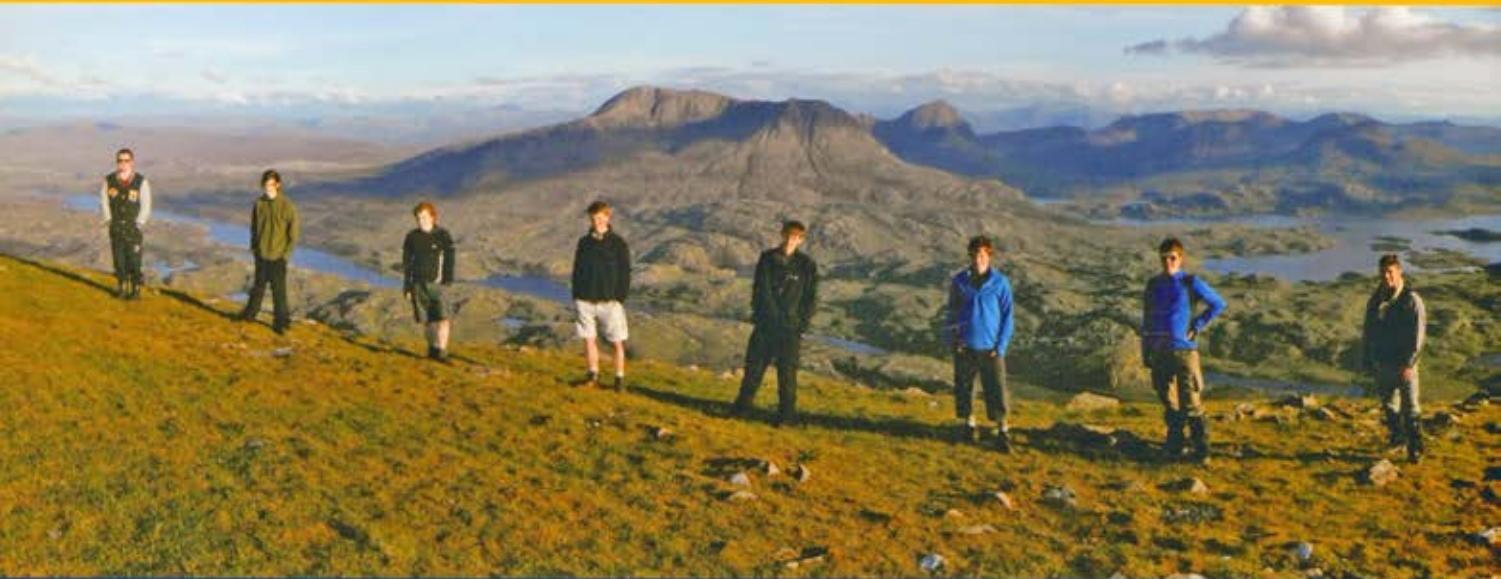


Review 2012





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Editorial

Welcome to the High School of Dundee Review for 2012, where once again we pay tribute to the talent, hard work and enthusiasm of our school community. The sheer range of activities and the heights of achievement reached by our pupils are always a pleasure and privilege to record and this year is no exception!

I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the varied and busy life of our school.

Mrs Jane Phillips, Editor

Rector's Report



Changing Parameters

On the day before Prize-Giving an extraordinary event took place. During her Diamond Jubilee visit to Northern Ireland, the Queen shook the hand of the Deputy First Minister and former IRA commander Martin McGuinness.

To those of us who grew up through the worst years of the Troubles this simple but symbolic event represented a remarkable turnaround. This shows how parameters and norms can change. What 10, 20 years ago would have been unthinkable is now reality. On a less dramatic level the same is true of schools. We love our traditions and stability, our continuity of ethos and purpose. At the same time however, we move on; our own parameters and norms change, sometimes noticeably, sometimes imperceptibly. By the time our leavers – pupils and staff - hand on the torch to the next generation they will collectively and individually have had an impact on changing, developing and improving the school.

So whilst some things will not have changed very much since Jim Pettigrew's day I hope he will recognise some substantial shifts in the norms and parameters since 1976. As ever it is a pleasure to welcome back a Former Pupil of his calibre as our Guest of Honour at Prize-Giving. There is such a wealth of enthusiasm, energy, experience and expertise amongst the FP body that we are privileged to be able to welcome back people who have achieved success in so many areas of life.



And what of the School? What has happened over the past 12 months to alter our own parameters?

The session started off in remarkable fashion in two contrasting ways. In August 2011 we welcomed the World Schools' Debating Championships to the High School, in conjunction with the City of Dundee. 44 teams from all round the world descended on the school on the last Sunday of the holidays. HSD involvement extended to the organiser of this remarkable event, plus one of the team coaches. Then for the 2012 Championships in Capetown, South Africa, one of our number, April Shepherd, was a member of the World Championship winning Scotland team.

August 2011 also witnessed the tragic death of a very long-serving and much-loved and respected colleague, namely Tom Durrheim. He was a loyal and dedicated schoolmaster of unique and varied talents, two of which were debating and public-speaking, which he nurtured in his pupils over many years. The joy of debate, verbal fencing and intellectual arm-wrestling, was something he relished, alongside his passion for literature. He continues to be missed.

Between August and June it has been a remarkably busy year, as ever. Just to give a flavour of how much this school buzzes in term-time I thought I would outline what has been going on at HSD in just the last two weeks of term – in addition to the normal school routines.

- A university level post-exam programme of leadership training and lectures for F5/6
- A F2 trip to France
- Sports Day
- Two marvellous concerts, for the brass woodwind and guitar ensembles, and a string soiree respectively
- Sports Leadership Award programme
- Boase Medal for Golf
- Return to the Forbidden Planet
- DofE Silver, Gold and other expeditions
- Preparations for the India expeditions
- Visit by the German Consul General
- F6 leavers v staff golf day
- Sports fixtures
- Dundee Schools Track and Field Championships
- Interact Talent Show raising £1300
- F6 Leavers Ball

Many of these were new events, moving the school forwards. What about the rest of the year?

There are of course too many to mention individually but I will refer to a selected few examples which have been particularly significant, memorable and representative:

- 'Return to the Forbidden ... Theatre' – it was wonderful to see the school's dramatic and musical talents performing in the environment of a fully operational theatre after 5 years away. Those who were present at the senior school show at the Gardyne Theatre witnessed a wonderful evening of musical theatre, showcasing the remarkable talents of our pupils and staff.
- Holocaust Memorial Day Those who witnessed the astonishing Holocaust Memorial installation in the foyer this year, put together by the Art Dept and created by pupils in F1 and F2 found it a moving experience. The ceramic shoes formed a very powerful collective image indeed and we were honoured to welcome a survivor, Flora Selwyn, to open the installation. The room of shoes at Auschwitz, on which this was based, is a horrific memorial to the evil brutality of what man can inflict on his fellow man. The ceramic shoes however showed that through the creative power of art and a clear historical awareness they become a symbol for hope and all that is good - a wonderful encapsulation of everything we are trying to achieve as a school.
- FP Association: Inaugural Meeting 31 October 2011 As a school we are privileged to have active Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs, both now in existence for 80 years. They provide loyal support for the school either financially, in organising events, participating in Sports Day, or professional contacts and expertise. However, we now have an FP Association, which will provide the opportunity to bring together FPs of both genders at a range of events, social and otherwise. The Class of 2012 will be the first leavers to become members of this association, which will be automatic on leaving school. We hope it will enable FPs of all generations to keep in touch with each other and with their school.

- New Pitches at Dalnacraig In Olympic year it was fitting that we were able at last to open our outstanding new synthetic pitches at Dalnacraig in April. These will be used as part of our developing vision for an HSD Academy of Sport for all of our pupils, at the same time as providing a venue which will host competition, particularly in hockey, to international level. Continuing the Olympic theme it was wonderful to welcome Ron McIntosh and his Olympic torch to open our Sports Day this year. We also were so thrilled that Vikki Bunce had been selected for the GB Hockey squad, but equally upset for her that she failed by the narrowest, most agonising of margins to make the final team. Congratulations though to FP Eilish McColgan (2008) on her selection for Team GB to run the 3000m Steeplechase – a wonderful achievement.

If these are some of the innovations and changes this year there are also some things which are not fundamentally new, but simply have been achieved in a more effective way.

In charitable fundraising for example the High Helpers and Interact Club have continued to be very active in raising awareness of local, national and global issues. Congratulations to all on raising the remarkable sum of £37,000 this year – a record amount for the school.

Speaking of records, 2011 was a record-breaking year in terms our SQA examination results. The F5 Higher pass rate was 95.9%, with 58% of all papers achieving A grades. 70.5% of F5 achieved 5 Highers and 20% achieved 5 As. These were the best results in the school's history, and placed the High School in 3rd place nationally for Higher passes. At Advanced Higher the pass-rate was also a record-breaking 96.3%, with 53% As. Again these were the 3rd best results in Scotland for AH passes.

From these it is clear that the High School of Dundee outperforms the overriding majority of independent schools at all levels, and local authority schools by a very long way.

So what about the future? Each year the school produces an Improvement Plan, which evolves out of discussions and consultations at all levels of the school. This year we have been able to include the evidence provided by the detailed Questionnaire issued to Parents, Pupils and Staff in formulating improvement priorities for next session and beyond. In the words of Burns it is important we 'see ourselves as others see us'. Here is a brief summary:

A. Parents

Senior School

113 completed the questionnaire (21.6% of the SS parental body). The average overall school performance score given by the parents who responded was 83% which falls into the Excellent bracket. Of parents whose children were not in their first year 24% said it had improved over that last year, whilst 8% thought it had got worse. Of parents of new pupils, no-one felt that that the school had not lived up to their expectations, whilst 53% said it was better than they expected it to be.

Junior School

103 completed the questionnaire (42.2% of the JS parental body). The average overall performance score given by parents who responded was 90%, which clearly falls into the Excellent bracket. Of parents whose children were not in their first year, 18% said it had improved over the last year, whilst 5% thought it had got worse. Of parents of children new to the school no-one felt the school had not lived up to their expectations, while 37% said the school was better than they had expected.



And finally...

THANKS!

First to the Board of Directors, under Adrian Stewart, for their unsung hard work behind the scenes in providing strategic leadership and support to the school. Secondly, to the over 200 staff at the school, teaching and support, including the office and bursary staff, the technicians, the classroom, after-school and playground assistants, the caterers, cleaners and of course the team of janitors, without whom the school would cease to function.

Thirdly, my thanks also go to the various members of the wider High School 'family': All parents and the Parents' Association, the new FP Association, the Old Boys and Old Girls Clubs, the Appeal Trust Fund, and those who outside bodies which support the school, such as the Nine Incorporated Trades, the Guildry, and numerous other trusts.

My special thanks this year also go to David Mathers FP, whose most generous donation of a Trophy and Prize for Mathematics in Form 3 and Form 4, was awarded for the first time at Prize-Giving.

As ever, however, my final thanks each year are reserved for the pupils of the High School, whose energy, enthusiasm, talents and commitment never cease to inspire. Life is never dull with them around! In particular I thank our senior team of prefects, led by Cameron Richardson and Joanna Tait, as Head Boy and Girl, supported by their Deputies Steven Moyes and Joanna Waller, and the rest of Form 6. They are at the heart of our 'parameters of change'.

To all of the above, I conclude by quoting one of the pupil questionnaire returns:

"Great job, guys!"

Dr John D Halliday
Rector

B. Pupils

Senior School

615 (94.8% of the roll) completed the questionnaire. The average overall school performance score given by the pupils was 82% which falls into the Excellent bracket. Of those pupils had been attending the school for over a year 42% said it had improved over the last year, 36% thought it was the same, 15% thought it had got worse, 7% did not know.

Junior School

209 pupils (L4-L7) completed the questionnaires, who represent 98.6% of the JS roll.

C. Staff

Senior School

96 staff (teaching and support staff) completed the questionnaire. 63 out of 110 teaching staff, (55.5%) and 33 out of 81 support staff (40.1%) returned the forms. The average overall school performance score given by staff was 83%, which falls into the Excellent bracket.

Junior School

21 completed questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 87.5%. Staff gave an overall performance score of 95%, which again is clearly Excellent.

The overall results are therefore very encouraging, but I am also grateful to all parents, pupils and staff who responded as critical friends, providing a good deal of food for thought for future developments, and a number of pointers have been included in our Improvement Plan.

In the course of this session we have been investing heavily in our resources, and this will continue through the summer with the installation of a wireless network throughout the school, including Mayfield. This will enable us first to trial, and then I hope to implement across the school, the use of one-to-one tablet devices in learning and teaching. The educational possibilities are tremendous though of course they will have to be carefully managed. More anon.

The greatest resource of any school is however of course its staff. Last week in the Caird Hall, the Dalai Lama on his visit to Dundee encouraged us to develop an education of the heart. Warm-heartedness and compassion are needed to ensure the education of the mind did not lose the vital sense of moral direction and purpose. I feel strongly that our staff represent these values in abundance, not least in those who are leaving, or who have left during the course of this session. Tribute will be paid to them more fully elsewhere in this Review but I would like to thank in particular those who are retiring this session. They are, in alphabetical order, Val Brown, Dory Burt, Ruth Crighton, David Elgin, Roger Illsley, John Meehan, Jean Melville and Gillian Wood. Together they represent a staggering total of around 180 years of dedicated and professional commitment to the High School. Thank you for all you have done!

L4 and 5

The Stark Cup for Public Speaking
Alex Fish

Tie for International Recognition
(Martial Arts)
Ethan McColgan

The Prize for Guitar
Jamie Meade

The Marshall Prize for Recorder
(Early Stages)
George Youssef

The Marshall Prize for Recorder
(Early Stages)
George Youssef

L6

Academic Merit Prize
Robbie Coupar
Kirsten Grant
Sophie Levin
Laura Murphy

The Special Prize for Chess
Nathanael Fagerson

The Prize for Strings
Ailsa Macdonald

Tie for International Recognition
(Gymnastics)
Sarah McKenzie

The Marshall Prize for Recorder
(Upper Stages)
Charlotte Sharpe

Academic Merit Prize
The Robbie Prize for Public
Speaking
Hannah Alijani

Academic Merit Prize
The Prize for Woodwind
Anna Hudson

L7

Academic Merit Prize
Abhisri Chaudhuri
Glenn Davie
Kieran Forster
Tobias Gartner
Andrew Lang

Old Girls' Prize for Creative Writing
in L7
Beth MacAlpine

The Leng Silver Medal for Singing
Kirsty McRobbie

The Russell Trophy for Chess
Alastair Munnoch

The Prize for Brass
James Shearer

The Dr Rita Forrest Prize
for Art in L7
Morven Wright

Academic Merit Prize
Walter Smith Memorial Prize
for Drama in L7
Anoushay Okhai

The Prize for Piano Hutton Prize
for Environmental Studies in L7
Janey Speed

Old Girls' Trophy for all-round
ability in L7
Eilidh Fish

John McLennan Prize
for Proxime Accessit
Nena Nurbhai

The Old Girls' Prize for Piano
The Woodman Trophy for
Mathematics in L7
E M Stewart Prize for Dux of the
Junior School
Brian Lim

Form 1

Academic Merit Prize
Mariam Alijani
Hannah George
Catriona Murphy
Alexander Taylor
Eleanor Wyatt

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

Tie for International Recognition
(Choir)
Finlay McKillop

A S Drummond Prize for
Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Steven Roy

Academic Merit Prize
A S Drummond Prize for
Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Alice Inman

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
(Choir)
Leng Silver Medal for Singing
(Boys)
Joshua Rawcliffe

Alexander Mill White Prize for
all-round ability in Form 1 Girls
Florence Whytock Memorial Prize
for Dux of Form 1 Girls
Alex Smith

Alexander Mill White Prize for
all-round ability in Form 1 Boys
Robertson Prize for Dux of Form
1 Boys
Ivan Kapelyukh

Form 2

Academic Merit Prize
Taskeen Baitwal
Anna Brown
Sally Burnett
Ciara Mitchell
Megan Ross

Andrew K Paton Memorial Trophy
for All-Round Sporting Ability in
Form 2 Boys
Ewan Fox

Tie for International Recognition
(Brass Band)
Christie Swinton

Neil Fraser Cup and Prize for
all-round ability in Form 2 Boys
Andrew Elliott

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for all-round ability in
Form 2 Girls
Maya Nurbhai

RSL Macpherson Prize for
Dux of Form 2 Girls
Anushka Pathak

RSL Macpherson Prize
for Dux of Form 2 Boys
Kenneth Matheson

Prize list

Form 3

Academic Merit Prize

Molly Duncan
Ella Hudson
Sophie Kelly
Sophie Kroboth
Joshua McLaggan
Caitlin Richardson
Carys Stirling

Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)

Abbie Clark

Tie for International Recognition (Martial Arts)

Fraser Munnoch

Tie for International Recognition (Triathlon)

Euan Rose

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)

Rebekah Wilson-Pearce

Chris Rae Prize for Games in Form 3 (Girls)

Molly Andrew

Chris Rae Prize for Games in Form 3 (Boys)

Paul Kidd

Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra and Jazz)

Larg Prize for Woodwind (Grade 7 or above)

Alasdair Rennet

Academic Merit Prize

Larg Prize for Brass (Grade 7 or above)

Euan Strachan

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux of Form 3 Girls

Elidh Lockhart

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux of Form 3 Boys

Alister Goodfellow

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize

Jamie Clarkson
Daniel Davidson
Andrew Kelly
Jamie Mather
Adam Powrie

Tie for International Recognition (Angling)

Jack Hamilton

Tie for International Recognition (Rugby)

Christopher Jollands

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)

Karen Joss

Tie for International Recognition (Rugby)

Duncan Leese

Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)

Catriona Wallace

G H Philip Prize for Public Speaking

Zara Billah

The David Mathers Trophy and Prize for Mathematics in Form 3 and Form 4

Alis Reid

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International Recognition (Choir)

Alice Burnett

Tie for International Recognition (Choir) Leng Silver Medal for Singing (Girls)

Alison Ross

Intermediate Chess Club Trophy and Prize

Girls' Chess Trophy

Jenny Zhan

RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux of Form 4 Girls

Hannah Arnold

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux of Form 4 Boys

Marshall MacLeod

Form 5

Academic Merit Prize

James Lucocq
Cameron Pringle

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship)

Hassan Baig

Robert Biggar Prize for Higher Geography

Francesca Baldacchino

Spankie Quaich for Higher Technological Studies

Damon Ednie

Prize for Higher Physical Education

Lucy Harley

Tie for International Recognition (Netball)

Iona Johnston

University of Dundee Prize for Excellence in Higher Economics

Campbell MacLeod

Isabella Hunter Award for Higher Art

Cameron McNamara

Prize for Higher Classical Studies

Linzi Peters

Larg Prize for Guitar (Grade 7 or above)

Seth Scahill

High School Quaich for the Best All-Round Instrumentalist

Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble

Leeann Chen

Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Higher Music

Prize for Higher Computer Studies

Lewis Davie

Academic Merit Prize

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher Spanish

Tabitha Fleming

Tie for International Recognition (Hockey)

Games Merit Scarf (Hockey)

Susan Graham

Academic Merit Prize

James Stevenson Memorial Prize for Higher French

Morven Millar

Academic Merit Prize

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

Louise Patullo

Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra)

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher RMPS

Ailsa Purdie

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher History

Academic Merit Prize

Eleanor Robson

Jane Rae Prize for Home Economics

Richard Beaton Prize for Practical Cookery

Charlotte Thompson

Academic Merit Prize

Armitstead Trust Prize for Higher Modern Studies

Prize for Higher Latin

Sophie Armstrong

Academic Merit Prize

Glenday Award for Higher Biology

Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy and Book Prize for Higher Chemistry

Jakob Kroboth

J B Meiklejohn Prize for Mathematics in Form 5 (Boys)

Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Physics in Form 5

Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5 Boys

Harry Carstairs

E M Stewart Prize for Higher English

James Stevenson Prize for Higher German

Larg Prize for Piano (Grade 7 or above)

Larg Prize for Strings (Grade 7 or above)

Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble

Caroline S Low Prize for Dux of Form 5 Girls

Charlotte Collison

2012

Form 6

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Jennifer Allan

William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (History)
Donald Campbell

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Rebecca Campbell

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship
Elliot Killick

W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics
Laura Lee

P Gordon Grant Trophy for Games
Ross Mulford

T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry
Louise Ramsay

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship
Stewart Rodney

Sir John Leng Trust Prize for Dux in History
Hamish Scragg

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Callum Strachan

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Duncan Strachan

Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Girl
Joanna Waller

Prize for Higher Graphic Communication

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Lucy Abel

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies
Mhairi Henderson Cup and Rector's Prize for Dux in Physical Education (Girls)
Eilan Andrew

Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Lucy Arthur

Beckingham Trophy and Chess Club Prize
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Oliver Baker

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Alister Bankhead

Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics
William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics
Daniel Barton

Tie for International Recognition (Athletics)
Games Merit Scarf (Athletics)
Callum Edwards

Tie for International Recognition (Golf)
Games Merit Scarf (Golf)
Joshua Jamieson

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Cameron Lockhart

London - Angus Association Trophy for Reading and Public Speaking Forms 4-6
GH Philip Prize for Public Speaking
Holly Maxwell-Stevenson

Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4 - 6
Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English
Jessica McGoff

Prize for Higher Managing Environmental Resources
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Sarah McGregor

Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Cairan McLaggan

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Classical Studies
Prize for Higher Philosophy
Niall Moorjani

D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Cameron Spencer

W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computer Studies
Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics
Christopher White

Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology
Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science
Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education (Boys)
Grant Macfarlane

Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport
Larg Prize for Voice (Grade 7 or above)
Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Boy
Steven Moyes

Caird Prize for Higher Business Management
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (Geography)
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Chloe Scabill

Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Peter Vannet

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish

Eiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Modern Languages
Tie for International Recognition (Debating)

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

The Rorie Trophy for Inter House Debating
Wallace

Inter House Shield for Champion House
Ailie

Lowson Prize for Head of School (Girls)
Joanna Tait

Erskine Prize for Head of School (Boys)
Cameron Richardson

Rector's Prize for Proxime Accessit
Daniel Barton

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



Prize list 2012

Welcome



Ruth Leburn

Junior School

Ruth Leburn brings the family tree full-circle by joining the school attended by her grandfather in the early part of the twentieth century. With Dundee roots, she was in fact brought up in the Borders and was educated at a Quaker school in York. On completion of a Joint Honours MA in Art History and Italian at the University of St Andrews, she undertook her teaching qualification at Homerton College, Cambridge. Having spent time commuting to teaching practice on the M3, Ruth saw the light and applied for her first job in 1999 in the leafy town of Crieff, Perthshire, teaching happily at Morrison's Academy until 2006. Here she taught a variety of age groups and ran many co-curricular activities, being lucky enough to accompany a number of whole-school trips including exploration of the Outer Hebrides, skiing in Austria and a hockey tour to Barcelona. Following her marriage, she moved to Perth and then Cupar, teaching at Kilgraston Prep School before the birth of her first child in 2007. Having spent time at home with her two girls, Ruth began in the Junior School in January and has found life at the High School a joy, with staff and pupils being both friendly and helpful. Thanks to the experience and guidance of her L6 colleagues, Ruth has settled in well and is looking forward to experiencing the start of the academic year in the Junior School and to the continuation of the challenges and variety that make life in this profession so enjoyable.



Samantha Stewart

It was hail and farewell to Sam Stewart, who joined us in the Business Studies department at the beginning of 2012 and left at the end of the session to take up a permanent full time post at Kilgraston. We wish her all the best in this new post.

Alan Campbell

Alan came to HSD from the west coast from the Glasgow Academy. His interview success was sealed when his teaching lesson was being observed by Mrs Vannet he used his iPad throughout. He has had considerable experience before taking up the post. He graduated from University of Edinburgh BEd Physical Education Hons 2001, Working at University of Edinburgh as research fellow whilst completing his MSc, White Hill Community Secondary School, Dennistoun Glasgow.

Alan Campbell is one of Scotland's top rugby referees and often holds Monday morning seminars on the various refereeing performances from the previous Saturday, something that the PE staff look forward to!

He has taken on the position with relish and is often found in school sending emails at a very early time in the morning or in the office at Mayfield over his holidays. His enthusiasm and dedication is impressive and has already moved things forward in various areas such as overseeing the completion of the Dalnacraig astro pitches, commencing strength and conditioning for numerous groups and broadening the opportunities for sport at various levels within the school. This he has accomplished while travelling all over Scotland to referee on Saturday afternoons, redeveloping his new house from what can only be described as four walls and a roof and keeping in favour with his wife.

We wish him every success in his post.



Neil Higgins

Business School

Neil joined the school in January 2012, teaching in the Business Education Department with a focus on Economics and Accounting. He graduated from the University of Dundee with a BSc Hons in Economics. Thereafter, he joined the British Army attending the Royal Military Academy in May 2005 and commissioning into the Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services) in April the following year. He was then posted to various locations in England and served a tour of duty in Iraq between October 07 and April 08. On returning from Iraq, he was posted to the Gurkha Language Wing in Catterick where he taught English to Gurkha recruits and assisting the recruiting process in Nepal. Neil's last posting in the Army was as a Staff Officer responsible for the evaluation of training for Army Lawyers and Educators. Whilst serving in the Army he completed a PGCE and Post Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Southampton. He is married to Claire and has a one year old son called Daniel. In his spare time he likes to participate in all types of sport, in particular skiing and triathlon.



Lucy Hegan

Lucy Hegan joined the High School's History and Modern Studies departments in August this year following a very successful probationary year in Eastwood High School, East Renfrewshire.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Lucy crossed the water to study History at Glasgow University before embarking on a career with Barclays Bank. But an enthusiasm for travel took Lucy to the continent, teaching English as a foreign language in Italy and Spain. This instilled a passion for teaching and a desire to pursue a different career path. In her first year at the High School, Lucy has been fully involved in school activities from Charities to Horrible Histories as well as an enthusiastic contributor to the Ski Trip and the History Department trip to the WW1 Battlefields. Her bubbly, enthusiastic personality has made her a popular teacher with all her classes and a welcomed addition to the Bonar Faculty!

Miss Hegan will return in August as Mrs McTurk, as she prepares for her wedding to James in July. We wish her all the best with the wedding and a long and happy marriage.



Eilidh Whatley-Marshall

Eilidh joined us from Kelvinside Academy in January where she taught for four years after a career change. Previously working in the book industry in London, Eilidh has a vast knowledge of literature and is a voracious reader, particularly in literature of the 1920s. Her interest in literature started in Dundee where she studied, and she is very pleased to have returned to her hometown, along with her young daughter, Kingsley. Outside of work, Eilidh considers Jazz to be a "bit of a passion" – seeking gigs around the country. She enjoys fine wine and has taken up swimming, where she is soon to be promoted out of the 'slow' lane!

She brings a fresh and vibrant outlook to the department blending traditional and rigorous teaching with innovative lessons and has already made her mark in the department in the short time since she joined us.



Jillian Wallace
Junior School

Jillian was born and grew up near Dundee. She graduated from the University of Dundee with a 1st class Bachelor of Education degree in 2009. During her time at university she completed placements at various schools in Angus including Newbigging, Auchterhouse and Chapelpark. After university Jillian began her probationary year at Letham Primary School, near Forfar. Here she taught a large primary 3 class. On completion of her probationary year she secured a year's contract teaching at Inverkeilor Primary School near Arbroath where she taught a range of classes from primary one to seven. Alongside this she also worked part-time at Hayshead Primary School where she also taught classes from nursery age to primary seven. Having many family connections with the High School of Dundee, Jillian was delighted to join the school in August 2011. Immediately she was very impressed with the excellent manners and superb work ethic of all the pupils. One particular highlight for Jillian this year was the L7 trip to Paris where the fantastic weather and great activities ensured everyone had a very enjoyable time.

This year Jillian started the Young Speakers club for L6 and L7 where they have the chance to improve their public speaking skills and learn about debating. She also enjoyed working with the younger pupils during the L3 Fit Club. Jillian has thoroughly enjoyed her first year at the High School of Dundee and is very much looking forward to another busy year in L7.



Ashley Cummins

Mr Ashley Cummins joined the High School of Dundee community this year as a part-time teacher of Philosophy and Religion. Ashley is a well-known face around Dundee, having served as an Episcopal priest in several parishes in the area, as well as chaplain to the University of Dundee, and he has taught at several high schools in the area. He completed his Theology and Ministry Studies at the universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh before completing his teacher training at the University of Aberdeen.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at the High School, Ashley is currently the Pastor of All Souls' Episcopal Church in Invergowrie and in his spare time enjoys playing lead fiddle with 'The Phenobarbitones', a local ceilidh band. Ashley assumes teaching responsibilities for classes from L7 to F4, and he has started a new Philosophy Club that meets every Thursday at lunchtime.

Sheila Kelly
After School Care Assistant

Sheila Kelly joined us as an After School Care assistant in March 2012 having spent the previous six months on supply.

A native Dundonian, Sheila was born in a house very close to Mayfield Sports Ground and although the house is still standing there appears to have been some delay in installing the commemorative plaque!

She was educated in schools in the city before deciding to follow in the footsteps of her parents, grandmother and numerous aunts and uncles and become a teacher. After completing her B.Ed. in Primary Education at St Andrew's College of Education, Sheila taught in schools in England and Scotland.

Sheila is delighted to be working at the High School of Dundee (and starting her working "day" at 3p.m.) and greatly appreciates the warm welcome she has received, in After School Care, from staff and children alike.



Scott McBride

Scott McBride was born and educated in Monifieth where he attended Monifieth High School from 1996 to 2001. He graduated from Robert Gordon University in Computing for Business and E-commerce in 2005. After university he worked for HBOS Plc. in Dundee as a Retail Banking Representative (no bonuses were ever received!). After two years, Scott went to pursue a career in teaching by completing his PGDE in Computing at The University of Aberdeen in 2008. Prior to his post at High School of Dundee he taught for 18 months at Harris Academy, Dundee and one session at Webster's High School in Kirriemuir. Scott has been actively involved in the co-curricular life of the school including: Link Teacher to Young Enterprise and coaching Form 3, 5 and 6 boys football. Outside of school he enjoys golf, cycling holidays, foreign travel and skiing.

Love is in the Air!

Claire Reid
English

Claire Anderson became Mrs Claire Reid in the summer of 2011 when she married her fiancé, Graham. The bride and groom thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony and reception which were both held at the Invercarse Hotel, Dundee, and attended by family and friends. The newlyweds then spent a few days in New York before taking full advantage of some rest and relaxation on a Caribbean cruise.

Louisa MacPherson
Woodwind Teacher

Congratulations to Louisa MacPherson, our part-time woodwind teacher, who got engaged in the spring. She is to marry Jonathan Gawn on 20th July 2012 in Aberdeen.

New arrivals

Congratulations

To Fraser Burke, our part time piano instructor, and his wife Finola who gave birth to their second child Elliot on 31.10.11 - a baby brother for Theo, aged seven.

Flora Ross became a big sister on 1st April 2012, when mum Lesley Ross, of the Home Economics department, gave birth to baby James Murray Lawrie Ross. Dad Euan is also delighted!

Welcome to Finlay, who was born on 11th November 2011, first child to Jonathan Christie, Director of ICT, and his wife Caroline.

It is safe to say that Clare Laird-Portch, Head of Business Studies was not at a Burns supper this year as her baby son Sebastian James made his appearance on 25th January! Congratulations to Clare and her husband Geoff and welcome to Sebastian.'

Multi-hatching Modern Languages

2011 was an exceptionally busy year in Modern Languages, with the arrival of no fewer than four babies. First of all, Mia Smith was born in February, followed by Nicola Summerville in May. Stella arrived in the MacKinnon household in November and Ms Aguero's son Sebastian was born in December, at the same time completing the quartet and ending the run of girls. All four are thriving, while the parents are coping with sleepless nights and other hazards!

Maternity leave was covered briefly by Ms Elaine Todd and Ms Julie Bernard, and by Mr Frank McAvinue, who, having covered Mrs Smith's classes, has now taken over Ms Aguero's role until her return to work in 2013. Mr McAvinue is a very welcome addition to the Department, and has in addition accompanied the L7 trip to Paris in March, and recently led the Spanish exchange trip to Malaga. The school is very grateful to him for his commitment and for fitting in seamlessly to the day-to-day workings of a busy department.



David Elgin

David Elgin retired from the Maths department after 22 years of distinguished service. He started teaching in 1977 at Harris Academy in Dundee and left Harris Academy in 1990 to join the staff of the High School of Dundee. He has made a valuable contribution to the work of the school and will probably be remembered most for the outstanding Maths website he designed and maintained; a website used by teachers all over the world. When advent of the Highway meant that the Maths website was closed to the public, teachers from Holland, Australia and the Middle East, to name but a few, contacted the school to find out where this excellent resource had gone. Over the years he has looked after and guided young teachers and students; always interested in new educational developments and happy to keep up to date with them. Even in his last year of teaching, he has embraced the use of the latest interactive Geometry software and has for the first time taken Maths lessons in ICT suites. His sense of humour and quick wit is known to the staff who have worked with him and he has certainly amused pupils in his classes with his Maths jokes and anecdotes. David will not be relinquishing ties with the High School as he will have two daughters in the senior school next session. He takes an active interest in their education and hopes to be kept busy helping with homework.



Dory Burt

Sadly Dory is retiring at the end of this term after ten years in the Learning Skills department. She joined the High School of Dundee in August 2002 having previously been Head of Support for Learning at St Saviours H.S. She has contributed to the life at the High School in many ways, being involved with the L7 Paris trips and Junior School shows. She started up the Gardening Club for the L4 pupils which led to the installation of windows in the corridors looking out over the courtyard garden. Throughout her time in Learning Skills Dory has had a huge impact on the lives of so many pupils that she has taught and she will be greatly missed.

Dory is looking forward to her retirement: looking after her grandson Sam, spending more time in her apartment in Spain, planning holidays, gardening and home improvements

A big thank you also to Joyce Chalmers (covering for Morag's maternity leave) for all the support she has given to the department since joining the Learning Skills department in February this year.

Ruth Crichton

We also bade farewell to Mrs Ruth Crichton of the Business Studies department. Ruth came to us in 2006, from Angus College, where she taught Economics and Accounting. Ruth quickly established herself as a valued member of the High School, and stood in as acting Head of Department prior to the arrival of the present Head. When retirement beckoned at the end of last year, Ruth might have thought she could hang up her marking pen and lesson plans for good, but she stepped in the breach yet again during a maternity leave in the department.

It will be clear, then, that Ruth has given us sterling service at the High School and now that she has finally actually left us, we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Hannah Hamilton

Hannah joined the High School in February 2006 and looked after Admissions and Marketing for more than five and a half years.

Hannah was Involved in CCF on a regular basis, but at various times also supported theatre trips, drama productions, Duke of Edinburgh, as well as Junior School trips. In addition, she was a lively and enthusiastic contributor to the Staff Social Committee and Charities Committee.

Hannah told us the best part of being at HSD was that she was in the in the lucky (and almost unique) position of having the opportunity to work with absolutely everyone in the school. "The staff - teaching and support staff - at the High School are an incredible team who made my job extremely easy. Working at the High School was a joy - although my new job is wonderful, it would have been great if I could have brought you all with me!" She worked with hundreds of pupils and parents as they went through the process of joining HSD, and loved following the pupils as they grew up through the school.

Hannah at the end of November 2011 is to join St Peter's School in York, a co-ed day and boarding school - one of the oldest in the world, and even older than the High School! We wish her well in her new post.



Jean Melville

Director of Music

Having been a well-respected member of the High School of Dundee staff for many years, Jean Melville will be greatly missed. Her first association with the school began thirty eight years ago, when she first joined the Music Department at High School in 1974, leaving to have her family in 1978. She returned in 1989, becoming Acting Head in 1999, Head of Music in 2001, and Director of Music in 2011.

Jean has overseen many changes in the Music curriculum during her time at the helm. She dramatically expanded the provision of instrumental music within the school and established the strong choral tradition that is within the school. In addition, she developed strong links with the community through her varied co-curricular programme.

In her various roles, Jean has left a legacy of musical firsts. She started the Christmas and Spring concerts in the Caird Hall. These have not only been a platform for our highly talented pupils and a highlight in the school calendar, but have also raised thousands of pounds for children's and local charities.

In her role as Musical Director, numerous productions have been enjoyed by generations of pupils and families: Oliver, Guys and Dolls, Calamity Jane, Kiss me Kate, The Sound of Music, Destination Broadway, Dido and Aeneas to name but a few. The variety and challenge of these shows always brought out the very best in her charges and ensured there was something for everyone! Other pantomimes and Junior School productions were also performed under her watchful eye.

Jean organised and led numerous highly successful Performance Trips to Europe- Paris, Berlin, Salzburg, Vienna, Prague, Montreux, Lake Garda, Oberuruff (German Exchange School), Gibraltar, Lisbon and even a Music cruise to Madeira. These trips were a wonderful experience for the musicians in her care and also for the audiences they charmed with their music. She also spearheaded links with schools in Paris and Germany, leading to opportunities for school performances both here and abroad.

Her link with foreign places is set to continue as Jean and her husband, David, enjoy travelling and are currently organising a personal Music trip to Memphis, Nashville and New Orleans. We wish Jean health and happiness for a long and well deserved "holiday" and thank her for her contributions to the High School of Dundee. She has inspired many and all that is left to say now is, "Thank you for the music", Jean!

Farewell

Top of the class for coverage of Dundee

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

WIN an iPad 3 Page 10

TEAM GB - your guide to the Paralympics Pages 42 - 47

First for local news

Thursday August 28, 2013

Tayside Police chief claims thrown out

There will be no further investigation into the Tayside Police

CANOE TRAGEDY CLAIMS THIRD YOUNG LIFE

Nightclub's pledge on fingerprints

The owners of a Dundee nightclub which has started a new pledge not to share the information they hold with any third parties - other than the

53 Group PLC, which runs the nightclub on Dundee, has announced it will not share the information they hold with any third parties - other than the

page 13

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

Protecting the vulnerable from the internet troll Gary Barlow was a victim - page 21

Noddy the intrepid tortoise makes epic journey Find out how far he travelled - page 35

First for local news

Thursday August 29, 2013

Residents in fear for their lives - claim

STUDENT WALKS FREE AFTER MURDER TRIAL

Trio lost on outskirts of Dundee

The three girls in Dundee who were taken to a nearby field by their father last week were clearly not abducted, it has emerged. Three female teenagers who were taken last week to a nearby field were not abducted, it has emerged. The father told the court that the girls were taken to a nearby field and were not abducted.

page 13

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

The SFA - getting kids on the ball First of three-part series, pages 10-11

Black Watch play heads for the Orient Production to be seen by new audiences, page 9

First for local news

Wednesday August 28, 2013

Blow for Dundee as more jobs are axed

CLAIMS NURSE NUMBERS HAVE FALLEN

The number of nurses and midwives working for the health service in Dundee has fallen for a second year, new figures have revealed. Statistics released yesterday revealed there was an 11 per cent drop in the number of nurses and midwives working for the health service in Dundee.

page 2

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

INSIDE: FIND YOUR IDEAL HOME IN OUR 12-PAGE HOUSE & HOME SUPPLEMENT

The pain that awaits you at Falkland Palace Page 11

Chris Hoy swaps wheels for a set of wings Page 13

First for local news

Thursday August 29, 2013

Deadly bug scare at Dundee centre

EXCLUSIVE: How Wilson

LEGIONELLA BACTERIA, which can cause a deadly respiratory disease, have been found at a community centre in Dundee, it has emerged. The discovery was made after a routine test of the water in the centre's swimming pool.

page 11

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

Amputee tells of flat misery

A Dundee amputee tells of the misery of living in a flat. The man, who is now in a wheelchair, says he has been in the flat for over 10 years and has had to live with a host of problems, including a lack of space and a lack of facilities for his wheelchair.

page 4

New problem highlighted

East Dundee councillor Lesley Brown has highlighted a new problem in the city. She says that many people are struggling to find affordable housing in the area.

page 5

LEGEND HAMISH IS "ON THE MEND"

Dundee's top footballer Hamish Strachan says he is "on the mend" after suffering a heart attack at the weekend. The former Scotland striker, who is now at Hearts, says he is feeling better and is expected to return to the pitch soon.

page 13

Dundee edition

THE COURIER

Police chief claims to be kept private

Motor de takeover

Motorist four times

SWIMMERS TACKLE TAY CHALLENGE

Stephen Goh (left) was one of the hardy swimmers who took the plunge in the River Tay at Dundee last night for the Kay to Seal Bridge swim.

page 10

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Louise Dunn

Five years ago, Louise Dunn blew into the High School of Dundee and has been a breath of fresh air in the English department ever since.

She has always been a positive and enthusiastic presence in the department and contributed a great deal to the curriculum in the years she has been with us, as well as willingly taking part in theatre trips and open mornings, school parties and dances, concerts and pantomimes – performing, that is!

She is a bit of a fitness freak and could often be seen striding out along the road to school from Broughty Ferry – and sometimes back again at night! They say a change is as good as a rest and now that she is moving back to Prestwick, Louise will have a change of route for her walks as she sets off for Wellington School, where she takes up her new post in August. We will miss her in the department – and so will her pupils – but we wish her well in the future.



Gillian Wood

Gillian says good-bye to the school after a long association spanning more than half a century as pupil, parent and member of staff. When she left the High School at the end of F6 she attended Dundee College of Education and spent a few years teaching in Dundee before leaving to have her family. She did not lose contact with the school, however, as she played tennis and hockey for the former pupil clubs during these years.

Once her own children, Elizabeth and Graeme, had started here, she went back to teaching and in 1984 started as a supply teacher for DHS as it was then. A few years later she became a permanent member of staff and in 1995 she moved to L1 where she has taught ever since, epitomising L1 and by implication the High School for so many pupils and parents.

She says she feels privileged to have taught in the school and can't believe how quickly the years have sped by. One of her greatest pleasures is on Leaver' Day hearing what her former pupils are going to do next with their lives.

She says she leaves with mixed feelings as she will miss the children and the school community but is looking forward to lowering her golf handicap, improving her bridge skills and seeing more of her grandchildren in London.

Gillian will be hugely missed by the pupils, parents and staff who have huge respect for her as a teacher and by many to whom she has been a loyal and generous friend.



John Meehan

John Meehan retires after 27 years' service to the Classics Department. He came from a school in Edinburgh in February 1985 to be Head of Classics taking over from his predecessor Sandy Smith who had been promoted to management.

John is a very self-effacing man, dismissive of his achievements with a dry sense of humour and a wealth of stories. He coached rugby for ten years in the school. He has built up a fabulous Classics library of several thousand volumes in the Department class-rooms. He has led and participated on fourteen trips to Italy and Greece over the years, seven of them overland by coach. Since 1991 he has led a school trip to Hadrian's Wall almost every year. He's a stickler for spelling (knowing Latin and Greek is very useful for this!) And he cycles to school every day, rain or shine.

In the wider Classics community he has been involved in maintaining standards for the SQA, being the national convenor of the Latin and Greek panel, a vetter for Higher and Advanced Higher Greek and a marker of the Higher Latin Papers.

He is very proud to have taught Classics, Latin and Ancient Greek in this school. He is proud of the disciplinary and academic standards of the High School and the quality of the pupils.

What are his plans for retirement? Well that's a secret but his wife has taken early retirement from the Morgan Academy so they will enjoy it together!



Roger Illsley

Roger has had a long association with the High School of Dundee, having been a member of staff in various capacities – English teacher, Head of Drama and latterly Deputy Rector.

He was responsible for the setting up of the Drama department and has been responsible for over twenty school productions over the years! However, once an English teacher always an English teacher: Roger retained his love of literature (especially Shakespeare) and even as a Deputy Rector, he was always pleased to be asked to take a few periods each week teaching English. Though spending his last few years in school as a member of the Board of Studies, Roger was never too caught up with the administration and running of the school to get involved with the lives of the pupils: he always cares about what happens to the young people of this school – he has their welfare very much at heart.

As for his colleagues: well, Roger is very sociable, witty and good company and he will be missed at staff functions and get-togethers! The staff and pupils of the school wish him a long and happy retirement.

Valerie Brown

Val came to the High School eight years ago because retirement had become boring. Life has not been boring since then.

An economist and mathematician, Val spent the largest part of her working life as a Lecturer then Senior Lecturer in two Colleges of Further Education. She began her teaching career in Dundee College where she took classes in SCE Higher economics. She was also heavily involved in co-ordinating the college timetable and a member of the team that introduced a computerised element to the process.

During her time at Dundee College, Val was part of the late eighties Tayside Region Open Learning Project led by the then Director of Education for FE, Geoffrey Drought. With Stuart McCulloch (then a colleague at Dundee College, later to become a member of Staff at the High School) she also broadcast a series of Economics programmes for Campus Radio.

After a couple of years as a senior administrator with the Strathclyde Business School, Val moved back to teaching as a Senior Lecturer at Lauder College in Dunfermline. There she taught economics, marketing and management to second year university level. She also developed and ran HNC and HND courses in Business and in Accounting as well as the HNC and PG Diploma in Management. The only way she was able to get some of these courses started was to resort to complex, sometimes devious timetabling. While at Lauder College Val was invited to be a member of the working party which developed the SQA national award for the PG Diploma and the HNC in Management. She was also part of the Higher Still Business Management development team.

After the best part of thirty years involvement with timetabling, the most challenging task by far has been the instrumental timetable at High School. It's trying to please everyone that's the problem!

Not long before she started working at the High School Val had started learning violin - yes, very late in life - and he has worked up to Grade 5 classical and Grade 4 traditional standard. Val's project for the next year is to take these two exams – assuming Ms Simpson says she has worked hard enough!

Val is also looking forward to playing more golf, partly as a replacement for the exercise she will lose climbing to the top of the Margaret Harris building several times a day and returning to the art studies she gave up too long ago to admit to when she had her children.



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Inspiring business people

Development Department

The Development team work to encourage and maintain strong links with the whole school community, former pupils, former parents and friends across the world.

They keep the school family in touch with each other and the school, by arranging regular class reunions, as well as through the two main communications, The Pillars and the e-newsletter, Highlights. This year, as well as supporting the work of the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs, the Development team has helped to establish the foundation of a historical new group of former pupils, staff and former staff: The High School of Dundee FP Association. Their inaugural meeting on the 31st October 2011 was well attended and the new committee is working to set up a variety of events for the group, the first being the 2012 Leavers' BBQ which was held on the last day of the summer term. The Association now has their own Facebook group which can be accessed on Facebook at High School of Dundee FP Association.

The Development team encourages pupils to come back and visit the school for significant anniversaries and during the course of 2011-12 the classes of 1967 and 1977 both came back, with the class of

1976 meeting at the Tay Yacht Club in early September. In November last year the School Armistice Parade fell on Friday 11th and to mark this special date FPs who had held high office in the CCF were invited back to take part in the service.

A number of school events are also supported by the team and 2011-2012 was no exception. In September the Development office helped to organise Doors Open Day with the general public being encouraged to visit the Margaret Harris Building, formerly known as the Girls' school. A historical exhibition was mounted and tours of the building were taken. The second Careers Business Breakfast was organised for March 2012 and the Development team worked with the Business Management Department and a group of F6 pupils to ensure another highly successful event for F5 and F6 pupils with over 40 members of the local business community attending to network with the senior pupils. This is a tremendous benefit to the pupils and a wonderful opportunity for local companies too.

The Development team also supports the vital work of the High School of Dundee Foundation, the charity which co-ordinates all the fundraising events for the school and provides much needed finance for bursaries. The year started with the second annual Golf Competition which is now becoming a favourite fundraising event. This was swiftly followed by a lunch for the Heritage Society, the association for individuals who have pledged legacy support to the school. Each year the numbers for this lunch are growing as people generously remember the school in their will. The Foundation has also received several substantial legacies from generous donors all of which will benefit the on-going work of the school. The 770 Club Lottery still remains a firm favourite with lucky members winning a range of prizes in the monthly draw. The Foundation Trustees were also delighted to receive some significant donations for the building of the Dalnacraig pitches, both from individuals and Charitable Trusts.

So, thanks to everyone for keeping in touch and for helping to make our school community so vibrant.



Dalnacraig Opening April 2012







2011 will be a memorable year
for many for a variety of reasons.

Geography



Our Geographers will remember it for being the year that the world's population reached 7,000,000,000. Pupils and staff were asked to guess the date of this symbolic event and suggest where in the world it would take place. Over £125.00 was raised and money was donated to 'Signpost International' to support their work in reducing famine in East Africa.

Our links with the University of St Andrews continued when we were visited by a group of undergraduate students from China. They spent the afternoon with our F1 pupils, who have been learning about the geography of China. Pupils had the opportunity to explore Chinese culture and language and share their understanding over an authentic cup of Chinese tea.



Geographical Journeys has been the theme this year as we continue to explore people and the planet. September is the start of the annual field work calendar that provides an opportunity for most geographers to take their learning beyond the class room. Spending a sunny late summer day at Tentsmuir with the Higher pupils sets the scene for the year ahead while the F3 explored how our past has shaped our future in the Cairngorms National Park.

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 exploring the Yorkshire Dales National Park and familiarising themselves with the many features and uses of limestone environments.

The team has been busy preparing the department for the changes to the National Curriculum and this has provided us with an opportunity to consider the people and places our learners will be studying in the years ahead.



The Advanced Higher group resumed their annual sojourn to the Kindrogan Field Studies Centre in Enochdhu where they participated in a variety of field work activities in a bid to investigate physical features and processes to equip them with the necessary field work skills to complete their own field work study as part of the AH portfolio. This year the Advanced Higher pupils benefitted from the expertise provided by the Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme at the University of St Andrews.

We were thrilled to have Colin McAdam back in the team and excited for Val Vannet as she uses her geographical compass to steer the school in the right direction as she takes on the role as Deputy Rector.

We are looking forward to a return visit to Iceland in August and very much crossing our fingers that the Eyjafjallajökull volcano has a restful summer!

Horrors of the Holocaust Remembered

In recognition of International Holocaust Day 2012, pupils opened "Holocaust" – a collaborative art installation at the School's War Memorial. This powerful and extremely moving collective art piece, which was created by all first and second-form pupils, was officially opened by Holocaust survivor, Mrs Flora Selwyn.

Working with Art and History departments, pupils heard about the atrocities which took place at the concentration and extermination camps operated by Nazi Germany during World War II. The children's display was highly evocative, reflective of the haunting exhibition of the room of vast quantity of victims' shoes which are on public display in enormous heaps at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp in Poland.

Annie Caldwell, Form 2, said: "It was really emotional making the shoes when you considered that the people who would have worn them had died under such terrible circumstances. It is important to remember this heart-breaking event, to remember every life lost and to hope that it never happens again."

As Mr Mackenzie, Head of Art, explained: "The pupils responded extremely well to a difficult and harrowing topic and, with their mature attitude and engagement with the project, have been a credit to the School. Their hard work is commendable and they have provided fellow pupils, staff and visitors to the School with an ideal opportunity to recognise International Holocaust Day."

Art



From left: Jennifer Coull (F1), Gregor Vagg (F1), Mrs Flora Selwyn, Ellen Eyles (F6)

Holocaust



Holocaust was an art installation created to commemorate International Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January 2012. All pupils in Form 1 and Form 2, almost 200 in total, participated in the project, which was devised by the Art and Design Department, and produced glazed ceramic shoes.

This challenging project drew its inspiration from the very poignant and disturbing displays at Auschwitz concentration camp, where the enormous piles of personal possessions, such as spectacles and shoes, which were taken from the victims of Nazi oppression at this infamous camp during World War 2, are chillingly exhibited.

The installation was conceived as an evolving work and, to symbolise how the persecution of various groups escalated during the Nazi regime, it increased in size systematically over seven days, culminating in a haunting and powerful work.

The large-scale installation was exhibited in the foyer of the main building for a number of weeks. Mrs Fiona Selwyn, a Holocaust survivor, participated in the opening ceremony, which was also attended by the media. The project was very well-received and was featured on the STV evening news and Radio Tay, and also in a number of local newspapers.

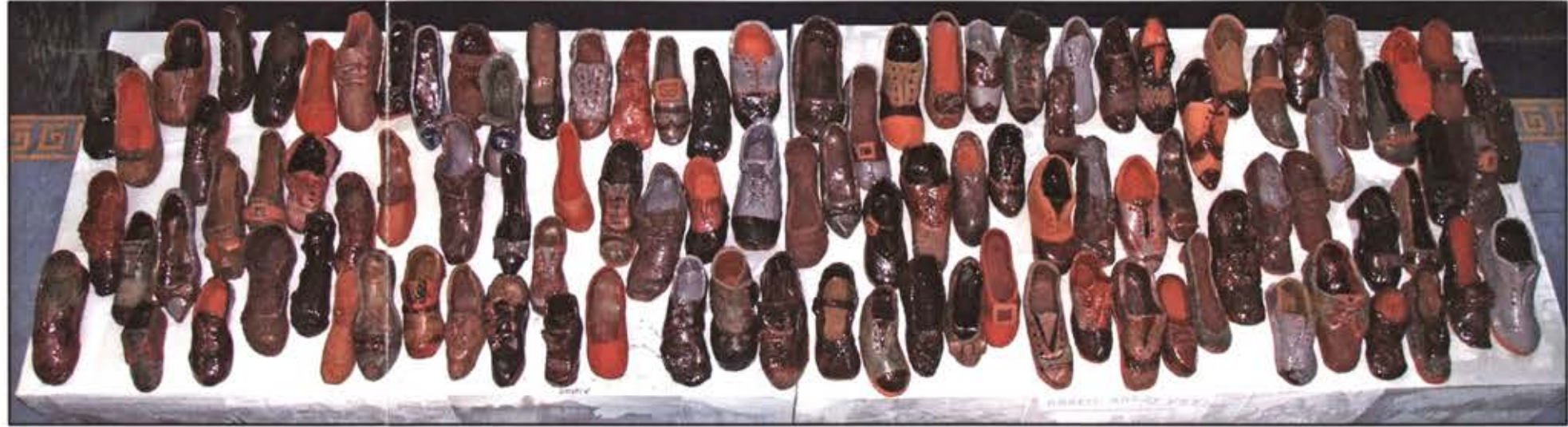
Although created from nearly two hundred individual pieces, the installation possessed a unified, coherent quality, while the wide variety of shoes produced by the pupils, including elegant footwear, workmen's battered boots and tiny children's shoes, ensured that each item had a personal and unique character. Our pupils responded extremely well to a very demanding and difficult topic and, with their commitment and mature attitude, were a credit to the school.



Detail of the installation



Day 1



Day 4

Holocaust - an installation by all pupils in Form 1 and Form 2.



Day 7: the completed installation



Emily Wilson-Pearce, F1



Agris Fagerson, F1



Joshua Goring, F3



Antonia Grier, F4



Araminta Yates, F4



Morgan Hutchison, F6



Rachel Allen, F3



Claire Mather, F2



Laura Strachan, F4



Roisin McCrimmon, F3



Euan Robb, F2



Katie Morris, F2



Kerren Jollands, F1



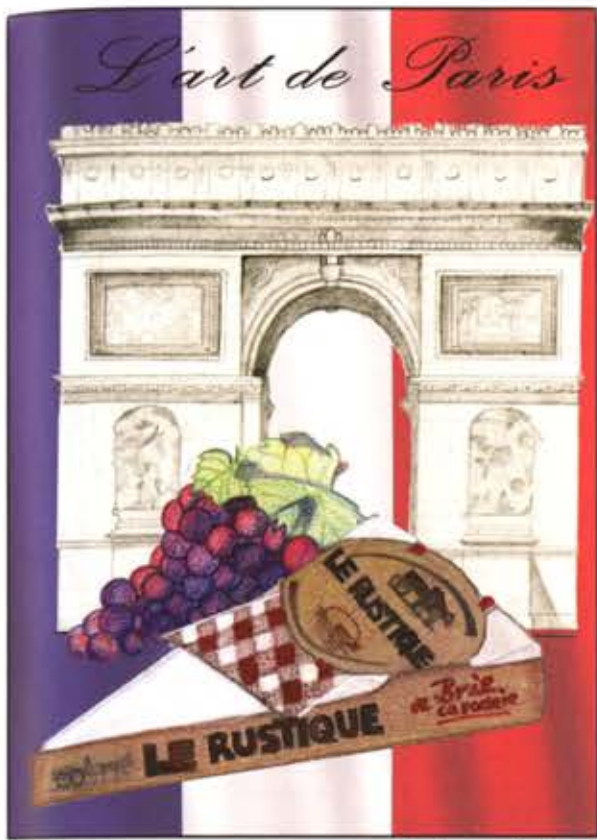
Kate Spalding, F3



Fiona Smith, F5



Alexandra Vagg, F1



Charlotte Hair, F3

Gallery



Ailsa Johnston, F5



Alice Burnett, F4



Pallavi Pillai, F4



Alis Reid, F4



Olivia Tait, F4



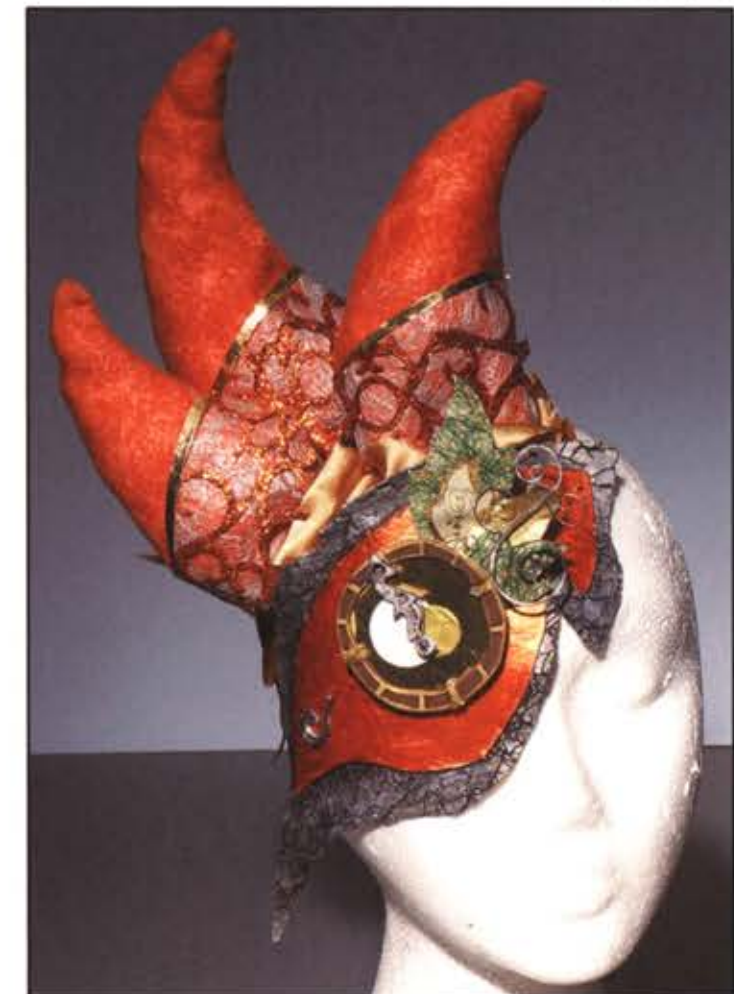
Ivan Kapelyukh, F1



Callum Rennet, F5



Kirsty Stout, F5



Karen Joss, F4

Open Morning

The culinary talents of our pupils were again on display at Open Morning when James Montador L7, Mhairi Millar F1 and Charlotte Thompson, F4 cooked a wonderful array of food from a selection of dishes they have made during their coursework. Visitors were suitably impressed and the pupils were a credit to the school.



Inter-departmental Projects

There were a number of projects this year involving Junior school. The L2 Potato project was a great success again and the pupils were delighted to make their potato salad in the dept. Over 6kg of potatoes were grown in the planters. L3 had an Egypt Day again and made their flatbreads, L5 Challenge group made muffins to sell at their Fair-Trade activity week and L4 made "pieces of eight" for their Pirate Day. L1 made Jubilee desserts.



Competitions

It has been a year of competitions starting with the Futurechef in October where Mhairi Millar represented HSD at the local final. This was followed by The Rotary Chef competition in January and then the Scone and Cup Cake challenge competitions in May and June. Many pupils took part and enjoyed the experiences.

Exchange Visitors

The department was happy to welcome our exchange group from Spain and they appeared to thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to do some traditional Scottish baking as Home Economics is not available as a school subject in Spain.



Fair Trade

The department again chose to raise awareness of the Fair Trade movement during Fair Trade fortnight in February. Chocolate and banana muffins were made in class by pupils in L5 and F2 using Fair Trade sourced ingredients and donated for sale at morning interval. Along with other Fair Trade products they sold like "hot cakes".

Mrs Ross left at the end of February on maternity leave and we were delighted to welcome back Mrs Susan Farnan to take over Mrs Ross' role in the department until January 2013.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club continues to be a very useful activity and fund raiser. The introduction of hot pain-au-chocolat at morning interval has proved very successful in keeping profits up. High Helpers have been the mainstay of the club with special mention to Ray Lynham and Euan Strachan F4 and Lucy Arthur F6 for their loyalty and commitment. Many charities both at home and abroad have benefited from everyone's efforts.

Enterprise Activities

These have taken place at various times of the year with both junior and senior school pupils. The junior school pupils baked muffins for sale at their Fair Trade Fortnight Activity, the seniors did the same and in addition, F1 baked and raised money for charity before Christmas. The Form 5 Enterprise group constructed hot water bottle covers and felt Christmas decorations for sale at the Charities fair in November.



Home Economics

It has been another busy year in the Home Economics department.



This year has been a busy year in the school library. Here is a snapshot of some of the highlights of this year.



The L7 hot-air balloon competition! As part of our Book Week celebrations in October all L7 pupils choose a character from a book to enter a hot-air balloon. Five were chosen from each class and for three weeks the chosen pupils transformed into their characters and had to complete a series of tasks, from surviving a gruelling interview to a more physical challenge. During these three weeks the balloons all travelled around the library and at the end the class chose a winner. As well as being fun for all pupils this introduced everyone to some lesser known book characters.

Also during Book Week we held a Readathon in Junior School. All pupils involved were sponsored to read as many books as they could in a two week period. This year 177 pupils read an astonishing 1184 books and raised a staggering £4094.15 to be shared between CLIC Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation.

Another annual event during Book Week was our High IQ competition in Senior School. This year was a tough contest and drew a large crowd in Trinity as Mr Cowieson took to the stage in the role of quizmaster. All five finalists – Lynden Nicely 1AY2; Elle Wyatt 1AI2; Katie McLennan 1WA2; Anushka Pathak 2AY1 and Maya Nurbhai 2LI2 – battled it out fairly, but there could only be one winner and this year it was Maya.

The hottest teenage book of the year has to be Hunger Games and we have quite a loyal fan base in the High School, including library staff! Pupils were given the option this year of showing how much they loved this series by entering a competition to win tickets to watch the movie adaptation on opening night. Their task was to create a weapon used in the arena and we had some very interesting weapon creations handed in. In the end a group of twelve pupils and two staff attended the viewing and all had a ball! I must confess I was not the only one with a tear in their eye.

As well as our sixth years taking up the role as book slammers the year we also had two events running in the library to celebrate World Book Day. The first one ran during the week leading up to World Book Day and involved staff hiding behind the cover of their favourite book. Pupils were assigned the task of identifying each member of staff from the picture. Some were easier than others. On World Book Day itself, there was a murder in the library! An announcement was made asking for help from pupils to come and scrutinise the crime scene, follow the clues and solve the mystery. We had a good number of pupils becoming CSI investigators as well as a few who wanted to crawl under the police tape and meddle with the evidence!! Finally we had a conclusion: it was Mrs Philips who murdered Dracula for a heinous outrage- making a grammatical error on a poster.

During Junior School lessons we have developed use of ICT this year with L3 pupils being filmed using iPad to recommend their favourite picture book to L1 and L2 pupils, which was a huge success. L5 pupils used the website Animoto to create a short advert for their ideal fictional holiday destination. As well as enjoying using the PCs pupils were also given the opportunity to evaluate each other's advert.

We have been lucky to have two authors and a performance poet visit the school this year. As part of the Scottish Book Trust Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour we were lucky to have Saci Lloyd visit the school for a morning and talk to some F2 and F3 pupils. They enjoyed this talk immensely, as was shown by the by this feedback: Saci Lloyd was fantastic! Her enthusiasm, in my opinion, helped a lot to get everyone involved in the task of making a story. During the last few weeks of term we welcomed the performance poet Donovan Christopher to the school for two days, where he spoke with L4-7 pupils as well as all F1 pupils and some keen writers/readers in F2 and F3. We also welcomed back Lari Don to speak to pupils in L1-L3.

I hope this gives you a small insight into the varied life of the library in 2011-2012. Who knows what next term will bring?

Library

The new session got off to a difficult and sad beginning with the death of Tom Durrheim, just a week before school resumed. Tom had been such a stalwart of the department and indeed the whole school that his loss was felt very keenly.

As I write, plans are being made to commemorate Tom's life and service to the school and whatever form his memorial takes, he will be warmly remembered for a long time to come.

We were fortunate to have excellent supply cover while a new member of the department was found. Dr Jane Baston stepped into the breach from August until October and Mrs Beth Trainer took over from the October break, until Christmas. The department is very grateful to them both for the sterling work they did with our pupils. We were delighted when, at the end of October, we appointed Eilidh Whatley-Marshall as a full time member of the team and she began work after Christmas, quickly establishing herself as a valued and popular member of the department.

In many ways, the year progressed as normal for us and there were the usual expeditions to the theatre, for example, to see Dundee Rep's production of *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, with Forms 5 and 6. There was also a visit to Perth Rep to see *Twelfth Night* and of course, at Christmas we were off to the King's Theatre, Glasgow with Form 1, to see *Sleeping Beauty*. On the subject of pantomime, the English department was well represented at the staff charity pantomime – *Aladdin* – at Christmas, with Mrs Ovenstone-Jones as Wishee-Washee, Miss Dunn as the slave of the ring, Mrs MacDonald as a very glamorous dancer and Mrs Phillips as... well, a rather strange character with a big stick!

There were a couple of new, exciting developments in the department this year. In October, the whole of Form 1 was taken to Edinburgh on a cross-curricular trip supporting a reading

and writing project focusing on 18th/19th century Edinburgh. However, this also tied in with work done in history, drama and art, so we were joined by members of these departments. The trip involved a visit to Mary King's Close – an authentic old Edinburgh Street and a tour of the Niddrie Street Vaults – definitely not for the faint-hearted! – and a historical guided walk up the Royal Mile. Less sinister was the establishment of the Form 6 FilmSoc. On the last Tuesday of each month, F6 pupils met at the DCA to watch films which were chosen to give them the experience of seeing something they might not normally consider going to see – the first film was the German film *Das Leben der Anderen* (*The Lives of Others*), while later on, we went to see the film of Terence Rattigan's *The Deep Blue Sea*. Thanks must be given to Jessie McGoff in Form 6 for her enthusiastic organisation and efforts in forming the society.

As ever, creative writing plays a huge part in what we do as a department. This year, one Saturday just before the October break, Form 6 pupils travelled through to St Columba's School in Kilmacollm with Mrs Keogh, to attend a creative writing workshop. We teamed up with the library to welcome performance poet Donovan Christopher in June, and groups from forms 1 to 3 enjoyed entertaining and useful talks and workshops on writing their own poetry. Each year, the National Galleries of Scotland run a competition called *Inspired? Get Writing!* in which entrants are invited to select any work of art in any of the National Galleries and write about it in poetry or prose. We were delighted, then, when two of our senior pupils – Jessie McGoff and Leeann Chen in Form 5 – won awards in their group, for senior school pupils. As each group only has ten awards, for HSD pupils to win two of them was a real achievement! Their stories can be read in the December 2011 edition of the *Kwyll*, which is on the school website.

Louise Dunn leaves us at the end of the term to take up a new post at Wellington School in Ayr, so we welcome her successor, Duncan Campbell, who joins us from Kinross High School in August as we look ahead to a busy and successful session!

English



German

This year F4 pupil Ray Lynham was selected as a UK-German Youth Ambassador with the UK-German Connection. Ray is the only Youth Ambassador in Scotland, though he has had the opportunity to work with other Youth Ambassadors from across the UK. Here, he tells us a little about his experiences...



After my trip to Wolfsburg in August last year, I applied to become a UK-German Connection Youth Ambassador and I was lucky enough to be selected. The purpose of a UK Youth Ambassador is to promote the German culture and the learning of the language.

In October I travelled to London for a seminar to give me ideas for what to do during the year. I met with all the other Youth Ambassadors from the UK and Germany. It was a great experience and provided me with several practical ideas, which I have been able to use over the past year.

My first project was to do a series of presentations throughout the year to each of the L7 classes about Christmas, Easter and other festivals in Germany. I really enjoyed working with pupils from the Junior School and teaching them a little about German culture and I hope that they were able to learn just a little bit of German from me!

I was also encouraged to work with other schools in my area and so I conducted a presentation at Longforgan Primary School on the topic of Germany in general after which, I left them with a prize word search!

During the Christmas period I sent a letter to the German Consul for Scotland, asking if he would be willing to come and speak to Form 5 and the Form 6 pupils about how important languages are in the workplace. He wrote back exceptionally quickly and Herr Moessinger agreed to come and visit the school on 21st June.

My year as a Youth Ambassador ended with a quiz for the L7s on the presentations, which they had seen throughout the year. The three winning teams were treated to a German breakfast on the 27th June!

The Ambassadorship has been a fantastic experience and I have enjoyed the process immensely. I am very grateful to Mr Summerville for all his help and guidance during my Ambassadorship and can thoroughly recommend the role to anyone else interested in applying.

Not all Classicists live in dusty museums – as we discovered when our third Latinists and Classicists visited St Andrew’s University’s Classics’ Department in February this year.

classics

The staff showcased to us their latest research. Pupils were able to wander the streets of Ancient Sparta via a “Second Life” computer program that helped them understand that not all Sparta was like the film “300”. We had time with another lecturer speaking about the latest studies on the Romans in Scotland, learnt also about what bawdy Aristophanic drama had to tell us about the life of women in ancient Greece and finally, if not most importantly, a practical demonstration of how to approach and then address a Roman emperor.

And museums themselves are not necessarily dusty. The revamped and reopened National Museum of Scotland was another destination for our Classics Department this year with its fabulous collection of artefacts from across Scotland chronicling the life of the Romans on their forays across Hadrian’s Wall, from cavalry harnesses and pieces of armour to most of a leather army tent and hoards of treasure. We had opportunities too to handle original artefacts and discover their uses.

Forty six pupils travelled to Naples this year on our annual pilgrimage to Pompeii and Rome. Wowed by the ancient cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii and the climb up Vesuvius, together with the sights of the eternal city of Rome, interspersed by generous helpings of pizza and ice-cream, we had an unforgettable trip (read the trip report later in the Review!)

Hadrian’s Wall also is an annual destination for a day trip for our first year Latinists, visiting Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum.

But now is the time for goodbyes especially this year when after twenty-eight years in the department our Head of Classics, Mr Meehan, retires. His scholarship and dry sense of humour will be much missed and we wish him an enjoyable retirement with his wife as the department moves into a new era.



Computing

The Computing Department once again took part in the Strathmore Trophy, organised by the University of Dundee.

This year's competition saw a team of four High School of Dundee pupils compete against teams from all over Fife, Perth and Kinross, Angus and Dundee. The team consisted of Blair McKay, Christopher Keatch (both Form 2), Oran McNair, and Ivan Kapelyukh (both Form 1).

The task for this year was to create their own game controller. This proved to be very challenging and yet highly enjoyable. The team performed brilliantly throughout, displaying excellent teamwork and producing a very capable product. They then presented

their product to a large audience. The Strathmore Trophy for 2012 was a close run affair with judges deliberating for some time but a decision was made and the trophy was finally awarded to St Johns RC High School.

Each year pupils from Forms 1 & 2 compete for this prestigious trophy, and each year the staff and students of the University on Dundee are impressed by what can be created by the young developers in such a short space of time. Next year the High School of Dundee will compete once more, and look to bring the trophy back to the school.



Higher Computing

One of the aspects of Form 6 I was most looking forward to was the Advanced Higher Computing project. Since I was informed that the project could be anything I wished to create, I let my imagination run wild.

Being an avid fan of video games, I knew that I wanted to make a game, and initially considered a game designed for the Xbox 360 using the Kinect, the new camera that detects motion and depth and allows games to be played without the use of controllers. Unfortunately the development resources were not ready in time for me to use them for the project.

After ruling out the Kinect, I settled on making a 2D shooter, similar to Space Invaders. Following this decision, I then set about creating the game.

I found the process of creating the game to be very worthwhile. It taught me much about the process of developing software, the potential problems that can

arise and how they can be solved, and it also greatly expanded my knowledge of programming. By the end of the project I was able to code much comfortably and confidently and had learned much about the different ways to approach a problem that needs to be solved in a program.

The first stage was the Analysis of the project, in which I stated what I wanted to create and determined whether or not it would be achievable in the set period of time I had available. This was followed by designing the game itself, which involved designing the way in which the code would be structured and how the game would be written. Once this was completed, I programmed the game and drew the graphics. I wanted to make the

game amusing to play, so I made the enemy a giant chicken and called the game "The Curse of El Pollo Diablo".

Lewis Davie, a Form 5 pupil, helped me by composing the music used in the game. Then came the daunting part: I had a Form 1 Computing class test the game and fill out a questionnaire which asked them what they thought of it. The vast majority of the feedback was very positive and I was pretty pleased that people appeared to be having fun playing my game.

Overall, I had a lot of fun making my game, and I found it extremely rewarding. It was probably my favourite part of Form 6.

Drama

Upbeat and optimistic, after a superb set of SQA exam results in 2011 and the success of our previous play, Mr Cowieson and I embarked on yet another mission to facilitate Life, Learning and Work; the mission statement which forms part of the Scottish Governments lifelong learning strategy in the Curriculum for Excellence.

Our department is by no means unique in offering learners the chance to develop these skills in school, however, through the drama curriculum and co-curriculum this session many pupils certainly had exceptional opportunities and irreplaceable memories to inspire and shape their future learning.

As well as the commencement of the drama curriculum, the Autumn term started with auditions for the school musical, three theatre trips, the onset of the F1/2 Drama Club, rehearsals for the staff pantomime, a F1 interdisciplinary project with the English Department on Mary King's Close and a F6 workshop with St George's School Edinburgh – all before the October holidays!

Two pupils were instrumental in running the F1/2 Drama Club last session. Katie Lumsdaine (F4), as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award, and Cairan McLaggan (F6) who made a huge creative input towards 'all things drama' throughout the year. With the support of staff these young people were great ambassadors for the department and is was a testament to their commitment and enthusiasm that the younger pupils had such entertaining and creative sessions of drama each week throughout the school year. The Drama Club took part in Dundee Rep's 'Onstage' project which culminated in a presentation, along with other schools, on The Rep's main stage in the latter part of the year. This was a memorable occasion in which

the younger pupils excelled, taking justifiable pride in representing their school and enjoying the collaboration of the senior pupils. These experiences are invaluable for future creative initiatives.

Another new initiative from the department this session came in the guise of the Staff Pantomime



'Aladdin and his Magic Lamp' which was performed in December to two packed audiences of pupils from L6 – F6, who watched with undisclosed amazement and delight as their teachers were reinvented before their eyes into Princesses, Genies, Camels, Emperor's and Dames! With top secret rehearsals every Friday after school, over twenty staff, including two members of senior management and most of the PE department, joined forces to present a hugely entertaining show for the pupils; also raising over a thousand pounds for charity. Special mention must go to Mr Spowart who when he signed up for a 'small role' landed the main part of Abanazar. Many a night was spent line-

learning and it was a memorable sight to see him offstage clutching his script, sweat dripping from brow, terrified in case he missed his cue or forgot his lines – my plea of 'just improvise' fell on deaf ears as he and the rest of the cast became actors for one day and one day only! It was a rewarding experience for Mr Cowieson and I to team up with staff across departments, to watch them experience and enjoy what we encounter with pupils on a daily basis.

A school musical is a year in the making with a huge financial and personal commitment required from all involved. However it is I believe, an absolute necessity for the enriching experience it gives to so many in the school community; over seventy staff and pupils were involved from page to stage. After a break of five years, due to The Gardyne Theatre's refurbishment, the production team were delighted to announce our return with a production of Return to the Forbidden Planet by Bob Carlton. We have had enormous fun performing in some unique and varied performance spaces over the last few years, and have at times been frustrated over the lack of our own functioning theatre, so it was marvellous to find ourselves back in a real theatre once again with all manner of resources available to us; an Aladdin's cave of technology! Return to the Forbidden Planet is a production which requires a huge technological input and the wonderful technical effects would not

have been possible without the creative brilliance of many staff and pupils. Mr Adam Kerr and his team of pupils and staff from the Art Department made a miniature planet, space ship, meteors and monster for the filmed projected sequences during the show. Mr David Smith and his team of pupils in the Computing Department filmed and edited action sequences using the latest digital technology.



Mr George Mackenzie and many, many pupils helped stuff and paint 12 metre monster tentacles! Ailsa Purdie (F5) collaborated with the director to produce exciting designs for some principal characters and then was able to work with the costume maker to see her designs made into costumes for the show; a superb chance to develop skills which she has a strong vocational interest in. Mr Illsley and Miss Dunn gamely contributed their acting and vocal skills; much to the surprise and delight of the audiences!

The co-operative nature of a school production was acutely evident to me one Friday, when Mr Cowieson, Jack Hamilton (F4) Jamie Ford (F5) and a clutch of eager F1 pupils ensconced themselves in the drama studio, for much of the day, working as puppeteers and technicians to operate the model space ship, meteor and monster attack and the subsequent destruction of the planet. Huge fun was had by all with much discussion on how to achieve the correct effects with exuberant use of the smoke machine! Cairan McLaggan as well as playing the leading role of Captain Tempest also designed the poster, ships logo and the programme; all this on top of drama school auditions, the Drama Club and his academic studies – needless to say we shall miss him desperately!

The 'Forbidden Planet' company was made up of almost fifty performers including band and stage crew. Once again our production was stage managed by a pupil; Jack Hamilton

had the huge responsibility of running and cueing the show. Jamie Ford also made an enormous contribution in so many ways during the production year. He operated and arranged all the digital projected images during the performance, and with the assistance of Mr Rob Petrie, the sound and radio mics. The stage crew, follow- spot operators, make-up artistes, prompters were all our loyal drama pupils who gave so much of their time and energies into making this production so successful.

Working so maturely and effectively alongside theatre professionals was of inestimable value to all of these pupils and indeed to rest of the company who conducted themselves in such a commendable manner whilst in the theatre that week.

Our performers this year were outstanding. For our F6 principals, Cairan McLaggan (Captain Tempest), Holly Maxwell – Stevenson (Gloria) Chloe Anderson (Miranda) and Steven Moyes (Ariel) Ailie Fraser (Navigation



years hard graft in all things dramatic! Special mention must go to Steven's rendition of 'Who's Sorry Now?' brought the house down and Holly's powerful 'Go Now' had most of the cast and crew in tears on the last night! We also got to witness exciting new performers in the form of Lewis Davie (Cookie) and Robert Oakes (Prospero) who considering it



was their first major school production gave entertaining and commanding performances which grabbed the audience's attention right from their first entrance. Stephanie Baker, who was a

principal in Tin Pan Ali, moved up a gear easily into the 'big league' – an excellent singer and actor she can always be relied upon to give an exciting and spirited performance, this she did with her cocky portrayal of the Captain's right hand girl secretly in love with the ship's cook! From our first Sunday rehearsal last January we knew that we potentially had a tremendous production because our chorus, even at that stage exuded confidence, technical ability and sheer enjoyment.

Unusually for a chorus, it was decided that they should remain onstage for most of the production. This really did replicate the idea that they were in a space ship and part of the crew of the USS Albatross. It gave a marvellous feeling of ensemble playing and every member of the chorus was working away energetically on various bits of business throughout the production. Hannah Fearon (F6) made a fantastic job of not only choreographing all the dance pieces but also the whole cast choreographed dance sections. She was aided by all the dance team Carly Paterson, Sylvie Clark, Aimee Keatch, Lana Ingram, Logan Kilcullen and Rachael Cosgrove; who all were all entrancing and convincing as flight attendants then space cadets!

Our live band onstage throughout the show further created the feeling of ensemble and Forbidden Planet family. Led by our Musical Director, Mr Douglas Love, pupils and staff together created some great musical memories. It is inspiring for pupils to be treated as professionals and to work alongside their teachers to create something in which they are proud of.

I know that the whole company was incredibly pleased with their production and rightly so. It was just the sort of visual and aural treat needed in a rainy June and with uncertain economic times...as one audience member was heard remarking 'it was an absolute tonic!'

So another year, another two plays we hope, and more enthusiastic, motivated staff and pupils on a mission through the deliverance of drama to be inspired in their experiences and shape their Life, Learning and Work.

Lindsay Drummond July 2012





Maths



Team Competitions

This year, the High School entered all the national team competitions in Mathematics. In January Alex Smith F1, Ivan Kapelyukh F1, Scott Macandrew F2 and Kenny Matheson F2, accompanied by Mr Middleton, represented the school in the Regional Final of the UKMT Team Challenge held in the School of Informatics at the University of Edinburgh. In a repeat of last year's competition, and after 4 rounds of rigorous problem solving, the team came second, which was a fantastic result.

In September the High School entered Enterprising Maths, a national competition for teams of four pupils from Forms 3 and 4. The qualifying round for independent schools was held at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. Mr Middleton accompanied the enthusiastic team which consisted of Joshua McLaggan F3, Sophie Kelly F3, Hannah Arnold F4 and Jamie Mather F4. Thirty teams competed fiercely in a variety of different mathematical challenges and our team finished the day in third place and once again qualified for the National Final, which was won last year by the High School. The final took place in the magnificent Hunter and Bute Halls at the University of Glasgow. Unfortunately the team could not quite match last year's victory, but still finished eighth out of sixty teams, which in itself was a great achievement.

In November Chris Acheson F5, Louise Pattullo F5, Harry Carstairs F5 and King Hang Chan F6, accompanied by Mr Middleton, represented the school in the Regional Final of the UKMT Senior Team Challenge held in the Playfair Library at the University of Edinburgh. The team tackled some very difficult and challenging problems and finished in tenth place.

Pictured above at the University of Edinburgh after a hard day's Maths are Alex Smith, Kenny Matheson, Scott Macandrew and Ivan Kapelyukh

Maths Sans Frontieres

In April a F4 section from the school entered the Maths Sans Frontieres competition. This is a competition open to schools throughout Europe and is one in which a whole class can contribute as a team. What is unique about this competition is that the pupils have to answer two of the questions in a foreign language. The best linguists in the class were therefore assigned this task while the other questions were spread out among the rest of the pupils who worked in small groups. The competition lasted for two periods and our results were then collated and sent in. We have since found out that we were among the top ten schools in our year group but will have to wait for the final results to be announced before we know where we finished. The pupils seemed to enjoy the questions and in particular the challenge of the foreign language questions!

Scottish Mathematical Challenge

Once again a large number of pupils entered the Scottish Mathematical Challenge. This competition, which has been running since 1976, is a problem solving competition which is open to all pupils in Form 1 to Form 6. The following pupils did exceptionally well and were invited to the Award Day in Stirling on 6th June.

Junior Division

Silver: Alex Smith F1, Filip Jovanovic F2
Bronze: Eleanor Wyatt F1, Euan Foulis F1, Scott MacAndrew F2

Middle Division

Gold: Hannah Arnold F4, Akdas Hussain F4
Silver: Pallavi Pillai F4

UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematical Trust runs three annual UKMT Maths Challenge contests, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. This year pupils from all six Forms competed in the UK's biggest National Maths Competition.

As no exams were looming at the time, three pupils from F6 and seven from F5, were able to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge and four silver certificates were awarded to Duncan Strachan F6, Louise Pattullo F5, Chris Acheson F5 and Harry Carstairs F5. The Intermediate Maths Challenge saw Form 4 gain thirty-seven certificates. Gold certificates were awarded to Marshall Macleod, Barbara Braid, Angus Milne, Duncan Raitt, Catherine Mackay, Akdas Hussain, Hannah Arnold and Jamie Mather. A further twelve Silver and seventeen Bronze Certificates were also awarded, with Marshall Macleod, Barbara Braid and Angus Milne qualifying for the follow on Olympiad competition. On the day, Marshall and Barbara were unable to take part, but Angus was awarded a Certificate of Participation. In the same competition, Form 3 were awarded four gold, eleven silver and sixteen bronze certificates. Gold award winners were Joshua Mclaggan, Joeli Mckenzie, Euan Rose and Sophie Kelly. Joshua Mclaggan was awarded Best in School as well as a Certificate of Merit in recognition of his achievement in the Olympiad follow on competition.

On April 26th it was the turn of Form 1 and 2 to compete in the Junior Maths Challenge. A total of sixty certificates were awarded: fifteen gold, twenty-eight silver and seventeen bronze. Sandy Taylor got the Best in Year for F1 and Megan Ross achieved Best in Year for F2 as well as Best in School and qualifies for the follow on Olympiad competition. At the start of 2011-12 session Scott MacAndrew F2 and Joshua Mclaggan F3 achieved Distinction (in top 25%), with Scott also receiving a bronze medal in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, a follow on competition from the Maths Challenge 2011.

Congratulations to all the pupils who were awarded certificates from the Maths Competitions and we look forward to continued success next session.

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The preparation began in **September** with auditions for Crew and Officers. It was 'A Man's World' with two gentlemen running the ship assisted by one 'Young Girl'.

Meanwhile back on Planet Earth those left behind in the Music Department were busying themselves with the day to day business of keeping the ship maintained and running smoothly.

In **November** nine of our senior musicians were given the opportunity to perform 'Side by Side' with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The first movement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony is renowned amongst orchestral musicians and conductors for the potential difficulty in synchronising the recurring three note theme. All of our musicians put aside the initial nerves and learned very quickly how to communicate with the conductor and the other players. Paul Rissman provided illuminating PowerPoint presentations to introduce the pieces. Fifty of our SQA pupils enjoyed the performance in the Music Hall in Aberdeen and were given an insight into the work and life of a professional musician.

Later on during the **Autumn** term The Senior Strings were out again performing Christmas carols for The Parkinson's Society at Meadowside St Pauls.

In **December** the Senior String Ensemble, some woodwind and vocal students entertained the Friends of Dundee Heritage on board Discovery with a selection of festive music.

As ever, the highlight of the first term is the Christmas Carol concert in the Caird Hall and this provided a fittingly busy farewell from Jean Melville's final as Head of Music. Each of the choirs performed a variety of music, traditional and modern. It was heart-warming to know that the handsome sum of £4,600 was raised for two very deserving charities, the money split equally between Guide Dogs and Charlie Kean's Children's Fund and we applaud the generosity of our audiences. Members of the Senior Choir, String and Brass ensembles took to the minibuses the following day to entertain staff and patients at the Carseview Centre. Audience participation was encouraged and we almost left with a few new recruits. The CLIC Sargent Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall is an annual fixture for the Senior Strings and this year Alasdair Rennet performed 'The Swan' by Tchaikovsky on oboe. Alasdair is becoming a young musician with considerable potential and we shall read more of him later! The term finished with a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The High School of Dundee Festival of Piano Music show cased all of our talented pianists. From 10.00 in the morning of 28th February to 9.30 in the evening Trinity Hall rang to the sounds of our youngest L3 pianists giving their first public performance through to our most experienced players. We enjoyed over two hundred individual performances, and were treated to Richard Rodney Bennett's 'Seven Days a Week' interspersed by heart warming and very poignant readings of poems by Junior School pupils. It was inspiring to see our youngest musicians



take their first steps in their performing careers with such confidence and poise.

In the **Spring** the Saturday shoppers were treated to a lunchtime concert by our Senior String Ensemble. What better way to spend an hour in the middle of the day than in the beautiful surroundings of St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a cup of tea with friends?

In **March** our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Guitar Ensembles performed as part of Guitar Day. Two of the number, Calum Rennet and Kirsty Butter had suffered arm injuries during that week but bravely went on to perform in plaster. We are a tough lot in Dundee! The audience was delighted to hear Pip Forster of L5 and Alis Reid F4 perform on Clarsach. The Celtic harp is experiencing a renaissance in schools and we look forward to hearing more from this once endangered species as increasing numbers take up the Clarsach at the

Music

It is now approaching lift off to The Forbidden Planet, our 2012 senior musical, and the culmination of many months preparation by pupils and staff. Ignition on and the 'Good Vibrations' have begun, we're 'Shaking all over'. 'Great Balls of Fire' shoot from the engines as the 'Navigation Officer' bellows 'I'm Gonna change The World'

High School of Dundee. Our youngest guitarists aged nine were given their first taste of public solo performance. In the evening we heard a varied programme of solo and small ensemble pieces ending with the massed guitars performing Hugh Campbell's arrangement of Peter Maxwell Davies' haunting 'Farewell to Stromness'.

Throughout March we enjoyed the "Competition effect" as the corridors rang to the sounds of chamber music practice from 8.00 in the morning 'til 5.00 in the evening. It was very pleasant to sit in my room writing reports to Mendelssohn one day, Caccini the next. Mr Graeme Wilson's vast experience as a practising organist, violinist and accompanist, Music Services Manager for Fife and SOA examiner, panel member, setter and marker ensured that our pupils were given informative and balanced comments on their performances. He was delighted with the children and was overwhelmed by the quality and variety of music he heard throughout the day.

The String Day highlighted our three String Groups; the Junior, Intermediate and Senior String ensembles. The age range spanned eight to eighteen and showed the progression of skills from our youngest to most experienced musicians. Mr Robert Dick, a very experienced violin teacher, skilled conductor and,

more recently, conductor of The Dundee Symphony Orchestra enlightened us all by offering his pearls of wisdom to the pupils taking part in the Master Class.

The country is gripped by "Jubilympic" fever and before last session was out the theme for Spring 2012 had been announced. Our audience was treated to A Night of British Music celebrating the Scottish Folk songs, a Queen Medley, The Music of Carl Jenkins and culminating in Land of Hope and Glory. Ailie Fraser and Niall Moorjani compered the concert with skill and humour. In June we enjoyed the last hurrah for the session from all of our strings ensembles as they delighted us all with their performance at the Chaplaincy. A well earned rest for the pupils, the string staff and the accompanists who support the groups is in order. Now the business of selecting music for the next session will continue throughout the summer. We all look forward to hearing the new programmes for 2012-2013.

On 11th June the Marryat Hall resounded to the sound of the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Big Bands, Jazz Band and Intermediate Guitar ensemble. This concert of light music ranging from an arrangement for saxophone ensemble of J.S.Bach's Air on a G String to Lady Gaga's Poker Face sent us off in to the Summer evening sunshine with a spring in the step.

One of the highlights of the year for our top instrumentalists is the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition. For the semi-final Duncan Strachan performed on classical guitar, Laura Lee on Pianoforte and Alasdair Rennet on alto saxophone. Alasdair has been accepted for National Youth Jazz Band of Scotland. This year he will play at the World Saxophone Championships/conference. He has also been offered a place with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland.

All presented exciting and varied programmes and communicated their art to the audience with professionalism and great technical skill. Duncan went forward to the final but narrowly missed out to the beautifully lyrical then characterful trombone playing of the trombonist.

Next.....

We Return to the Forbidden Planet, 'Yeh Yeh'. We have said farewell to some old friends and as the Chorus sing 'She's not There' 'The Young Ones' remain to 'Shake, Rattle and Roll' their way through the next session. To our fabulous leavers we say 'Can't turn you loose' because we know you will be back to tell us about your post school adventures. So 'Go now' and continue your Musical careers. 'Who's Sorry Now?' We are - to see you go. See you all at the next concert!



Many of our best vocalists have auditioned for and accepted places for National choirs

Junior Corps of the National Boys Choir
Nathaniel Fagerson
Alexander Fish

National Boys Choir
Lynden Nicely
Finley McKillop

Training Choir for the National Girls Choir
Sophie Kelly
Catriona Murphy
Katie Paas

National Girls Choir
Alison Ross
Rebekah Wilson-Pearce
Stephanie Baker
Alice Burnett
Karen Joss

Arbroath and District Music Festival

Guitar classes

Level 1 - Up to Grade 1

Charlotte Sharpe

Level 3 – Grades 4-5

Winner – Ronan Joy

3rd Place – James Currie

Open Duo Class

1st = Alfie George and James MacMillan
with Duncan Strachan and James Lucoq

Junior School Music Competition Winners 2012

Marshall Prize for Recorder (Early Stages)

1st George Youssef (L4C)
= 2nd Kara MacRitchie (L5R) &
Sarah Morel (L4H)

Marshall Prize for Recorder (Later Stages)

Charlotte Sharpe (L6A)

Prize for Guitar/Clarsach

1st Jamie Meade (L5R)
= 2nd Jamie Macmillan (L6C) &
Blair Wilson (L7W)

Prize for Woodwind (Grade 3)

Anna Hudson (L6C)

Prize for Brass (Grade 3)

James Shearer (L7W)

Prize for Strings (Grade 3)

1st Ailsa Macdonald (L6A)
= 2nd Ana Cowan (L7D) & Sophie Levin (L6G)

Prize for Piano (Grade 4)

Janey Speed (L7W)

Old Girl's Prize for Piano (Grade 3)

1st Brian Lim (L7D)
2nd Abhisri Chaudhuri (L7D)

Senior School Music Competition 2012 Results

Grade Five Strings

Eleanor Scott (2Li2)

Oran McNair (1Wa2)

Robert Zhan (1Li2)

Violin 1st Prize

Violin 2nd

Cello 3rd

Grade Five Woodwind

Rebekah Wilson-Pearce

Clarinet 1st Prize

Grade Five Brass

Matthew Wiggans (4Ay2)

Rory Macdonald (4Ay1)

Trumpet 1st = Prize

Trumpet 1st = Prize

Grade Five Piano

Jamie Clarkson (4Ay1)

1st Prize

Grade Five Voice

Lewis Davie (5Ai2)

1st prize

Grade Six Strings

Sophie Kelly (3Wa1)

Lucy Abel (6Ai1)

Violin 1st = Prize

Violin 1st = Prize

Grade Six Woodwind

Alasdair Rennet (3Ai1)

Oboe 1st Prize

Grade Six Brass

Jenny Allan (6Ay2)

Trumpet 1st Prize

Grade Six Piano

Jamie Mather (4Li1)

1st Prize

Grade Six Voice

Sarah Hay (5Li2)

1st Prize

Grade Six Guitar

Callum Rennet (5Ai1)

1st Prize

Open Strings

Charlotte Collison (5Ai2)

Louise Pattullo (5Ay1)

Cello 1st Larg Prize

Violin 2nd

Open Woodwind

Alasdair Rennet (3Ai1)

Recorder 1st Larg Prize

Open Brass

Euan Strachan (3Wa2)

Trumpet 1st Larg Prize

Open Piano

Charlotte Collison (5Ai2)

1st Larg Prize

Open Voice

Steven Moyes (6Ai1)

1st Larg Prize

Open Guitar

Seth Scahill (5Li2)

1st Larg Prize

Southgate Prize for Ensembles

Group XI

Lucy Arthur (6Ai2)

Charlotte Collison (5Ai2)

Leeann Chen (5Ay1)

Violin 1st Prize

Cello

Piano

Group IV

Alison Ross (4Li1)

Stephanie Baker (4Wa2)

Lewis Davie (5Ai2)

Gabriela Manley (6Ay2)

2nd =

Voice

Voice

Violin

Cello

Group VII

Louise Pattullo (5Ay1)

Leeann Chen (5Ay1)

Laura Lee (6Ay2)

2nd =

Violin

Violin

Piano

Group VI

Katy Leys (5Ay2)

Morven Millar (5Li2)

Sophie Kelly (3Wa1)

Jamie Clarkson (4Ay1)

3rd

Voice

Clarinet

Violin

Piano

High School of Dundee Premier Quaich

Leeann Chen (5Ay1)

Piano 1st Prize

History

Forgotten Highlander Tells of War Atrocities



Mr Urquhart with senior pupils Chloe Scahill, Donald Campbell, Sarah McGregor and Andrew Davidson

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the fall of Singapore to the Japanese during World War II. War hero and author, Alistair Urquhart visited senior pupils to divulge his incredible story of unimaginable suffering and unlikely survival.

A Gordon Highlander, Alistair Urquhart was in his early twenties when he was captured in Singapore and sent to work on the Burma Siam railway, at Hellfire Pass and the Bridge over the River Kwai. Despite disease, torture and beatings, being torpedoed on Japanese 'hell ships' and a close encounter with the atomic bomb at Nagasaki, he survived.

Now in his 90s, Mr Urquhart is one of the last remaining survivors of his battalion of the Gordon Highlanders. His book, *The Forgotten Highlander*, shot to the top of the UK bestsellers, receiving critical acclaim.

Mr Urquhart said: "By hearing my story, I hope that young people will have a better understanding of the atrocities of war, and how important it is to try and make sure that it never happens again. My story is one of perseverance and I hope to show that, in life, we should always try our best and never give up."



PE

Session 2011-2012 was a busy and productive period for the P.E department. The major change was the opening of the synthetic turf pitches at Dalnacraig. These pitches are a fantastic addition to our excellent sporting facilities and immediately made a big difference to all pupils, enabling physical activity to continue whatever the weather!

Our pupils continue to achieve great performances in a variety of sports ranging from Fly Fishing to Triathlon with almost everything imaginable in between. Space does not permit me to list all the many achievements, but highlights include Callum Rennet, who won the Scottish Schools Triathlon and, at the same event, Euan Rose and Alfie George performed very well. Susan Graham was selected for the Scottish Under-18 Hockey squad, making the transition from the Under-16 squad. Chris Jollands and Duncan Leese were selected for the Scotland Under-16 Rugby squad. Henry Sampson came incredibly close to being selected having acquitted himself well as part of the Under-16 Caledonia squad.

Every Saturday we fielded many Rugby and Hockey teams who competed admirably when undertaking inter-school fixtures. The Under-16 Rugby squad missed out on a place in the Brewin Dolphin Cup Final by the narrowest of margins. Hopefully this disappointment will act as a catalyst to making the next step in the years ahead.

The various House sports events continue to be a highly enjoyable feature of the High School's sporting calendar, which is demonstrated by the number of pupils who participate and enter fully

into the spirit of the House competition. The High School were well represented at the Dundee Schools' Cross Country championships and the Dundee Schools, Athletics championships, with many pupils excelling and winning numerous medals, as well as achieving new personal best performances. A number of pupils competed at the Scottish Schools Athletics championships with several pupils reaching the finals in their chosen events. Lewis Keddie won a bronze medal for the shot putt.

The rearranged sports day was an enjoyable event for competitors and spectators alike. Many of the competitors either set new records or came incredibly close to doing so. It is also notable that the event was completed without any rainfall, which was unusual in the month of June 2012!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues who have assisted in a variety of ways with sporting fixtures and events. The continued support of parents is greatly appreciated, whether vocally encouraging pupils during sporting performances or providing transport to early morning buses for fixtures.

I look forward to continued sporting success in the years to come.

Club reports

Girls' Hockey Report

Season 2011/12

The start of the season saw a hectic six weeks of hockey, playing two or three times a week, gaining some good wins early in the first term. We reached the final of the Madras Tournament, where we were narrowly beaten by Strathallan on penalties. We also participated in the Midlands' Senior Outdoor Cup and Countesswells Cup in September, which gave us good practice for the rest of the season. At the end of September, Vourhoot Hockey Club U16 XI, a touring side from Holland, provided us with an extra fixture, which resulted in a 5-2 win.

Of the 11 friendly matches played this season, the 1st XI won 4, drew 4 and lost 3. The 2nd XI played 5, winning 1 and losing the rest. Unfortunately, the bad weather saw many fixtures cancelled during December and January.

This year it was decided to enter an Indoor Team in the Senior Midlands' Indoor League and this kept our skills sharp over the winter when outdoor fixtures could not be played and gave us practice for the schools tournament. We finished 8th in the Senior Indoor League as we beat St Andrews University 10-1 in our final fixture and we finished in 3rd place at the U18 Midlands Schools Indoor Tournament. The U16 Indoor team finished in 2nd place in their tournament.

The season finished on a high, with the 1st XI retaining the Cup at the Kilgraston Tournament (with only 9 players in the final against Robert Gordon's!) at the end of March. A single goal from Catriona Wallace put us into the lead before half time and we defended well for the rest of the match.

The new Dalnacraig Astro turf pitches were officially opened on the 21st April by Scottish Hockey President, Lee Cousins. We marked the occasion by having a 'festival' of hockey. This involved games against the boys 1st XI, the staff and the Scotland U18 Girls' team were also invited to celebrate the opening.

Congratulations go to Morgan Hutchison, Joanna Tait, and Susan Graham who were selected for the U18 Midlands Team, with Susan being selected to the U18 Scotland squad. At U16 level, Lucy Harley, Olivia Tait, and Olivia Ritchie all represented Midlands.

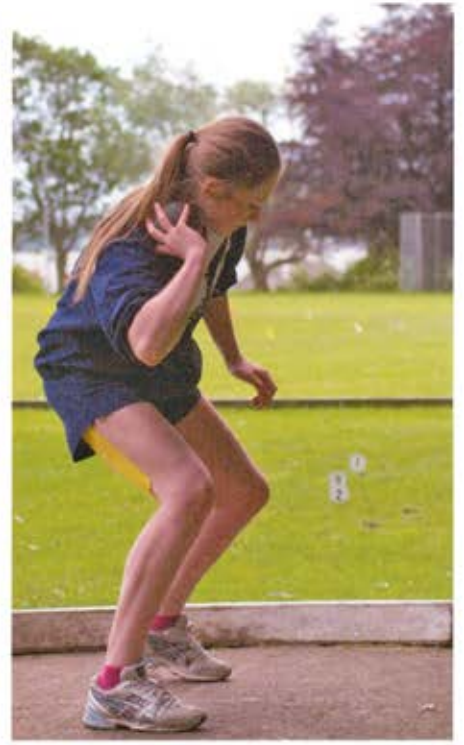
Finally, thanks must go to our coach Mr Strachan for his expertise and encouragement and to Mrs Hutchison and all those who umpired, travelled with teams and helped throughout the season.

Congratulations from all the girls to Miss Bunce for being part of Team GB and being so close to being selected for the final team.



The winning team at Kilgraston





Sports Day Gallery



Club reports Netball Report

This year the Form 1 netball team have been very successful. We have taken part in the Scottish Netball Cup knock out tournament, and some friendly games against other schools.

In the Scottish Cup, the first rounds all took place on the same date. These matches determined whether we were in the Gold, Silver or Bronze league. We played Carnoustie High School and Arbroath High School. We won two matches on this day and lost one. This meant that we had made it to the first round in the Gold league of the Scottish Cup. We came home with victories against Gryfe High School and St. Peter's and managed to get through to the semi-finals of the gold league. Unfortunately, we lost this match to Peebles High School, who were beaten in the final by Hyndland.

This year, we have also had our annual fun tournaments in school, including the winter tournament and our beach themed summer tournament, where pupils played staff and each other. We are looking forward to next season's matches with high hopes of achieving gold! We would like to thank Mrs McKenzie for all of her hard work and time spent on improving our netball skills.

Ailsa Conway and Annie Porter, F1

Club reports Rugby Report

Season 2011-2012 was a season of peaks and troughs. The junior school teams worked hard but were often frustrated as their results did not reflect their commitment and endeavour. The L6 boys will form a strong nucleus for next year's junior school side with the L7s moving into senior school.

The F1 sides had a good season, competing well each week. Angus Fraser, Kyle Davidson, Lewis Keddie and Cameron McComish acquitted themselves well consistently. There was some disruption as a result of some minor injuries with Neil Bennett, Jonte Roberts and Joshua Rawcliffe all missing at different points in the season.

F2 were mercurial this year; at times they were brilliant, but they struggled to achieve consistency. The highlight of the season was defeating Stewart's Melville on a glorious sunny morning at Mayfield.

The F3 sides had a challenging season. The boys worked incredibly hard in conjunction with Mr Spowart, but did not manage to secure the results their hard work deserved. The F3 boys should look forward to joining with the younger U16s and creating a new look side, which I am certain will be competitive. Perseverance is the key for this group going forward.

The U16 sides worked very well this year. They lost only two games throughout the season, which was a remarkable achievement. The boys are now hopeful that they may go through the next season undefeated, which is an ambitious but achievable goal. Both U16 sides should be very proud of all they have achieved and I know that Mr Merry thoroughly enjoyed working with this group.

The Senior XV's had a mixed season this year. The 1st XV had some very memorable moments, including the defeat of Stewart's Melville at Mayfield and the defeat of Heriots at Goldenacre with a last minute penalty. Andrew Clarkson and Jack Paladini provided strong leadership and carried out the roles of captain and vice captain effectively.

The 2nd XV won many matches by playing expansive rugby. As a group they were reluctant to train at times, yet this did little to hinder their performance on a Saturday. The sixth years in the side worked very well together and Alister Bankhead deserves credit for his exceptional performances each week.

Overall, this has been an enjoyable rugby year and I look forward to continued success next season.



Club reports Tennis Report

Despite the rather cold and miserable weather at the start of the season, the girls were eager to try out the nine new tennis courts at Dalnacraig.

All teams played well during the season with a good number of fixtures being arranged over the short summer term. The 1st VI won 4 matches and lost only one, being narrowly defeated 5-4 by Dollar Academy.

The 2nd VI has also produced some good results, winning 2 of their matches. The senior girls also participated in the Kilgraston Tournament where all couples played well. Katie Young and Alice Burnett (both F4) played particularly well throughout this competition, but were defeated in the final by Strathallan School.

We are also fortunate to have some talented junior players with the younger teams showing some great potential. At the Morrison's Academy Primary Tournament the winners of Section A were Susanna Porter and Heidi Sampson (both L7) and in Section B, Anna Cowan (L7) and Rachel Rose (L6) finished runners-up. The school also had great success in the U13 St Leonards Tournament, where winners of Group A were Mhairi Millar and Annie Porter (both F1) and Susanna Porter and Heidi Sampson played well again, winning

Group B. These results led to HSD winning the overall team event, which consisted of the two winning couples, Rachel Rose, Adrianna Gibson, Kara MacRitchie and Ailsa Millar (all L5).

Congratulations must also go to the finalists of the Singles Championships:-
Primary Girls – Winner: Susanna Porter L7
Runner-up: Heidi Sampson L7
Junior Girls – Winner: Annie Porter F1
Runner-up: Emma Duncan F2
Senior Girls – Winner: Susan Graham F5
Runner-up: Katie Young F4

As always, the House Matches were exciting and competitive events. After many close games, both the Senior and Junior Competitions were won by Lindores.

A very successful season was had by all, which bodes well for next season.

The tennis squads would like to thank Mrs Spowart and Mr Andrew Fairley for their coaching and encouragement throughout the season and all staff who travelled and helped with the teams. Thanks also go to Mrs Christie and Mrs Hutchison for coaching the junior teams.

Susan Graham (Captain)
Holly Maxwell-Stevenson (Vice-Captain)



Louise Patullo, Katie Young, Susan Graham (Cpt)
Rachael Cosgrove, Alice Burnett, Morven Millar



Heidi and Susanna



Alice and Katie

Club reports 1st XI Boys' Hockey Report

This has been an exceptionally successful year for Boys' Hockey. The 1st XI team this year have enjoyed a great season with many victories along the way. It's safe to say this was probably the best season many of us had experienced and we will finish the year with our heads held high, ready to take on the challenges that next season will bring.

Sadly, it was a poor start to the season, due to a number of players unable to play - we travelled through to Glasgow Academy with 5 team players missing. However, our next fixture was against one of the top school teams in Scotland George Watsons. With a full squad we managed, with good team-work an exceptional away victory. This enthusiasm continued throughout the year as our hunger for victory grew and our zeal for the game increased. As the season progressed and we clocked up wins, our confidence grew and our skills progressed: both as individuals and as a team. This confidence was cemented by a convincing win against Robert Gordon's who have been a notoriously tough team to beat over the years.

Of course we experienced a few disappointments this season, such as our loss to Strathallan School in the Scottish Schools Championships. It was a hard fought game but Strathallan's experience as the Scottish Indoor Champions clearly showed and we were unfortunately outclassed on the pitch and subsequently knocked out of the tournament. Despite these minor setbacks, the team really gelled this year and our hours of dedication and practice were blatantly obvious on the pitch every Saturday morning. No matter what the weather threw at us, the commitment and desire to win was always there to spur us on.

Towards the end of the season, on a cold, dark evening, we were honoured to play the first ever hockey game on the new pitches at Dalnacraig. It was immediately apparent that the surface and quality of the new pitches were top class as was our hockey that evening. We came away with a great win of 6-0 against Lathellan School. The new pitches have been a great addition to the school's sports facilities and will most definitely help nurture hockey talents within the High School for many years to come.

As it comes to the end of another year, many of the 1st XI, including myself, will be hanging up their boots for the last time as they leave 6th year. I think I speak for everyone when I say we have thoroughly enjoyed our time playing boys' hockey for the school and are sad to see the end approach. However, as we leave, others will undoubtedly step up and fill the positions we leave behind thus continuing the tradition of boys' hockey.

This successful year has been made possible by the commitment and dedication of all the team players for the 1st XI. However, we must extend our thanks and gratitude to our coach, Mr W. Nichol, Andy Wood who umpired for us every Saturday morning, Bill Joss who guided us through the first half of the season, Mr John Salisbury for his invaluable goal keeping advice and everyone else who has supported and driven us through the year to always aim for the best and never settle for second.

Good luck for next season guys!
Peter Vannet 6WA2



Club reports 2nd XI Boys' Hockey Report

After a good year of hockey, the 2nd XI Boys' Hockey team has come together and we are feeling much stronger than we did at the start of the season. Although we may not have achieved the greatest successes out on the field, we have learned from our mistakes and grown stronger as a team - with a bit of hard work and determination there will be no stopping us next season!

This has been my second season as part of the 2nd XI and I have enjoyed the team's unlimited capacity for "social hockey". Being part of the 2nd XI is great fun - everyone has bright, competitive spirits and a strong desire to "muck in" and achieve the very best as a team. This high level of commitment meant that afterschool training was well attended with everyone trying to improve their individual hockey skills as well as trying to integrate and perform well as a team. I would like to thank Mr W Nichol, Mr A Wood and Mr J Salisbury for giving up their time and patience to help the team. Without their expertise and support, many practices and games would not be possible. With their continued support, I think the team will have an awesome season 2012/13.

Callum Strachan 6WA2

Club reports Cricket Team Report



This season saw a significant increase in the number of Cricket fixtures for all sides and there was a real sense of anticipation regarding the start of the season. Our first match was scheduled to involve the 1st XI taking part in the 20/20 championships on 19 April 2012. However, this tie did not take place until the final week of the summer term in late June, which gives some indication of the effect the weather had on the lovely sound of the thwack of leather on willow! Despite some appalling weather we managed to play as many games as possible through enthusiasm from staff and pupils alike.

The F1 side were very successful this year, losing only one match. The team was led by Rory Johnston who also secured representative honours. The F2 side had a mixed season with some notable performances. Grant Harley led the team effectively and his enthusiasm brought many boys into the side, which was pleasing to see.

F3 and F4 combined well to form a composite side which won most games convincingly. What was really pleasing to see was the synergy between both year groups and how they managed to work together to achieve successful performances.

The 1st XI had a successful season, due in no small part to the hard work of Mr Spowart, Stewart Rodney and Niall Moorjani. The performance of the season was undoubtedly the convincing defeat of the High School of Glasgow at Dalnacraig, on one of the few beautiful days we enjoyed during the summer term of 2012.

Hopefully the weather will improve next season and we can build upon our excellent performances this year for continued success.

Club reports Equestrian Report

This year the High School had just the solitary representative in the Scottish Schools Equestrian Championships, held at the impressive Gleneagles Equestrian Centre, in April. Unfortunately, the event clashed with another local prestigious event which actually was cancelled at the last moment, due to a waterlogged course. However, the weather was just perfect at Gleneagles and full marks must go to Marisa Shaw F3 for turning up to represent the school and have a good day out in the process. 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.

Marisa, riding Zahara Dark Mist, competed as an individual in the fourteen and under class. She had learned her dressage test to perfection and performed a good test in one of the two outdoor all weather arenas. The indoor show jumping element provided no problems for Marisa and she finished up fifth, with a double clear round and a very fast time in the timed jump off. Thanks are due to Marisa and her family for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication and also to Mr Middleton for acting as chef d'equipe and photographer.



Marisa Shaw on Zahara Dark Mist



Club reports Golf Report

This year saw the school golf take a new step. Lessons were provided at Panmure Golf Club for 2nd and 3rd year boys- facilitating hour-long lessons with Andrew Crerar, head professional, alongside his assistant professionals Craig and Chris; followed by a round of between nine and 12 holes of golf. Proving a great success, the boys' dedication to the game showed them more than willing to play come rain or shine.

We hope the popularity of the addition of golf to the sporting curriculum will attract many of the schools girls in the years ahead.

The Boase medal for senior boys golf, played at Drumoig Golf Course was contested by 17 boys, set in glorious sunshine.

Achieving an astonishing 82 stableford points over two rounds, Graham Watson (2nd year) secured the win, closely followed by Paul Kidd (3rd year) and Henry Sampson (4th year) in third.

The term's matchplay competition - The Pirie Cup- has been hotly contested by 32 competitors. With adverse weather conditions stifling play, the cup competition remains ongoing, with Harry Ogilvie (3rd year) and Henry Sampson due to go head to head for the Final title.

The Juniors' Stuart Gordon trophy for Golf and the Recordon Salver for girls have been scheduled for September, whilst the autumn term brings with it the Independent Schools competition for the boys' team. They will travel to Kingsacre Golf Club for the tournament fixture.

Over the next academic year, we plan to expand the number of competitive local matches of golf for both the boys and girls to enter.

I would like to thank all those who have helped with the Golf this year at the High School and to congratulate all those who have competed, to date. I am looking forward to next years' competitions.



Junior School Year Group News

Junior School Piano Day

Piano Day this year had a very special blend of poetry and music. Junior School pupils were invited to create a poem based on a series of piano pieces, *7 Days a Week*, by RR Bennett. Photographed here are our musicians – Jamie Daniel (L5), Laura Murphy, Anna Hudson, Catriona Addison (all L6) and Janey Speed, Lucy Darroch and Kieran Forster all (L7). As you can see, our young poets tried to capture their feelings about each day of the week.



Sunday

Sunday the day of rest, everyone's calm,
everyone's quiet, riding the breeze,
there's no rush. Skimming the water,
feeling the calm, listening to the gentle
singing of birds. The beautiful feeling of
peace, the wind in your face, knowing
deep in your heart that the weekend's
almost over, but not caring. Inside
your house, watching the rain, hearing
the delicate patter of drops hitting the
windowpane.

by Anoushay Okhai

Monday

The sleepiness in my cat.
The brown mud on the ground.
The cold frost in winter.
The wolf that is always howling.
The brussel sprouts that spoil a
Christmas dinner.
The floppy dress that hangs in the
cupboard.

That's my Monday!

by Ailsa Madonald

Tuesday

Talking, telling, twist together,
Usually girls will have a blether!
Eager boys will chase and fall,
Sprinting fast they shout and call.
Dancing girls and football boys,
Always make a great big noise.
Yelling children have such fun,
when they play out in the sun.

by Eve Jarron

Wednesday

Today I wake up and think,
I think about how every day has its
Own little adventure,
How every day has its own
mountain to climb,
How every day has its highs and lows,
But now, as I lie in bed,
I wonder to myself,
"What could possibly go wrong?"

by Charlotte Jennings

Thursday

Thursday is a boring day,
Been working hard all week.
Thursday is a dull cloudy day,
Like a pointless mountain peak.
Thursday is a slipper day,
Always wanting to lie in bed.
Thursday is a grey day,
Feeling all dead.
Thursday is a sloth day,
Can't be bothered to do anything.
Thursday is a slouched potato day,
Just sitting down reading.

by Katie Bonnyman

Friday

If Friday was an emotion it would be
fatigue, recoiling, yet relaxing, tired,
content, joyous.

If Friday was a colour it would be yellow,
sunny, bright colourful, cheerful; the
feeling that Friday is the best day of the
week. Sunny, clear skies no clouds, that's
Friday, just nothing but playing outside
with a breeze.

If Friday was an animal it would be a
playful puppy, so fun loving, just like a
puppy.

If Friday was a food it would be cake;
sweet tasty cake, just waiting to be
gobbled up.

If Friday was clothing it would be cosy
pyjamas that keep you warm at night
..... That's my Friday

by Sam Chesters

Saturday

Saturdays, the day that brings you alive.
Or maybe the day that you arrive.
It's time to celebrate the day of fun.
No matter what goes on and on.
It is time for cheer and joy and laughter.
So please enjoy your happy ever after.
Although it is time to meet family and
friends.

But sadly Saturday will have to end.

by Morven Wright

Nativity Report

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the school, 121 L1-3 children were busy rehearsing their roles in the school's annual nativity. This Christmas we found ourselves travelling back in time to experience the magical world created by Clement Clarke Moore in his well-known poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas".

Our children brought the poem to life with sparkle and zest portraying a bossy Jack in the Box, an excited Victorian family, St Nicholas and his reindeer and a magical, mischief of mice. As ever the children were amazing and gave four wonderful performances to packed halls of Junior School pupils, parents, grandparents and many others.

Due to the overwhelming generosity of our audience we raised just over £1550 in donations. This was shared between the Ninewells Cancer Campaign, The Jacqui Wood Centre and the Mashimoni School Kenya.

Many thanks again to all those who supported this year's Nativity and we look forward to seeing you all again this December.



L1 Jubilee Stories



I had a barbeque in the garden to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

by Max Finlay, L1W

I had a chicken sour cream for my dinner. It is one of the Queen's favourites.

Andrew Lowdon, L1W

We had a street party for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There was face painting and a bouncy castle.

by Amy McVean, L1W

I went to London for the Queen's Jubilee. I saw the royal barge with the royal family.

by Heather Grant, L1W

My family and I went to Edinburgh. We went to a fancy restaurant. Everything was red white and blue.

by Sara Okhai, L1W

I went to Hamish's house to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We had a treasure hunt to look for crystals. When we found the crystals we had to go to Buckingham Palace.

by Sarah Campbell, L1W

L2 Monster Stories



L2 Monster Stories

The Day my Monster Escaped

It was quiet in L2F's classroom when suddenly Jay climbed out of the folder and ran as fast as he could to the door. Jay climbed to the door handle and jumped on it really hard. I opened and he ran down the corridor which was dark and spooky and headed towards Mrs Roses' office. Jay burst in and started playing on her computer and wrote a naughty letter, then turned the table upside down. Suddenly the sun was coming up so Jay made a paper airplane and zoomed back to the classroom. The he ran back to the folder. When Mrs Rose went back to her office she was so surprised that her stuff was all on the ceiling. Then the magic wore off and she had to spend all day tidying up.

by Jan van der Kuyl L2F

L2 My Mummy

Mummy
Black hair and green eyes
Oval face and rosy cheeks
Lovely and short
My mummy is funny and good
Mummy

Mummy
Pretty and slim
Stylish and beautiful
Kind and crazy
My mummy is cuddly and brave
Mummy

by Lachlan Smith L2M

Mummy
Short hair and hazel eyes
Smiling and pretty
Beautiful and funny
Slim and smart
I like to cook with you.
Mummy

Mummy
Crazy and playful
Very hard working and good fun
Helpful and kind
Cuddly and caring
I love you mum.
Mummy

by Hamish Will



Alistair Binnie, L2A

L2 Rescue at Sea

One sunny and peaceful Saturday the family decided to go to the beach. Dad soon fell asleep and Mum was sunbathing, the children were on the dinghy. The girl was paddling on the boat. She said the water was nice and refreshing but it was quite cold.

At first it was fun. But they never noticed they had gone too far out. When they did notice they were terrified because the sea was really high. How would the children get back? The boy was crying with terror. They knew that their parents couldn't see them.

Suddenly their parents noticed the children were gone and Dad called the RNLI lifeboat service. The lifeboat raced into action. The children thought they would never see their parents again. All at once they saw a lifeboat. They both waved. "Help, help!" they called.

The men from the lifeboat let down a rubber ladder. The dinghy swept away. The men gave the children a towel and a hot drink. The children were happy to be near the shore. Their parents were very happy to see them.

by Archie Macdonald

L2 Magic Potions

Potions to make teachers faint.

Drop in 8 slimy, horrible, yellow, spiders legs.

Chop in 10 blood red tear drops from a baby crying.

Whisk in 9 monkey's squidgy guts.

Spit, Pop, Bubble.

Pour in 2 teaspoons of red pirate hearts.

Grate in 1 dark purple spot from a giggling monkey.

Crack 6 hard boiled eyeballs from a green zombie.

Stir, Whisk, Twist.

Now our potion is ready.

by John Wight and Lucy Clarke

L3

Bonfire Night

I can feel my warm gloves soothing my cold hands.
 I can smell smoke from the barbecue and the fire.
 I can hear poppinh and exploding rockets in the midnight blue sky.
 I can see the glistening gold fireworks rising up and coming down like a golden waterfall.
 I can taste the hot chocolate running down my throat.

by Zoe Faloon L3M

Ray Tay Haiku

A droplet of rain,
 It gets bumpy and speeding,
 A winding stream starts.

It's fast and racing,
 Meandering right through Perth,
 Flatter and slower.

Dodging big sand banks,
 With grey seals sunbathing there,
 Flows into the sea.

Bby Sarah Elliott

L3

The Journey of the River Tay

A cold and glittering droplet of water falls on the hillside of Ben Lui and flows down until it becomes part of the River Dochart. It sparkles in the sun and flows on and into the Rover Lochay before it joins Loch Tay which has little boats bobbing up and down on it. It begins to get more and more narrow as Kenmore comes into sight. The River Tay begins. It goes past the Bonnie Banks at Aberfeldy. The water slows on the flatter ground. It meanders through Perth and the tides come in and out. There is lumpy sand with sleepy seals on it. Then it is wider and it passes Dundee before it joins the wavy North Sea.

by Eva Campbell L3M

L3

The River Tay

Rippling Rivers cutting through the hillside,
 Is the final depth of the Tay as black as night?
 Vanishing pebbles and stones as erosion is caused,
 Extraordinary fish lurking around each corner
 Rushing rapids roaring away.

by Eve Campbell L3W

L4

Family Portraits



L4 An Application to be a cabin boy....

Pirates



Dear Captain Bluebottle,

I am writing to apply for the position of cabin boy on the Dawntreader. I think I would be a good cabin boy because I am amazing at organising things in my room. I am good at serving apple pies as well. Folding clothes for PE always earns me house points because it is so neat.

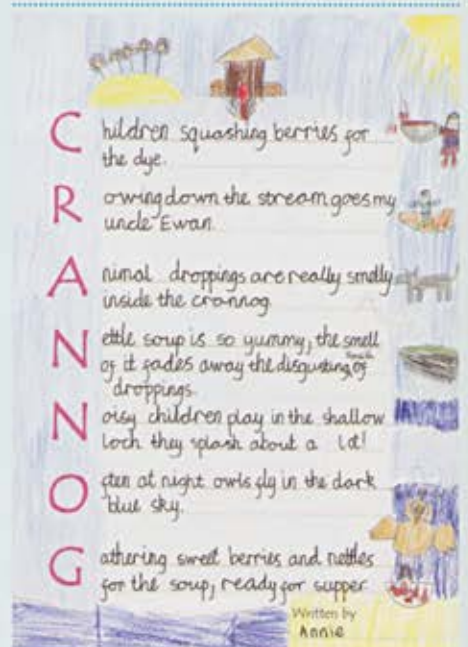
I am also good at sorting clothes to go in the washing. I am an expert on climbing frames so I could learn how to climb the rigging. I am great at watching the ball in cricket so I would be a great lookout.

My skills in washing the car are great, so scrubbing the decks would be no problem! I am fast, slim and good at carrying things so I would make a perfect powder monkey.

I look forward to hearing from you.
 Yours sincerely,

by Dominic Westwood, Age 8

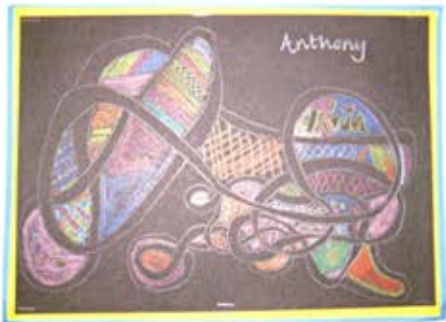
L4 The Celts





L4 The Romans

Art: Mosaics
Technology: Making chariots
(Roman Challenge Day)



L5 Haikus

Spiders
Crawling in shadows,
Looking for something to eat,
Making shiny webs.
by Robbie Coupar, L5P

My Dragon
My dragon's name is Kia. He has blood tipped claws, a great big strong tail which can knock over trees, great bone crushing fangs, fiery red smooth scales and a snake-like body with a big yellow stomach. He is famous for his crown jewels – a gold Samurai sword! He is deadly because Kia can kill other dragons in a flash. He is scary because he kills in a very painful way and death defying because he burns forests and goes in them looking for food amongst



L5

the flames. Kia is mean because he knocks down houses and makes people homeless. He loves eating sheep and goats, but, hates people going into his cave.
by Nairn Wilson L5C

The Castle

It was a cold, snowy winter's night in December. In front of us was a big stone castle, sprinkled with snow like it had been sifted through an invisible and weightless sieve. The castle was big with frostbitten windows and soldiers were striding up and down the castle walls, very proud of their defensive jobs. Wafting through one of the windows, just above us, came a sensational smell of roast chicken, roast beef and a delicious swan pie – making everyone's mouth water. On a nearby branch perched a beautiful snowy owl. It was sitting above a bald eagle which had also just swooped down onto this nearby tree. High up in a north turret of the castle a candle flickered and then went out. Behind us the church bells rang, signalling midnight. Up in one of the windows, inside the castle, men and women could be seen dancing in the Great Hall. Everything sparkled in the moon's reflection. To the left of the keep, some soldiers were talking. The scent of wet bark, smoke from the castle and wet pinecones stained the fresh winter air. Snow gleamed on the castle and on the castle walls. The drawbridge came up with a clatter when everyone turned in for the night. The snowy owl had gone too and we were alone. The last candle went out. Finally, dawn quickly came as the snow gleamed with the sun. It was time to attack! by Alex Laird L5C

My Dragon

My dragon can become invisible. Poison, my dragon, is very powerful and can easily survive falling anvils from the sky weighing 250kg! He sometimes eats great white sharks and poisonous animals. His razor sharp claws can cut through stone. His claws are diamond-tipped and they are made of iron. He can also cut through wood. He allows people to cut off his claws and carve them into tools and knives. His fire can light campfires for scouts and survivors. He can help farmers by burning down forests for crops and farmland. Farmers find him very handy.
by Jamie Daniel L5C

L5

The Giant's Winter Garden

In winter the giant's garden was a very different place to be. The snow on the bench twinkled like stars on a clear night. I got a glimpse of the pond and how it gleamed like sun on snow. The icicles hung like shimmering daggers, frozen in mid-air. The grass was like dragons' teeth – so prickly and sharp you could cut yourself by walking through it. I could hear the sound of my own feet crunching on the thick layer of snow. I could smell the scent of dark bark as it filled the air. I could feel the temperature getting colder as I got closer to the end of the garden.

by Amy Pal-Kerr L5C

L6

Why Wear A Poppy?

Red poppies, what are they for?
That's what I wondered,
Before I learned more...

Now I can imagine the shouts of fear,
The terrified soldiers with only terror to hear.

How horrible it must have been,
Out there, some only eighteen.
I shudder at the thought,
Of what war must have brought.

The bombs and burning fire,
That dreadful barbed wire.
So young were those brave men,
Only hearing from family by paper and pen.
Some came back with wounds so bad,
Just the thought of it makes me feel sad.

I'll always wear a poppy,
On Remembrance Day.
I'll remember those soldiers,
Who sat in the trenches,
Hoping that one day,
Their bravery would pay.

by Hannah Alijani



L6

It was growing late and the last of the shops had closed. A boy wandered through the bone like gates that imprisoned the dusty graves of the Underworld. He could hear the terrifying howls of dogs that sent blasts of fear up his spine. The boy slowly staggered across the stony path and stopped as he heard a creaking sound. He quickly turned around. There was a big bang and the barred gates slammed shut. Heavy rain started to pour down on the poor boy's head while lightning slashed at the ground bringing up a dead corpsy smell from the wooden coffins. The boy fell to his shivering knees with his hands covered in squidgy mud. There was a tidal wave of lightning, then suddenly nothing and the boy was nowhere to be seen. Nothing changed in the area except a new grave had mysteriously appeared out of nowhere.

by Jamie Macmillan (L6C)

L6 Writing

Setting the Scene

I walked excitedly out of the changing cubicle and threw my clothes into the locker, walking away as it clanged shut behind me. Already I could hear the screams of children going down the twisting flumes. I dipped one foot into the warm chlorine-scented water and adjusted my goggles. I could see people lining up nervously to jump off the highest diving board, small children in their inflatable rings and beach balls flying through the air. People were being whirred round and round in the speeding rapid river and I swam over to join them, my parents following on reluctantly.

by Sophie Levin, L6G

Pencils clinked as they were put down on the desks. Sheets of paper ruffled as they were dropped. It was silent. Quiet nervous breathing was heard as there was only five minutes to go. Someone whispered to a friend and it sounded as loud as a drum because it was so quiet. The clock ticked on and on and on. The air felt calm and still. The hand on the clock reached ten. A wave of relief passed over everyone. It was finished.

by Mia Brown, L6G

L7

Fagin

Fagin crept slowly towards the wall without making a sound. His eyes scanned over the boys menacingly, before moving on. Once he reached the wall, he sat down cautiously on a hard lump of stone. Turning around, he prised a loose brick from the wall revealing an elegant wooden box. His auburn hair lay limp, draped across his shoulders as he leant forward and eased the box out of the opening. He chuckled greedily to himself, his fingers stroking the wood lovingly. He opened the box and stared at its contents for a couple of moments and then extracted a beautiful long pearl necklace. He wound it round his fingers and hands – as if checking it to be authentic or not. His face broke into a wide grin and his piercing blue eyes softened. After replacing the necklace, he pulled out a stunning pocket watch. He gazed at the watch in his hand appreciatively, then brought it to his ear and listened to the soft rhythmic beat of the clockwork. He sighed with longing and reluctantly put the watch in the box. His shoulders drooped and, his eyes full of desire, he turned to return the box to its hiding place.

by Ellidh Fish L7D

L7 Imaginative Writing

Loneliness

Loneliness is grey,
It smells like a lone pine tree at Christmas,
It tastes like an out-of-date cookie,
It sounds like a vast empty desert,
It feels like silent falling snow,
It lives in friendless travellers.

by Gregor Kemp

Mysterious Forest

The wind whistled around me and blew my hair wildly as I cautiously tiptoed through the trees. Every now and then, I stopped to make sure there was no one behind me. Branches and leaves flew in my face, causing me to stumble and trip. The forest was dark and mysterious. I shivered. Something was telling me this place wasn't safe. But still, I continued walking. The rustling of the trees in the wind convinced me that they were whispering. Whispering about me. Telling each other that I was so foolish to have ever come. I glanced around and felt so lonely and terrified. I desperately wanted to curl up in a hole and lay there forever.

Mice scurried around my feet and the beady eyes of crows seemed to watch my every move. I felt extremely uncomfortable here as I constantly searched for a way out. The smell of mud and wetness, made me wrinkle my nose. All around me, crows squawked noisily and the tall, slender trees began to swish around, their finger-like branches reaching out to grab me. Would I ever get out of here?

by Jessica Fotheringham, L7D

L7 Old Girls' Prize for Creating Writing Beth MacAlpine, L7D

Creating an Atmosphere The Fallen Pendulum

I stopped in my tracks. Although it was a mild night there was a certain chill in the air as I stared at the cottage that had once been homely, welcoming. It definitely wasn't anymore. The garden, once filled with colourful flowers, was now covered in weeds, the flowers long since dead. The thatched roof had huge chunks missing, bricks gone from the walls and the pretty white paint was now yellow and peeling. Stepping inside, I noticed that old photographs were tattered, the glass on their frames shattered, the faded wallpaper was peeling and the cobwebs around the room deserted, for even spiders had fled the place. An old mirror lay in shards about the floor, and a feeling gripped my heart that something terrible had happened here. I walked on and the cracked face of a grandfather clock loomed above me and cast eerie shadows around the walls, but my eyes were drawn to something on the muddy carpet. A rusty pendulum lay there, and something dark was glittering on the end.

Character Descriptions

Uriah Heep

The room fell silent. Uriah Heep had just walked into the room. His solemn sadness seemed to be contagious, because, as soon as he entered, everybody's faces fell and their silence gave the impression that the Living Dead had just crept in. His black suit, buttoned right to the throat, his pale face and hands made him look dead. Though the rest of him was gothic, the red hair on his head ruined the effect somehow. Nobody spoke. His deep, dark, meaningless eyes were sweeping the room, staring into every corner, fixing each person with a stare that could melt an iceberg. It was almost as if he were

looking for something. His eyes came to rest on the dirtiest, filthiest wall. There was a sudden fire in his eyes, bright, gleeful, oddly disturbing. It was gone before anyone could blink. His dark eyes roved over the room once more, before he swept from their presence, leaving a ringing silence behind him.

L1-L3 Monster Fun Day



On May 18th this year, the infant department of the Junior School was a very scary place to be! A monster theme meant instead of children turning up to school, in their place we had zombies, witches, vampires and ghosts! There were some amazing costumes and fantastic make-up on display and the children had great fun frightening their teachers!

The PE department had set up lots of fun activities at Mayfield, but the highlight of the day had to be the bouncy slide and castle. As you can see from the photographs, the children all enjoyed their day.

L2 Farm Trip

Right at the beginning of the session L2 had a very successful visit to Arbirlot Farm. We went as part of our Food and Farming project to learn more about the types of crops grown in our local area and all the different things these foods can be turned into. We had a great day tramping up and down fields and peering into huge barns filled with all types of crops from potatoes the size of adult shoes to tiny little wheat seeds. We also enjoyed meeting numerous noisy cows and hearing about all the different things the farmer has to do to make sure their cattle are well cared for and ready to sell on. However, the highlight of the day had to be meeting the farmers' very old cat who was determined to get a cuddle from every child as they passed by on their way back to the bus.

L2 Trip to Discovery

As part of our Famous People Project L2 spent the morning on Discovery learning all about the ship and the people who went on the grand adventure to Antarctica. It was a great morning, despite the weather, and the children saw all around the ship and even got to try on various different clothes that Captain Scott and his crew would have had to wear to protect themselves from the icy winds. One highlight of the visit was looking at the ancient graffiti written inside the crow's nest. None of the L2's were willing to climb the rigging to see if there was any modern writing in the nest at the top of the present mast.

L3 A day at Edinburgh Zoo

We were all excited when we got to school on Wednesday 13th June. Today we were going to Edinburgh Zoo and we'd already had a mention on Chris Evan's breakfast show as 'Breaking News'!

We set off and I was really looking forward to seeing the pandas. After a long bus journey we got to the zoo and made our way in. The first animal we saw was the sea lion. It was huge! It kept on swimming and poking its head up to take a breath and when it did you could see its size. We walked up the hill, passing lots of small animals. We reached a grassy area where we stopped to have our snack. I was hungry!





After snack, we went to the monkey house. The monkeys were loose on the trees around the path and I was scared. One monkey was carrying a little baby on its back. We left the monkeys and headed to the chimpanzee house – Bundungo. It was a big building and the chimpanzees were outside eating bananas. One chimp inside was lying on its back in a basket eating a carrot, it looked very relaxed!

After the chimpanzees we went on a tour up the big hill. It was tiring but we saw zebras, lions, Gentoo penguins and gibbon monkeys. As well as lots of others.

We went down the hill quickly as we needed to have lunch. It was nice and sunny so we sat on the grass.

Finally it was time to see the pandas. We met our guide, Arran, and went inside. We could see Sunshine having a nap inside. He was HUGE. Arran told us he weighed 20 stone. That's the same weight as Richie Gray! Sweetie, the girl panda, was outside but she came in to say hello. We walked around to see her outside enclosure. She had a lot of bamboo, a climbing frame and a pool. When we were leaving she came and sat in the pool!

We had to leave the pandas to make our way to a lesson. We learnt all about animals and the threats that they have like pollution, over hunting, habitat loss and pet trade. It was very interesting. Once we'd finished, it was time to head home. I would have liked to stay and see lots more animals!

L3 Photography Club



Over the course of 2011-2012, the majority of L3 children attended Photography Club. There they had the opportunity to develop skills in using a digital camera as well as thinking about the set up of a photograph before it is taken. The children explored their creative sides by re-making famous stories. Instead of illustrating the stories, they scoured the school (and home!) for props to create suitable scenes to illustrate their books in photos. Some of the books created can be viewed in the school library. Group six got into the Olympic spirit by creating a wall display inspired by the colours of the Olympic rings.

L4 Visit from a Roman Soldier

In L4 we got a visit from a Roman soldier to help us learn more about Rome.

We thought we were going to Mrs Halliwell's room for a talk about Roman artefacts. Miss Carrie began talking then all we heard was a bang on the door! When the soldier came in we thought we had gone back in time. Were we still in the twentieth century? Marcus the soldier then marched us all up to the Margaret Harris Hall. We were all a little bit scared to be given Roman army orders! He told us all about Roman armour and showed us a pilum (spear) and a gladius (short sword). The soldier brought his wife with him. They showed us the clothes Roman people would have worn. She also told us about the types of houses Romans may have lived in.

We all enjoyed a fascinating visit. It was learning, but fun! It was much more exciting than sitting in a classroom having a teacher tell us about the Romans! We think next year's L4s will enjoy a visit from the soldier too.

L4 Trip to the Crannog



In L4 history we were learning about the Celts. Half of this was a visit to the Crannog at Loch Tay, which is a new crannog like the one where the Celts used to live. It has a bridge to a round house on legs in the loch. There were reeds thatched on for the roof.

First we had to get on a bus to get there. It took just one hour and a half! I sat beside my friend Ellie. We had a game to play so it wasn't that boring. Me and my friend nearly won the game. Finally we got there and left our packed lunches on the bus for later.

Inside the crannog it is very dark and smelly. There are animal skins on benches so I chose to sit on them. We learnt about what the Celts ate and where they slept. They ate animals and things they farmed or gathered around the crannog and they slept on bracken and wooden mattresses. We even got to see some old wooden pots and an old butter pot. There was a huge fire in the middle of the crannog to keep the Celts warm. We saw a huge pot and learnt that you used to be able to make nettle soup in it. The animals lived in the crannog in the winter too.

There is a bridge to get off the crannog so that you don't fall in the water. Outside the crannog they showed us where the animals lived the rest of the year and told us that chickens didn't live there until the Romans came. We saw log boats outside the crannog hooked onto the banks. It was a good view of the mountains and the loch which will not have changed much since the Celts lived there.

We went into the museum. Inside there were the original legs of the crannog. They were kept in a special water tube to stop them falling apart. There was a 'feely game' to put your hand into and you had to guess what was in the box. We saw a video of the divers looking at a wrecked crannog under the water. We saw a log boat in there as well.

Outside were lot of activities for us to do. We made fire and saw dyed wool. We drilled a hole in stone and turned some wood. That was really good fun. I really loved my time at the crannog and I want to go back.

by Emma Porter

L5 Science Report



We started off the year with Chemistry. We learnt about 'Fair Testing', we learnt that liquids move more freely than solids and gas can move everywhere. Some of our experiments included separating materials, buoyancy and heating solids to see if they changed and we found out that the Water Cycle has processes such as condensation, precipitation and evaporation. We visited Dr Taylor's lab and saw Mrs Powrie's hand on fire, a bottle on fire, a magic genie, sparkly crystals and water changing colour! We had another fun moment when we got to race liquids down a ramp to test how viscous they were, ketchup came last in the race.

After Christmas we moved onto Physics. We studied the planets of our Solar System and we all got to choose our favourite planet and study it in detail. Then we had one of our best days of Science ever, our Science and Technology Challenge Day. We had a Mobile Planetarium visit the school and we got to sit inside and watch the night sky. We also worked out if it was possible for there to be life on another planet in another Solar System.

In the afternoon we built rockets and launched them in Margaret Harris Hall with the help of Dr Brown from the Physics department. We found out a lot about Space!

In our last term we studied Invertebrates. We handled worms and slugs and had a butterfly farm in the classroom. We released our Painted Lady butterflies in the Courtyard Garden when they had emerged. We were lucky enough to visit the Biology Department and use the microscopes to look at some really small creatures which were amazing, some of them looked like they had windmills and some looked like bears! Dr Fotheringham gave us the proper names of rotifers and tardigrades.

We would like to thank all of the staff in the Senior School Science Departments who helped to make L5 Science this year so interesting and exciting.

by Alex Fish and Duncan Laird (L5)

L6 trip to St Andrews Botanical Gardens

On Wednesday 24th March L6 visited St Andrews Botanic Gardens. We travelled by bus and, when we arrived, were welcomed by a friendly bunch of staff who showed us to the main glasshouse where we placed our belongings. We were already arranged into five groups the Toucans, the Spider Monkeys, the Piranhas, the Sloths and the Jaguars. Each group completed three different activities, one of which included making a mini rainforest in a bottle. Firstly, we lined the bottom of the bottle with a thin layer of rocks then placed a mixture of compost and perlite rock on top of that. Using our fingers, we made holes in the soil in which to place plants, which included pielea, spider plants and ferns. Apparently our rainforests will continue to grow for up to a year. In other activities, we constructed 3D orchids, walked around warm green houses while learning about the plants and their adaptations and tasted different foods from rainforest trees and plants. Overall it was an exciting and interesting trip.

by Rachel Rose and Heidi McMillan (L6C)

L6 Challenge day

On Monday 26th of March we had our L6 Challenge Day which was all about Fair Trade. We played the Coffee Bean Game and investigated how difficult it is for Fair Trade farmers to compete against large companies. We worked in teams. Teams included Fair Trade and independent farmers, various chocolate companies, supermarkets and shoppers. Growing conditions for coffee beans changed when the teachers announced a change of season so prices went up and down. Sometimes the chocolate companies refused to buy beans if their quality was not high enough. It all involved careful thinking and good teamwork. Over all we had a fantastic day and had learned a lot about fair-trade.

by Katie Anderson and Kirsten Ellis L6C



L6 Christmas Party 2011



Our L6 Christmas party was a great afternoon, full of games and dancing. Everybody was dressed up – party dresses, smart clothes and kilts were the order of the day. The Corners Game caused a few problems. Some questions were straightforward (what colour is Santa's suit?) while others were a bit more difficult (what colour is Mrs McLaren's front door?). The Chewit Game gave everybody the chance to unwrap sweets while wearing ski-gloves (not an easy task) and the Snowman Game proved that drawing a snowman is possible while wearing a blindfold!

After weeks of practice at PE, it was great to try out our dancing skills. There were only a few collisions as we performed the Gay Gordons, Canadian Barn Dance, St Bernards Waltz and, last of all, best of all, the Dashing White Sergeant.

All too quickly, the end of the party arrived. Now we are looking forward to more dancing at our ceilidh, next year in L7.

by Katie Joss and Julia Newman (L6C)



L7 First Aid Club

There are lots of co-curricular clubs in L7 but the most important one of all is First Aid, because potentially you could save someone's life! Whether it is the recovery position or treating burns ... every little thing helps.

The L7 First Aid Club met every Thursday from 4-5p.m. in Mrs Halliwell's room. The group learned lots of life skills, such as how to open someone's airway, how to check if a person is breathing and also cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Two teachers run the club, Mrs Halliwell and Miss Cardno. They always help you to learn easy ways to do first aid and to remember things. Such as for soft tissue injuries remember R.I.C.E.

- R** – rest the injured part
- I** – apply ice or a cold compress
- C** – compress the injury
- E** – elevate the injured part

The club is organised by the St. Andrews First Aid Association. This has been Scotland's preferred provider of first aid for over 100 years. Each year the association teaches over 20,000 people vital life-saving techniques.

Here are some thoughts from two of the pupils that went to the club. Campbell Cunningham said, 'It's interesting and I will continue doing it.' According to Eleanor Anderson, 'It's really good fun and I like CPR!' Now a word from Mrs Halliwell, 'The children have learned vital life skills, from how to treat nose-bleeds and choking, to burns, scalds and shock. And we have had lots of fun doing it!'

At the end of the 20 week course there is a test. This year everyone passed and got their certificate that lasts for three years.

So L6s, do you want to do this when you are in L7? Not only good fun, but very important life skills.

by Glenn Davie, L7W.

L7 Paris Trip, March 2012 by Mrs Smith, Trip Leader



62 pupils travelled to Paris by coach with 7 members of staff. Extracts from their diaries provide an insight into their experiences

And, in the words of Kirsty, "I took lots of pictures so I can remember the trip forever."

Monday/Tuesday: Overnight travel and arrival in France

"The bus was very comfy and luxurious. I had a great time playing cards, listening to music and sleeping!" Glenn

On the bus... "There was a film playing, but not everyone was watching because of the thick layer of excitement that hung in the air!" Charlotte

"..we arrived at our hotel and the bus was bubbling with excitement!" Nena

"after we got settled into our rooms we had a fun evening of quizzes and even 'French' bingo!" Corrie

"... we played bingo in French. I never won but it is taking part that counts." Rachel



Wednesday: Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, River Seine cruise, Paris by night

"Today we went to the Eiffel Tower. It was so cool. It was so tall we were almost in the clouds!" Oliver

"We walked to the top of the Arc de Triomphe and there was an amazing view." Lucy

"Seeing Paris by night was a whole different experience. The Eiffel Tower even twinkled!" Thomas

"We saw the Eiffel Tower lit up and sparkling. It was one of the best things I have ever seen!" Mhairi

"Paris at night was amazing. It was great by day but fantastic at night". Joshua

Thursday: Eurodisney and quiz night

"Today was really good. The rides were fantastic and I went shopping. I really enjoyed walking around with my friends and I want to go back with my parents." Stephanie

"Today had to be the best so far. Space Mountain was amazing! I shopped at so many places, in-fact there were so many it felt like heaven. The day had come to an end but the excitement was still in the air." Malak

"We all went in small groups with people that liked the same type of rides so people weren't left out." Kirsty

Friday: Montmartre, Sacre Coeur, Aquaboulevard, quiz evening

"Sacre Coeur was really interesting and I bought a bag and a caricature. Then we went to Aquaboulevard and it was really fun. The flumes were AMAZING! I had a really good time in all of the things I did today." Ana

"Sacre Coeur was breathtaking. All the statues and candles were brilliant. I bought a special coin to remember the day." Brian

"The day I've been waiting for! Artists' Square was AMAZING! It was great watching the cartoonists draw people and the amount of detail that they put in to each part of the drawing." Gregor

"We marvelled at the beauty of Sacre Coeur, climbed Montmartre, had our caricatures done in Artists' Square before splashing around in the waters of Aqua Boulevard... we were having the time of our lives." Kieran

"Everyone was so excited at Aqua Boulevard. The teachers joined in the fun too and pushed us off floats!" Kirsty

Saturday/Sunday: Depart Paris, Calais shopping and return travel to Dundee

"It's our last day in Paris today and I will really miss it. It was so much fun." Anoushay

"I have had a very fun time here because there was so much to do and I really liked the hotel!" Lucy

'Additional Note' comments:

At Place du Tertre, Artists' Square Montmartre a joyful, typically French lady sang, whistled and played a punched-card street organ to entertain passing tourists... an enthralled and captivated Greig commented: "I wished she was my grandmum!"

"It was great fun and I was sad the Paris trip was over." Abhisri

Junior School Talent Show

Staff are always amazed by the wealth of talent we see from our pupils and the Junior School Talent Show this year confirmed just how varied that talent is. Around seventy pupils auditioned, with twenty acts being selected for the final which took place on June 12th. Our judges Shona Morgan, Alan Campbell, Cameron Richardson and Joanna Waller had an extremely difficult task choosing the winnings acts, but after deliberation they came to their decision. The winner from L1-L3 was L2 pupil Zamin Okhai on the piano, the L4-L5 winner was Katie McVean from L4 who sang Somewhere Over the Rainbow and there were joint winners from the L6-L7 category of Sarah Mackenzie from L6 with a gymnastics routine and Katie Anderson from L6 who gave a very moving performance of 'Beautiful'.

The show was ably hosted by Glenn Davie and Aengus McCrimmon who kept the proceedings moving along. Thanks to everyone who took part and who came along to watch, money was raised for the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity and Save the Children.

L1 Jubilee Challenge Day



L1 held a Jubilee Challenge Day where they took part in a series of activities. Mrs Madden kindly organized some Jubilee baking in the Home Economics department.

Our Visit from the SPCA (Scottish Prevention of Cruelty to animals)

In the 2nd week of April a member of staff from the SPCA visited our school. The purpose of the visit was to teach us about kindness to animals. We played 2 games. The 1st game was a High Risk-Low Risk game. We were split into groups of 6. She gave us objects that hurt/killed animals which we had to sort out into 3 different sections, High, Medium or Low Risk. The 2nd game was a card game. You had to have two players. Each person gets the same amount of cards. The 1st person describes an animal to the 2nd person, if the 2nd person guesses it then they get the card. She told us about all the animals that are endangered and the people that are cruel to animals. The SPCA help all animals-a member of the SPCA would drive 4 hours just to save 1 mouse. We enjoyed the day and the objective was achieved.

by Sid Sripada (L6C)

L6 Jacobite Visit



On the 27th March a Jacobite and a Redcoat came to visit L6. Mr Petrie pretended to make an announcement to the year group when suddenly two men burst in, one dressed as a Jacobite and the other as a Redcoat. They told us about the weapons used during the time of the Jacobites such as dirks, broadswords and muskets. Then they talked about clothing and the tallest boy in the year, Nathanael, got to dress up as a Jacobite. The clothes the Jacobites wore were shirts, plaids and belts. The Redcoat also talked about the uniform he had to wear which had a fancy red jacket. They then talked about food and drink which was generally bread and ale. They finished off the fantastic visit by telling us stories. One of the stories was about Jacobites who had tankards with clear bottoms so that they could see if the king's schilling was in it. This was a trap set by the Redcoats because if you accepted the ale and drank it with the king's schilling in it then you had to join the Government army. We all enjoyed the visit and thought that it was a great way to bring our History topic to life.

by Mia Brown (L6G)

L4-7 Chess Tournament

The year's chess club started with some beginners, generally from L4, learning the moves of the chess pieces and the strategies of the game. We then progressed, after the October break, with the more advanced L5 players who were keen to return after participating last year and also brought some very enthusiastic friends. The L6s and L7s had the opportunity to drop in on classes after the Christmas holidays and enjoyed improving their existing skills whilst learning new ones.

After the Easter holidays we started our annual chess tournament. The competition started with 64 pupils ranging from L4 to L7 with the games being played over the course of the summer term every Wednesday lunchtime. The elimination process meant the winner of each game progressed to the next round with the loser bowing out. By the time we got to the semi-finals we had pupils from L6 and L7 remaining with Nathanael Fagerson playing Luke Wyatt (both L6) and Brian Lim playing Alastair Munnoch (both L7). Congratulations to the finalists, Alastair Munnoch and Nathanael Fagerson. After a very tough and closely fought game, Alastair won to become champion with Nathanael runner-up. Both boys will receive their trophies at our prize giving ceremony at the end of term.

A huge thank you to all of the children who have come along to chess club this year and to the pupils who participated in the tournament with such enthusiasm and determination.

by Nathanael (left) and Alastair (right)

L3 Egypt Day

On November the 31st, L3 had an Egypt Fun Day. First we went to Home Economics where Mrs Madden kindly helped us to make flat bread. It was delicious. When we got back we made headdresses out of pasta. To make them we needed a piece of paper shaped as a headdress. Then we got some pasta shapes that had been spray painted gold. We stuck the pasta on the headdress and put little jewels on it to make it sparkle. It looked great when we had finished.

After that we made Mummies out of Art Roc. We all had a body made of newspaper. We wrapped the body with sheets of wet Art Roc. Once we had layered it several times, it was secure and it looked amazing.

We had an excellent time at the Egypt Fun Day!

by Jennifer Bonnyman and Fiona Sharp

L6/7 Netball Report 2012

This year the Dundee High School L6 and L7 netball club has welcomed 45 players. Every Tuesday after school we go to training at Mayfield with our coach Miss Reith. During the course of the year the L6 and L7 teams have played many matches against other schools. They have participated in the Winter and Summer Leagues, the Kennedy Cup, the Miss Ward Trophy and the Director's Trophy.

Our teams have achieved good successes during these events. We won all our matches in our Winter League and both the L6 and L7 teams reached the last matches in their groups for the Miss Ward Trophy and Kennedy Cup respectively. We have had lots of fun playing in these matches and we wish the L6's the best of luck in the year ahead.

During the year we have also played in two staff v pupils events. One in aid of Sport Relief and the other at the end of the year. Unfortunately the teachers won but we're bound to beat them next time!

We would like to thank Miss Reith for her support and commitment to the L6/7 Netball.

by Kirsty McRobbie and Katie Young

Adventure Service Challenge



This year, 15 L5 children have taken part in the Junior Stage, Level 2 Adventure Service Challenge Award. To achieve this, the children have completed eight activities;

- Designing and making Rangoli Patterns in the courtyard garden for Diwali
- First Aid
- Learning about being safe in the home and common hazards
- Keeping a collection of their choice over a six month period and then displaying and discussing it with their peers
- Entertaining the residents of a local Care Home at Christmas with carols and poems
- Learning about Fairtrade products, making Fairtrade banana and chocolate muffins in the Home Economics Department and helping the Enterprise group to sell them at the Fairtrade Fortnight Tuck Shop
- Making a Dreidel for Hanukkah
- Visiting Tentsmuir to do a nature observation study

The children have had the opportunity to try a range of activities which were new to them and to develop existing interests and skills. The visit to the Care Home helped the children to appreciate the value of their time and ways in which they can give service to others. The children have brought much enthusiasm, interest, skill, maturity and fun to the group.

Postcards from Dalguise by L6R



This year, 15 L5 children have taken part in the Junior Stage, Level 2 Adventure Service

Hi,
Dalguise is great. Weather fabulous so far. Yesterday we were abseiling; it was really scary and fun. Tomorrow we are going on the zip wire. Tuck shop is amazing. See you soon.

from Mia

Hi,
I'm here in Dalguise with L6 for the weekend. We've been to the tuck shop. Sweets are great! We've done abseiling and wacky races. Looking forward to the zip wire. Weather brilliant.

from Robbie

Hi,
We are having great fun at Dalguise. Yesterday we went on the zip wire – it was really good fun. Last night we took part in wacky races. We are looking forward to abseiling tomorrow. See you soon.



Hi,
I'm here in Dalguise with L6 for the weekend. There are good sweets in the tuck shop and the zip wire was brill. Wacky races, funny and abseiling is tomorrow. Can't wait. See you soon.

from Tom

Hi,
I'm here in Dalguise on a school trip with L6. Bus journey was good and weather ok. Tuck shop has lots of yummy sweets. Did abseiling and wacky races, they were great fun. Can't wait for zip wire.

From Emily

Dear Mum and Dad,
Having the best time ever, just back from tea, it was amazing! I had pizza and chips. I am in my dorm chilling out. I just thought I would write in my spare time. I am going to the disco now. See you on Monday,
from Christian

Christian Ramsay, L6G

Dear Basil,
I am having a great time in Dalguise. We have just had our tea and the food is super! I had curry and chocolate cake. The dorms are in buildings and ours is called Beinn a'Ghlo. I am sleeping in the bottom bunk and every time I sit up I bang my head!

Best wishes,

Katie

Katie Bonnyman, L6G

Hello,
I am writing this in my dorm. It is quite big, with three bunk-beds. Outside it is warm with a cold breeze. We have just been to the shop because we have just had dinner. We had chicken nuggets with chips and from the shop I got a dip-dab. Yum Yum!

Love, Alice xxx

Alice Henderson, L6G

Dalguise is so much fun. My favourite activity would have to be the Sequoia Scramble because we have to climb up different obstacles as fast as we can. At Dalguise, the groupies are really friendly and have taught us to sing the Banana Song. They have also played lots of games with us.

From Kyle (L6C)

Just back from the Forest Trail. It was great fun. We walked through an amazing forest and were told interesting stories. I'm in my dorm getting ready for the disco. I wonder which songs and dances the groupies will teach us? On the chef's dinner menu tonight was chicken curry and rice. Yum! Wish you were here.

From Heidi (L6C)



I am having so much fun singing songs and spending time with groupies. We have just been to the disco and it was awesome. I have also been on the Zipwire and Forest Walk. Now we are getting ready for tomorrow's activities. I will be doing Archery which I have never tried before so I am really excited.

From Rachel R (L6C)

Dundee Primary School Quiz

This session the High School of Dundee, Junior School was represented magnificently, and for the first time, at the Rotary Clubs of Claverhouse, Dundee Discovery and Dundee Primary School Quiz, held at Morgan Academy, by a select team from L7. The team consisted of Kieran Forster, Gabby Mulgrew, Eilidh Fish and Brian Lim.

The team were invited to attend the first round back in March. This was a close run competition, with the team trailing by a few points at half time. By the end of the final round, however, we had moved through the ranks. The team finished in second place, winning a spot in the area final of the Dundee and Fife Rotary clubs held in May. We came third and won a place at the District Final held at Meldrum Academy in Aberdeenshire in June.

The team returned without a winning place but with a convincing score of 102 and in fifth place, only 7 points behind the winning team from Tain.

An absolutely sterling effort from a hard working team who have set a high standard for future teams in a competition which we at Junior School will surely see as regular event in the school's calendar.

Scottish Schools' Athletic Association Scottish Primary Schools' 25th Cross Country Championships

On Saturday, 21st April 2012, thirteen L6 and L7 pupils travelled to Kirkcaldy High School to take part in the Scottish Primary Schools' 25th Cross-country Championships.

When we arrived we were all very excited and a little bit nervous. We went into the school to sign in and collect our race numbers.

Before the actual event we walked the course to find out what the terrain was like and what the best route around the corners would be. We even had to jump over a stream.

When the races were about to start we were lined up in our schools. The course was muddy, cold and very wet. Everyone managed to complete the course and we were all pleased with our results.

After the event we were all exhausted and couldn't wait to get home.

L5 Trip to Edinburgh Castle



On the 20th June the L5 year group set off for Edinburgh Castle. It was a long but interesting drive by coach and we were very excited to arrive. Crossing the drawbridge into the castle we saw the statues of William Wallace and King Robert the Bruce. Inside the castle walls we met the Education officers, Nathan and Kim. We had lots of fun with them taking part in castle activities. We held heavy chainmail and tried on helmets. Two boys were invited to be dressed as knights in metal armour. We could hardly recognise them! We also heard fascinating stories about prisoners escaping from the castle cells. We went to see the famous cannon called Mons Meg and we saw the oldest building in Edinburgh Castle – St. Margaret’s Chapel. A room in Crown Square was a good place to enjoy our lunch. At one o’ clock we were very lucky to see and hear the well-known gun fire. The view over the castle walls was magnificent – we saw the River Forth, the Nelson Monument on Calton Hill and the clock on the Balmoral Hotel. We were very fortunate to spot the giant Olympic rings! The Lang Stairs took us to the higher part of the castle. We visited the National War Memorial and studied the plaques, carvings and Books of Remembrance. Over in The Great Hall we saw a display of swords and other weapons and it would be easy to imagine a fabulous banquet here with feasting and entertainment. A spiral staircase took us to a special chamber where the stunning Crown Jewels of Scotland are displayed as well as the fascinating Stone of Destiny. We were lucky to see these. This was a fabulous day out to Edinburgh Castle. It has helped us with our History.

by Ailsa Millar, Pip Forster and Alexandra Laird

Junior School Enterprise 2011/12



This year’s Enterprise Team has been very busy. During the winter term, we ran a competition for Junior School pupils to find 12 fantastic illustrations for pages of our 2012 calendar. Winners came from throughout the school and showed lots of seasonal events. The resulting calendar was bright and colourful and proved to be very popular. We sold about 250 calendars, both at the Charity Fair and through orders at school.

During the spring term, our focus was Fairtrade. After introducing the idea with our Assembly in Trinity, we ran our Fairtrade Tuckshop during the national Fairtrade Fortnight in February and March. Items on sale included bananas, dried fruit, cereal bars, chocolate wafer bars and, most popular of all, homemade banana muffins. The level of support from pupils and staff for our venture was fabulous: we came very close to running out of stock! Despite the aim being solely to raise awareness of Fairtrade, we made a small profit which we donated, along with proceeds from our calendar, to the WWF/Sky Rainforest Rescue Appeal.

L4 Table Tennis Club



This session many L4 pupils have been enjoying the game of table tennis. The Friday lunchtime club has provided opportunities for skill development, exercise and having fun. Meeting in Margaret Harris Hall pupils have been working on forehand shots, backhand shots and the table tennis serve. There have been some long and exciting rallies and each group has taken part in a mini table tennis tournament. All pupils have achieved certificates of participation and tournament winners have each been presented with a colourful table tennis ball. Several L7 pupils have generously volunteered their time to help and assist the younger players in L4 – Simon Burnett, Callum Paterson, Glenn Davie, Thomas Crockart, Lewis Hall, Griff Harrod, Blair Wilson, Campbell Cunningham, Thomas Jarron, Greg Binnie, Brian Lim, Robert Davie and Angus Montador. Table tennis is an excellent game for developing eye ball coordination skills, footwork and accuracy. Particularly popular have been our exercises to improve aim – sending shots through hoola hoops or into trays. The game encourages exercise and fun and this session table tennis has provided us with the enjoyment of engaging in a sporting activity with others.

by Miss M. Cardno and Mrs P. Halliwell

Techno Challenge 2012



On Thursday 3rd May, 2011, a team of L7s (Alastair, Brian, Nena and Stephanie, accompanied by an optimistic Mrs Smith, headed off to St Leonards School in St Andrews to take part in a 'Techno Challenge Day'. We were so excited, but nervous, about what we would be facing.

We assembled in the hall along with the eighteen other schools, met our guides and were told about the series of half-hour challenges that we would do during the day. Our first challenge was Maths which included problem-solving questions and, although hard, we thought we did quite well with, followed by a tricky number crossword, which in the end we had to guess the answers to! Next we headed off to Science Activity 1. Here we had to make a boat that could hold fifty two pence coins, while still floating. Mrs Smith had previously told us to sellotape madly if anything had to float on water. We heeded advice and our boat managed to hold over fifty coins!

Science 2 followed and there we made rockets. The objective was to make the rockets air tight and stay in the air for the longest time. We made a small rocket which came 2nd and a large rocket that came 1st.

After a tasty lunch, supplied by St Leonards, we were guided to I.C.T. Each of us had to make a PowerPoint invitation for your next birthday party that could be held anywhere in the world. We had to choose the venue and plan the room, provide a detailed map, give directions and include area pictures. Our penultimate activity was held in the Library where there were some general knowledge questions about books and authors and also a comprehension task about Queen Mary.

We then headed back over to the main hall for the final activity which all schools did at the same time. This was the Maths Relay. We were split into pairs and one pair had to run to the middle to get a question from a teacher. The pair would solve it as quickly as they could before handing it back then the other pair would do the same. We enjoyed this immensely and thought we did well on this task.

Finally came the prize giving and we were overjoyed to be the winners of the large schools category and the overall winners of the day. We really enjoyed ourselves and in celebration Mrs Smith bought us a double ice-cream cone each! We brought the shield back to school and felt thrilled to have participated in 'a day to remember'.

by Alastair Munnoch, Brian Lim, Nena Nurbhai and Stephanie Mitchell, L7

Junior School Talent Show



Staff are always amazed by the wealth of talent we see from our pupils and the Junior School Talent Show this year confirmed just how varied that talent is. Around seventy pupils auditioned, with twenty acts being selected for the final which took place on June 12th. Our judges Shona Morgan, Alan Campbell, Cameron Richardson and Joanna Waller had an extremely difficult task choosing the winnings acts, but after deliberation they came to their decision. The winner from L1-L3 was L2 pupil Zamin Okhai on the piano, the L4-L5 winner was Katie McVean from L4 who sang Somewhere Over the Rainbow and there were joint winners from the L6-L7 category of Sarah Mackenzie from L6 with a gymnastics routine and Katie Anderson from L6 who gave a very moving performance of 'Beautiful'.

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Eco-Schools Review

This has been a very productive year for the eco-schools committee. Having now successfully gained the Silver Award, we are looking to the future with high hopes of achieving the Green Flag award status. Gaining the first two awards took the commitment and hard work of many dedicated staff and pupils.

Our paper recycling system within the school has flourished and continued to reduce the amount of waste paper we produce. We have also succeeded in raising awareness throughout the school, with use of the highway and an Eco schools e-newsletter, to publicise our achievements and to encourage the school as a whole to make small changes to become more eco-friendly. A very significant change we made to reduce our reliance on paper was to convert the

“Daily Bulletin” from a regularly 4-sided paper document to an electronic version, saving reams of paper every week!

As a further method of raising awareness, we encouraged the school community to take part in an “Earth Period” based on the hugely successful “Earth Hour” run by WWF. This was to signify the amount of electricity we all use and how the amount we consume is often unnecessary. Even turning the light off when leaving the classroom or switching off electrical appliances that are not in use, can make a huge difference!

Our priorities for the years ahead are moulded around the achievement of the “Green Flag Award” which is the highest recognition that any school can have to

prove that it is Eco-Friendly. To do this we must ensure that Eco-Schools values are integrated into the curriculum. We hope to introduce compost bins outside the Home Economics Department as well as recycling bins for plastic bottles in order to help us achieve our goal. This is only a fraction of the amount of work needed to be carried out by all members of the school community.

As a committee we are making excellent progress towards the Green Flag Award. Through encouragement and involvement of the whole school, we hope to make environmental concerns a central part of life in the school and give us all **High hopes for a greener future.**

Cameron Lockhart and Ellen Eyles Form 6.



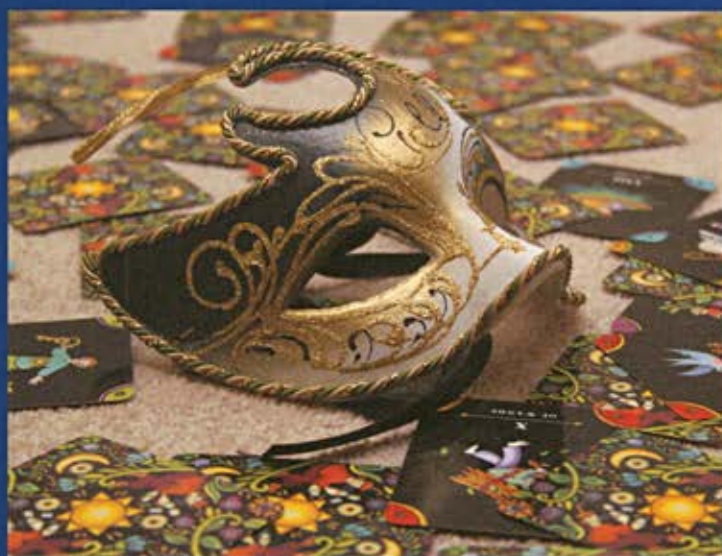
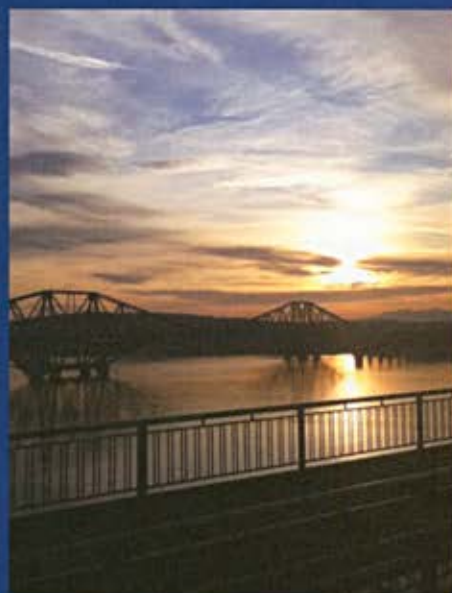
Photography

Best Photographs - voted by pupils and staff:

1st - Alex Smith, Form 1



2nd (joint) - Benjamin Braid, Form 2



2nd (joint) for Best Photographs - voted by pupils and staff: and
2nd place for Technical Prize - judged by a local freelance photographer -
Summer Shek, Form 3

Young Speakers

The Young Speakers' Club has enjoyed a lively and productive year, and the meetings on Tuesday lunchtimes have regularly been a source of diverse and heated discussions.



The winners with judges Professor Whatley, Scottish Historian and a Vice Principal of the University of Dundee; Mr Richard Burnett, President of the Old Boys Club and parent; and Eilidh Whatley-Marshall. Also present are Mrs Ovenstone-Jones who, with Miss Whatley-Marshall, runs the club and Mrs Phillips, Head of English.

For many of our speakers, the most prestigious event was the English Department's Public Speaking Competition. Competing for the London-Angus Trophy and the G H Phillip Prize, the speeches at this year's competition were of a fantastically high standard. Of those who reached the final round, careful research and well-chosen rhetoric meant that the first form audience and judges had a hard time deciding who they liked best. The winner of the senior round - Holly Maxwell-Stevenson (F6) - delivered to her audience a speech which was engaging, entertaining and heartfelt. Alice Inman (F1), who won the junior round, spoke

with sincerity and insight on cultural identity in Scotland. Zarah Billah (F4) and Steven Roy (F1) fully deserved their respective positions of senior and junior runner-up for their polished performances.

In addition to involvement in in-house and national debating competitions, the speakers this year have been developing their oratory skills through various lunchtime activities, including: Just a Minute, Hot Topics and Balloon Debates - the most memorable contribution being James Cowie (F1) as Queen Victoria arguing his case to be kept in the rapidly-sinking hot-air balloon!

In a fitting climax to the year's activities we ran an in-house competition where the speakers each had the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they had gathered over the year. It was a really tough call between Hannah George (F1) and Alex Smith (F1), but Alex was eventually chosen as the winner due to her original stance and impressive use of rhetoric to engage and persuade her audience.

Next year's activities include the Mock Trial and an Off-the-cuff Knockout. Join us every Tuesday in RF03.

Philosophy Club

This year saw the beginning of the Philosophy Club, at which we have shared many strange and wonderful thoughts. What is Philosophy, and why have a club in which to practise it?



One of the fundamental questions of philosophy is whether there is any knowledge of which we can be certain, so we started by examining three reasons for doubting the existence of the Rector. From there, we proceeded to an experimental journey to Mars – we are the only club in the entire school with the facilities to offer conceptual travel on such a scale!

Since then, we have spent time with Stoicism and with science fiction (could a robot ever be a person?), explored the importance of happiness and disgust (on separate occasions), and asked

whether Christmas makes sense. We also looked at the idea of human rights, and wrote Christmas cards to a number of people who have been maltreated or imprisoned for exercising their right to freedom of speech and opinion. And that was all in the first three months.

Why do we do it? Two reasons: it's important and it's fun. Why is it important? To help us understand, or at least to think about, the fundamentals of the universe. Why is it fun? It's an opportunity to say what we think, and to hear what other people think.

Form three went to Italy on the last day of the Spring term, with half the year group being part of the party. A coach took us to Edinburgh airport, then a flight to Gatwick and then a flight to Naples enabled us to reach our hotel around midnight where kindly the staff provided us with a huge meal of pasta.

Next day we were off early from beautiful Sorrento along the amazing coast road high above the sea, coming down to the ruined town of Herculaneum buried by the eruption of 79AD under pyroclastic flows that came down Mount Vesuvius. Not only buildings reconstructed to roof level but even the timber doors and windows shutters of some structures were preserved, giving a fabulous sense of a two thousand year old town.

In the afternoon we ascended Mount Vesuvius. The bus took us much of the way but the last 500 feet we climbed the cinder path to the huge crater. We could look down inside the mountain as well as look out over Naples and the bay and the hills around.

In the evening Sorrento and ice-cream Italian style: hundreds of flavours generously filling tubs, lemon, pistachio, zuppa inglese (trifle), tiramisu and more, all freshly made.

Saturday and we explored Pompeii, wandering through the streets, imagining the roar of the amphitheatre, the life of streets and shops, entering houses, admiring the painted walls and peaceful gardens, many replanted in Roman style. It's a whole town from seedy back streets to public squares, the mansions of the rich and the hovels of the poor, crammed between the ancient fortifications. The Roman world begins to come alive.

Sunday and we packed and travelled north towards Rome, stopping at lunch time at the villa of Hadrian at Tivoli, a massive complex of buildings and gardens that was the summer retreat of our wall-building Emperor. The lakes in

the garden with their turtles and ducks and the shaded lawns made a nice rest before entering the eternally noisy city of Rome.

Our hotel was a very pleasant one just by the walls of Vatican City and close to St Peter's Basilica. We walked the next morning along the River Tiber to the Colosseum, huge, imposing and very crowded but very impressive. Lunch was at a fabulous pizza restaurant, (no pizza hut here), and then time in the Roman Forum and up the Palatine Hill, with ruins covered with wisteria blossom. Then we returned hotel-wards via the Trevi fountain, not neglecting the opportunity to cast a coin and make a wish in its blue white waters.

The next day, our last full day, we entered the Vatican museums with their fabulous collections of Greek and Roman sculpture and art, and then visited the Sistine Chapel before coming out into the warm sunlight of St Peter's square. Folks at home were texting us pictures of snowy Dundee while we enjoyed the lovely spring sunshine having walked across to the Piazza Navona for lunch.

In the afternoon, we visited the Pantheon, most splendid of all ancient Roman temples, as it stands still complete and still used as a church. Later we returned to the hotel via the Spanish steps where Keats once lived.

And on our final day a morning in Ostia, port of Rome at the mouth of the Tiber, with its ruins of Roman tower blocks and temples and warehouses and shipping company offices whose mosaic floors name the destinations that they sailed to. And after a paddle on the beach a return to the airport, flights back to Edinburgh and home to Dundee.



Trip to Italy 2012

F3 Ski Trip



Well, what can we say?

Early one morning we left Dundee,
Off we went to Austria, off we went to ski,
Molly and Fraser caused scares at security,
All because of their lack of maturity,
Little did we know, Mr Spowart would get stuck
High on a chair lift - what bad luck!

When we arrived in Austria, it was pretty chilly!
We had our first two Silly Betty and Silly Billy
(*you know who you are*)
Then came our food, which took us by surprise:
Shark, catfish and loads of salty fries.
We headed to our dorms where we were going to stay,
That is where it all began - one great PAR-TAY!

The first day we got our skis, we all took to the slopes,
The learners feeling very good as they learned the ropes.
Some of them just tumbled and others really fell,
But others, much to our surprise, actually did quite well.
An injury was suffered by poor old Max Wiewiorka
He got a broken collar bone, and that was such a shocka!

There were many funny things that happened on this trip,
Like Cameron Voice's nose and let's not forget THAT chip,
Wipeouts thanks to Ella, to Marisa and to Blaine,
And Mikey's sweet, sweet singing on the funicular train,
These were crazy happenings, to mention just a few,
From the antics of the brilliant Ski Trip Crew!

One more thing we have to state,
Beside the skiing, which was great!
Was Tobogganing on the last night,
When everyone got such a fright!
Brave Miss Hegan and Mr Jack
Went hurtling down the tobogganing track,
We saw them disappear into the distance,
And began to fear for their existence!

Despite the skiing troubles and frets,
We can say we have no regrets!
So danke schon is what we'll to say
For a fantastic trip we'll remember all our days!

By Ella Hudson, Martha Speed, India Stobbs and Catriona Strachan

F4-6 Ski Trip Report

2011-2012

The F4-6 Ski Trip departed for France on Saturday 31st December 2011, returning on Saturday 7th January 2012. It comprised of 18 boys, 11 girls and 3 members of staff. Our destination, Valloire, a charming, traditionally built ski resort located in the Maurienne valley.

Our accommodation was the ClubHotel Plein Sud. Its central location was ideal for both access to the resort of Valloire, with its traditional French village atmosphere and for providing convenient access to its charming and uncrowded ski area.

We were welcomed on the 31st December by a noisy street party with fireworks and snowballs, to see in 2012. This was the start of our evening entertainment which included bowling, disco, pool competition and a movie night; all to help ensure the pupils really did sleep well!

Day one started with glorious sunshine and a fresh dump of snow. The conditions on piste were beautiful - it was like skiing on silk and with so much fresh snow piling down, any falls were well cushioned! With lots of snow falling in the evening this frequently gave us fresh powder snow with many good days of sunshine. Each day consisted of 2 x 2 hour lessons with a hot lunch in the hotel. On the first day some of the pupils were apprehensive whilst the rest of them couldn't wait to get going. As their confidence grew and their ability improved this apprehension was replaced by the excitement of off-piste, jumps and races! The pupils bonded well with their French instructors and enjoyed the banter with them as well as learning from them. The pupils also had many opportunities to practise their French whether it was on the slopes, at the pizza/pancake stalls, in the village shops or at the market.

All in all it was another good trip with fun, excitement, falls, tears, jumps and bumps as well as new formed friendships.

"Au revoir, jusqu'a l'année prochaine!"
Our next trip for F4,5,6 is scheduled for 2014 - start saving now for a fabulous ski experience!



French trip

2012

Wednesday 20th June, 6 a.m

The long-awaited day was finally here, and we were OFF TO FRANCE!

The venue – la Châtelleraie, a château situated just outside the village of Maurs, in the heart of the Cantal, which we'd heard about from previous participants on the trip and were dying to see for ourselves.

Our flight left Edinburgh on time, and when we touched down in Toulouse two and a half hours later, it was goodbye to the rain and cold, and hello to the sunshine and hot temperatures we were to get used to during the next week.

Thursday 21st June

We woke up to a warm, sunny day, ready for market day in Maurs and horse-riding. We were all feeling a bit nervous at having to use our French, but it was surprisingly easy to make ourselves understood – Monsieur hadn't been lying after all! We bought some local products, and were just disappointed that haggling didn't work! Yannick, the horse-riding instructor, only spoke French to us, really testing our knowledge. Many of us were surprised by how much we enjoyed the horse-riding, as it was a new experience for us.

Friday 22nd June

This was an amazing day which really exceeded our expectations. We'd all been looking forward to white-water rafting but didn't really know what to expect. Our instructor, Jean-Claude, took charge of our boat and soon had us spinning in circles, riding the rapids and attempting to sabotage the other rafts. He didn't have much English, so we relied on our French – and his hand-gestures – to understand him. We had great fun kayaking after lunch and learned lots about riding the currents. Swimming against the current was an interesting experience... All in all, a great day. Roll on tomorrow!

Saturday 23rd June

A morning spent at the market in nearby Figeac was surprisingly interesting. You could buy anything at market – even live chickens, but we took Mr Mac's advice and refrained! Lots of presents were bought for our parents and Madame Brown was proud of our attempts to use our French. The afternoon was free, but the teachers decided that, since this was sports day at home, we should mark the occasion too. So, under the relentless sun (just like at home!) we took part in our own honorary sports day, participating in such events as the escargots-on-spoon race and three-legged-frog race. Cash prizes proved a definite incentive!

Sunday 24th June

A day of culture today – a visit to Rocamadour, the second-most-visited holy site in France after Lourdes. We followed the pilgrims' trail down the steep path illustrating the stations of the cross – but not on our knees like the pilgrims! The famous Goufre de Padirac was our destination after lunch. This was truly awesome – a network of underground caverns and waterways, with the 13° temperature down there reminding us of home. What a relief to re-emerge into the warm sunshine!

Monday 25th June

Today we discovered the uses ski resorts are put to in summer! Le Lioran is snow-bound in winter but is an adventure playground in summer. We ascended the Plomb du Cantal by cable-car, coming back down the mountain on foot – no mean feat in the thick mist we were treated to up there! We can only hope the teachers were not lying when they told us that the views are spectacular... After lunch, we tested ourselves on a wicked high-ropes course. We really had our language skills put to the test, as the safety briefing and instructions were given in French! Lots of us were thrilled by how well we coped up there – a real challenge!

Tuesday 26th June

They had told us this was going to be a quirky day – and they were not wrong! Today we learned step by step how cheese is made on a visit to a local fromagerie, where the famous Cantal and Salers cheeses are made by hand. Delicious!

Slightly more unusual was our visit to the snail farm, where we learned more about these surprisingly cute creatures than we thought possible. I wonder how many of our parents will enjoy the jars of snail pâté we bought them... At tonight's barbecue we got to try snails and frogs' legs - delicious...?

Wednesday 27th June

The day we were all dreading... the journey home. We were all sad to leave the château behind, not to mention the excellent food and wonderful facilities – especially that outdoor pool! It wasn't long until that glorious weather was behind us. The true horror of our situation was revealed on landing at Edinburgh airport... "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Edinburgh, where the temperature is 13° and ... it's raining."

What a wonderful week we had – thanks to Mr MacKinnon, Mrs Brown, Mr Jack and Mrs Madden for the best time ever!

With contributions from Megan, Isabelle, Hattie, Eilidh, François, Nathan, Anushka... and several others.



Alternative sports day at the château

The History Department Trip to the First World War Battlefields in France and Belgium was a fascinating, yet emotional experience. The High School 'Pals Battalion' of pupils in Forms 4 to 6 accompanied by Mr Fyall, Mr Rennet and Miss Hegan, travelled to Newcastle by coach before embarking on the overnight ferry trip to Amsterdam. We settled into our cabins and then met the rest of the group and teachers to chat about the trip ahead. This gave us the History of WW1 and an insight into the nature of the experience ahead of us.

An early morning start took us by coach to Belgium, with Ypres in our sights. We first visited the Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is the final resting place for 11,954 soldiers of the Commonwealth forces. The scale of casualties was simply unbelievable and really hit home to many of us as to the scale of this conflict. Later in the day, we visited Hooze Crater and the museum nearby which has preserved the trenches and German concrete dugouts as they were left in 1918. This fascinating discovery allowed us to make the real connection between Tyne Cot and the nature of the trenches. In the evening, we went to the hotel, settled into our rooms and after a nice evening meal we went for a stroll around Ypres, where we saw some historical sites. This was a relaxing and fun evening of stories and spooky sights of Ypres after a tiring day.

On our second day, we visited the Loos battlefield where Dundee's main WW1 battle took place. This was an unsuccessful battle in which more than 1,100 officers and men died. People described this event as being "The Black Watch's darkest day", and so to show their remembrance, the monument is lit up on the Dundee Law on 25th September to mark the start of the Battle of Loos. We then searched intently for the names of the Battalion leaders who attended the High School of Dundee, and gave their lives in the war. We found the resting place of four former pupils, including two Brothers; Sydney and Harvey Steven, killed within ten days of each other commanding the same battalion in the same battle. This truly emphasised the close connection of the trip and our own school's history. We laid a wreath in remembrance of our fallen former pupils.

We then visited Vimy Ridge, to go underground and see how men were transported by tunnel to the front lines. These man-made tunnels gave a huge advantage to the British and Canadian allies, and due to the Germans being unaware, there was a clear victory. Being in the tunnels gave us a feel for how small they were and the harsh conditions soldiers faced as they passed through these confined spaces. We then visited the Lochnagar Crater, the largest man-made crater in the First World War. This is where the British Army exploded a mine underneath a German strong point, which marked the start of the Battle of the Somme. Soon after we travelled to the Thiepval Memorial, which is the largest of the memorials to the missing during the Battle of the Somme and Vimy Ridge. We finished the day Newfoundland, the main battlefield of the Somme between 1st July and 13th November, 1916. The first day of this battle was the worst in all of British military history as, on this day alone,

60,000 British service personnel died in action. As we walked across the battlefield, the biting cold wind grew stronger and more bitter which created a terrifying reality of the true nature of the war. What took us around two minutes to walk took the Scottish soldiers four and a half months in an attempt to capture the German trench merely 200 metres in front of them.

Later that evening, we returned to Ypres and attended the Last Post Ceremony within the Menin Gate. This memorial holds the names of 35,000 soldiers who fought in WW1 and the ceremony has been held every night (including Christmas and New Year) since 1929. Buglers and a lone piper play to a silent audience as they remember the sacrifice that was made by so few for so many. Ashley Fulton and Donald Campbell laid a wreath on behalf of the school. This was a poignant tribute to the end the WW1 focus of our trip.

On our final day we headed to Dunkirk, where approx. 20 miles north of the WW1 Battlefields and approx. 20 years after the end of the Great War, the largest evacuation in military history, took place in 1940. Once we had explored the beach where this event took place, we went to a nearby museum where we learnt about WW2, the evacuation at Dunkirk and amazed at the weapons used and other machinery which was discovered after the war. It all seemed incredible that this could happen again so soon after what we had witnessed on the Western Front of Ypres and the Somme. After an eventful trip we began our long journey home by coach and ferry. The trip was an experience not to be forgotten, where we truly began to grasp the reality of the wars and really appreciate the men who gave their lives for their countries.

By Erin Smith, Antonia Grier and Murray Hill.

History Department WW1 Battlefields Trip

29th March – 2nd April 2012



Outdoor Education is an important feature of life at HSD and this year was no exception, with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, winter outdoor skills training, the Form 1 induction week, to name but a few. Here are pictures of just some of the things our pupils got up to...



Outdoor Education







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German Exchange June 2012

The German exchange got off to a very early start this year! Seven pupils from third and fourth year, accompanied by Mr Summerville and Mrs Mackenzie set off from Dundee to Frankfurt on Sunday 3rd June at 5.15am! Our journey from Aberdeen airport to Frankfurt airport was about two hours. Unfortunately the weather did not match the warm welcome we received from our host families and exchange partners. It rained pretty much from when we landed in Frankfurt until we got back to our partners' houses. The evening was mostly spent getting to know everyone.

On Monday, we spent the day in the Christophorusschule in Oberurff. The school there is in some ways the complete opposite to what we all know. For a start, the day starts and ends earlier, with the norm being 8am to 1pm. There's also no uniform and there are usually lively discussions in all classes. We were shown around the campus by Herr Gora, met the rector of the school and then attended classes with our partners. After school, we went home to spend more time with our partners. The experience in the school was an eye opener for us all, to say the least, and just showed how different Germany and Scotland are in terms of education.

On Tuesday morning we got up early to meet again at the school and to get the bus to Wetzlar for Hessentag 2012. After about an hour on the minibus we arrived to a town packed full of stalls and people. We first saw an exhibition as a group and then we all went off with our partners to have a look around the very big showground. There were many activities like climbing and fair ground rides and there were also many fascinating exhibitions, from the likes of the Bundeswehr (German Armed forces). Many famous car and some agricultural machinery manufacturers had also shown up to show off their stock. Even political parties were using the show as an advertisement. There were even more than those mentioned but we didn't have enough time to go around it all unfortunately. There were also lots of continental food stalls there so we all ate some very interesting food that day.

Wednesday saw us all travel with our partners to the Edersee wildlife park and to the castle at Waldeck. The wildlife park was

incredible, there was such a huge array of different animals from eagles to wolves. We experienced first-hand the pack nature of these viscous predators as the alpha male ate almost all the food. We then saw the bird show which was so impressive. To see at least twenty massive birds of prey flying around the wilderness and showing their natural instincts by catching food in mid-air was truly breath-taking. We then travelled to the castle at Waldeck to experience some medieval torture methods which proved to be pretty hilarious and not too painful! The views from the castle were truly stunning.

On Thursday the long weekend began and we all had the chance for our first long sleep of the trip, of which some took more advantage than others! The weather had seemed to follow us from Scotland; however we did not let it dampen our spirits. We had planned to go to a beach but because of the inclement weather that was abandoned and instead we all met for a game of bowling which proved to be the wrong sport for us Scots as we were thrashed by the Germans! It was a great laugh though. We then all headed to Katie's partner's house for a barbeque which was a really great night and was followed by a mini penalty shoot-out. Guess who won? Well done, yet again the Germans!

On Friday we had our second day of the long weekend with our partners during which some of us met up to go on a day trip to Frankfurt. We took a train to Frankfurt and many short U-bahn journeys but we finally made it into the city centre! Firstly we went to Romberg to see the stunning fountain and the government buildings. We then proceeded to the main Cathedral in Frankfurt. After this we went into a huge shopping centre and went on Europe's largest escalator. Some people then went on a short shopping trip whilst others from the group went up the TV tower to get a view of Frankfurt. The rest of us went to the natural history museum which was fascinating with many dinosaur skeletons and some fossils. After a few hours in the museum we all made our way back to the train station. I can safely say we all slept well that night!

Saturday was another sport-filled day- we played tennis together, though most of us were not very good and the ball kept going out of the pitch and into the surrounding nettles. After this we went to one of the other exchange partner's houses where we played table tennis, had another barbeque

and watched the Germany: Portugal match. Guess who won again?

On Sunday, we went back to the Edersee where we went on a Sommerrodelbahn (a sledge in a long metal half pipe), a flying boat and an old gondola. We also went walking and went to a boat festival by a loch (which was another welcome excuse for a barbeque!)

Monday was our last full day in Germany, and it took both the Scottish and German exchange partners by surprise; time had passed so quickly it felt like we had just arrived. Mind you, it spurred us on to make the most of the trip one last time. The minibus drove us to Marburg, where we would be spending the day. We first walked up a hill to arrive in front of the castle, allowing us to see the beautiful architecture of traditional buildings but also to see the place where the brothers Grimm got their influence for their immortal stories. After taking a series of photos, we were allowed to wander into the town and buy our last gifts, but most importantly indulge ourselves in German cuisine – which seemed to be the preferred choice by the majority of us. The day didn't end at that, the schools weren't the only ones to prepare an enjoyable last day - the parents of our exchange partners had come together to organise a memorable last night. We all met at a restaurant, serving traditional German food and, as we watched the football game, we all slowly came to realise we only had a few more hours left with our partners.

Tuesday definitely wasn't a favourite day for any of us on the exchange. It was composed of sad goodbyes and the prospect of a long journey. Each person hugged their partners once more before leaving them to go to school, and we headed to the train station. We stood on the platform, taking a few last photos of our surroundings and talking to our exchange parents. It was difficult to say good bye after having lived with them for over a week, but as our train arrived we once more hugged and waved as we boarded. We returned home, with presents in our bags and new friends on our minds. We had all enjoyed ourselves, and learned a lot about the language, the culture and the history of Germany, and just how different it is to our daily life in Scotland. Now, we all wait eagerly for their return visit to Scotland in September.

Ray Lynham, Kirsty Mellor, Katie Pass, Duncan Raitt & Gordon Robertson (F4).

UK-German Connection 2011

F3 pupils Ray Lynham and Mila Georgieva travelled to Wolfsburg in August 2011 as part of the UK-German Connection initiative, designed to develop and promote international co-operation at school level. Mila's report of the trip is below.

For two weeks at the end of the summer, Ray Lynham and I (along with 10 others from across the UK) took part in a language programme run by UK-German Connection. This year's course took place in Wolfsburg – a relatively small town in the northern part of Germany, which is also home to the headquarters of the car company, Volkswagen.

We arrived in Germany at around midday on the 15th of August. We flew from London Heathrow Airport to Hannover Airport and then took a taxi to Wolfsburg where we met our host families and our group organiser, Mrs. Kumpe. We spent the rest of the day settling in and getting to know our host families.

The following morning, we went to school for our first "Sprachkurs" (these were our "lessons"). We had these lessons almost every day and they were great fun. The German school day starts quite early, but finishes at lunchtime, so, that afternoon we had our first trip – over to the town hall. (We got our picture taken at the town hall, and that same picture then got published in the local newspaper the next day). While we were there, we received a small talk/presentation about the main attractions in Wolfsburg... They were all places we were going to visit during our trip.

On the third day, we visited Berlin. This was definitely one of my favourite trips! Berlin is such a beautiful city with a lot of interesting history. It is also, however, very big – so we had to get a guided bus tour to see all the major sights such as the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and (of course) the Berlin Wall (or rather, what's left of it). After this tour, we had about 2 and a half hours to explore the city in smaller groups and visit the places which were most interesting to us. After that, we joined the rest of the group for a tour of the Berlin Film Museum.

The next day, we visited the Volkswagen factory and the rest of the Autostadt. We went on a guided tour of the VW factory and watched as all the different parts of the cars were assembled together – it was really cool! For the rest of the afternoon, we explored the Autostadt and surrounding area for ourselves – there were a lot of other car factories nearby, such as Lamborghini and Audi.

At the end of that week we decided to go to the beach. It was absolutely lovely and we had a very nice afternoon sunbathing and eating ice-cream. During the weekends, we spent time with our host families and that Sunday, my family took me to Allerpark (a large leisure centre) where we went on an obstacle course 10 metres above the ground. (We were strapped in to a harness!)

The following week we had more German lessons at the school and only one "big trip" to Bergen-Belsen (the concentration camp). That particular trip was very upsetting – actually being there was a very different experience to learning about it in class. Seeing the mass graves and the memorials where people had left personal messages to the victims of the War was a very moving experience.

For the second part of that afternoon, we visited a small village near to Bergen-Belsen, called Celle. Celle is so beautiful – it has old-fashioned style buildings from before the time of the War. (One of the reasons it managed to survive the War without being bombed is because it was so small).

The next day, we visited the science museum, Phaeno. It was a lot of fun! There were so many different illusions and mind tricks – my favourites were the revolving house, the tunnel of darkness and the room which had a floor which was at an angle – it was impossible to walk in a straight line from one side of the room to the other!

On the Friday, we went to the theatre for a small workshop. We mostly played games and even the teachers joined in, so it was a laugh!

Finally, on the last day, we had our leaving "party" – I don't think many of us were in a party mood because we were all sad to be leaving the next day, but we still tried to enjoy ourselves as much as possible and when we got home we packed our stuff and got ready for our travels the next day. Overall, the whole course was an amazing experience – we made so many new friends who we will (hopefully) keep in touch with for many years to come. Mila Georgieva F4

Hot off the press!!

Congratulations to Charlotte Collison and Sarah Hay (F5) who will both be travelling to Germany with the UK-German connection during the summer of 2012. Sarah has gained a place on a 2 week pupil course and Charlotte will spend 4 weeks in Germany on a fully funded scholarship. The scholarship includes an introductory week in Bonn, school visits and project work, home stays with German families and visits to cities like Cologne, Berlin and Munich. Congratulations to both girls! Gut gemacht!





Black Watch Welcome

High School of Dundee CCF pupils lined the streets in a fitting tribute to the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Black Watch, as they paraded through Dundee having just returned from Afghanistan. Their commanding officer, Lt Col Edward Fenton, is a Former Pupil of the High School and admitted to being filled with pride as he led the battalion past the historic school.

Our third World Champion

Conquerors in Cape Town, Team Scotland swept to victory in the grand final of the World Schools Debating Championship 2012, defeating Team Wales by 8 votes to 1.

The sheer euphoria of that day, when the final was held in the cathedral where Desmond Tutu preached, was the high point of a year which saw the High School debating community past and present involved in all sorts of interesting activities.

In the 24-year history of World Schools, Scotland have been crowned champions four times, a record bettered only by Australia. On three of those occasions the team has included a High School pupil: Fiona Dewar in 1999 in London, her brother Neil in 2007 in South Korea and this year April Shepherd Form 6. It is of note that Neil Dewar (far left, above) was also one of the two coaches of the 2012 winning team. April, our seventh international debater, is this year's Dux of School and has a place to read Modern Languages in Cambridge. As the trophy takes its turn round the schools which provided the winners, we were relieved to find a day on the Pillars on which it was not raining!

In March, the victorious team were invited to the Scottish Parliament to attend FMQs and have a discussion with the First Minister in his office, which features a quite remarkable mural by Gerard M Burns. We could not possibly comment upon one description of it in the press as 'a Caledonian take on Soviet socialist realism, featuring four people of various ages posed around a huge saltire, ... (along with, for some reason, a small terrier and an eerily large crow)'.

Lunch in the members' restaurant was followed by education questions, and the debaters were then the subject of the Education Secretary's interest in photography and his fondness for his Blipfoto feed which that day read 'My first World Champions ...'.

At the start of the academic year, in recognition of the fact that the 23rd WSDC hosted by Dundee in August 2012 had been acclaimed as one of the most popular tournaments in recent memory, an invitation to Bute House to meet the First Minister was extended to the 2011 team and its entourage. This included Mrs McGrath, who was the Convenor of the tournament which had brought 420 participants from 48 countries to Dundee. Alex Salmond showed us the public rooms of his residence, suggested a photo call on the steps and invited us to wave at the tourist buses!

In November, April was invited to participate in the St Andrew's Day 'pro-am' competition, also held in the Parliament, which pairs up school and student debaters. It is not always obvious which is the 'pro' in any team and the allocation is done by random ballot. April and an English-as-a-foreign-language student reached the final, where her superb speech was not quite enough to compensate for that made by her partner.

A further invitation came from the government in March, when Mrs McGrath was asked to organise a display debate at the National Food and Drink conference in Perth. April and her long-term partner Hannah Thomson F6 undertook this, along with our friends and rivals from Dollar Academy, and the debate was voted on by the delegates as the highlight of the day.

On the 'normal' schools' circuit we were less active than usual; date clashes including Cambridge interviews sadly prevented participation in several competitions. April and Hannah did, however, qualify to represent Scotland on finals day of the Cambridge Union tournament, with an initial entry of 600+ schools from across the UK, and were delighted to finish 5th overall. They are pictured in the imposing Cambridge chamber.

Talking of impressive debating chambers, perhaps none is more famous worldwide than that of the Oxford Union, venue of the (in)famous 1933 motion "This House will in no circumstances fight for its King and Country" and presided over by a list of luminaries from Gladstone to Michael Gove via Benazir Bhutto. To that roll-call may now be added Lauren Pringle, Head Girl in 08-09, member of Team Scotland at WSDC Washington 08 and Athens 09, winner with her partner Scott Ralston of five out of the six major Scottish trophies when they were in F6 and now about to embark on her final year as a student of Law at Wadham College, Oxford. In the course of their duties in the Union Scott and Lauren have had occasion to meet, interview and have dinner with a fair number of celebrities; here's a familiar one!

At Lauren's last formal debate as President, Dr Halliday, Mrs Hudson and Mrs McGrath were delighted to be invited to President's drinks and dinner in the MacMillan Room, after which a formal photograph is always taken in the Goodman Library.

To recall a heading from the 2008 magazine report, these events and achievements would definitely underline the principle that 'Debating takes you places'. Some quite splendid places have been visited and some remarkable memories will remain from this year's excitements. Onward and upward! – the next generation of successful High School debaters could include you. See Mrs Ovenstone-Jones or Mrs McGrath.



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Charities

This has been another busy year for the charities. With the hard work of the High Helpers and the staff Charities Committee, the whole school was involved in fundraising for a number of good causes.

The first major event on the calendar was the Macmillan Cancer Relief "World's Biggest Coffee Morning". With more than 500 pupils and staff involved in buying (and selling!) crisps and juice on the Pillars, over £300 was raised in one morning.

In November, the sale of poppies for Poppy Scotland in advance of the Remembrance Day event was well-supported by staff and pupils and as is now customary, Bonar and Baxter were the scenes of chaos as High Helpers sold doughnuts and hot chocolate in aid of the charity Help for Heroes, who support wounded servicemen. This year, over £300 was donated to this worthy cause.

Not long afterwards, the annual Christmas Fair took place. Nine charities were represented in Baxter and Trinity Halls. Local craft groups were present, selling everything from cushions to jewellery and scarves. An Elves' Grotto was run by senior pupils to provide a range of exciting activities for younger children.

Brodies' coffee shop again provided refreshments and a raffle was held in support of The Corabia Foundation. In total, £3000 was raised, with the nine charities each receiving a share of the takings from the school.

The staff Christmas card continues to be a hit, and, in December, £500 was donated to the Meningitis Trust. The House fundraising competition this year funded chicken breeding programs and donated school books for a school pupil in Haiti. A care package for a family living with HIV/AIDS was also financed, as well as fresh drinking water for a community, all through Action Aid.

The Christmas Concert was also an ideal opportunity for raising money, and not one which was missed by the school community. In just a few hours, £4,600 was raised and split between Kean's Children's Fund and Guide Dogs for the Blind. "Sparkle Day" raised nearly £650 by asking pupils and staff to donate to SSPCA to be permitted to wear sparkly

jewellery or accessories. A Carol Service was also held, raising nearly £300 for Dundee Cyrenians.

The Breakfast Club has enjoyed continued success within the school. The main team of High Helpers, who help with the running of the group, were supported by a rota of nearly 50 pupils. The success of the Breakfast Club would not have been attainable without the great deal of support received from the Home Economics department! This year, the Breakfast Club has supported the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Arthritis Research and Plan International - every year, the school sponsors two children through Plan International - Peter Okelo Oyola in Nyanza and Lea Casica in Sarnar West. Eagle's Wings Trust - a Dundee charity for the homeless, The Dundee Renal Unit in Ninewells and Cornerstone are our local beneficiaries this year.



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As in previous years, Mr Stephen Russell, our janitor, is travelling to Romania over the summer holidays undertaking various activities for young children through to teens in rural parts of Romania which suffer greatly from the country's economic woes. Again this year, he will cycle from Edinburgh to St Andrews – a distance of nearly 70 miles to raise money for The Corabia Foundation. This Christmas two of the team from The Corabia Foundation went over to help distribute the presents through the five villages and host and fund the Christmas parties there.

Individual pupils and members of staff have also raised a considerable sum of money for various charities. Mr Neil MacKinnon (Head of Modern Languages) raised over £600 for the Marie Curie Glasgow hospice by running lots of marathons, while David Brett (Head of Chemistry) ran the Portsmouth Coastal Half Marathon and Anne Oliver (Maths) took part in the walk at Scone, both in aid of cancer charities. Form 1 pupil Hannah Levin raised £1500 when she "donated" her hair to Children in Need in November - with her younger sister, Sophie, in L6 following her sister's example soon afterwards, having her hair cut for the same cause. Both gave their hair to the 'Little Princess Trust' to be made into wigs for cancer patients. Adam Kerr (Art) amazingly completed (having never run a long distance before!) a 53 mile multi-terrain ultra-run along the West Highland Way from Milngavie to Tyndrum in 8 hours raising £200 for Multiple Sclerosis Society along the way.

Staff and Form 6 pupils raised over £4100 in the month of "Movember" by growing moustaches during the calendar month of November to raise awareness of cancer – well done guys: you looked fantastic! A couple of sweepstakes (staff only) have been popular during the Rugby world cup and Euro 2012, also fundraising for very worthwhile causes. The geography department ran a competition to guess when the 7 billionth baby born on planet earth would be born and raised £125 for Signpost International. Our annual non-uniform day was held in aid of Sport Relief this year, and along with a staff v pupils (L6/7) netball match, a total of £1667 was raised.

High Helpers hosted the Dundee branch of Contact the Elderly at Mayfield in June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In one of the last charity events of the session, afternoon tea and cakes was set to music for a trip down memory lane for the senior members of the community and was enjoyed by all.

All these events and more have made for a busy year in the Senior School but the Junior School, not to be outdone, have also been busy. In the highlight of the Christmas events, the Junior School nativity raised over £1500 for the Ninewells Cancer Campaign, as well as Mashimoni Squatters' School in Kenya. The library also ran a "Read-a-thon" for junior pupils, who were sponsored to read a considerable number of books. As well as reading lots of stories, pupils raised over £4000 for Clic Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation.

The sixth year Interact Club has also done a power of work, organising charitable events such as the Senior School talent show, as well as sending Candy Canes at Christmas. This successful scheme allows pupils to send messages to their friends on candy canes in return for a charitable donation. Interact this year are aiming to raise over £5000 for Mary's Meals and Cash for Kids, two very good causes chosen by the pupils involved.

The year ended on a high note with a number of activities going on in June, the Junior School talent show, various School concerts and the 'good for a giggle' staff baby photo competition raising money for various charities including 'Bliss' – the premature baby charity.

The pupils and staff give as big a commitment as they can, from helping regularly to coming along to some of the many events run within the school. Well done to absolutely everyone involved with the charities in the school in any way. The money couldn't have been raised without the support of staff, pupils and parents of the school. Thanks to every individual contribution to the school's charitable work, including the original ideas of staff and pupils, a record of over £36,000 has been raised for various causes in the past year. This certainly gives an ambitious target for next year – congratulations, everyone!

By Andrew Kelly (F4)

An American in Dundee...



In June 2012 F5 pupil Kimberley Marshall received a visit from her American penfriend, whom she met through the High School. Here the two girls tell us a little of their story...

In 2007 our language teachers approached our classes with a special opportunity. They gave us the chance to begin a relationship with someone overseas as a penfriend.

Haley: My language teacher at the time was called Señora Greening. She explained how she had a penfriend in France whom she visits frequently. My dream has always been to travel the world so I jumped at this opportunity. I signed up immediately and during the summer, months later, I got my first letter!

Kimberley: When I was in Form one, Mr Summerville, our languages teacher introduced the pen pal program to us. I was excited to participate as I love to travel and learn about the world and different cultures. When I received Haley's address I wrote to her quickly and could not wait for a reply.

Haley: I received my first letter from Kimberley in June 2008 and I was so excited. Immediately I sent her a letter back, along with a picture of myself and my email address. A short time later I received another letter and we began to email each other! Sending letters was quite fun but while I was getting to know Kimberley better I wanted to speak to her more often! We decided that emailing each other would be a more efficient and a less time consuming way to communicate. We were right!

Kimberley: Not only have we exchanged letters but also birthday and Christmas presents. This has been an exciting experience for both of us! I love to send Haley chocolate, as ours is so much better than it is over in the States! Haley tends to send me Eden Prairie spirit stuff! In the past I have received hats and mittens with the Eden Prairie logo!

We have both kept every email which we have ever exchanged over the years. I first emailed Haley on November 5th 2008 and since then we have been emailing each other on a regular basis totalling to around 200 emails. By 2009 Haley had introduced me to Facebook and it soon became one of the easiest ways to keep up to date with each other's news. Along with the emails we have messaged each other far too many times to keep track of. What would we do without such technology!?! The biggest and most exciting discovery for us was Skype. In 2010, we had our first webcam chat, it was so exciting to finally hear her voice (and accent!) and speak to her family too. It was just amazing to be talking to someone so far away. I remember clearly it being completely dark outside here but sunny and daylight still over there! Over the years we have spoken to each other often and even on special events such as during birthday parties and on New Year's eve when it's approaching midnight, just so we could have the fun of experiencing it twice in one day! The time difference of six hours can often be an issue but we do our best to work around it.

Haley: One day, in December 2011, while Skyping, Kimberley began to tell me about these friends she had made on a recent cruise ship. She told me about how they wanted to visit her but she said that I had to be the first to visit. We had always jokingly talked about visiting each other and even discussed it with our parents so when she mentioned this I jumped at the opportunity and said "When can I come???" After further discussing this idea with our parents the plans we had joked about for years began to come true!

Finally the time arrived for me to catch my flight and head off on my adventure! I travelled by myself. On Friday, June

22nd at 7:30pm I left Minneapolis International Airport and headed towards Amsterdam. I had a layover in Amsterdam and then headed over to Edinburgh! When I arrived in Edinburgh I quickly passed through customs and walked into the official airport. Immediately I was greeted by Kimberley. It was so strange seeing her for the first time face to face! This friend who I had been in contact with and who I had gotten to know over the past years through letters, email, and Skype, suddenly right in front of me. As we walked out of the airport together I knew I had just began an adventure of a lifetime.

Kimberley: In just a few days I have already learnt so much more about Haley and the differences between her school and ours. It is such an amazing opportunity for both of us and one which neither of us will ever forget. I look forward to showing her more of Scotland and its history in the next couple of weeks. I already know I've made a friend for life!

Haley: Being here in Scotland is so surreal for me. I can't believe that my wildest dreams have actually come true! As I look back at our adventure over the past years I can only smile. Looking forward, now more than ever I not only consider Kimberley my pen pal but also a close and treasured friend.

Kimberley: We are already planning my trip to Minnesota for next year! We strongly suggest a pen pal program to anyone and everyone! We have even set up a couple of our friends and they are now sending letters and emailing each other! In the end we are so thankful to everyone that has made our friendship possible, especially to Mr Summerville and our parents, Thank You!

Haley Vinup and Kimberley Marshall 27.06.2012

Inspiring Futures

Over forty trade and industry representatives from across the region joined pupils in Trinity Hall in May for a very successful Business Breakfast.

The event saw a comprehensive representation of industry sectors from Architecture, Construction and Finance to Technology, Law and Journalism, come together to meet and inform our young businessmen and women of the future. Delegates from companies including CKD Galbraith; Insights Group; J & E Shepherd; Kilcullen Construction; McNulty & Wood Group; NFU Mutual; Nicoll Russell Studios; Stewart Milne and Thorntons joined senior pupils all eager for information relating to their future career choices.

The keynote speaker was Mr Richard Higgs, Managing Director of brightsolid, a company famed for its innovative online businesses. Mr Higgs, gave a superb insight into his own career path and personal development, before taking a look at some of the key aptitudes required for career success in an increasingly competitive world.

brightsolid, the D C Thomson-owned company, recently re-launched the UK-based social media site FriendsReunited as a site where millions of users can store and share their treasured memories. brightsolid's online publishing division also includes findmypast.com, scotlandspeople.gov.uk and genealogy services including GenesReunited, and was added to recently by the massive digitalization of the British Newspaper Archive in a 10-year partnership with the British Library. The group's online technology

division manages a world-class datacentre in Dundee, and provides cloud computing and other critical services to a range of blue-chip clients across the UK.

CEO of Brightsolid, Chris van der Kuyl, whose children attend the High School, was recently named as Tayside Regional Director of the Year by the Institute of Directors (IoD) Scotland, in recognition of the company's successful growth since his arrival in 2007.



From the left: Neil Higgins, Teacher of Business Management; Alister Bankhead (F6), Andrew Clarkson (F6), Dr John Halliday, Rector; Richard Higgs, MD Brightsolid; Kirsty Macpherson (F6); Fraser Docherty (F6); Wendy Fowler, Director of Development; Holly Maxwell-Stevenson (F6).

On our arrival at Lendrick Muir we were introduced to our leaders and we were split up into 8 groups, 2 for every house (allowing us to work together with friends both old and new).

Shortly afterwards we were introduced to the 'Score Board' that would become the central aspect of our stay in Lendrick Muir, so creating a friendly competitive atmosphere. The morning activities consisted of many short team building challenges where we were required to think carefully and logically about the problems and work together to try to solve them. Successful and efficient completion of these challenges resulted in the rewarding of points for the team. However, as always, there was emphasis placed on teamwork and respect for each other.

After having watched our team names rise and fall on the score board we were eagerly anticipating the afternoon's challenges. These were presented to us in the form of 'The Crystal Maze'. This consisted of 14 very different challenges where upon reaching the goal of the challenge, the team received one crystal which counted for 25 points. To complicate matters further these challenges were scattered across several large fields and so navigation and planning were a major component of the "Maze". These activities ranged from a one person tree climb to a whole team's effort to carry a bouncy crystal ball on a tray across an adventure play park. Teams were required to consider individuals' strengths and weaknesses to ensure that everyone participated in activities while trying to choose those that would be best suited to the tasks. Individuals were pushed to use their intellectual and physical abilities to overcome challenges that required strength, focus and determination.

Furthermore, several of these challenges were designed to place us into difficult situations so to test our team spirit and determination and, in this way, the successful completion of such challenges gave us not only an increased self-belief but also allowed us to appreciate the value of our team-working.

The following self-reflection session allowed us to think more deeply about our experiences so far and also to share these with other groups by acting out funny moments from the day. This enabled us to evaluate how well we thought we had performed as a team throughout the previous activities and also to consider our individual contributions to the group.

That evening, despite the midge ridden air, the activities continued and everyone participated in either a beach volley ball or a hockey tournament, so allowing us to demonstrate the skills which we had developed during the day in a more conventional way. After fighting off fierce competition and the formidable Scottish summer we returned to the dorms for a well earned night's sleep.


The following morning everybody was given the opportunity to choose two activities, many of which they had tried during 'The Crystal Maze' challenge. They joined with others to participate in many new challenges in their chosen activity such as trying to shoot two consecutive bulls eyes during archery or getting four people to stand on top of a small platform, twenty five feet above the ground, at the high ropes. Other activities included mountain biking, bungee trampolining and bouldering; with such a wide range of options there was clearly something to suit everyone.

To end the action packed stay every team competed in the final race in which the teams were only allowed to start after a given time had passed - this time reflected on the teams' scores from the previous races. To add another dimension to this race each team had to include a three legged pair, a three armed pair, a dumb person and blind-folded person. This certainly allowed for some interesting scenarios – try hitting an aimed golf-shot without being able to see anything, or competing in an egg and spoon race with three legs. It was certainly one of the most competitive races many of us had ever seen, with teams working brilliantly together to overcome difficult obstacles, solving riddles and finally carrying cups of water through an inflatable assault course to fill a jug at the end! It was a tense race to watch, with everyone giving their all to win for their team and so any sort of head start from the previous activities was quickly lost resulting on a neck-on-neck race between eight very competitive teams. Although there was obviously only one winning team we all certainly felt victorious on completing this race and indeed our whole stay at Lendrick Muir.

Despite the typical Scottish weather and the vast abundance of midges in the evening everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and came away with many memories, and midge bites, to remind them of their stay. Furthermore we all felt that the skills which we were able to develop over the two days would help us not only to prepare for the upcoming school year but also for further life. Most importantly we all feel that as a year group we have bonded together much more closely; making new friendships and consolidating old ones. Now we look forward to an enjoyable final year at school with each other.

Sarah Douglas, Louise Pattullo, Jakob Kroboth.

Form 6 Induction week



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Physics Investigation titles:

- An investigation into the uses of a michelson interferometer
- Beta particles interaction with a geiger-muller tube and metals
- Determination of the focal length of a convex lens using different methods
- Determining the moment of inertia of various geometric shapes
- Determining the velocity of sound in air
- Investigation into the physics behind diagnostic and therapeutic uses of the electromagnetic spectrum in veterinary medicine
- Investigation of resonance and inductance
- Magnetic fields
- Polarisation of light
- The determination of the acceleration due to gravitational field strength
- The determination of the self-inductance of an inductor
- The determination of young's modulus using a cantilever
- Quantum experiments
- Viscosity of water

Latin and classical studies dissertations:

- A study of attitudes to religion in roman society and a comparison with present day attitudes.
- "Had Cleopatra's nose been shorter, the whole history of the world would have been different." An assessment of her real importance.
- Was aristophanes writing merely to amuse, or was there a serious purpose in his work (with reference to at least three plays)?
- Was alexander the great overambitious?
- The status of women – their position in roman law
- Slaves – a study of the effects of slave-owning on the roman economy

Advanced higher biology investigations

- The effect of amylase, and its partial breakdown of starch, on the viscosity of rice flour suspension used in oral rehydration therapy
- The effect of varying the length of exposure and volume of the anaesthetic flynap on drosophila melanogaster
- Investigation into yeast autolysis
- Extraction of apple juice using hydrolytic enzymes
- The effects of exposure to light on chlorophyll a content in barley seedlings
- Investigation into the eating habits of snails
- The effect of end product inhibition by 6 galactose and glucose of -galactosidase enzyme activity

- Testing the toxicity of metal cations using daphnia magna as a test organism
- The effect of different wavelengths of light on the germination and growth of grand rapids lettuce seeds
- The effect of storing apples with bananas on apple ripening
- The effect that nitrogen has on the frequency of heterocyst occurrence in anabaena filaments
- The effect of posture on lung capacity in 16 to 18 year old females
- The effect of external stimuli on turn alternation behaviour in woodlice
- The effect of heat shock on barley grain seeds
- The effect of pectinase on protoplast production in lettuce leaf tissue
- The effect of ultraviolet light on the survival of radiation-sensitive yeast
- The effect of ripening on the activity of catechol oxidase present in the flesh and skin of bananas
- The effect of physical barriers on the feeding habits of slugs
- The impact of road de-icing salts on the protein content of barley plants
- The phototactic responses to different wavelengths of light by brine shrimp

Chemistry ah investigation titles

- Bottled water analysis
- Synthesis of ferromagnetic fluids
- Enteric coatings
- Comparison of analytical methods of ion content of calcium chloride
- Analysis of lycopene in tomatoes
- Analysis of mouthwash
- Analysis of glucose and salt content of two veterinary glucose saline drips: vetivex and aquapharm
- Synthesis and analysis of aspirin
- Electrophoresis of coloured ions
- Analysis of red wine
- Decomposition of hydrogen peroxide
- Investigation into lactate output of activated t-cells
- The synthesis of paracetamol
- Analysis of paracetamol and caffeine content in cold and flu remedies
- Determining the copper content of coins
- The synthesis and analysis of chrome and aluminium alum crystals
- Determination of an organic unknown
- Analysis of vitamin c tablets
- Optimum ph for dissolving bladder stones in dogs



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- An examination of the boundary of Dundee's CBD
- The characteristics of two rivers and the extent to which their land use varies
- A comparison between Tentsmuir Sands and the West Sands (St Andrews)
- An investigation into the burn of Corfinnoch and the Bradshaw model
- A comparison of two farms to investigate how the land use differs depending on the soil type
- Community health and the environmental quality in two urban areas of Dundee
- A study of the factors influencing the agricultural land use in a part of the Vale of Strathmore with particular reference to variations in soil
- An investigation into the changes across a psammosere at Lunan bay and the subsequent land use changes
- A study of the raised beach between Monifieth and Barry and its influence on land use
- The socio-economic effects of changing tourist patterns in Polis and Paphos

AH Geography critical evaluation essays

- Can Canada really afford to be exporting their water to California?
- Does the closing of rural schools in Scotland have an effect on the rural community?
- Keystone xl: America's attempt to supersize their resources?
- Who is entitled to claim the Lomonosov Ridge?
- Are increased food miles contributing to increased levels of poor health?
- Bettering a bustee - for better, for worse.....
- Does Kirriemuir require a major supermarket?
- Does London really need a 7th airport?
- Should the proposal to build a biomass plant in the docklands of Dundee be approved?

AH Music

- Commentary: the ground basses in Dido's lament from Dido and Aeneas by Henry Purcell and The Crucifixus from the mass in B minor by J.S. Bach

AH English

- A literary study of the portrayal of Glasgow and its citizens, through the poetry of Edwin Morgan
- A comparison of the literary presentation of the experience of war as depicted in the novel 'All Quiet on the Western Front' by Erich Maria Remarque and the memoir 'Goodbye To All That' by Robert Graves
- A study of the war poetry of Thomas Hardy's war poems, outlining the way the poet examines all of the different consequences of war
- A literary study of the theme of sacrifice as presented by the depiction of the lead characters in 'The Crucible' and 'Death of a Salesman', by Arthur Miller
- A study of Christopher Isherwood's literary presentation of Berlin and its inhabitants as explored in 'Mr. Norris Changes Trains' and 'Goodbye to Berlin'
- An exploration of the symbolism and literary technique used to explore the human condition in Dante's "Inferno"
- A study on the corruption of American society, and the effects it has on its disenfranchised youth in 'Invisible' 'Monsters' and 'Generation X. - Chuck Palanuk, and Douglas Coupland



2012 Leavers

Senior pupils (right) leaving the High School this summer, marked the occasion by forming a giant 'human' 2012 on the school playground. We wish you all the very best for a happy and successful future. Please keep in touch!
alumnui@highschoolofdundee.org.uk



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