through the big towering willow trees. I could hear a bird singing and see some blue butterflies perched on the bluebells, almost camouflaged. The farmer's cottage hid just behind some pine trees. I could feel the grass slipping through my bare feet as I picked the bluebells.

Rebecca Gold L6C

Stormy Seas

It was mid-evening, the sun had just settled down beyond the horizon. The wind was howling, blowing her hair into her face. It was drizzling now and the clouds gathered together as if they were looking for shelter. She walked slowly, steadily, sea weed crackling beneath her feet. The sea sprayed freezing water into her face as if it was urging her to hurry in some way. But she didn't. An island was in the distance looking eerie in the mist. A loud crash brought her down to earth as the sea whacked into some rocks which were as black as coal. She could smell the salty water as it mixed with the dampening air. Seagulls squawked solemnly as they flew above her head. A loud roar of something that sounded like thunder rattled her eardrums. A storm was coming. It was time to go home.

Kristin Vagg L6C

It was a warm summer's day in the countryside. The blue, cloudless sky had a bright sun in it. There was a gentle breeze that rustled the trees' leaves and the corn. It was the middle of July and it hadn't rained for weeks. High in the sky the birds were singing their songs. Behind some trees, there was a farmhouse, half hidden. There was smoke emerging from the chimney and filling the air with a smoky smell. Emerging from the farmhouse was also the smell of freshly baked bread. Faintly, there was the noise of a tractor and animals. Next to the corn there was a river of blue flowers. Behind the farmhouse there was an eerie, dark forest. Nobody who had gone in had ever come out. The trees' bark was rough and dry and the corn crumbled at the touch. The fields next to the house, which were usually waterlogged, were very dry. The wind was blowing the scent of the flowers into my face.

Elle Wyatt L6C

Dalguise Rap

Lots of excitement grew in the air
When we found out we were
nearly there

In the dorms it was so much fun
But we didn't realise it had just begun

On the Forest Trail we heard the
drop bears
Rustling loudly in their leafy lairs

On the Sequoia Scramble people
did well
They reached the top and rang the bell

On the Zip Wire it began to rain
Undoing the clips drove us insane

The Giant Swing went so high
We thought we would fall off and die

When we left it was a real pain
But we hoped and hoped
we'd go again.

Kristin Vagg and Elle Wyatt L6C

Choices for Life

Choices for Life was an excellent trip for this year's L7. A range of different bands came to sing at Choices for Life. There was also a game called 'Choices Family Fortunes' which was great fun and very informative. Some of the artists at Choices for Life were Girls Can't Catch, who were awesome and Stevie Hoang who has sold 70,000 albums in Japan. Hip Parade and Bandito were also there.

The hosts were great fun and got everyone joining in. The main idea of the trip was to educate young people to make the right choices in life. We were told lots of facts about the effects of smoking, drinking and illegal drugs. One of the ways to highlight the negative effects of these things was in a play done on stage and some videos that were shown to us. All of the knowledge everyone gathered from Choices for Life will surely be enough for all of us to make the right decisions in life. It was also a way of getting the information across in a fun way. There was a theme song that everyone got to join in with at the end and I think all of L7 enjoyed the whole day hugely.

Grant Harley L7

L7

Department Visits

During term 3, L7 classes visited many different Senior School Departments. The pictures below are of the experiments we carried out when we visited Biology and Chemistry.



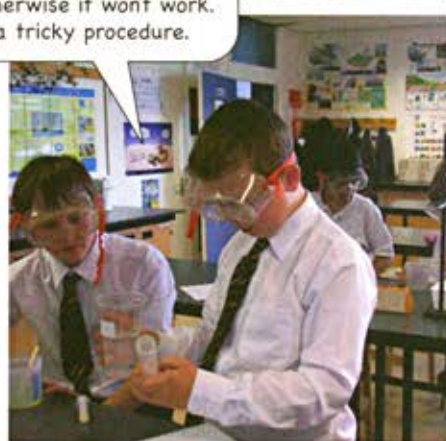
Firstly, I have to push all of the air out of the plastic sack then I can measure my lung capacity.



I need to get each measurement correct otherwise it won't work. This is a tricky procedure.



I wonder how long it will take for the slime to reach the tub?





St Andrews Ambulance

First Aid Course

Mrs Halliwell, Miss Cardno and Mrs Gill ran a First Aid Club for the L7s that began in September 2009. We learned many useful techniques and skills. At the end of the session all the pupils did a test which, if they passed, would earn them a St Andrews Ambulance Association First Aid Certificate which would last for three years.

The club ran every Thursday from 4-5pm. In the course we learned many things like slings, bandaging, the recovery position, and CPR. Some of us also took part in the School's Open Morning in November.

Everyone enjoyed the course and passed the test. We would like to thank the teachers for the help and guidance that they have given us in order to do so.

Rachel Chalmers L7

The L7 St Andrews Ambulance Association Cadets took their role very seriously at this session's School Open Morning. All proved very able when showing their first aid skills and confidently spoke to the visitors explaining what was happening. All casualties made a very rapid recovery!

L6/L7 Netball

This year has been a fun, exciting and eventful year for the Junior School Netball Teams. We meet each Wednesday, after school, at Mayfield where usually we start with a warm-up, and then we move on to challenging drills and finish with a full game. Each player has their own fixed position but, occasionally we try a different position so we have experience of different positions on the court.

The netball teams have taken part in a lot of great leagues and competitions, all held at Ward Road Gym and organised by Dundee District Primary Schools' Netball Association. The L7 team came second in the Winter League and won both the Kennedy Cup and The Directors' Trophy. The L6 team competed for the first time at Ward Road Gym in March and came second which was a great result. The L7s are currently competing in the Summer League and so far we have won all of our matches. We would like to wish the L6s good luck for next session as they will have the opportunity to play lots of matches.

The last training session of term is the event the L7s look forward to all year: The staff v. pupils netball match. We are very excited for this and just hope the teachers know what they have let themselves in for! We would like to thank Miss Alexander, Mrs Liz Gibson and Cheryl MacIntosh for all the coaching they have given us this year. Also, our families have supported us at our matches and we are grateful for their encouragement.

Rhona Scragg and Robyn Gibson



L7 Paris Trip, March 2010

Mrs Smith, Trip Leader

51 pupils travelled to Paris by coach with 6 members of staff. Extracts from their diaries provide an insight into their experiences

Friday/Saturday:

Overnight travel and arrival in France

"After an ok sleep, I was not tired because I was so excited about Paris. We stopped for lunch and I was relieved when I got my order right in French!" **Nathan**

"We stopped in Maidstone for some petit-déjeuner and it was très bien! Then we went into the Eurotunnel which was cool!" **Christopher**

"When we arrived in Paris we saw some amazing sites like the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. We arrived in the hotel and I was very impressed with the lobby. I had a nice dinner as well." **Grant**

"When we got to the hotel I found that the rooms were really nice and the beds were comfy." **Anna**

Sunday: Montmartre, Sacre Coeur, River Seine cruise, Paris by night

"The day started with a great breakfast and an amazing trip to Sacre Coeur. I was mesmerised by the amazing paintings and the fascinating architecture." **Sally**

"I went into Sacre Coeur, it was breathtaking. At Montmartre I got my caricature done and then my friend and I bought frogs legs to eat!" **Adam**

"The 'Paris by night' tour was spectacular." **Anushka**

"Tonight we were lucky enough to see the Eiffel Tower lit up with beautiful twinkling lights." **Emma**

Monday: Eurodisney and quiz night

"... Disney, the best park in the world. I loved it so much I'll hope to pull my mum and dad back for a trip." **Hattie**

"Eurodisney... There were lots of rides which were all great fun. In my opinion, Space Mountain was the best with Indiana Jones second." **Victoria**

"Today we went to Disneyland and it was amazing! ... Once we had been in Fantasy Land we decided to go to Discovery Land and even though I was terrified I went on Space Mountain. I loved it so much I went on it four times!" **Maddie**

"Disney was really good because it was an excellent team building day for me." **Matthew**

Tuesday: Eiffel Tower, Aquaboulevard, quiz/disco evening

"The Eiffel Tower was amazing to witness. The structure and the height of it was unbelievable." **Fraser**

"...it grew slowly larger as we neared it. Going up the lift was very scary, but on the second floor I wanted to keep going. At the top of the Eiffel Tower a magnificent view was waiting for us!" **Maya**

"Aquaboulevard was great fun. The flumes were awesome including this really fast one, because of the water you could barely see anything. The day was great!" **Grant**

"We went to Aquaboulevard.... I loved the flumes and the rope swing. It has been a good day and I'm quite sad it's coming to an end." **Rachael**

"Tonight we are having a disco and quiz... I can't wait!" **Emily**

Wednesday/Thursday: Calais shopping and return travel to Dundee

"This morning was sad as I awoke to remember that we were leaving." **Hattie**

"I was feeling disappointed because it was our last day. Calais was great, I bought presents for my lovely sister and a bag of Bonbons to eat. We've had a great time on the bus chatting and reading magazines." **Rhona**

"Today was our last day in Paris but it was just as good as every other day... Although I'm looking forward to going home, Paris was extreme fun and was definitely the best school trip ever!" **Maddie**



The High School's Got Talent 2010

June 9th saw the final of the High School's Got Talent competition in aid of charity. Dozens of pupils from all year groups competed for a place in the final with a range of acts including comedy, dance, musical performances and hula hooping.

After some heated debate, the winners were chosen. They were from L1-L3 Rohan Tauro for a mix of Bollywood and Bangra dancing, joint winners from L4-L5 were Niamh Samson for gymnastics and Ana Cowan and Lorna Husband for dancing and in the L6-L7 category, Katie Morris won the prize for her rendition of the song 'Smile'.

Many thanks to the judges who were Mr Gallagher, Mrs Rudman, Amy Grieve and Gordon Dick. Christopher Keatch and Iain Wallace did a fantastic job compering the event and thanks also to Callum Rennet and Lewis Davie from Form 3, who kept the audience entertained while the judges deliberated.

The money raised will be used to sponsor a year's education for three pupils at the Mashimoni School in Kenya and the remainder to the Cleft Lip and Palate Association in the UK.

Playground Pals

Playground Pals is a lunchtime co-curricular activity. At the start of the session we gathered together as a group of L7 pupils to learn new games suitable to play with infants. We also learned how to deal with problems that might arise and how to successfully organise groups of younger children. Some practice sessions were spent with L2s to see what their reactions were to the games. After a few weeks of training, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings we arranged games to play with the infants. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and believe the children did, too especially when we saw their happy faces! We learned new skills like being patient, showing kindness, caring for infants and lots more. It was a very valuable experience overall.

Taskeen Bailwal L6A

Junior Table Tennis

Junior table tennis players have been meeting on Friday lunchtimes in the Margaret Harris Hall. Children in L4 have come along to try their hand at this exciting and fun game with the bat and ball. During table tennis sessions players have practised the forehand, backhand and serve and tried to maintain table tennis rallies. We have had fun with target games such as hitting the balls through hoops, into hoops and trying to hit a tower of boxes. Throughout the session younger players have been fortunate in having the interest and encouragement of L6 and L7 pupils who have volunteered to help. This year we have been very pleased to welcome William Hardie, Grant Harley and Matthew Fagerson from L7. All three boys have been enthusiastic and encouraging to the younger players as well as being skilful demonstrators. From L6 we have enjoyed the assistance of Lucas McConnach, Rachel Guest, Alex Vagg, Jack Sampson, Neil Bennett, Campbell Gibson, Gregor Vagg and Stefan Baldacchino. It is very pleasing to see the quick and good progress the L4 children make in this exciting game and it is pleasing to find them choosing to spend their time in a healthy sporting activity.

Miss M. Cardno and Mrs P. Halliwell



Tigers

The tiger is the largest cat in the world. The length of a tiger, from the tip of its tail to its head, can be up to ten feet. There are six living sub-species and the colour of their coat distinguishes one sub-species from another, although they all have striped coats.

Tigers are solitary and nocturnal animals. Their call is a roar, growl or a purr. They mark their territory with urine or by shedding the bark of trees.

Tigers live in forests, grasslands and mangrove swamps in Asia and Russia. They do not like to share hunting grounds so they need large home ranges in which to hunt. Males occupy about twenty square miles and females, about seventeen.

Tigers hunt at night. They mainly hunt ox, wild boar, chital deer, buffalo and monkeys. They stalk their prey and after killing it, they drag the remains of a kill into the brush and bury it loosely with leaves, then when they return to eat it, they always start with the hindquarters.

The tiger is an endangered animal. Lots of people hunt and poach them for sport and medicine. Farmers kill them as well, when they attack livestock. They also die from habitat and prey loss. The forests are being cut down, which means the tigers habitat is being destroyed, so there are less places for them to live. Also, its prey is being, which means they do not have anything to eat.

The World Wildlife Fund is an organisation which works against the dangers affecting animals such as tigers. The work they do aims to stop animals becoming extinct.

By Rebecca Morrison L7A

Happiness is more important than money

Just because someone does not have a lot of money does not mean they are not happy. Surely you agree? It is not like someone just walks into a shop and buys happiness. Yes, you might be able to buy things that contribute to your happiness but overall, these things are not the reason you are happy. You earn happiness with or without money, it really does not matter.

I can hardly believe anyone would pick money over happiness, it is just ridiculous. Is that what the world has come to? Money being the number one priority, it sickens me!

No doubt you have wondered what does make someone happy and I believe being surrounded by people who love you is what brings happiness. Not money, yes money has its place, but before happiness.

To my mind there is no competition between happiness and money. It is a completely one-sided argument for me. You could be the richest person in the world but not have any family or friends that care about you so all your money would be worthless.

The play, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, illustrates my point beautifully. In this play Scrooge learns the value of happiness and enjoyment. He also learns that money is not the route to happiness.

To conclude I believe before you take any big steps to make sure you are happy because that is the number one most important thing.

Grant Harley L7A

Creating an Atmosphere

I remember my first steps in the creepy, rundown Victorian mansion with shattered windows, graffitied walls and rotten wooden doors. I cautiously pulled open the damp doors and suddenly let go when a huge black bark beetle with a glistening abdomen, the size of a golf ball, bored out of the weak wood and scattered away. After stepping inside I was aware of the mess that confronted me. Huge, grand tables were upturned and the long, beautifully carved banister of the winding stair was snapped in two, lying on the floor. A huge, ancient gramophone was on its side, unbelievably still playing soft, but creepy sounding tunes that cackled from time to time.

I tiptoed up the creaking steps that looked like they were going to fall in. I stepped into a small room illuminated by jugs and jars filled with glowing, thick, viscous liquids. The jars were connected with a winding array of tubes. In test tubes shrivelled, wrinkled, curled up dead creatures, preserved for years in their confined spaces, lay motionless. The place was as silent as an underground cavern and as dusty as a forgotten teddy.

Just then I heard a footstep. And another, coming closer. Closer. . .

Glen Wilson L7A

Creative Writing

Children at Work Essay

This essay will answer the question, 'Was it necessary to have a child workforce in Victorian Britain?' Work saved children from dying and it gave them money. Britain was a working class country and there were not enough adults to do all the work. The Victorian era was an important industrial time as it was during the Industrial Revolution, in the late 1700s, that factories, mills and mines grew. Though there were negative points, as they worked in poor conditions and the children had no education, work did save children from starvation and prevented them from getting into mischief.

Lord Shaftesbury was a Member of Parliament and was the leader of the Factory Reform Movement. He worked hard to improve working conditions for children through hard campaigning to change the law. Lord Shaftesbury and other reformers made some improvements to help the children. He was in charge of the 1842 Miner's Act which banned the employment of boys working underground under the age of 10, and women and girls. No one under the age of 15 was allowed to be in charge of machinery. Also, in the 1842 there was the publication of the First Report of the Children's Employment Commissioners which included conditions for mine workers. In 1847 the Ten Hour Act was passed which cut the hours of under eighteens to 10 a day and 58 hours a week.

Working conditions during the Victorian era were poor and children received very low wages. There was a danger of suffering serious accidents while working with machines; many children died in factory accidents. For example, in cotton mills, children had to run under machines to pick up cotton as part of the production cycle. If a child slipped or was not quick enough then he might be crushed. They also had to work very long hours, in some cases more than 12 hours a day, which made them very tired and increased the danger of accidents. Working long hours in poor conditions for inadequate wages resulted in general illness and also industrial diseases. Although some mill owners provided education, it was too short and of poor quality. The owners employed supervisors who were harsh task masters who bullied the children to keep them working.

There are many reasons against children working in Victorian Britain, however, there are also reasons in favour. Children provided a useful, small and agile workforce in factories and also kept them from mischief and playing on the streets. Children also learned trade skills from their masters. Child work made a big contribution towards the wealth and success of Britain. Also, sometimes children received an education and the apprentices received food and bedding. The wages children were given paid for clothes and rent which helped poor families.

It was necessary to have a child workforce in Victorian Britain because children contributed to Britain's success and wealth. Without children, Britain would not have had the thriving industry that there was. It also stopped children and their families from starving. Children learned skills although; children were bullied and whipped in certain cases by their overseers. There was also a chance that children would get caught in the machine and become seriously injured or even die.

Overall, in conclusion, it was necessary to have a child workforce in Victorian Britain.

Andy Boyle L7

Albatrosses

Albatrosses have the longest wingspan of any bird, on average measuring three point four metres long. They have large heads with hooked bills. Adult heads are white and their upper wing is mostly brown and black with an area of white at the leading edge. Albatrosses weigh twenty-two pounds when fully grown. The average lifespan of the animal is fifty years. Albatrosses eat schooling fish and squid. They are very familiar to mariners; they often follow ships in hope of eating discarded fish or garbage.

The albatross' main habitat is the Southern and Pacific Oceans; they spend most of their lifetime at sea, but go to the Pacific Islands to breed. Their nests are made of cones of mud and grass, which are found on exposed places like cliffs, where there are good take off points. They may not return for seven to ten years to breed but will always return to where they were hatched.

Albatrosses were hunted for their feathers, which were used for women's hats and meat. Their feet were once used as tobacco pouches. One of the greatest concerns today is the decrease in population by ninety per cent since the 1940s. This is largely due to them being accidentally caught on longline fishing hooks and global warming.

The fishing industries are aware of the problems with longlines and are looking out for methods that might avoid the catching of albatrosses. These include using weighted down lines to make them sink quicker, not feeding fish under a full moon and avoiding having too many bright lights on the trawler.

William Hardie L7A

Paradise Island

As I lay on the white sand, I could feel the bright sun beating down on me. Standing up, I decided to take a stroll along the shore. As I walked along, I could hear all the birds singing sweet melodic tunes. I couldn't help but hum too.

The water came rushing up to my feet and gently tickled my toes. The sun now was partly hidden behind a cloud, so I went to look for shells. There were so many different shapes and sizes, colours and patterns. When the sun came back out, I scanned the scene and I was amazed. I didn't realize how calm and beautiful everything was. First of all there was the gorgeous light blue sea gently dancing with the breeze. Sitting around me was pure white sand. I picked up a handful and let the tiny grains slip through my fingers. The palm trees were amazing, the long detailed brown trunk and big fan like green leaves, also moving slightly in the breeze. Big, brown coconuts were sitting at the top of the trees, just waiting to fall. When one eventually did fall, it cracked open on a rock. I grabbed one half and took a sip of the milk. It tasted sweet and it was lukewarm but the more I drank, I grew to like it. As it was getting quite late in the afternoon, I went back to my sunny spot and lay down on the soft sand once again.

Pippa Henderson L7D

Fantasy Vehicle: Mouse Mobile

The idea for my vehicle came from T.V. Once I was watching a programme where they had to make life sized cars and one team made a car called the 'mouse mobile' and that popped back into my head when I was told what we had to do. So I decided I would make my own 'mouse mobile'.

I first took some Techno card, then I painted it a mustardy colour and took some wheels and put a spiral pattern on them. I made a mouse house and a small mouse for my vehicle. I first put the axles on the car and then I stuck the house down and made the mouse.

No, I did not work to my original plan. I had to take out most of the things because my car was too small and I had to make my mouse out of paper and axles.

I might change the size of my vehicle and what I put in it. I am happy with the outcome because my vehicle looks nice and works.

Adam Shimi L7S

The Cosy Cottage

I walked slowly up the leaf covered path. Leaves crackled and crunched under me as my feet tapped softly on the mossy, pale-green stones. The garden around me was a wonderland of reds, oranges, yellows and browns. Few flowers edged the stony paths leading up to the entrance, but those that did were vibrant and alive. The sky above me was bright pink, neon with the setting sun. Bunny rabbits scampered away to their burrows as I neared the maroon door, the entrance to the house.

Placing my hand on the shiny brass door knob, a warm sense of comfort came over me. I pushed it and it swung ajar. As I stepped inside, out of the cool air, I realised I was in a hallway. Pictures of grandmothers, granddads, children and cousins bordered the walls as well as one huge piece at the very end. This had been painted and the many streaks of oil on a canvas background made it bumpy and rough to feel.

Turning to the door on my left, I entered and immediately a familiar scent came floating towards me. I walked to the bed at the back of the room and flopped onto it, cherishing the feeling. I was home at last!

Maya Nurbhai L7D

Peace

Peace is the dove baring the flowers,
Whistling as it flies through the mountains.
Peace is the colour of white,
The colour of the treaty note.
Peace is the day when homework is cancelled,
Peace is the novel read by the fire,
Peace is the echo of absent wars around the globe,
Peace is the child softly slumbering away,
Peace is within a portion of a bar of chocolate.
I could write forever about peace,
But peace is still and quiet.

Christopher Keatch L7D

Creepy Mansion

My heels clicked softly on the cobbled stones as I crept up the long path leading to the door of the creepy old house. It was a stormy night, the rain beating heavily on the trees, making them sway and lean towards each other, groaning under the weight of their own branches. The moon was like a ghost, appearing as the clouds parted, only to disappear again as the clouds mysteriously closed over it, smothering the light and leaving me in pitch blackness. From what I could make out, the garden was covered in dense shrubs and every so often there was a rustling sound and the plants would move. The rain seeped through my hood and crawled down my neck. I shivered.

The door was old, the wood cracked and rough, as I ran my hand over it. The paint was peeling and in some places the wood showed through. The door smelled damp and mouldy. Looking up, I saw the many spider webs, as white as sheets. Dark spiders were resting and waiting forlornly for their next meal to be caught in the sticky expanse of their home.

As I entered the house, a great sense of fear rushed over me. I cautiously tip-toed into what must have once been the great hall. A staircase climbed up to the top floor. The chandelier was hanging by a thread at the centre of the ceiling. The hall smelled musty and old.

Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a black shape float like a feather towards me. . . .

Maya Nurbhai L7D

Maya Nurbhai Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing

Senior School English Writing Prizewinners

A Memory

A memory: the sculpture! Yes, caressed from air,
such beauty there, such beauty where
no gaze could linger, no lip abraid;
and such a face, such eyes
that never could the sun (the mere sun!)
the mere sun, which I despise,
erase; not an atom could the sun erase,
nor the lip snag – no;
and his hands, which were soft hands,
pale hands with burden of cloth,
in his hands where the cloth fell –
by my cheek, where it fell –
there, on the Dirt, spilled a lie,
a little false sliver of dark on Her
back, which arched under a feather sky.

Here is his shadow, all around me;
all around me lies the cloth in ease,
cotton-clouded swaddling cloth;
but where the sky? where the Dirt?
Here, as I emerge (and cannot release
that swaddling cloth, lest I tremble
without
that swaddling cloth); here they are
(O how the fingertips coldly seize,
O such feeling, to be flooded with cold)
as I emerge, blindfolded, blinded with
ease;
and there he is, and there the sky,
but nothing else. Where everything else?
Crack and break and ruin (please
let there be nothing else)
and him and the sky, and nothing else.

There he is, naked, nude,
warm stone; mundanely hewn – am I not
ashamed?
But my eyes: I see him; blinking I see
him, veined
with red, madness and mess rock-
blotting red, red as a beast,
red as skin and red as nerve; red with
lust and hunger;
“act, do” ... and there the loss,
where a star falls from his eye and
splashes in the Dirt;
there he is alive; disgusting, alive;
naked –
there, the sky. So empty, sky,
where lost shapes reel, and
missing hues,
and the grass's gulp, the dry bleach,
where the dying hiss rustles
over bones, and the shapes of bones,
charred there into the earth
(amidst crack and break and ruin)
in black light-ink; where the sky whistles
not seed nor tune, not relief; no,
too slow, the sky, to spin them out.

What fossil am I? Here (where the Dirt
is warm, still warm;
and the sky light, lighter than before)
where I see – how I see! –
am I wrapped in sinew, and bound in
bandage,
and creaking and peeling and bloated
with air.
And here do I, act, do, inch into the
distance;
there the green plays in the sky,
flickering in the world's walls,
there the fly and the bird,
there the blood, trickle from cut,
there they play and draw me on,
ignored, and I ask: “Tell me (I hope!);
do any of you grow

Jordan McLaren F6

Lake Mist

As I pared my curtains back, to welcome yet another Spring's dawn of glory, I was greeted with the mystical beauty of silvery mist, coating the land like a magical carpet, as it drifted lazily. The tranquil stillness of the morning air allowed it to accumulate into such a vast quantity, that one could not see past the shimmering wall of feminine elegance.

As I stepped out on to the rough gravel, I observed how almost everything had been suddenly changed, now possessing qualities of a mythical being. The house was now a castle, the cars were chariots, and the horses grazing in the dewy fields of wonder were unicorns. A white dove wept as it graced the skies of cornflower hue, embracing nature's subtle splendour. Strolling the fields of lush jade, I came to an oaken coppice. With the sun glinting through the complex branches of time, I explored deeper into the patch of compact heaven, so dwarfed by the emptiness surrounding it. Oak moss carpeted the branches of lightest ebony, like fabric on wooden floor boards. Teal bluebells littered the rich earthy soil, as dappled leaves exposed a clearing, created by the falling of a natural skyscraper. Reaching the end of the lonely copse, I noticed a pile of logs had been gathered. Already some treasured memories had been lost to the devouring greed of man-kind.

Scrambling out of the dense thicket of life, I rambled across the marshes surrounding a curious fragment of wetland, which later turned out to be a small lake. The mist was now so thick, so intense, it was becoming impossible to see, or even breathe. I started panicking, becoming desperate to escape from the prison I had so convincingly conjured from my mind. My heart has now hammering with fear, creating the sound of an almighty pair of kettledrums playing the sorrowful, rhythmic beat of a Russian death march. I started to run, seeking freedom from this terrible experience, but all in utmost vain. I should have known I was bound to trip, running over pockmarked ground, but what came next was totally unexpected. As I fell, I hit the soft, wet soil of the bog, but rather than remaining there, I kept going, sliding through the many layers of peat, built up over thousands of years, forming centimetre over historic centimetre. Now complete and utter darkness came, and I knew not who or what was there. A sharp landing awaited me as I fell into pitch blackness. A hard stone floor had done little to cushion my blow, but instead sparked off burning questions of curiosity. Who had lived here? Why was it built? When had it been constructed?

Just as my nose became adapted to the musty smell of stale air, so did my eyes to the intense darkness that was surrounding me, and began to piece together the randomly scattered clues, so vitally important for answering the numerous questions regarding my surroundings. A rickety table stood at the centre of the stony cellar, upon which lay a dusty, faded map, which showed faint details belonging to a military plan. A rusty metal soldier's helmet also lay on the table, just beside the map. Abandoned artillery shells covered the floor, leading a clear unbroken trail to an old gun, propped up against a chair. A decrepit ladder occupied a dark corner of the forlorn bunker. Frail and rusted, it appeared an unconvincing (and unsafe) way to escape the historic underground shelter. Gingerly, I placed a hand, and then a foot, on to the potential death trap. Climbing on, I was momentarily blinded by a shaft of sunlight, piercing into the underground dungeon. As I reached the last few rust-ridden rungs of the ladder, it split, allowing the bottom half to fall back to the floor with a fearful crash of thunder. Desperately I hung on, not willing to follow the lower part of the ladder to my death. Slowly, painfully, I came to the top, and presently came out into sunlight. The fog had vanished now, and the weather was warm and pleasant. Returning home I smelt the sweet, syrupy scent of fresh pancakes for breakfast, accompanied by the irritable scolds of my mother.

"Honestly where have you been? I've been so worried about you, you've been gone for hours, and your clothes are filthy! Oh have some breakfast, I expect you're famished".

It was good to be home, but some things are best kept secret.

Michael Fergusson F2

Outdoor Education



Form 1 residential

The Form 1 residential stay at Comrie Croft in lovely Perthshire proved to be a resounding success with both staff and pupils. A mixture of curricular and co-curricular activities combined to give over 120 pupils a non stop action packed 2 day stay.

Particular highlights were the canoeing, abseiling and nightline which were cold, wet muddy and absolutely fabulous! Evening fun included some devious mental challenges and a rousing ceilidh/disco which was enjoyed as much by the staff as the pupils and sets everyone nicely for the Christmas parties!

Academically we did some relaxing art work in the style of Van Gogh, learned how to maximise our learning potential and found out about Comrie's interesting geography and history. We also completed an arduous 6 mile hike which actually wasn't nearly as hard as we thought it might be – though for group 1 a wetsuit might have been helpful. We finished up at the atmospheric Cultybraggan ex Prisoner of war camp where we found out about its rather scary past! Thanks to all the staff who helped plan and deliver this great experience.



Hard work brings rewards for Duke of Edinburgh participants

Duke of Edinburgh Gold

It all started with a capsiz on the Training day.

Managing to fall in the water in our only dry clothes, damaging our phones through liquid damage, and struggling to breathe due to the extreme temperatures of the freezing water; yet when I look back on Duke of Edinburgh Gold my memories are only good.

Starting with the practice expedition at sunny Loch Awe near Oban at the start of our summer, we knew that our Gold Experience was going to be one we would never forget. The practice allowed everyone to be reminded of the physical ability needed to complete the 5 day expedition, and determination needed to successfully complete our final challenge – The Great Glen.



The Great Glen Way runs for 73 miles along the Great Glen from Fort William to Inverness. The expedition started on 15th August, paddling from the west to the east coast of Scotland, uses short sections of the Caledonian Canal to link Lochs Lochy, Oich and Ness, and ending on 19th August. The Great Glen is ever changing, so within this five day trip we encountered mirror calm water to waves, natural lochs, and man-made canals.

Although the Great Glen was challenging, and meant on two of our five days we were on route for 6.30am, it was hugely rewarding. The group spirit, even at difficult times, carrying canoes through locks, trying to cook in the rain, falling backwards over canoes, or covered in midgie bites, was always exceptionally high. Whether this was due to the fact we had the talented comedian Becky Chapple in our group, or that fact that every so often, Mr Ross would be waiting to cheer us on, or the fact that by encouraging each other and keeping paddling, it was personally rewarding, as we can now all say we have canoed the Great Glen, from the east to the west of Scotland.

And after all the expeditions, the new skills gained, the physical recreation and the service undertaken, in Bronze, Silver, and now hopefully Gold, all that's needed is a residential as our last hurdle.

Good Luck!

Winter Skills



Seven intrepid explorers – plus four equally intrepid adults – braved challenging conditions to complete a Winter Skills course in the Scottish mountains.

After a night in chalet accommodation in Lochaber, the team travelled to the Mamore mountain range for their first challenge of the trip – an ascent from Polldubh in Glen Nevis through the long valley to the bealach between the mountains Stob Ban and Sgurr an Lubhair. The weather was stunning, with clear views south to Glen Coe and north

to our neighbouring mountain Ben Nevis. After a challenging walk, the final 200m of steeper ascent to Sgurr an Lubhair was tiring for everyone, and the team paused for a short break at the summit before tackling the descent.

After such a hard day, Sunday saw a slightly weary team set out on the drive to Glen Coe – although all members of the party quickly regained their energy when the dramatic terrain for the day came into view. The group began a steady climb up a glen towards Stob Coire nan Lochan, but after assessing the snow pack by digging a hasty pit it was decided that conditions were too risky for further exploration, and the team turned back just 115 metres shy of the summit. However, with time on their side they made the most of the descent by watching some ice climbers in the glen and appreciating some play time in the fine soft snow.



Ski Trip 2010

On Sunday 14th February, 41 pupils waved goodbye to family and friends as we piled on a bus bound for Edinburgh airport. After a short flight to Milan airport we set off on the final leg of our journey, the four hour bus journey to Pragelato, the small town where we were staying. We arrived at our hotel, Casa Alpina Don Barra where we had a quick tea before being allocated our rooms. After a long day travelling, tired and excited we clambered into bed in anticipation of the next day skiing.

Our first day skiing was eventful – it took ages to hire our equipment but the waiting was worth it when we finally hit the slopes and experienced the fresh powder and bright sunshine of Northern Italy. Our party was split into four classes based on ability and assigned our instructors. For many it was their first time on the slopes so they weren't sure what to expect, but fortunately they were pleasantly surprised. All four instructors made the lessons very enjoyable but they were nonetheless tiring and after a busy day on the piste we were always happy to visit Sestriere's local creperie.



Every day on the bus ride back from the slopes the teachers awarded a "Silly Billy" and "Silly Betty" from the party and the chosen pupils had to wear a reflective jacket and hat for a whole day – even while skiing. People were awarded the jacket for a variety of reasons, for example, dropping a glove from a chairlift, falling off a draglift or in Mr Jack's case wearing Mrs Craig's ski boots for a whole day which were one and a half sizes too small then not realising until the evening!

Every night after tea we had an evening activity. We went swimming, ice skating, sledging, had a film night, party and a quiz night where we were split into teams of four and went head to head in a very competitive quiz. The winners were the "Six Brows" who were very appropriately named!

Over the course of the week everybody's skiing improved greatly and we were all very sad when we got on the bus to go home.

The trip was an amazing experience and on behalf of everyone on the trip we would like to thank the teachers, Mr Jack, Mr McAdam, Mr Gallagher, Mrs Smith and Mrs Craig who made the trip even more enjoyable.

Louise Pattullo, Kerry Voice and Sarah Douglas



**A year in
the life
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F6 Induction Week

Between the 8th and the 10th of June, Form 5 was split into two groups who each spent two days at Glen Isla as part of our Induction Week before beginning Form 6. The residential part of the week involved various exercises to develop our teamwork and leadership skills and aimed to push us both physically and mentally whilst building relationships within our year group.



Group A set off on the Tuesday, unfazed by the grey skies and perpetual drizzle that adamantly refused to stop throughout the day, ensuring that we remained cold and muddy as we attempted to master canoeing, kayaking and raft building on the Loch. We were divided into groups to tackle each of the activities, which all required a combination of logic, teamwork and a fierce sense of competition! Whilst on the canoes, we were split into two teams who battled it out against one another to reach the elusive 100 points required for lunch by expertly manoeuvring the canoes to catch balls, run to the water's edge to collect items from shore and balance team mates on a narrow wooden pole between the two boats. Needless to say, most of us got very wet (including Mr Rodger, who despite his fighting talk was beaten by Team Awesome, whose success was undoubtedly as a result of Claire Dobson and Bilal Hussain's beautiful singing).

This was followed by raft building, where each of the two groups was given a cluster of barrels, logs and ropes to attempt to build a raft which could hold the weight of up to four people. Each group worked together to come up with a variety of different vessels (some much more successful than others!) and this encouraged everyone to get involved with the construction and "design" aspects of the activity, with special credit going to Siobhan Strathearn's ability to tie an array of impressive knots, despite the raft never actually making it into the water.

The final activity of the day was kayaking, where we each took to the water and helped one another to complete a variety of tasks, such as jumping across kayaks and in the case of a lucky few (such as Kirsty Mitchell) rubbing noses with the kayak! Again, it would be fair to say that most were suitably wet by the time they returned to shore, either from a good deal of splashing or some impressive tumbles into the loch, with Glen Milne's somersault being particularly spectacular.

Each of the activities proved to be great fun and highly rewarding, despite the miserable weather and physical exhaustion after our early start, and each group left with a real sense of achievement. However, it did seem a tad unfair that Group B managed to secure a beautiful, warm, sunny day for their day on the loch!

In the evening, we completed a self-assessment of our individual characters as a follow-up to the Insights report we received on the Monday of Induction Week, where we all worked in our groups to tell each other how people are seen within the year group, and this proved not only to be very surprising, but also extremely rewarding and undoubtedly brought us closer together.

The Wednesday of Induction Week brought all Form 5 pupils together in an action-packed day with the Royal Marines, who very much put us to the test in a gruelling physical and mental challenge – and that was just the warm-up! We were soon put in our place as the Marines ruthlessly ordered us to do press-ups, sit-ups or sprint to the other side of the field whenever we did something wrong. In our groups, we completed a variety of challenges which saw us manoeuvring our whole group from one side of the fence to the other, guiding blindfolded team mates past obstacles and untangling ourselves from the ropes around each other's wrists. Not to be forgotten, there were also mental challenges to complete as well, such as building turbines for engines (which was won by Calum Keddle and Connor Webb's expert design skills) and solving maths puzzles to complete our mission. The day culminated in the Stretcher Race, where one "injured" member of the team was carried across fields, over walls and finally through a river as we battled against one another to finish first. Needless to say, there were many shrieks and squeals as we waded through the cold (and surprisingly deep) river whilst being splashed by Marines, as well as many falls/drops of the stretcher! However, without a doubt, the aching muscles and millions of bruises that everyone suffered the next day were arguably worth it as the day brought many laughs and helped build valuable relationships within the year.

The week concluded with a presentation skills day run by ISCO on the Friday, where we were split into different groups again to research and create a presentation on our chosen topic in front of the rest of the year, putting our imagination, creativity and PowerPoint skills to the test!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff involved with Induction Week who made these activities possible, as not only was this an extremely valuable team-building experience, but we also had a fantastic and rewarding time and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. And yes, Mr Rodger, we all left "with a smile on our face"!

Siobhan Chien and Rebecca Oakes F5

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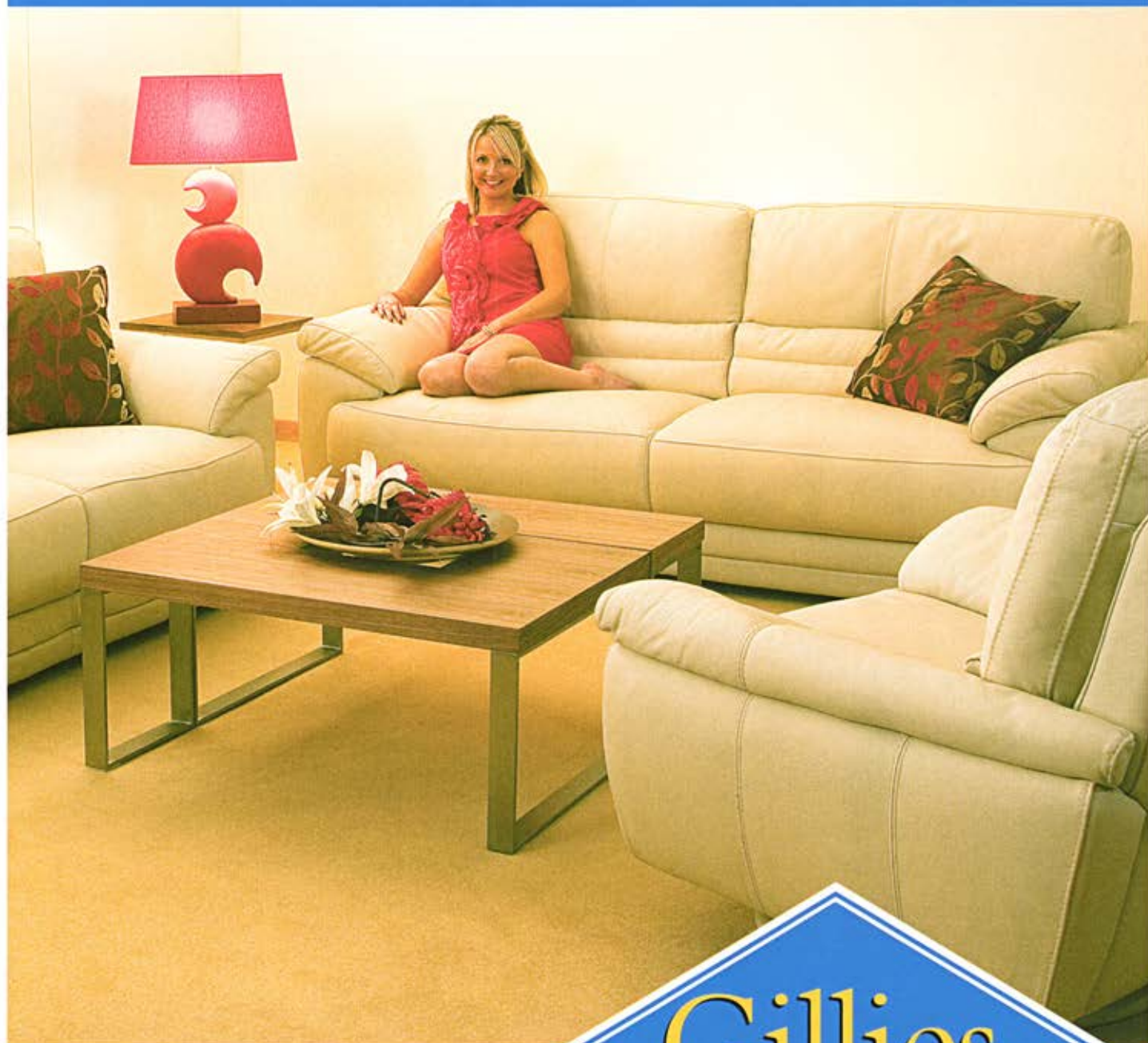
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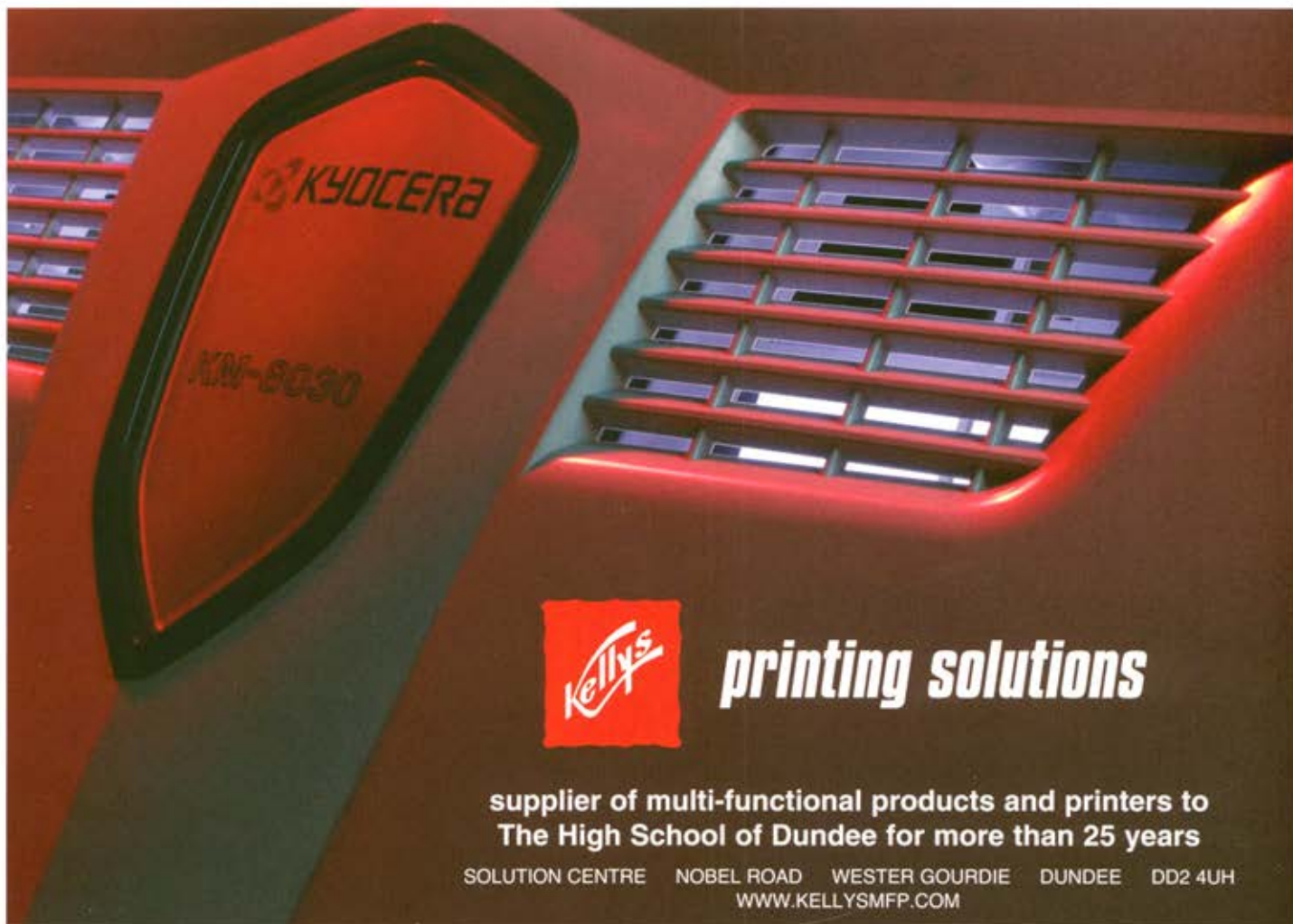
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