

Review 2015







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Editorial

Jane Phillips is a hard act to follow, having expertly edited the Review since her appointment in 2003. Thankfully she has been a huge support in my first year in the role, offering me much valuable advice and guidance. Jane assured me that putting the Review together would prove to be a huge eye-opener and she was not wrong; my first look at the talent and enthusiasm of our pupils has astounded me. In every area of High School life our pupils give their very best and achieve wonderful things. I hope you enjoy reading about our pupils' endeavours and achievements.

Kirstie McKie (Editor)



Rector's Report

Commemoration and Creativity

At our Prize-Giving in June we were delighted to welcome back FP Neil Forsyth as our Guest of Honour, the writer and journalist best known for his Bob Servant books and television series starring fellow Dundonian Brian Cox. There is such a wealth of talent amongst the FP community that we are always fortunate to be able to welcome back people of such ambition and ability to serve as examples to all our current pupils. It is always good to welcome back our FPs to the school.

In fact we were host to 130 FPs to the new style of reunion in June, a very sociable and high decibel event that was much enjoyed! Earlier, in December 2014 we held the most enjoyable inaugural London Carol Service for FPs and friends, at the historic Crown Court Church of Scotland church in Covent Garden, which as a result will become an annual event.

It has been another remarkable year for the school, with the roll increasing by 3% during the session, a remarkable phenomenon, suggesting that following several difficult years for our parents following the financial crisis of 2008, confidence was growing again.

The year has been characterised by several remarkable events which can be seen under the broad headings of Commemoration and Creativity.

In terms of commemoration the school marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War by taking the whole school, from L1-F6, on foot up to the Dundee War Memorial on Dundee Law. With its unparalleled views of the city, Fife, Angus and Perthshire, the Law is a wonderful setting for such a monument. We went to reflect on what happened 100 years ago. And we did so by forming our very own collective human wreath in the shape of a giant poppy in memory of those who lost their lives. This moving occasion, along with the Last Post and Flowers o' the Forest, represented the largest gathering on the Law since the monument was unveiled and dedicated in May 1925.

It was meant to be the war to end all wars; it was meant to be over by Christmas. But 1914-1918 were truly four years that changed the world. We remember the 4000 men of Dundee who died during the First World War, and in particular the 130 of whom were pupils at the High School. We remember their families who lost their loved ones. We also remember those who were wounded and who suffered psychological trauma. We look back at the mistakes of history and hope to learn from them so that we do not repeat them.

The theme of commemoration continued during the Autumn Term with our moving Armistice Parade, and the Spring Concert was dedicated to the theme 'Four Years that Changed the World.' The History Department led a group across to the First World War battlefields, and the school will be participating in the National Commemoration of the Battle of Loos in Dundee on 26 September 2015.

One of the consequences of the First World War was the development of our parliamentary democracy through universal suffrage, including for women. I felt it was therefore our moral duty to be involved in the preparations for the Scottish Referendum in September 2014, given that we had some 250 16-18 year old pupils who were eligible to vote for the first time. A programme of lectures on the nature of democracy, the concept of nationhood and the mechanics of voting was followed by debates with politicians and a mock referendum to ensure that all our pupils voted on the basis of an informed choice. Was it a good idea to let 16 year olds vote? On the evidence of the High School pupils my answer is a resounding yes, absolutely. This process will be repeated for the Scottish elections in 2016.

Returning to our academic priorities it was wonderful to be able to celebrate such an excellent set of SQA results for the pupils once again. Remarkably, three pupils achieved the top marks in three different subjects, namely Higher Maths, Higher Biology and Advanced Higher Technology. How many other schools have achieved such a feat this year? Overall the 2014 results were the best in Tayside by a long way, and nationwide at most levels the best north of the Forth.

Staff have now been working hard to ensure the pupils are well prepared for the new Highers, with all Advanced Highers being new next session.

Our ongoing ambition is to ensure that the High School is a centre of excellence in all areas of the curriculum. To this end we have been reviewing several areas for development. Our position as an all through school, with subject specialists on hand, enables us to provide a junior years education that is second to none. We are always looking to develop this further. First, the teaching of Modern Languages in the Junior School. From August we taught French by specialists from L4, rather than L6. We have also been enhancing the specialist input into Science, Drama and Art and Design. L5 to L7 now benefit from time spent in the Senior School science labs and this will continue in future. Similarly we have introduced specialist Drama from L5, and also Art from L4. The impact that these initiatives have already had has been substantial and make the High School unique in this whole area.

It is absolutely vital that the High School remains at the forefront of academic advances, including technological advances. For this reason we have continued our pioneering of iPad tablet technology in learning and teaching. It is surprising how quickly that they have become part of the daily routine in our departments

and classes. This has already had a transformative effect in a number of subject areas. I suppose I just have one question. If Apple were to build a new office would they install windows?

Academic performance is one element of the Integrated Curriculum triangle at the High School, the others being the Co-curriculum and Pupil Wellbeing. With the last in mind we have been extending the role of the Group Tutors. Young people today are facing all sorts of pressures, not merely academic. Social media pressures to be included and conform are allied with the pressures of a commercial and sexualised world to unsettle the emotional swirl of adolescence even further than it would be normally. It is a truism that emotional wellbeing is linked to cognitive ability/performance. It is therefore important we aim to get it right for every child, and this is what motivates our policies and procedures in Guidance.

This process cannot start too early as the Early Years are crucial in a child's development. I was therefore delighted that in August 2014 we welcomed the renowned children's writer Mairi Hedderwick as Guest of Honour to open our brand new Nursery, the first at the High School in 775 years! It was an honour to name the Nursery building after our own FP social reformer Mary Lily Walker, who worked tirelessly for the welfare of children and young mothers in the slums of Dundee.

Developing a heightened sense of social awareness is something we feel strongly about at the High School and our work with Charities forms a major part of the co-curricular activities during the school year.

Once again our Charities Committee, with the High Helpers and the now 26 year old Interact Club have been

extremely busy. This year the total sum raised for charities local, national and international has been £32,750.50, over £30 per pupil, including the Nursery.

The theme of Creativity has also been writ large in the life of the school during the past session. In 2013 we rescued the former GPO building opposite the school and plans are now well advanced to develop it as a Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, containing a concert hall/theatre/auditorium with drama and art studios along with spaces, as well as much needed catering and social spaces along with Health and Food technology. It is a once in a century opportunity for the school, and will involve an element of fundraising to bring the project forward to completion in as short a time as possible. Whilst it is an ambitious and challenging project the plans drawn up by Page/Park are inspirational. Daunting? Maybe, but just think, 2,020 people giving £2.20 per day until 2020 with gift aid would produce £10,137,875.... Spread the word and help us to realise this dream. Generations of future High School pupils will be eternally grateful!

Creativity is at the heart of the school. Illustrated amply in June by the Junior production of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat, and then the following week Brecht's The Good Person of Szechwan by our senior actors! It revealed our school at its most vital, bouncy, passionate, spirited, joyous and uplifting. A wonderfully exuberant way to round off the school year, these performances were the products of pupils and staff coming together to create something that was greater than the sum of the individual parts. That is after all the defining quality of teamwork – and community.

Here's to Les Misérables in June 2016!

Dr John D Halliday
Rector

L4 and 5

Robbie Prize for
Public Speaking
Cameron Fish
Old Girls' Prize for Piano
Daniel Higgins
Prize for Guitar
Alex Mackie
Marshall Prize for Descant Recorder
Sophie Timney

L6

Academic Merit Prize
Evie Campbell
Sophie Elder
Zoe Fuleon
Prize for Strings
Dara Alijani
Prize for Voice
Olivia Black
Tie for International
Recognition (Diving)
Ryan Jennings
Prize for Brass
Fraser Smith
Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Piano
Jennifer Bonnyman
Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Bagpipes
Rory Grant
Academic Merit Prize
Stark Cup for Public Speaking
Special Prize for Chess
Sneha Sripada

L7

Academic Merit Prize
Christina Kennedy
Malachy Keough
Conan Lyall
Angus Neville
Matthew Rainey
Callum Todd
Russell Trophy for Chess
Jim Cowan
Leng Silver Medal
for Singing (Girls)
Phillippa de Vos
Leng Silver Medal
for Singing (Boys)
Andrew Lothian
Hutton Prize for Environmental
Studies in L7
Rebecca McConnachie

Dr Rita Forrest Prize for Art in L7

Malachy McCrimmon

Academic Merit Prize

Old Girls' Prize for

Creative Writing in L7

Lewis McLennan

Dominic Westwood

Prize for Woodwind

Walter Smith Memorial Prize

for Drama in L7

George Youssef

Old Girls' Trophy for all-round
ability in L7

Melissa Mitchell

John McLennan Prize for

Proxime Accessit

Rohan Tauro

Woodman Trophy for

Mathematics in L7

E M Stewart Prize for Dux of the
Junior School

Ethan McColgan

Form 1

Academic Merit Prize

Fraser Coupar

Brooke Fairweather

Craig Gunn

Reece McLennan

Hannah Meade

Georgia Stirling

Lauren Tyson

Tie for International

Recognition (Choir)

Alex Fish

Tie for International

Recognition (Hockey)

Jamie Golden

Tie for International

Recognition (Pentathlon)

Corrie Hay

Betty Sword Prize for Academic

Improvement in Form 1

Ross Clark

Ishbel Stuart

Robertson Prize for Proxime

Accessit of Form 1

Eilean Mauritzen

Alexander Mill White Prize

for all-round ability in Form 1

Florence Whytock Memorial Prize

for Dux of Form 1

Jonathan Lang

Form 2

Academic Merit Prize

Isla Archibald

Katie Bonnyman

Robbie Coupar

Danny Hockley

Anna Hudson

Rebecca Humble

Amy Johnstone

Bogdan Kapelyukh

Sophie Levin

Charlotte Sharpe

Tie for International

Recognition (Chess)

Euan Dawson

Tie for International

Recognition (Choir)

Ailsa Macdonald

Tie for International

Recognition (Gymnastics)

Sarah McKenzie

Tie for International

Recognition (Choir)

Laura Murphy

Matthew Rawcliffe

Andrew K Paton Memorial

Trophy for all-round sporting

ability in Form 2 Boys

Mason Barclaywood

Betty Sword Prize for Academic

Improvement in Form 2

Amy Ovenstone-Jones

Tie for International

Recognition (Choir)

Leng Silver Medal for

Singing (Boys)

Nathanael Fagerson

Tie for International

Recognition (Hockey)

Maggie Stewart Memorial

Salver for all-round sporting ability

in Form 2 Girls

Rachel Strachan

A S Drummond Prize for Public

Speaking in Forms 1 - 3

Prize for all-round ability

in Form 2 Girls

RSL Macpherson Prize for Proxime

Accessit of Form 2

Hannah Alijani

Neil Fraser Cup and Prize for

all-round ability in Form 2 Boys

RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux

of Form 2

Robert Connolly Brown

Form 3

Academic Merit Prize

Sarah Elgin

Eilidh Fish

Lucy Graham

Brian Zhuan Hua Lim

Alice Raitt

James Taylor

Tie for International

Recognition (Dog Handling)

Gregor Hands

Tie for International

Recognition (Pentathlon)

Abby Hay

Tie for International

Recognition (Choir)

Charlotte Jennings

Tie for International

Recognition (Karting)

Sandy Mitchell

Leng Silver Medal for

Singing (Girls)

Abhian Chaudhuri

A S Drummond Prize for

Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3

Lucy Darroch

Southgate Prize for

Musical Ensemble

Alastair Munnoch

Chris Rea Prize for Games

in Form 3

Simon Burnett

Heidi Sampson

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International

Recognition (Sailing)

Anna Sturrock

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International

Recognition (Orchestra)

Old Boys' Club Prize for

Creative Writing in Forms 1 - 3

Joe Cartstairs

Jane Spiller Prize for Proxime

Accessit of Form 3

Carlin Mitchell

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux

of Form 3

Asad Jaffertshoy

Prize list 2015

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize

Robert ZhanTie for International
Recognition (Rugby)**Sean Gauld**Tie for International
Recognition (Hockey)**Cameron Golden**Tie for International
Recognition (Swimming)**Eilidh Grant**David Mathers Trophy and Prize
for Improvement in Mathematics
in Forms 3 – 4**Stefan Baldacchino**David Mathers Trophy and Prize
for Improvement in Mathematics
in Forms 3 – 4**Neil Bennett**Larg Prize for Voice
(Grade 7 and above)**Verity Brown**

Jane Ray Prize for Home Economics

Angus Fraser**Caitlin Reid**Illsley Prize for Outstanding
Performance in Drama**Alice Inman**Southgate Prize for
Musical Ensemble**Oran McNair**Larg Prize for Woodwind
(Grade 7 and above)**Sandy Taylor**Larg Prize for Strings
(Grade 7 and above)**Mia Vidman**

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International
Recognition (Girlguiding)**Hannah George**

Academic Merit Prize

Southgate Prize for
Musical Ensemble**Mhairi Millar**

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)**Catriona Murphy**

Academic Merit Prize

Beckingham Trophy and
Chess Club PrizeG H Philip Prize for Public
Speaking in Forms 4 – 6Tom Durrheim Prize for Essay
Writing in Forms 4 – 6**Ivan Kapelyukh**

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International
Recognition (Orchestra)

Leng Gold Medal for Singing

Southgate Prize for
Musical Ensemble**Lynden Nicely**RSL Macpherson Prize for
Proxime Accessit of Form 4**Elle Wyatt**James Stevenson Prize for
Higher FrenchArmitstead Trust Prize for
Dux of Form 4**Alex Smith**

Form 5Spankie Quaich for Higher
Engineering Science**Be-Niaz Ahmed**Edinburgh Angus Club Prize
for Higher Economics**Louise Barrie**James Stevenson Prize
for Higher German**Miranda Cook**Larg Prize for Percussion
(Grade 7 and above)**Allan Hamilton**Prize for Higher Graphic
Communication**Louise McFadden**

Academic Merit Prize

Arya Nair

Prize for Higher Computer Studies

Euan RobbGraeme Matheson-Bruce
Prize for Higher Music**Christie Swinton**Robert Biggar Prize
for Higher Geography**Glen Wilson**Larg Prize for Brass
(Grade 7 and above)High School Quaich for Best All-
Round Instrumentalist**Colette Colman**

Academic Merit Prize

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize
for Higher History**Emma Duncan**

Academic Merit Prize

J B Meiklejohn Prize for
Mathematics in Form 5**Scott Macandrew**

Academic Merit Prize

Isabella Hunter Award
for Higher Art**Claire Mather**

D Arnot Shepherd

Travel Scholarship
Prize for Higher Latin**Susie McAdam**

Academic Merit Prize

Prize for Higher Drama

Nathan MoorjaniEdinburgh Angus Club Prize
for Higher SpanishEiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence
in Modern Languages**Jenny Overend**

Academic Merit Prize

D Arnot Shepherd

Travel Scholarship

Zhenteng Shen

Academic Merit Prize

London Angus Association Trophy
for Reading and Public SpeakingG H Philip Prize for Public
Speaking in Forms 4 – 6**Taskeen Bailwal**

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International
Recognition (Debating)Armitstead Trust Prize for
Higher Modern StudiesDennis J Paterson Prize and Trophy
for the Best Individual Speaker in
the Inter House DebatesE M Stewart Prize for
Higher English**Ciara Mitchell**

Glenday Award for Higher Biology

Caroline S Low Prize for Proxime
Accessit of Form 5**Anushka Pathak**Christopher and Philip Daft Prize
for Higher PhysicsSandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy
and Book Prize for
Higher ChemistryDennis J Paterson Prize for
Dux of Form 5**Kenny Matheson**

Form 6

Leaver Award

Catherine Allan**Rebecca Annandale****Fraser Ashworth****Joshua Barthram****Nathan Bircham****Lucy Brunton****Daniel Buchan****Ewan Campbell****Euan Chalmers****Samuel Cunningham****Ollie Davidson****Michael Davie****Blaine Douglas****Joe Drummie****Christopher Drysdale****Huda El Wahed****Nicholas Evans****Amie Fearon****Ross Findlay****Barry Fraser****Rhyan Fryer****Matthew Furness****Derek Gardiner****Heather Goodfellow****Molly Gordon****Joshua Goring****Kirsty Grant****Charlotte Hair****Jennifer Harris****Ellie Hawkes****Jamie Hay****Ella Hudson****Finn Hunter****Fraser Husband****Zac Inglis****Sam Jeffrey****Stephan Kostov****Sophie Kroboth****Heather Leighton****Samantha Li****Catriona Logan****Fergal Mackie****Iona MacRitchie****Nancy Malcolm****Lu Maxwell****Eve McBride****Iona McKendry****Joshua McLaggan****Glen Merry****Callum Morse****Tess Picken****Anastasija Polakova****John Porter****Cameron Ramsay****Tommy Ramsay****Chloe Rawcliffe****Matthew Reid****George Salisbury****Kieran Seymour****Marisa Shaw****Kate Spalding****Euan Strachan****Holly Strachan****Graham Thomson****Cameron Voice****Laura Watchman****Bethany Watson****Gwenan White****Maxwell Wiewiorka****Olivia Wight****Eleanor Williams**

Form 6 Leaver Award
Cambridge Gavel for Contribution to Debating
Rachel Allen

Form 6 Leaver Award
Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Girl
Molly Andrew

Form 6 Leaver Award
Prize for Higher Physical Education
Ross Armstrong

Form 6 Leaver Award
Larg Prize for Bagpipes
Charles Arthur

Form 6 Leaver Award
Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Boy
Fraser Brown

Form 6 Leaver Award
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Christopher Cruickshank

Form 6 Leaver Award
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (History)
Fintan Curran

Form 6 Leaver Award
Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science
Heather Duncan

Form 6 Leaver Award
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics
Mac Duncan

Form 6 Leaver Award
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computer Studies
Jordan Hales

Form 6 Leaver Award
James Smart Prize for Project Work in Chemistry
John Halford-McGuff

Form 6 Leaver Award
Prize for Higher Managing Environmental Resources
Hamish Kemp

Form 6 Leaver Award
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Roisin McCrimmon

Form 6 Leaver Award
Prize for Higher Classical Studies
Zoe Milne

Form 6 Leaver Award
John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Fraser Munnoch

Form 6 Leaver Award
John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
David Nkansah

Form 6 Leaver Award
P Gordon Grant Trophy for Games
Harry Ogilvie

Form 6 Leaver Award
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Linsey Paterson

Form 6 Leaver Award
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Rhys Paterson

Form 6 Leaver Award
Baker Trade of Dundee Prize
Samantha Pope

Form 6 Leaver Award
W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish
Hannah Rhodes

Form 6 Leaver Award
Tie for International Recognition (Triathlon)
Euan Rose

Form 6 Leaver Award
Caird Prize for Higher Business Management
Lauren Short

Form 6 Leaver Award
Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education (Girls)
India Stobbs

Form 6 Leaver Award
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Catriona Strachan

Form 6 Leaver Award
Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Rebekah Wilson-Pearce

Form 6 Leaver Award
J Torrington Bell Prize for Dux in Art
Rosie Young

Form 6 Leaver Award
D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4 - 6
Pyla Bird

Form 6 Leaver Award
Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Classical Studies
Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English
Rebecca Brown

Form 6 Leaver Award
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Tie for International Recognition (Equestrian)
Abbie Clark

Form 6 Leaver Award
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Sir John Leng Prize for Dux in History
Molly Duncan

Form 6 Leaver Award
Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport
William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics
Alister Goodfellow

Form 6 Leaver Award
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Tie for International Recognition (Choir)
Sophie Kelly

Form 6 Leaver Award
Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education (Boys)
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Paul Kidd

Form 6 Leaver Award
Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama
Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Corry Norrie

Form 6 Leaver Award
Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French
Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies
Martha Speed

Form 6 Leaver Award
Larg Prize for Piano (Grade 7 and above)
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (Geography)
Carys Stirling

Form 6 Leaver Award
Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology
Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography
Lucy Thomson

Form 6 Leaver Award
Tie for International Recognition (Orchestra and Table Tennis)
Dott Prize for Dux in Music
Games Merit Scarf
Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble
Alasdair Rennet

Form 6 Leaver Award
Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics
Prize for Higher Philosophy
T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry
Eilidh Lockhart

Rorie Trophy for the Inter House Debating Competition
Aystree

Inter House Shield for Champion House
Lowson Prize for Head of School (Girls)
Molly Duncan

Erskine Prize for Head of School (Boys)
Paul Kidd

Rector's Prize for Proxime Accessit
Martha Speed

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

Prize list 2015

Welcome



Barry Walsh

Originally hailing from Forfar, Barry has lived in Kirriemuir for most of his life, but he has travelled around a fair bit having served in the Royal Air Force for thirteen years. Before coming to work at the High School he worked in a number of different jobs, including at Transocean in Aberdeen, until he joined the IT team this session. When he is not rescuing beleaguered staff from the devilish machinations of their computers, Barry likes relaxing by playing darts – he plays for his local team and also super league and counties. Barry is also a keen football fan.



Christy O'Donnell

Christy joined the PE department in January 2015 from Balforn High School in Stirlingshire. The previous year he completed his PGCE at Edinburgh University with our very own Jude McMullan – we are still waiting to hear all the stories! Christy has thrown himself into the job with commitment and enthusiasm, teaching classes across the age spectrum, coaching the Form 3 rugby team and leading the school athletics programme. In addition he has found the time to assist the L7 pupils on their trip to Paris. Thankfully Christy's French was better than his charades! Mr MacKinnon obviously saw potential in his grasp of the French language as he has now been invited to join the cultural trip to the Auvergne region this summer! Christy has made an excellent start to his school career but his target for next year is to remember that buying cakes from a shop, cutting up and putting into Tupperware, does not count as home baking!



Craig Melia

Born and raised in Aberdeen, Craig started his teaching career in the city at Hazlehead Academy, teaching Modern Studies, after graduating from university in 2011. Before joining the High School in August 2014 he spent three years teaching at Buckie High School in the north-east of Scotland. Now that Craig has established himself in the History and Modern Studies Department, he is an enthusiastic participant in co-curricular activities including the Model UN, as well as indoor and outdoor football.

Outside of work Craig is a keen surfer, having travelled as far as California and Morocco to find some waves! He also has a love for cycling, often taking part in races and he is planning to cycle around Scotland in the summer.



Jude McMullan

Jude finally joined the School teaching staff in August 2014 after serving one of the longest probation periods in history! Jude was already a well-known face around the PE Department having coached hockey and tennis teams throughout the four years she spent studying Sports and Exercise Science at university in the city. Originally hailing from Dungannon, Jude now speaks a unique dialect, blending Dundonian with Irish, which (sometimes) only she understands! Within the PE Department she has taught Nursery pupils right through to F6, successfully led the F3 and indoor hockey squads before taking charge of the tennis organisation in the summer term. She has also absolutely immersed herself into whole school life, joining the CCF, assisting on a trip and lining herself up on two others. Mr Jack is no longer the only serial tripper in the PE Department! It has been a most successful first year in post, we look forward to many more.



Linda Clement

Linda joined HSD after Easter as our new Head of Hockey, following an eleven year spell working at George Watson's College. She has always had a close connection with Dundee, playing for Grove Menzieshill Hockey club since 1998. Linda brings with her a mightily impressive CV having earned a record breaking two hundred forty-one caps for Scotland, over one hundred as captain, scored sixty-one goals and played in four Commonwealth Games... Mr McBride may struggle to hold onto his position in the staff hockey team! Linda and her partner Chris have recently bought a house in the city so have a summer of unpacking and organising to look forward to! Hopefully Linda will remember to repack a bag and join us on the Sports Tour to South Africa where her experience and expertise will be crucial. We wish Linda a long and enjoyable career at the High School.



Otilie Anderson

Otilie is a former pupil of the School. She trained as a Nursery Nurse practitioner and also ran her own business designing and selling textile items. Otilie studied at Abertay University, graduating with a degree in Food, Nutrition and Health. After her PGDE qualification she spent her probationary year at Carnoustie High School. Her enthusiasm and mass of creativity has made her a huge asset to the Home Economics Department. She has established Enrichment courses in Textiles, started a Craft Club in Senior School and helped teach Harry Potter themed Molecular Gastronomy to the Junior School. Her creativity was put to great use assisting pupils in the construction of textile items for the Charities Fair. Otilie is married with three children. She loves putting her creativity to use at home and is always looking for the next design project. A well-travelled individual, Otilie loves exploring new cultures with her family and is always looking forward to participating in the Classics Trip to Italy next session.



Phil Godman

In early June Phil swapped 'Fog on the Tyne' for 'Haar on the Tay' to join HSD as Head of Rugby. He called time on his professional rugby career, which has taken him from Edinburgh to London Scottish, culminating at Newcastle Falcons. The School rugby teams have made a recent habit of appearing at Murrayfield, something Phil also has a wealth of experience in, representing Scotland on twenty-three occasions and scoring seventy-one points. In his new role, we hope Phil can inspire future generations of High School pupils to follow his lead onto the international stage. Phil moves to Dundee with his wife Susan and two children Brodie and Emily. With twins on the way he is sure to be kept busy during his first year in post! We wish him much success and enjoyment in his new role.



Ryan Welsh

Ryan studied History at Glasgow University and graduated as a teacher from Jordanhill College. He went on to teach at Dollar Academy for ten years, where he was a house parent for eight years, looking after both boy and girl boarders during that time, alongside working in Guidance. Ryan enjoys rugby and played for Glasgow Hawks before moving into coaching with Glasgow High and Kelvinside.

Ryan is married with two young daughters and we welcome him to the School!



Wendy Wilson

Wendy graduated from Abertay University with BSc Computing with Distinction and joined a Dundee organisation which manufactured and distributed to the dental industry, as IT Manager. During her ten year tenure the IT infrastructure and business systems throughout the group were completely replaced, which contributed to significant improvement in sales and profitability. This also provided her with the opportunity to learn about different cultures and work ethics in both South Africa and Europe. From there she joined a Contact Centre as Technical Director. She managed the IT infrastructure and Project Managed several large projects, working with clients including Transport for London, Stagecoach, Megabus and Virgin Trains. Wendy joined the School as Director of ICT in October 2014 and is thoroughly enjoying her new position. She finds the atmosphere to be very positive and welcoming. She is married with two daughters, four grandchildren and a beagle puppy called Daisy.

Farewell



Alan Campbell

In August 2011, Alan joined High School of Dundee as Director of Sport, coming from the Glasgow Academy where he had been Head of Rugby. The PE curriculum underwent huge changes under Alan's leadership, including the introduction of Advanced Higher P.E. to the school. He was also responsible for the redesign and update of the school P.E. and sports kit, as well as making sure the High School team members were fighting fit, by introducing early morning and after school strength and conditioning sessions. Alan made sure that the High School's teams broadened their horizons, organising tours for F1 and F2 during October half term to Belgium, Germany and Netherlands, and a senior rugby and hockey tour to Canada in August 2013. During his time at HSD Alan's teams had a number of notable successes, the most recent being when the Under 18 XV reached the final of the Brewin Dolphin Shield in February 2015. Alan was also a stalwart of many a school trip, taking pupils skiing, visiting Iceland, the US and he was a member of the leadership team for the Malawi and Tanzania expedition in July 2014.

Alan left High School of Dundee in April 2015 to join George Watson's College in Edinburgh as Director of Physical Education and Sport – we wish him well in his new post.



Anne Oliver

Anne Oliver is retiring in October after twenty-six years of service to the school. She is a former pupil of Kirkcudbright Academy in Galloway which she left in 1972 to study Pure Maths at the University of St. Andrews. After university Anne decided to undertake teacher training and become a teacher of Maths; teaching at Madras College until 1980. She took some time out of teaching to have her daughters and after her extended maternity leave she took up her post at the High School of Dundee. Anne enjoyed all types of sport at school. She also played and coached tennis for a number of years. She was president of St. Andrews Lawn Tennis Club and before retiring from tennis through injury, she won the Midlands veteran doubles competition. In School Anne was heavily involved with the School magazine and she also helped out on the German exchange. Staff, pupils and parents will be sad to see her leave but we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Colin Stuart

Colin Stuart joined the School in 1983, one of the very first Scottish Computing teachers. Despite being in the same school for thirty-two years, he has had a variety of roles: starting mainly in the Maths Dept, he gradually moved over to teach Computing Science full time. He became a member of the then new Guidance team in 1999, achieving his career ambition of leading Lindores from 2008.

Colin has always looked for opportunities to expand his role, over the years setting up table football, table tennis and remote control car racing clubs for Form 1 and crusading to replace traditional practices with computerised ones, whether staff wanted them or not! His philosophy became "if in doubt, create a database" and he has carved a niche in this area with a number of systems including one to look after Sports Day and, less popularly, disciplinary referrals. Over the years he has helped with a number of school shows and on one embarrassing occasion, appeared topless in one.

Colin feels privileged to have worked with the pupils and staff who make up the School, some days finding it hard to believe he could have so much fun and be paid. However, following his tenet that one has to grow old, but not grow up, Colin has decided to retire disgracefully and buy a Porsche to drive round Europe.



Au revoir, Auf Wiedersehen, ¡Hasta luego!

The Modern Languages Department is sad to bid farewell to two of its long-standing members of staff as Fiona Cram and Gillian Mackenzie depart for pastures new.

The High School has played a major role in Fiona's life – as Fiona Williamson, she joined the school aged five and to this day holds the School's record for throwing the discus, a record which stands since 1972 and which will take some beating! Having qualified from Edinburgh University, Fiona's career as a Spanish teacher began in St Denis' School in Edinburgh. Returning to Dundee to get married, Fiona then worked in St John's High School until a quirk of fate saw to it that she scored a 'free transfer' to HSD in 1988. Fiona's contribution to the life of the school has been hugely significant. She organised and led the school exchange to Murcia for many years, and has helped with many Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme expeditions. She is currently active in the CCF and is, of course, APT Guidance in Aystree. A pupil was overheard commenting 'I just love Mrs Cram – she's just the best Guidance teacher!' – a sentiment held by many. A much loved and valued colleague, we are sorry to see her go but wish her well for her retirement, which will doubtless see her spending more time with her grandchildren in Japan and, when at home, doing what she loves best – spending time with her horses.

Gillian Mackenzie started her career at the High School teaching French and German in 1990, having cut her teaching teeth in Rockwell High School before spending five years in St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh. A busy year in 1990 saw her get married, move to Dundee and start a new job at HSD, all within the space of three weeks! Gillian has played a significant role in leading and organising school trips and exchanges, most notably the German exchange with the Christophorusschule in Oberurff, Bad Zwesten, which began in the late 1980s and which has led to pupils and staff making life-long friendships. Gillian has also served on the School's Charities Committee, particularly enjoying the annual Christmas Fair and, more recently, the Race for Life. Gillian is looking forward to a well-earned rest and while travel is one of her firm intentions for her retirement, the lure of home is proving to be strong, and she envisages spending more time in Northern Ireland. A recent newspaper article encapsulates Gillian's intentions for her leisure time – 'the ultimate heaven is... a book, hot tea in my favourite mug and a slice of lemon drizzle cake.'

Both ladies will be much missed and hard acts to follow. We wish them both a long, healthy and happy retirement.



Graeme Spowart

Graeme joined the High School of Dundee in 1980. He was welcomed into the PE Department despite his most obvious flaw....Graeme was an FP of Dollar Academy! It was not long before 'Spowie' became a role model at Dundee High, he was at the cutting edge of fashion sporting a flowing mane of hair and an earring to compliment the look. And it wasn't long before the multi-coloured sports trousers appeared! He began life in a cubby hole of an office, producing some quite intuitive lessons in the Small Gym and Bonar Hall. Over the course of his career the PE Department transferred to the more glamorous surroundings of Mayfield where, as an avid gardener, he took an interest in the large grounds! He met his wife Paula at the School and they have a son and daughter who have both been pupils. Thomas now teaches at Stewart's Melville College and Beth is pursuing a career as a jewellery designer.

Graeme immersed himself in all aspects of school life, from the early days as Contingent Commander of the CCF to more recent appearances on the Trinity stage in the staff pantomime. For many years Graeme oversaw the running of Sports Day. This took meticulous planning and on the day Graeme would be up at the crack of dawn to personally ensure everything ran like clockwork and his flags were in their correct position around the track! Graeme was a regular on ski trips and sports tours – from sampling the nightlife in Vancouver to getting stuck on chairlifts in Austria. Graeme organised, led and thoroughly enjoyed every trip. Constants throughout his twenty-five years at HSD have been rugby and cricket, coaching teams and playing rugby for the FP's, quickly gaining a reputation as a hard tackling full back. Numerous former pupils have gained regional and international recognition but all remember with fondness the memories of their school sport under the tutelage of Mr Spowart.

In 1995 Graeme was promoted to Principal Teacher of Guidance for Airlie house. Through excellent leadership (or point rigging) the fortunes of Airlie in house events certainly picked up soon after! It was very fitting that Airlie should win the house shield in Graeme's last full year at the helm. Graeme has been influential in the development of Guidance and never has the phrase 'leading by example' been more apt. The send-off the Airlie pupils put on for him show just how highly regarded Graeme was as a Guidance teacher.

Since his retirement Graeme has enjoyed spending more time in the garden, at the stove and on the golf course. He clearly missed school life, quickly picking up two weeks of employment co-ordinating school skiing groups in Italy! He will be sorely missed across the school but we all wish him a long and happy retirement.



Jane Phillips

Jane came to the High School in the summer of 2003 to take up the post of Head of English and straight away she was immersed in High School life, when she found herself helping with the props for that year's dramatic performance. (A Midsummer Night's Dream, in case you are wondering!) That seemed to set the tone for the next twelve years, as before long, she was also editing the school Review and in time, she was responsible for organising the Form 6 and Staff Annual Burns Supper as well.

There have been many high spots – too many to count! – but they include helping out on the Classics trip to Rome and Sorrento, numerous theatre visits, taking the part of a fierce fairy in the staff pantomime and, of course, strutting her stuff on the stage with all the other Abba wannabes at the Party on the Pillars.

Jane has enjoyed her years at the High School: "the pupils are a continual delight and it has been a real privilege to watch so many of them, year after year, growing in confidence, developing their skills in English and finding, much to their surprise, that they actually quite enjoy reading poetry, plays and stories!" Jane has various plans for her retirement. Travel features prominently, as well as her own writing projects, in addition to the more mundane, but pleasurable, pastimes of cooking and gardening. But those who know Jane will also know that her motto is: "Yes to anything... within reason!" So watch this space!



Lynsey Shand

Lynsey joined us in 2013 and quickly became a mainstay of the Drama Department, where she helped produce shows, as well as directing them herself – most recently the hugely successful Junior School production of Joseph and His Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat. Lynsey introduced co-curricular dance to the School and the groups have performed at the Burns Supper and Talent Shows. She has thoroughly enjoyed her two years at HSD, enjoying the commitment, talent and enthusiasm of the pupils in their dramatic performances. Things are about to get even more exciting for Lynsey as she is setting off for Australia with her fiancé! We wish her well in her adventure.



Penny Halliwell

Since joining the High School, Penny has enjoyed nineteen years as a teacher in the Junior Years. It is important to note however, that teaching was not her first career choice! Initially, a vocation in nursing was the starting point for Penny's working life, firstly at St Thomas' Hospital, London and then after having some time off to have two children, she worked at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. In the middle of juggling a nursing job with marriage to an RAF pilot, alongside looking after two children leading very busy lives at the High School, Penny opted for a change of occupation! Always interested in learning and child psychology, she decided to study for a degree in education and subsequently, a new career began at HSD in 1996.

While teaching within the Junior Years, Penny really enjoyed the challenges and delights of being involved in the education of a great many children and getting to know their families over the years. Many of the educational experiences she enjoyed developing were cross-curricular projects and involved collaboration with Senior School colleagues. Penny also participated in numerous school trips, to Dalguise, Paris, the Crannog and to Glamis Castle, to name but a few.

A long running co-curricular involvement in First Aid made good use of Penny's nursing skills. She taught First Aid to the L7s for several years, under the auspices of the 'St. Andrew Ambulance Association'. Many Open Mornings showed the focused and skilled approach of her group of St Andrew's Cadets, as they competently and calmly managed different situations. Evidently, the children learned their skills extremely well, since many have told her of real emergencies where they have found themselves in a position to be able to help. Of course, over the years there have been many times when Penny herself has been called upon to give emergency help! Other areas that Penny

has supported or organised in recent years have been the Chess Club for the L6 pupils, the Table Tennis Club for L4 pupils, as well as 'behind the scenes' help at the L4-7 Poetry Competition. Penny's creative interests, particularly in sewing, have been invaluable! Every other year Penny is called upon to make costumes for our Junior Musical productions. These outfits have been hugely varied and they have ranged from a beautiful, child-size parrot for Treasure Island, to several stages of a dying rose portrayed in layered, petal skirts for Beauty and the Beast. Further to that, she frequently managed the most amazing back-stage repairs and her quick and creative needlework made sure that the show could indeed, go on!

The future holds so much for Penny! She envisages plenty of time for family and friends, for travel and for pursuing her many hobbies and interests. She is particularly looking forward to long visits to the Antipodes to spend time with her children (Kate in Perth, Australia and Ben in Auckland, New Zealand) as well as her three gorgeous grandchildren, Iona, Christopher and Grace.

Congratulations!

Births

The stork has been very busy around these parts this year!

- First to arrive was the new baby son, born to Neil Higgins and his wife Claire. James Alexander Higgins was born on the 4th September, Daniel loves being a big brother! Congratulations to the Higgins family and welcome James!
- Gillian Johnson gave birth to a baby daughter, Charlotte Ivy Johnson, Saturday 6 September. Our warmest congratulations go to Gillian and her husband Andrew. Both are delighted with their new little girl.
- Jo Campbell and her husband Barrie celebrated the safe arrival of their son, Benjamin Robert Cura on Friday 26th September. Well done too, to Rory, on becoming a big brother!
- Congratulations to Laura Duncan who gave birth to a baby girl, Isla Duncan Cuthbert, on Sunday 28th September. Laura and her partner Paul and Isla's big sister and brother, Chloe and Ross are delighted and, needless to say, Grandma Pat – who is a stalwart of the School Office – and her husband Graeme are thrilled!
- All quiet on the baby front for a few months, until it was time to send our congratulations to Gordon Fyall and his family on the birth of a baby boy, Ethan Cai, who was born on Sunday 24th May. Alina and Callan are delighted with their new baby brother!

- Warmest congratulations also go to Mrs Jo Downie and her husband Andrew, on the birth of their baby son Lewis Robert, born 25 May. Both Jo and Andrew, who teaches at Albyn School, are thoroughly enjoying being new parents.
- Member of the Nursery staff, Chelsea Cosgrove, gave birth on the 15th June to Luca Alexander Stott. Welcome to Luca, who has the honour of being our first Nursery baby!

Engagements

Phew! After all that, we are delighted to announce the engagement of our librarian – and former pupil – Iona McFarlane who got engaged to her fiancé Jamie Smith. The happy couple will tie the knot next summer.

Marriages

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Richard Bunting, who married his fiancée, Kelly Robinson on 11th July 2015 in Hacheston, Suffolk.

Our congratulations also go to Adam Kerr and his new wife Michelle Pullar who were married on 1st August in Kilmeny church, Islay.

Learning Skills

Mrs Paula Spowart and Mrs Judy Hutchison are covering as part of a job share in the Learning Skills Department while Mrs Jo Downie is on maternity leave.

Library

Mrs Sheila Kelly left the Library in December 2014 but remains in her post in After School Care. A wonderful Library colleague, we wish her well in the resumption of her teaching career. Mrs Kelly was replaced by Mrs Beth Charlett who also works in the Reprographics Department. Though here only a few months, Mrs Charlett has already shown a creative flair in her approach to Library duties; brightening the space up with eye catching displays and creating dioramas with F1 pupils. She is a brilliant addition to the School Library team.

July



During the Combined Cadet Force Camp in Yorkshire, cadets produced an outstanding performance at full bore shooting, with twenty-seven pupils out of sixty achieving Marksman standard.

The outstanding shots were Duncan Leese (then F6) and Sophie Stobbs

(F4) who both scored 33/35, as well as Hannah Arnold and Neil Gunn (both F6 at the time), Molly Duncan (F6) and Sandy Taylor (F4) who all shot 32/35.

The discipline involved firing at a target 200m away in very windy conditions.

In over twenty years of service with the group, Lt Colonel McAdam had never seen such a high standard!

All the hard work put into Skill at Arms training paid off. Many thanks to all the F6 instructors under the supervision of Lt Preston and WO2 Nichol.

Summer Expeditions

China

The two years of hard work leading up to our day of departure passed incredibly quickly and before we knew it the 1st of July was upon us: we really were going to China for a month! We packed so much into those four weeks it would be impossible to tell you about everything we did, but we'll try to give you a flavour here.

As soon as we arrived in Beijing, we were thrown in at the deep end. Organising food, accommodation and activities for our fifteen-strong group by ourselves was a logistical challenge, so our first task was to purchase a mobile phone. While this may sound relatively simple, negotiating a deal with non-English speakers added an extra layer of complexity to everything we did. Adjusting to the eight hour time difference, combined with the intense heat and humidity proved to be a further challenge and the weird and wonderful Chinese cuisine also took a

bit of getting used to. However, this did not stop us from exploring the immense diversity Beijing had to offer, from visiting cultural landmarks such as the Forbidden City and Great Wall, to spending time in an orphanage on the outskirts of the city, which in itself was a truly eye-opening experience.

Our next stop was Chengdu which was over one thousand miles away. To split the sixteen hour train journey south-west into two eight-hour chunks, we stopped off at Xi'an, home to the world famous Terracotta Army. Walking atop the city walls here was a real highlight as we were lucky to enjoy an amazing sunset which allowed us to capture some fantastic photos.

In Chengdu, we visited some rather sleepy giant pandas, before embarking on our trekking phase up the holy Buddhist mountain, Emei Shan. This involved climbing more than twelve

thousand steps in a single day while carrying heavy backpacks, sleeping and eating in Buddhist monasteries and fending off some Oreo-stealing monkeys! Although tough, the sense of accomplishment when we reached the golden Buddha and the spectacular views on top of the ten thousand feet summit were completely worth it.

After Emei Shan, we travelled to Tibet to begin the homestay and project phase. Here the climate was much more comfortable given the high altitude – it almost felt like Scotland. Our project involved building a greenhouse for the local people of Tagong to grow their own produce. After digging out the foundations and heaving several piles of rock, gaining a significant amount of muscle in the process, we completed the greenhouse faster than any group before us.

It was then time to truly stray off the beaten track into the Tibetan plains. Camping alongside a nomadic family, we spent the days helping to milk yaks, cook traditional meals and interacting with the family via our translators. We all returned home with vastly improved miming skills!

Our time in China and the preparation in advance, taught us all a whole host of lessons about leadership, delegation, teamwork, overcoming setbacks, appreciation and respect for other cultures. One of us even displayed amazing resilience after another member of the party threw-up noodles

all over their lap at the beginning of an eight-hour bus journey! Even though it sounds cheesy, we learned a great deal about ourselves too. The memories we made will stay with us forever and the confidence we gained will continue to help us in our future endeavours.

Carys Stirling and Ciara Mitchell



Malawi and Tanzania

Two groups of adventurous pupils enjoyed an unforgettable month in Malawi and Tanzania, mixing voluntary work with the chance to soak up the life, culture and sights of East Africa.

Fourteen F5 and F6 pupils, led by Mrs Powrie and Miss Wallace, began their adventure by spending time with babies and young children at the Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery in Lilongwe, Malawi. Next they moved north to the Edinburgh Girls High School where they spent a week interacting with the local community and making bricks for the construction of a new school building.

Moving on to Tanzania, the group had the privilege of wild camping whilst on safari in Mikumi National Park, followed by a five day trek through jungle in the Udzungwa Mountains National Park where they took in the breathtaking views of the Sanje Waterfall and the Mwanihana Peak, which is over two thousand meters high.

Meanwhile the second group, led by Mr Campbell, were also on a journey of discovery. Upon arrival in Malawi the group worked for a week with local people on a nursery building project in Engweni, before taking in the beauty of Nkhata Bay on Lake Malawi.

Crossing the border into Tanzania, the pupils spent time in Mbyea before embarking on their three day trek through Mikumi National Park. This hike included two evenings spent on a game reserve, encountering the likes of elephants and leopards. The trip was rounded off with a visit to the seaside town of Bagamoyo.

It truly was an unforgettable adventure of a lifetime.



Sweden

Senior pupils got more than they bargained for during an expedition to the Arctic Circle.

During a two week hiking trip through the mountains of northern Sweden in the summer holidays, as well as walking long days over rugged terrain, being self-sufficient and sleeping outdoors, the party of nine hardy pupils were faced with an unexpected heat wave which resulted in temperatures of up to 30C!

The group rose to the challenge though, altering their planned route to successfully make it to the finish point

on time, whilst at the same time taking in the full beauty of the Scandinavian wilderness, which included stunning mountains, glaciers and even moose!

It took the group a few days to learn how to adapt to the extreme heat and it soon became apparent that the combination of heavy rucksacks and intense heat would restrict the number of hours they could walk. Since the sun never set the group decided to hike during the early hours of the morning. However, resting during the heat of the day was rather testing since the group were joined by particularly savage mosquitos!

Form 6 pupil Euan Chalmers stated, "The expedition was a great success overall, the weather was amazing in the Arctic Circle! Everyone bonded over the trip and have remained close friends. I recommend moose steak, it is fantastic!"

Following their hiking expedition, the group readjusted to city life with a two day stay in cosmopolitan Stockholm.



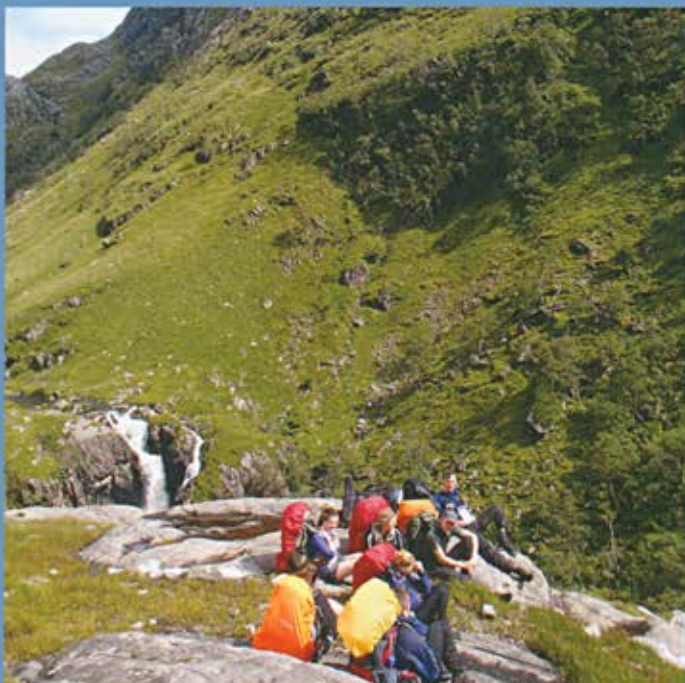
August



Dig for Victory

In the Junior School, on the morning of the 100 Year Walk, a variety of activities took place in remembrance of the start of World War One. L6 created paper seedling pots out of old newspapers and planted vegetables in the Junior School Garden to remember the call to 'Dig for Victory.'

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Final Expedition – Knoydart





Thomas Climbs Ben Nevis

Thomas McGahie (F2) joined his father Stuart in climbing Ben Nevis, helping to raise £4,500 for the Royal Victoria Hospital's Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation (CIBR), which treated Stuart following a car accident in April 2013.

Thomas said, "We decided to raise money for the centre to show our appreciation for the care that my Dad received there."

The duo were joined on their hike to the summit of the 4,408ft mountain by a group of family and friends and Thomas was delighted that their efforts paid off.

"I was thrilled that we raised so much money and climbing Ben Nevis was a great experience," he said.

Well done, Thomas!

Meeting Malala

The Reading Café, The Justice Society and some Higher Philosophy pupils were given the amazing opportunity to visit the Edinburgh International Book Festival to listen to Nobel Peace Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai, speak on the importance of universal education. We left very early in the morning and waited in a large auditorium for her arrival. This was exciting enough, but when the introduction came from none other than J.K. Rowling we knew we were at a very special event. Both spoke passionately and convincingly on the necessity of education for girls and the amazing journey Malala has made. The morning passed too quickly and we left full of excitement at having been in the same room as two very special women, as well as full of enthusiasm for the school year ahead!

Top Results

The High School of Dundee recorded some of the top SQA exam results in the 2013/2014 diet.

Alice Burnett, who left school at the end of F6 in June 2014, celebrated a unique double after following up gaining the top score in the country in Higher Biology in 2013, with scoring the highest mark in Advanced Higher Biology in 2014!

Alice, who is now studying Medicine at St Andrews University, said, "Getting both awards is very surreal! I love Biology but it is always a subject you have to work hard on as there is so much to it. I never considered aiming for the top mark again, I was just aiming to get the grades I needed for my university course."



Matthew Wiggans, who also completed F6 in June 2014, achieved the highest mark in Scotland in Advanced Higher Technological Studies.

Matthew said, "Technological Studies was my favourite subject so I was delighted to find that I had performed so well."

Matthew says that the course provided him with an ideal preparation for the degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering which he is now studying for at Southampton University.



Eilidh Lockhart (F6) was one of only thirty pupils across the whole of Scotland to score 100% in Higher Maths. Eilidh modestly said of her impressive achievement, "It was surprising – I didn't think I'd done as well as that! The subject of the questions worked out well for me. I had gone over one of them with my teacher, Mr Blackburn, not long before the exam."

Dr Halliday, who was delighted with the achievements, said, "It's a wonderful fillip to the whole school community to see our pupils go on to achieve such impressive feats."

The outstanding achievements of the trio round off another impressive set of exam results for the High School of Dundee. Congratulations to all of our hardworking pupils!



One Hundred Year Walk

Fresh to a new session and ready for new challenges, the High School of Dundee community gathered together to remember the pupils and teachers of our school and of the Dundee area who fell in the Great War. On Friday 22 August, what is believed to be the largest gathering at the top of Dundee's Law Hill in almost ninety years took place as pupils from L1 to F6, accompanied by teaching and support staff, walked from the School to the War Memorial atop the iconic landmark to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of World War One with a short remembrance service.

At the summit Dr Halliday gave a reading before lone piper Charles Arthur played 'Flowers o' the Forest' and trumpeter Euan Strachan played the 'Last Post'. A minute's silence was held which was followed by Euan's second moving piece, 'Reveille'. Then, by holding coloured card above their heads, the pupils formed themselves into a mass poppy, with the symbolic image captured via an aerial photograph, to provide a fitting and lasting reminder of the occasion.

The walk had two aims: to remember those who gave their lives in World War One and to raise money for Horseback UK, which helps physically and mentally scarred servicemen and women rehabilitate through working with horses. Co-founder of the charity, Jock Hutchison, attended the walk on behalf of Horseback UK. Colour Sergeant Baz Barratt, who suffered serious crush injuries in an IED explosion when serving as a Royal Marine in Afghanistan in 2008, accompanied Jock. Baz had recently achieved the goal he set himself five years ago, to climb Ben Nevis - after fifty-seven operations and a long period of rehabilitation, including his time at Horseback UK. Dundee Law seemed a very small challenge by comparison and Baz chatted with many pupils as he joined them on the climb.

Dr Halliday said, "It is important that we as a community, remember the four thousand men of Dundee who died during World War One, and in particular the one-hundred-thirty of whom were pupils at the High School. We must look back at the mistakes of history and hope to learn from them so that we do not repeat them."

To tie in with the event, in the morning pupils took part in special lessons linked to the historic anniversary. For example, in English, pupils completed work based on first-hand accounts of the Great War, while in Home Economics they looked at the commencement of rationing in 1918 and compared the prices of goods today with the prices in 1914. In the Junior School pupils in L6 discussed what children in this country would have been doing to help the war effort and to address the fact that German U-boats interrupted the food chain.

The event raised £1,600 for Horseback UK, assisting them to continue their valuable support of ex-servicemen and women, with the ultimate aim of finding a second career.



September

L4 Crannog Visit

Before our visit we watched films on how the archaeologists initially found evidence of the crannog underwater. Using this information we then reconstructed the crannog that now stands on Loch Tay. Other discoveries, many of which are seen in the museum, showed us that the Celts were very self-sufficient although they also traded far and wide in the Iron Age. We were fascinated by the demonstrations and eager to try different tasks such as wood-turning, stone-pecking, spinning wool and starting a fire! When we returned to school we used everything we learned to produce some creative writing about the Celts. We then turned our character descriptions into Celtic portraits, paying close attention to reflect an accurate depiction of the person, clothing and surroundings.



L2 Tattie Harvest & Healthy Eating

In June 2014 the outgoing L1s planted potatoes as part of their Food and Farming topic. Over the summer holidays the potatoes got plenty of sun and rain and they began to grow. Upon their return to school in August the pupils found the potato plants had grown tall and bushy and soon the potatoes were ready to harvest. This year's crop was a huge 6kg! The pupils had a super time with Mrs Ross in the Home Economics Department learning how to make potato salad. Lots of learning and fun was had by all.

As part of the same topic L2 pupils read 'Oliver's Vegetables' by Vivien French. They certainly seemed pleased with their papercraft carrots!



L7W Assembly



Our assembly celebrated The European Day of Languages. First of all we taught the Junior Years about some of the two hundred twenty-five different European languages and how to say 'Hello' in five of those languages. We then demonstrated

why it is so important to understand other languages by showing a clip from Fawlty Towers and sharing the story of a very confusing family holiday. Finally we quizzed the school on various European cultures and traditions.

L7 Safe Taysiders

On Friday 12th September we visited Baluniefield Police Station to take part in Safe Taysiders. The event was designed to help us learn how to keep ourselves and others safe in dangerous situations. We participated in nine scenarios set up by various organisations including the police, fire service, coast guard and community support workers. Everyone learnt a lot and we had a very enjoyable morning.



Nursery Picnic

In September we had some lovely weather and were lucky enough to have Snack Time outside in the Nursery garden. We like having picnic snacks!



Official Opening of HSD Nursery

The brand-new, purpose-built, High School of Dundee Nursery was officially opened by renowned author and illustrator Dr Mairi C Hedderwick, creator of the much loved children's series, Katie Morag. The opening of the nursery marks the first time in the School's seven hundred and seventy-five year history that it offers education right the way through from age three to eighteen.

The stunning design creates a warmly nurturing environment which is safe, light and provides easy access to outdoor recreational areas.

Dr Halliday was delighted to announce that the nursery building has been named after the Dundonian social reformer Mary Lily Walker, a Former Pupil of the High School, whose pioneering work in Victorian and Edwardian Dundee was pivotal in improving the social conditions of young mothers and their children. Dr Halliday stated, "It is an honour that we can open this wonderful new facility in memory of one of our former pupils who achieved so much in the provision of child care in Dundee one hundred years ago."

Excitement at the opening ceremony reached a peak when Dr Hedderwick used the occasion to give her first Katie Morag book in seven years, the 'Katie Morag Treasury', its global launch. The children at the new nursery became the envy of boys and girls across Scotland when the author read them an enthralling excerpt. Just when the children thought things couldn't get any more exciting they were all given a copy of the book, signed by Dr Hedderwick!

Dr Hedderwick, who also presented copies of some of her other children's picture books to the nursery, said, "I'm delighted to be able to open this wonderful new nursery, which provides a marvellous setting for children to learn and play in. To be launching my latest children's book in an environment like this is a great compliment to Katie Morag and myself."

After the thrill of the nursery opening, Dr Hedderwick paid a visit to pupils in L1 to L7 to talk to them about Katie Morag. As well as learning about the work of an author and illustrator, the spell-bound pupils also had a chance to ask questions. Dr Hedderwick was very impressed by the eager pupils and said, "The children asked me some very mature, grown-up questions which really made me think. It was lovely to be able to talk to them and to have the chance to show them how books are made."



A Month of Geography Fieldwork

A group of Advanced Higher pupils travelled to the Mediterranean to carry out fieldwork to support them in their Geographical Portfolio. The itinerary included an assessment of coastal management in the resort of Sitges and urban regeneration in Barcelona.

There was no rest for the teachers who, upon their return from Barcelona, travelled to the Cairngorms National Park with Form 3 to carry out National 5 fieldwork. The day involved meeting a National Park Ranger who spoke about the challenges of managing the park. Pupils carried out investigations looking at tourist behaviour in the Park and how this impacts on the environment.



Enterprising Maths

On 16th 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 Joe Carstairs F3, Brian Lim F3, Alex Smith F4 and Elle Wyatt F4. Thirty teams competed fiercely in a variety of different mathematical challenges. Our team competed gallantly but finished the day just outside of the qualifying positions.



Pictured are the team of Brian Lim, Alex Smith, Elle Wyatt and Joe Carstairs



F1 Residential trip to Nethybridge

F1 were as eager as ever to get to know one another, so to welcome them into the Senior School, the entire year group took part in a four-day residential stay at Nethybridge in the Cairngorms National Park in which they tackled a range of exciting activities including canoeing, mountain biking, climbing, camping and various team challenges.

Pupils honed vital teamwork skills which enabled them to have fun together whilst getting to know each other as well as the Guidance staff.

Mr Brett particularly enjoyed the trip, so much so that he 'willingly' took part in the Ice Bucket Challenge craze in front of the entire new F1!

The F1 Residential is a great way for the year group to come together and for friendships to develop.

Fun was had by all!

English Department 1

It was a busy return to work in September, and the first of our cultural trips began with a visit to the cinema to see the live streaming of the National Theatre production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The pupils, from Forms 5 and 6, were bowled over by the performance of Gillian Anderson in the role of Blanche Dubois and the conversations continued back at school next day!

F1-3 Outdoor Adventure Trip to Loch Tay





'Lessons from Auschwitz'

Holocaust Educational Trust Visit

Having been selected to participate in the Holocaust Educational Trust Programme 'Lessons from Auschwitz', we had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz, as well as to attend orientation seminars in Edinburgh. The seminar prior to the visit prepared us for the journey whilst informing us of the history of the Holocaust, including the role played by Auschwitz-Birkenau, in addition to a brief background of World War Two. There we listened to a survivor who told of her firsthand account of the Holocaust. Though inspired, we left the seminar quite anxious for our visit, which was to be a harrowing experience.

At 3am on the 17th of September we flew from Edinburgh to Krakow, before transferring to the city of Oswiecim – the Polish name for the city we know as Auschwitz. The day began with a visit to The Great Synagogue, which was thought to have been highly decorative and to have seated one thousand people. Nevertheless, upon arrival, we were left shocked at what remained. While Oswiecim was once the core of the Jewish Community, what was left was unrecognisable. Reduced to a small patch of grass and a few trees, it was hard to believe that this was a sight of historical importance. In visiting this sight, it quickly became apparent that whilst six million victims were killed, the Holocaust was something more. It was an attempt to eradicate a way of life and the degree of the destruction is still event today. Following the visit, we attended a ceremony in a nearby synagogue, led by a rabbi who had participated in the trip alongside us. Again, this provided us with a further insight into the Jewish culture, which in turn deepened our understanding of the Holocaust.

Afterwards we travelled to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum. As a group we were taken on a tour of the camp, which proved to be an unusual experience. Despite attending a seminar prior to our departure, it is true that a person cannot be prepared for such a journey. Whilst expecting to be moved by the sights around us, it took time to process the magnitude of what we had seen and what it represented. The tour enabled us to grasp a greater understanding of the shocking conditions that the millions of prisoners faced and of particular interest was the infamous 'Gate of Death'.

Overall, the visit turned the information we had gathered at school, as well as in the seminars, into reality, enabling us to achieve our own perspective of the Holocaust. Next we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Camp where we were met by the imposing entrance tower and the railway track on which thousands travelled into the camp, ultimately to their death. The vast site, which spanned miles, displayed the silent horrors of the Holocaust. The reality that we were standing where six million people were murdered decades before was incomprehensible. At the end of the day a memorial service was held. We listened to moving poems and laid candles on the railroad in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the abominable camp. As we walked through the gates back to the bus we were left with one last thought – unlike us, the people that entered this camp seventy years ago never set foot outside those gates again.

In the days that followed, the impact of the trip became more of a reality. Returning to normal life seemed strange after what we had witnessed. Although the horrors of the Holocaust are unfathomable, and forever will be, we gained a deeper, more emotional understanding of what the victims experienced. Family photographs, belongings and personal accounts turned our knowledge of history into an eerie reality.

The follow-up seminar allowed us to share our reactions and discuss ideas of how best to pass on the stories and horrors we had learned to others. The idea that by spreading the reality of this period of history we can help prevent inhumane acts like these in the future was at the forefront of discussion.

One of the key aspects of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme was to attempt to humanise the events of the Holocaust. The project not only broadened our historical knowledge, it also provided a moving experience which showed the devastating effects of human actions. Every person who was killed during the Holocaust had a family, a home and a life to live; yet this was snatched away from them. The 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme brought this part of history to life and gave us a memorable and emotive experience.

Charlotte Hair and Molly Duncan

Moon Rocks



Pupils in both the Junior and Senior Schools had an out of this world experience when they were given the chance to hold genuine moon rock and other lunar samples which were collected during the famous Apollo missions of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The irreplaceable samples – part of just 5kg of lunar rock available for study worldwide – were loaned to the School

by the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council.

Also landing in the classroom were a fascinating selection of meteorites, giving the pupils the chance to touch real pieces of space! These included a 1.2 billion year old piece of Mars and the Murchison meteorite which, at 4.65-4.95 billion years old, is 150-450 million years older than our solar system and therefore, it's safe to say, the oldest

object that pupils and staff will ever be able to hold!

Mr Darby said, "Pupils always enjoy learning about space and space exploration. Having the opportunity to hold rocks created at the birth of the solar system and moon rocks brought back by the Apollo missions, has added extra excitement and fascination to their learning."



UK School Games

Two High School of Dundee pupils had the chance to experience the thrill of participating in an elite, multi-sports competition for the second year in a row.

Cameron Golden (F4) and Alasdair Rennet (F6) travelled to Manchester to represent Scotland at the 2014 Sainsbury's UK School Games, an event which saw around sixteen-hundred of the UK's finest school-aged sports stars take part in competitions in twelve current and future Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Cameron was a member of the Scottish boys U17 hockey team while Alasdair was selected to play for his country in the U17 table tennis competition.

Both athletes relished the chance to participate in the unique event, which featured opening and closing ceremonies.

Alasdair said, "I really enjoyed the multisport games experience of the athletes' village and meeting people from different sports." Cameron said, "It was a good experience, the highlight for me was scoring two goals against Wales despite having ripped tendons in my thumb in the previous game."





Pupils at the High School of Dundee have an amazing array of over one hundred co-curricular clubs to choose from. The annual Co-Curricular Fair is a fantastic showcase of what the School has to offer. This year pupils were able to watch demonstrations by a number of clubs, as well as finding out more about the likes of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Enterprise Club, Voltz Electronic Club, Amnesty International, the School's Combined Cadet Force, charity work, choirs, sports, science and maths clubs, jewellery, table tennis and debating!



Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair was once again a resounding success. The event proved popular with pupils and parents alike and raised £1,390. This fantastic sum provided both the Junior and Senior schools with lots of lovely new books!

Scholastic sent us a super range of books and stationery, with something to interest everyone from the keenest to the most reluctant reader. Colourful, beautifully illustrated picture books enticed the younger readers while exciting and interesting novels encouraged independent reading. Our Senior pupils were catered for with texts on challenging topics to inspire some pre-exam research!

Junior School pupils visited at an allotted time with their class teacher and were welcome to return after the school day with parents, grandparents and friends, allowing them to take their time and make those difficult decisions! Senior School pupils were welcome to browse and make their purchases after class.

A big thank you to the Learning Skills Department for organising the Fair and the Parents Association volunteers for manning the sales counter.

Date for the diary!

Scholastic Book Fair 2015 15th – 22nd September.

October



Higgs Boson

Abigail Cousins, Nafisah Kashmiri and Marc Pullan, won a competition among children at the School to design a poster detailing all you need to know about the Higgs boson, the famous particle which is responsible for all of the mass in the universe.

As a result, the trio, who along with the other pupils researched the so-called 'God Particle' in the Senior School laboratories over the course of a number of weeks, had their design entered into a national poster competition being run by the Institute of Physics Scotland.

The results were announced at a prize-giving ceremony in Edinburgh, with the pupils winning the P6/7 category. Their sterling work earned them crystals from the CERN laboratory in Geneva and a poster signed by none other than Professor Peter Higgs, who shared the 2013 Nobel Prize for physics with François Englert, for the prediction of the particle.

Dr Brown, who helped the pupils research the Higgs boson, said, "It's an excellent achievement to win the prize as the pupils were up against schools from all over Scotland. The way the pupils were able to research such a complex topic and then represent their findings in such an understandable way is also very impressive."

L2 Farm Visit

Despite the awful weather L2 had a successful visit to Newton of Arbirlot Farm. The rain did not stop us from enjoying meeting the cows and hearing all about the food they eat and what Gill, the farmer, has to do to take care of them. The cows were particularly noisy this year when it looked like they were about to be fed! We also saw two massive mountains of rapeseeds and wheat. It was fantastic to see and touch these basic foods and to find out all the different things they can be turned into. We also saw different farm equipment and realised just how busy a day on a farm is. By going to the farm we all had a super opportunity to hear, see and smell what life on a farm is really like!

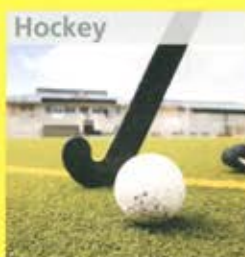




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L7S Assembly

Our assembly was based on the importance of setting goals to aid making our dreams reality. We thought about how we have set short term goals for this year and how these might lead to longer term goals for our future. We included a poem by Paul Cookson which encourages us to believe in ourselves as it recites: "let no-one steal your dreams nor tell us that we can't." A short play about lion cubs in school showed that through hard work, determination and practice, 'Leo the Lion' could eventually achieve what others in his class could. To conclude we spoke of 'Secrets for Success' in goal setting which were: belief, practice, commitment, pride and the vital element of planning achievable targets.



L2M Autumn Pictures

L2M used sponges and swirling brushstrokes to create these enchanting autumn pictures. The falling leaves were decorated in felt pen and pencil, using only the colours of autumn.



Willie Wonka



To mark fifty years since the publication of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and as part of Roald Dahl Month celebrations in the library, pupils were given the mouth-watering task of designing a sweetie which would be at home in Willie Wonka's factory.

As they considered what their creation would taste like, how it would be made and what would happen if somebody ate it, the youngsters came up with some

inspired ideas! These included the likes of Keryn's 'Wish Cannon Crunch'- a medley of chocolate, smarties, roasted marshmallows and biscuit which enables the lucky consumer to make their dreams come true and meet fairies!

The winners of the contest were, in line with the famous tale, given golden tickets and granted the chance to make their tantalising treats in the Home Economics Department.



Halloween in the Nursery

The Nursery Halloween party was great fun. We all dressed up and played games. Doughnuts on a string was very tricky, but Pirate Luca did a great job.



F2 Geography Trip to Dynamic Earth

F2 pupils had a fantastic experience on the Geography fieldtrip to Our Dynamic Earth on Thursday 23rd October. They took part in a workshop on natural disasters where they mapped out a suitable location for and then built, a hospital in San Francisco. Their main aim was to try and avoid areas of severe

shaking and liquefaction in the event of an earthquake. The other aspect of their trip was a gallery tour where they enjoyed a ride on a time-machine experiencing the big bang, flying over volcanoes and glaciers, before watching a 4D show on the world's biomes.

F1 & F2 Euro Tour





German Exchange

F4 pupils welcomed a party of fifteen and sixteen year old pupils from the Christophorusschule in Oberurff, Land Hessen who enjoyed a ten day exchange visit to Dundee in which they attended lessons, visited the sights of the city and got to know about Scottish culture and history.

As part of the jam-packed itinerary, the fourteen exchange students visited the McManus Galleries and the RRS Discovery, took in a show at the Rep Theatre, spent

a day absorbing the famous tourist attractions of Edinburgh, and got a taste of Scotland's past with visits to Stirling Castle, the Wallace Monument and St Andrews.

The German pupils found many differences in school life between the two countries. Sarah Eisenacher, one of the German pupils, said, "School is very different here. The pupils here use iPads as part of some of their lessons, which we don't have back home. Also, the pupils



here wear uniforms and the teachers have their own rooms which, again, is not the case back in Germany. A particular highlight for me was making Scottish shortbread!"

We enjoyed welcoming our German friends and hope that we gave them some great experiences. We can't wait to meet them again when we visit Germany in the summer term!

Modern Studies Trip to the Scottish Parliament

On Thursday 30th of October 2014, sixteen Modern Studies pupils made their way to Holyrood in order to interview local MSPs Shona Robison and Joe Fitzpatrick. As Johann Lamont had only just stepped down as Scottish Labour leader and with Alex Salmond's penultimate appearance at First Minister's Questions impending, it was definitely an exciting time to explore the Scottish Parliament!

After arriving the pupils were met by Tom Thomson, a former High School of Dundee pupil who is now personal assistant to Joe Fitzpatrick, MSP for Dundee City West. Tom expertly guided the group through the Scottish Parliament exhibition. Here pupils were able to interact with a variety of exhibits which challenged their knowledge of Scottish politics. Of course, each and every pupil knew their stuff!

At 11:30 it was time for General Questions. The pupils were ushered into the debating chamber where they were able to see Government Ministers answer questions put to them by other MSPs. Then, at 12pm, the main event began. Pupils were able to witness

parliamentary democracy in action as the First Minister engaged in heated debate with interim Scottish Labour leader Jackie Baillie over issues such as the NHS and private education during First Minister's Questions.

The group was then escorted to the committee rooms of the Parliament building where they were able to interview local MSPs Joe Fitzpatrick and Shona Robison. The pupils asked some impressively thoughtful questions on issues such as the impact of the Scottish Independence Referendum and the under-representation of ethnic minorities and women in parliament.

Now, with the debating chamber clear of MSPs, the pupils were able to sneak in and take their seats . . . as the frontbench of the Scottish Parliament! Each student took their turn to sit in the First Minister's chair, with some looking very comfortable in such a position of power.

As the group was getting ready to leave Brian Taylor, Political Editor for BBC Scotland and former High School of Dundee pupil, approached the group to introduce himself and talk about his

role. Brian Taylor wasn't the only major political personality desperate to have a chat with pupils from the High School – First Minister-elect Nicola Sturgeon even came over to say hello! A great way to end a fantastic trip to the Scottish Parliament.





The Justice Society

To raise awareness about the dangers working women face in Afghanistan, the Justice Society went around Registration classes and kidnapped the teachers. It was only for a short period of time but it was long enough to let pupils experience what children in Afghanistan feel when they are deprived of their education.

After the event we held assemblies so that each year group would know what had happened. It was very successful and everybody thought it was a great idea. During the assembly we kidnapped Mr Brett and led him off stage so that we could give a small speech about who we are and what we have done.

This was just one of our many fun activities this year to raise awareness for human rights.

After the assembly, the Justice Society organized a contribution to Amnesty International's photo-petition in support of the rights of working women.

By Caitlin and Sophie



"In our protected school environment we don't tend to think about the horrible things that are happening all around the world. In Justice Society we raise awareness of world problems and raise money for organisations that support human rights. We hope that other people will be inspired to take action of their own".

By Abi and Shona.

Origami Challenge

To tie in with the School's focus on creativity, all Senior School pupils and staff were challenged to make at least one origami crane for a colourful Art Department installation.

In all, an amazing six hundred eighty-three folded representations of the bird were contributed, with Airlie winning the points on offer for the House producing the most cranes. Lindores came a close second, Aystree third with Wallace bringing up the rear.

The impressive installation, which was assembled by Mrs Angus with help from pupils, is now on display in the Art Department.



Karting Champion

Sandy Mitchell (F3) followed in the footsteps, or rather slipstream, of F1 stars such as Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button and David Coulthard by being crowned the British Super One Junior Rotax champion.

Driving for the RL Racing Department team in his rookie year, Sandy wrapped up the prestigious title at the final weekend of races at the PF International circuit in Lincolnshire.

Having already raced his way to numerous pole positions and fastest laps over the course of the preceding five rounds, Sandy in the end finished sixteen points clear of his nearest rival. Sandy said, "I am so happy to have won the British Super One Championship, it is a fantastic feeling."

Sandy's championship win also earned him the right to display the highly sought-after, top-seeded No. 1 on his kart when he races in the UK.



Sandy being congratulated by his Registration Group.



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School Swimming Gala

This year saw the School Swimming Gala at the new Olympia at the end of October. As ever the competition was fiercely competitive to ensure the best House won. A good number of pupils entered the heats this year meaning only one race went to a straight final in the heats.

Age 9 and Under Girls and Boys Championship

1st Martha Reeves
1st Hamish Forester

Age 10 and Over Girls and Boys Championship

1st Hannah Murray
1st Rory Grant

Form 1-3 Girls and Boys Championship

1st Kirsten Grant
1st Cameron Murray

Form 4-6 Girls and Boys Championship

1st Eilidh Grant
1st Alasdair Rennet
1st Euan Rose

A huge congratulations to all the pupils who entered the gala this year and better luck next year on beating the staff in the final relay! The overall house points for the gala came down to the final relays resulting in the final placings.

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

November



L3 Egypt Day

Many Pharaohs were in evidence in L3 in November when the children took part in a fun Challenge Day. The day involved a variety of activities and was a conclusion to the Egyptian topic which they had been studying since August. The children played an Egyptian board game called 'Senet' with Miss Reith, which used Smarties as counters! They did some art with Mrs Coull and made the 'Eye of Horus'. The children then visited the Home Economics Department to make some traditional flatbreads with Mrs Ross and Mrs Anderson. It was hard to resist a quick nibble of these flatbreads on the way back to the classroom as they smelt yummy!



Fun Into Food

Chartwells, the school caterers, hosted a 'Fun into Food' day to encourage pupils to not only take an interest in cooking but to also help them make healthy food choices. L4 – L7 pupils took part in an exciting food challenge with two teams of eager cooks, ably assisted by Mr Petrie and Mrs Proudfoot, creating two dishes from a range of ingredients. It was a closely fought contest. Mr Petrie's Red Team created a turkey burger accompanied by a tasty stir fry, while Mrs Proudfoot's Green Team chose salmon for their dish. Voting was a close run thing but the Red Team just pipped the Green Team at the post.



L6 & L7 Global Science Experiment



Thousands of pupils from around the world (including Africa, Thailand, South America and Europe) have been taking part in a year-long experiment to find the best conditions for growing crystals. Sixteen pupils from the L6/7 Science Club conducted a range of experiments and uploaded their data online as part of 'Global Experiment'. The results can be viewed at the Royal Society of Chemistry website.



L6L Class Assembly & L6R Class Assembly

We used our assembly on Children in Need Day to tell the story by Julia Donaldson – 'Room on the Broom'. Everyone enjoyed taking part as a character, narrator or moving part of scenery! We encouraged everyone to help those around them, to include everyone in games and conversations and to show that a good deed today might be paid back later. We just need to be as kind as the witch on her broom! When Mr Petrie told us that 'Room on the Broom' was one of his favourite stories, an L1 pupil on the front row piped up loudly, "Mine too." We were happy to have this confirmation that we had pleased our youngest friends.

Our assembly was all about Advent and Christmas traditions. As this was the last assembly of 2014, we all wanted to make sure everyone was in a festive mood for Christmas. In this assembly our goal was to make sure everyone knew the real meaning of Christmas and to get everyone prepared for Jesus' birthday. This goal was achieved. We all had a fabulous time and the support of Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Milne made us successful. It was a cheerful assembly and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly!

By Zoe and Sneha



Shakespeare Schools Festival

In November a group of Form 2-3 pupils entered the Shakespeare Schools Festival performing William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The Shakespeare Schools Festival is the UK's largest youth drama festival, offering students from all backgrounds the opportunity to perform Shakespeare on their local professional stage. Three schools from the Dundee area

performed at Dundee Rep Theatre, including us. The setting for our production was on a desert island called Rome, where a group of school children on a trip had been marooned. The inspiration was taken from 'Lord of The Flies' and we all had great fun making our own spears!

Rehearsals were quite intense because even though we were only performing an abridged version of the play we had to make sense of the Shakespearean language. As we prepared our play we grew stronger as a group, laughing and learning together, becoming more relaxed and confident. Learning lines was probably the hardest part, especially if you had long paragraphs to learn, but we all helped each other.

We went to some workshops at Dundee Rep Theatre where we could improve our skills, learn new things, and meet the other schools participating. We all loved these workshops as they were really fun and it was great to get to know the pupils from the other schools.

For our first scripted play performed on a theatre stage it was pretty cool. It showed us what performing and acting was really like. The dressing rooms were amazing. The mirrors with the lights around them were beautiful and made us feel like we were stars on Broadway!

It was an amazing experience for us and is something I don't think we will ever forget. We all grew as people, learning new skills and improving old ones. This experience really brought us together, allowing us to form new friendships with people we normally don't hang out with. We became a sort of family, with everyone looking out for one another and having a good time. The feeling of being on stage and having everyone's eyes on you, being in control of a play, even for just a moment, is a phenomenal experience. The excitement and the rush of just running on stage and hearing the audience clap for you is something every drama student treasures.

Phoebe Duncan F3

Michelin Insight Day

On Tuesday 11th November Engineering Science and Business pupils visited the world-famous Michelin factory in Dundee. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Form 4, 5 and 6 pupils, as well as staff, to witness a global company in action. This visit was part of the 'See Inside Manufacturing' initiative backed by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, which aims to encourage a wider knowledge of manufacturing careers by creating and improving links between the manufacturing industry, young people and career advisors. Michelin Dundee opened their doors to give invited guests the opportunity to see inside their plant and learn about the many, varied career paths available within a manufacturing environment. We were split into small groups and taken on a guided tour around the factory and training school where we met employees from different departments, following a wide variety of career paths in Michelin. We had to wear hi-viz jackets and safety shoes supplied by Michelin. The guide provided by



Michelin took us to the factory canteen where there was a light buffet lunch provided. There is only one permitted visit per year and we are extremely grateful Michelin chose to invite us.

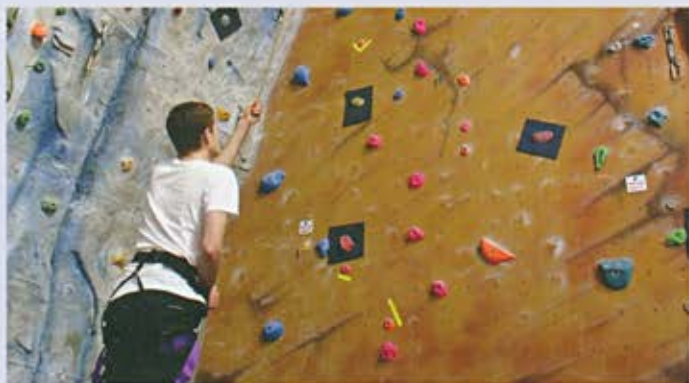
UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

Although exams were on the horizon, on 6th November, twenty-five pupils from F5 and F6, and one from F4, were eager to take part in the Senior Maths Challenge. Seven silver and six bronze certificates were awarded with 'Best in School' going to Scott Macandrew. Scott was then invited to take part in the follow-on British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1.

English Department 2

In November the Advanced Higher group welcomed poet and artist Dawn Wood into class, where she took a writing workshop. Pupils overcame their shyness; reading and discussing their own work with each other and Dawn suggested ways in which they could develop their writing. The pupils had a most enjoyable afternoon and felt that they had been given some good ideas on how to progress with their writing.

F2-6 Outdoor Adventure Trip to Lochaber



F2 Geobus

On Thursday 13th November all F2 pupils spent a double period attending an active learning workshop on Earthquake Waves, run by Geobus from St Andrews University. The workshop was multi-disciplinary, covering aspects of

Geography and Physics as well as literacy, numeracy and teamwork skills.

Geobus is an educational outreach project for schools funded entirely through sponsorship – developed and run by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of St Andrews.



Pipe Band at Winter Graduations

November was a busy month for the Pipe Band, who enjoyed the honour of performing at Dundee University's 2014 Winter Graduations.

Having earned themselves a growing reputation with a number of impressive public performances in recent times, the pupils were asked to provide a stirring finale to the

ceremonies at Dundee's Caird Hall, in which around nine hundred students celebrated graduating.

Many of those being bestowed with degrees and diplomas were clearly blown away by the rousing musical reception which greeted them in City Square, with a number stopping to pose for photos alongside the band.

Senior Music Competition

Congratulations to all pupils on their hard work and excellent performances

Grade Three Brass

Winner: Orlaith Joy 2Li2 – trombone

Grade Three Piano

Winner: Fraser Coupar 1Ay1

Grade Three Strings

Winner: Rebecca Humble 2Wa1 – violin

Grade Three Woodwind

Winner: Sarah Elgin 3Li2 – alto saxophone

Grade Four Brass

Winner: Findlay Brown 1Ai1 – trumpet

Grade Four Clàrsach

Winner: Pip Forster 1Ay1

Grade Four Guitar

Winners: Jamie Meade 1Ai2

Grade Four Piano

Winner: Alasdair Richmond 1Li2

Grade Four Strings

Winner: Kirstin Petrie 1Ay1 – violoncello
Runner-up: Charlotte Jennings 3Li2 – violin

Grade Four Voice

Winner: Joshua Rawcliffe 4Li2

Grade Four Woodwind

Winners: Hannah Meade 1Ai2

Grade Five Brass

Winner: James Shearer 3Li1 – euphonium

Grade Five Guitar

Winner: Paige Lawrie 5Ai2

Grade Five Piano

Winner: Isabel Campbell 4Ai1
Runners-up: Abhisri Chaudhuri 3Li1
Cara Walsh 5Wa1

Grade Five Strings

Winner: Hannah Meade 1Ai2 – violin

Grade Five Voice

Winner: Finlay McKillop 4Ai1

Grade Five Woodwind

Winner: James McFadyen 1Ai2 – flute

Grade Six Brass

Winner: Joshua Rawcliffe 4Li2 – trumpet

Grade Six Piano

Winner: Alex Smith 4Ai2

Grade Six Strings

Winner: Laura Murphy 2Li2 – violin

Grade Six Voice

Winner: Eden Miller 5Ay1

Grade Six Woodwind

Winner: Eilidh Fish 3Ay1 – clarinet

Open Class Brass (Larg Prize)

Winner: Colette Colman 5Li2 – trumpet

Open Class Piano (Larg Prize)

Winner: Carys Stirling 6Li2

Open Class Strings (Larg Prize)

Winner: Mia Vidman 4Ai2 – violin
Runner-up: Oran McNair 4Wa2 – violin

Open Class Voice (Larg Prize)

Winner: Verity Brown 4Ai1

Open Class Woodwind (Larg Prize)

Winner: Sandy Taylor 4Ay2 – oboe

Southgate Prize (for Chamber Music)

1st: Alasdair Rennet 6Ai1,
Oran McNair 4Wa2,
Mhairi Millar 4Li2,
Alastair Munnoch 3Li1,
Lynden Nicely 4Ay2

Oboe quintet

2nd: Eleanor Scott 5Li2,
Robert Zhan 4Li2,
Lynden Nicely 4Ay2

Piano trio

3rd: Alasdair Rennet 6Ai1,
Zac Inglis 6Wa1,
Fraser Munnoch 6Li1,
Simon Allen 4Ay1
Saxophone quartet

High School of Dundee

Premier Quaich

(for Solo Performance)

1st: Colette Colman 5Li2 – trumpet
2nd: Alasdair Rennet 6Ai1 – alto saxophone
3rd: Eleanor Scott 5Li2 – violin



Armistice Parade

Remembrance at the High School of Dundee took on extra significance as pupils and staff commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

Alongside the traditional Armistice Parade and Service, which saw guests including Lord Provost Bob Duncan, local politicians and forces personnel gather as the School's Combined Cadet Force paraded in front of the School, pupils handed over a cheque for £1,500 to Horseback UK.

The money was raised for the charity by virtue of a unique whole-school event in August, in which the school community walked from the School to the War Memorial at the top of Dundee Law to mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the conflict.

Returning to the School to collect the cheque, co-founder of Horseback UK Jock Hutchison said, "We are extremely grateful to the School for this financial support and for allowing us to join the pupils on the walk to the top of the Law."

The Armistice Ceremony, which was observed by the whole School, concluded with a wreath being placed in front of the School's war memorial by Head Boy Paul Kidd and Head Girl Molly Duncan.

Afterwards Paul stated, "Dr Halliday's thought provoking speech encouraged us all to remember the four thousand men of Dundee who died during World War One, one hundred and thirty of whom were pupils at the High School."



L4 Poppies

Pupils in L4 made these giant poppies to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of World War One.



Autumn Concert

There was magical music in Dundee when the School staged its annual Autumn Concert at the Caird Hall.

Among the highlights were performances of Vivaldi's famous 'Gloria', Purcell's 'Rondo' from Abdelaze, Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony, and renditions of pieces from the Disney film 'Frozen' and the Tony and Grammy Award-winning show 'Wicked'.

Dr Halliday said, "Once again, those in attendance enjoyed a superb concert at the Caird Hall. It was an exhilarating and uplifting programme with so many highlights and outstanding performances from pupils right across the School."

Beaver Computing Challenge

Three of our very own technological wizards achieved perfection in a UK-wide computing challenge which tested computational and logical thinking!

Joshua McLaggan (F6), Amy Leburn (L3) and Emily Macdonald (L3) all scored 100% in the Beaver Challenge, an Oxford University-organised problem-solving contest which introduces pupils to Computer Science.

The results, which place the trio in the top 1% of students across the UK, were the highlight of an impressive set of marks for the High School.

There was further success when Alistair Munnoch (F3), Robert Connolly-Brown (F2), Zamin Okhai (L5) and Rebecca Hamilton (L6) all gained the distinction of being 'Best in Category'.

Mr McBride was delighted to see eight hundred and fifty pupils complete the challenge and really engage with computing.



Operation Christmas Child

This year the High School of Dundee collected more than one hundred boxes containing small toys, educational resources, toiletries and clothing.

The School's effort to spread a little yuletide cheer was spearheaded by Janitor Stephen Russell who travels to Eastern Europe every year to perform voluntary work. Mr Russell was delighted with the pupils' efforts, explaining, "I know some of the children from Romania who have received the boxes and the impact that it has on their lives is immeasurable."



December



L5 Christmas Lecture

For our annual Christmas Chemistry Lecture all three L5 classes visited the Chemistry Department to take part in lots of exciting experiments. We got to witness the production of a genie from a bottle, a demonstration of floating eggs, a display of whooshing

bottles, and a cacophony of screaming jelly babies! However, the highlight was undoubtedly Mrs Powrie being set on fire by Dr Taylor! Mrs Powrie was in safe hands and Dr Taylor made sure no harm came to her in the controlled and safe experiment.

L6 & L7 Science Club

This year saw the establishment of a brand new Science Club for children in L6 and L7. Around fifty inquisitive youngsters met on a weekly basis in the specialist Senior Years labs to perform exciting scientific experiments to develop the theory they have been learning in the classroom.

Over the course of six weeks, the children took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Global Experiment, looking at solubility and crystallisation. They even attempted to make their own geodes and crystal decorations!

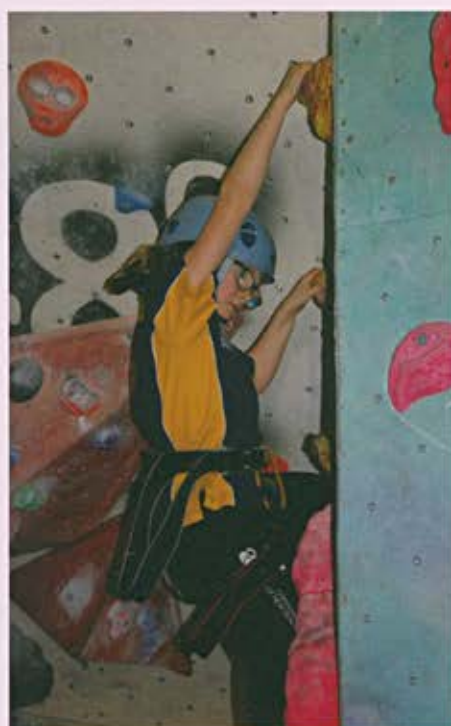
Run by Mrs Powrie and Dr Taylor, the Club is an extension of the High School's 'Transition Science' programme, which aims to share and use resources and expertise across the whole school.



L4 Crannog Board Games

In L4 much excitement was had playing Celtic themed board games. During a cross-curricular project, the children used art, language, technology and history skills to create a game based on their knowledge of the Celts. Various skills were used to create the game boards, while problem-solving and thinking skills were employed to create various dilemmas and challenges within the game. Clay counters finished off the children's interpretation of a traditional Celtic pastime. The games proved to be a great success and an enjoyable way to share ideas.

L5 Climbing – Avertical World



Pantomime Visit

Junior pupils enjoyed their visit to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews. With plenty of opportunity to join in with the on-stage action, everyone enjoyed this colourful and humorous pantomime, performed with enthusiasm by the cast. The theatre was decorated with Christmas lights, tinsel and trees and it certainly put the audience in the Christmas spirit.

Lewis, Malachy and Matthew, L7W



Santa is on Strike!

Pupils in L1 to L3 took great delight in performing their Nativity play 'Santa is on Strike', by Andrew Oxspring. The seasonal tale delivered a cracking dose of festive cheer as the children sang a series of uplifting songs to tell the entertaining story of Santa's strike!

Christmas Eve 2014 looked to be going to plan until Santa decided to down tools because he thought children across the world didn't deserve any presents! It was up to Mrs Claus, the elves and a host of colourful characters to persuade Santa to change his mind before time ran out and Christmas was ruined!

Thankfully Santa was convinced and managed to deliver all of his presents in the nick of time! Christmas was saved!

Mrs Proudfoot was delighted with the performance. She said, "The children worked really hard to learn their lines, their dances and all the songs. They were very excited to be able to get on stage and share this fantastic Christmas story with parents and friends."

This year the show raised money for the Archie Foundation, the official charity of Tayside Children's Hospital, and 500 miles, a charity that helps people with mobility difficulties in Africa.

Christmas in the Nursery

We had a lovely Christmas sing-along at Nursery. All of the parents came to join us and the boys and girls sang beautifully, accompanied by Mrs Scott-Brown on the piano. Santa even came to visit with lots of exciting presents! We finished the afternoon with mince pies, biscuits and juice for everyone. Maxwell was particularly pleased to meet Santa and enjoyed having his photo taken with him.



Christmas Netball



F6 Nativity

To get into the Christmas spirit and to raise money for Barnardo's, F6 pupils decided to organise and perform their own, never-seen-before telling of the traditional Christmas tale for an appreciative audience in Trinity Hall.

Featuring a range of familiar characters, in unfamiliar guises and surroundings, the entertaining and humorous production told the story of modern-day Mary and Joseph's journey to the stable in Bethlehem, and their tangles with car troubles, social media concerns and a rather vain King Herod along the way!

Dr Halliday said, "The pupils did a superb job putting this show together themselves at short notice. It was, without doubt, one of the most imaginative and entertaining nativity performances I have seen and all those taking part, from the actors and backstage team to the live band, can be really proud of their efforts."



Gymnastics

Form 2 pupil Sarah McKenzie hopped, skipped and jumped her way to a joint silver medal in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics Espoir British Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, finishing just 0.250 points behind the gold position.

Sarah, who competes for Dundee Gymnastics Club and is currently a member of the elite Performance Squad within the Scotland Gymnastic Programme, was one of only five Scottish entrants who qualified for the British Championships in the 12 and 13 year-old age group.





Film Club – HSD Oscars

Awards buzz was most certainly in the air as the gongs were handed out at the prize ceremony for the first ever High School of Dundee Short Film Competition, a contest which challenged pupils to produce and shoot an original feature.

Five films covering a range of genres and styles were entered into the competition, with a unique twist requiring each one to incorporate three items – a character named Felix/Felicia Sharp who was an artist, a book, and the line, “I won’t talk! I won’t say a word!”

Up for grabs were golden statuettes for the most visually striking film, the best use of the three items, and for the highly coveted award of best film overall, a prize won by F2 pupils Isla Archibald, Ailsa MacDonald and Shona MacTavish for their atmospheric, supernatural drama, ‘The Sketchbook’.

F5 pupil Chris Keatch, who organised the contest and runs the School’s Film Club said, “The competition really showcased the hidden talent within the School and it was great to see so many people getting involved.”

Southgate Prize

The Southgate Prize for chamber music was won by Alasdair Rennet (F6), Oran McNair (F4), Mhairi Millar (F4), Alastair Munnoch (F3) and Lynden Nicely (F4) for their performance of Telemann’s ‘Quintet in D’. The winner of the Premier Quaich was trumpeter Colette Colman (F5) who excelled in her performance of Buesser’s ‘Andante and Scherzo’.



Justice Society – Christmas Card Campaign

The Justice Society designed their own Christmas card and sent it to Alfreda Disbarro as part of Amnesty International’s ‘Write for Rights’ campaign. Alfreda, a 32 year old mother of two in the Phillipines, was accused of being a drug dealer, taken to police headquarters, beaten and tortured. The card carried a message of support and praised her courage for reporting the way she was abused to the authorities.

Little Red Riding Hood

To mark the end of term, F2 pupils in Modern Languages put on a bewitching performance of the classic Grimm brothers’ fairy tale, ‘Little Red Riding Hood’, in German, for the rest of the school.

The entertaining production featured a range of familiar songs such as ‘Who’s afraid of the Big Bad Wolf’, ‘When the Saints go marching in’ and ‘The Sun has got his hat on’, with German lyrics written by Mr Nolan, helping the famous tale to unfold.

Mr Nolan said, “The main challenge for the group was to master the text in German and they did so magnificently. Indeed once or twice they adlibbed a phrase or two in German, which for me as a German specialist, was particularly pleasing. The pupils certainly enjoyed learning, rehearsing and performing the play, and they sang all the songs with great gusto!”



Ski trip 2014



We gathered at the gate,
Some were a little bit late.

We boarded the bus,
On which there was a big fuss.

Lorna H was sweaty,
Whilst Rachel got to be Silly Betty.
Nicoll forgot his wallet,
But Mr Jack was totally on it!

Day 1 of skiing in La Thuile
We could not believe that it was real.
There were quite a few falls,
But we all had such a ball.

The teachers won at quiz night.
Due to their age advantage –
it wasn't right!

On a squatty toilet Alice sat,
And Lucy fell flat on her back!
On the last night there was
a presentation,
It was such a sensation.
Dressed in Christmas gear
And party games –
Josh showed no fear!

None of us wanted to leave,
In Geneva Airport we all grieved!
We had been skiing earlier that day,
And all we wanted to do was stay.

Thank you to the teachers for
taking us there.
None of us wanted to go home –
it wasn't fair!
We had a brilliant time away,
It was the best trip we all would say!

By Lois, Alice, Caitlin & Lorna M





Carol Service

As Christmas drew closer the School's musicians took part in a range of festive concerts. These included the School Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral and performances by school musical groups at the likes of Tayside and Fife Hospitals' Carol Concert in aid of CLIC Sargent at the Caird Hall, and a concert at Discovery Point in support of the Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust. Pupils also visited St Margaret's Care Home and Carseview Hospital to perform carols and other pieces of music for residents and staff.

Christmas Parties

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without our annual parties. In the Junior School Margaret Harris Hall resonated with the sounds of the season. The pupils took part in a variety of team games and Scottish dances such as The Military Two Step and The St Bernard's Waltz. Father Christmas even managed to find time to drop in to join the fun!

Meanwhile, pupils in the Senior School rocked around the Christmas tree with a series of year-group dances held at Westpark Conference Centre.



Sparkle Day

On December 17th the School held its annual Sparkle Day. Pupils and teachers did not need any encouragement to don their Christmas jumpers and accessories in order to raise money for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Everyone enjoyed the chance to add a bit more colour to their school uniform!



Tayside Schools Swimming Championships

Over two nights of the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships, HSD had some very respectable results. The girls U12 relay team won the 200m Freestyle relay in a time of 2.15.70. It was led off by Hannah Murray (L7), Niamh Anderson (L7), Emily Baxter (F1) and brought home well by Blythe Brown(L7).

In the girls 12 and under Hannah came third, Blythe fourth and Niamh sixth in the final of the 50m Backstroke. Hannah also came third in the 50 freestyle. Blythe came fifth in the same race.

Rory Grant (L6) came second in both the 50m Breaststroke and Freestyle. And, Emily came second in the 50m butterfly.

Megan Cant (L6) set a new personal best in her 50m Butterfly.

Both 13 to 14 Girls and Boys teams won their relays. The victorious girls were Kitty Scott (F1), Anya Wilson (F1), Corrie Hay (F1) and Kirsten Grant (F2). The triumphant boys team consisted of Form 2 pupils Freddie Wilson, Conor Walsh, Alfie

George and Cameron Murray.

Kirsten came third in her 200m Freestyle final and fourth in the 100m Freestyle final.

Corrie finished fifth in the 13 to 14 year old girls Breaststroke final.

Anya won bronze in the 100m Butterfly.

Cameron came first in the 13 to 14 year old boys 100m and 200m finals.

Conor came third in the 100m and fifth in the 200m.

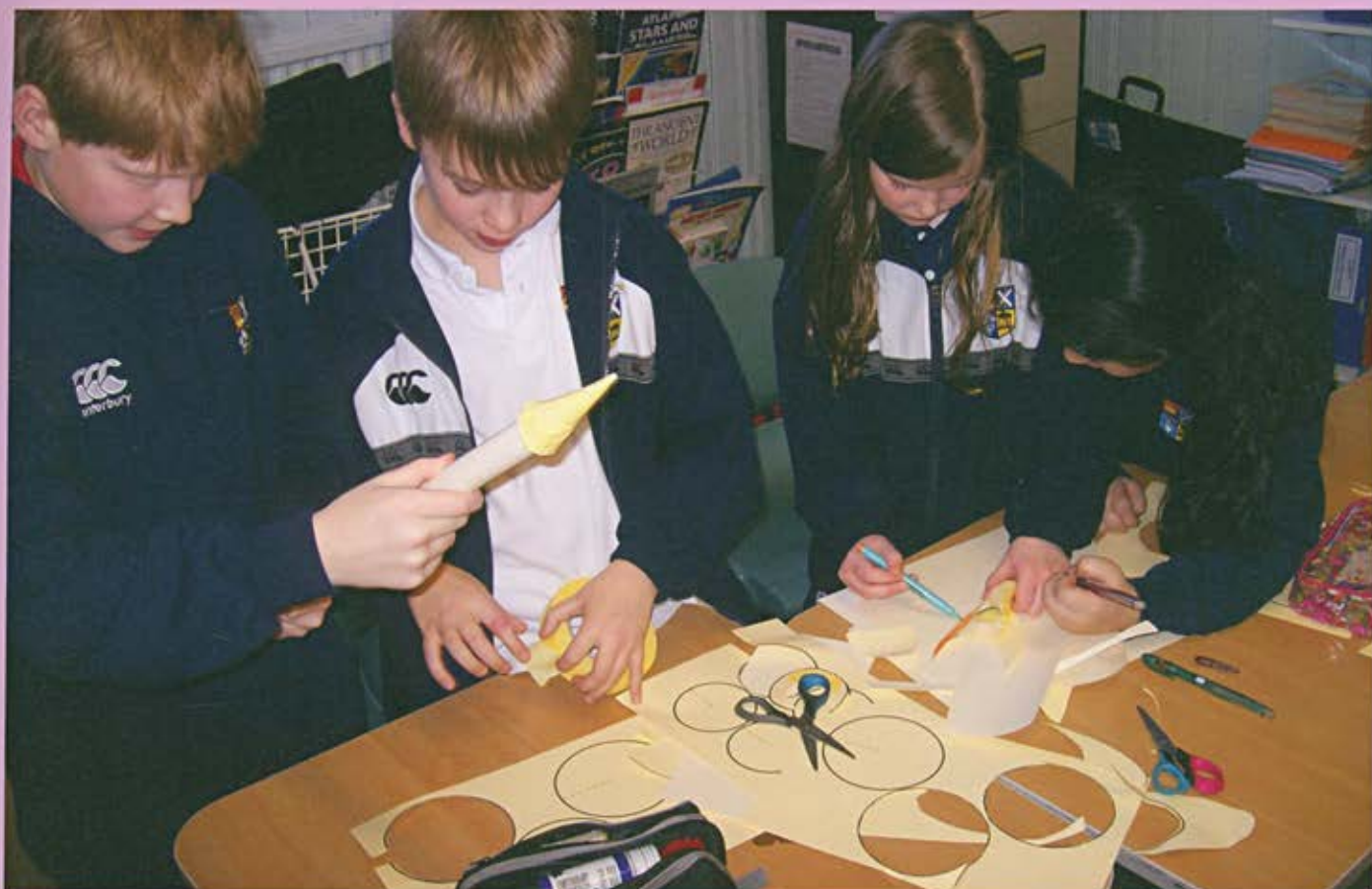
Kieran Forster (F3) came second in the 15-16 year old boys 200m Individual Medley, beating his previous personal best by eight seconds with a time of 2.44.81!

Eilidh Grant (F4) won the 15-16 year old girls 400m Freestyle final. She was also the 200m Freestyle champion in a time of 2.11.46, a personal best.

Alasdair Rennet (F6) won a silver medal in the 200m Backstroke for 17 to 19 year old boys and finished the night with a very respectable fourth place in the final of 100m Freestyle.

Well done to team HSD!

January



L5 Space Challenge

Children in L5 enjoyed a special Space Challenge Day in which they took part in a variety of out-of-this-world activities aimed at enhancing their knowledge of the Solar System.

The youngsters were visited by St Andrews University's Mobile Planetarium, a giant inflatable dome featuring a simulation of the night sky. Stepping inside, the pupils were taken on a fascinating intergalactic tour, learning how to locate stars, planets and constellations along the way.

In the classroom, supported by Dr Brown from the Physics Department, the enthusiastic astral explorers also learned about the potential for the existence of planets in other solar systems.

To bring things to an explosive climax, the children used compressed air to launch space rockets which they had worked in teams to design and build!

The event, which was one of a number of challenge days held by the Junior School, was a great success and left the pupils with stars in their eyes!



Snowy Fun in the Nursery

There was snow in January and we all got very excited! We put on our puddle suits and went out to play. It was great fun but just a bit chilly!



Art in the Nursery

We have been making foot prints in the art area. It was great fun but left us covered in paint. Lachlan and Sam had fun getting themselves clean again and washing their feet in the buckets!



L7 Animation Project

As part of their ICT course, pupils in L7 created films using stop-frame animation – an intricate recording process in which the youngsters had to move model characters minutely, stop and record the image, and then repeat the process over and over again!

To bring their short features to life the pupils made a variety of model characters out of plasticine, including penguins, aliens, snowmen and so many Minions that that the Junior School supply of yellow plasticine was exhausted!

Mrs Davie said, "The pupils displayed incredible patience while working co-operatively. It was great to see such a show of dedication, determination and attention to detail. For many it sparked a real interest in animation."



Top of the Bench

At the regional final of the Top of the Bench chemistry competition held in January at St Andrews University, the HSD team won second place, beaten by Madras. To reach this point they had to take part in two rounds against Auchmuty High School and Morrison's Academy. Alex Smith (F4), Isabel Campbell (F4), Elle Wyatt (F4), Caitlin Mitchell (F3), Brian Lim (F3), Asad Jafferbhoy (F3), Rebecca Humble (F2) and Luke Wyatt (F2) all took part in the rounds and were coached by Sally Burnett, Taskeen Bailwall and Ciara Mitchell (all F5).



By Elle Wyatt and Alex Smith

Primary Engineer Programme

As part of the School's participation in the Primary Engineer Programme, which seeks to raise the profile of practical engineering in schools by putting engineers into the classroom, pupils in Advanced Higher Technological Studies, Higher Engineering Science and National 5 Engineering Science were visited by **Bill McDiarmid, Engineering Manager at Rolls-Royce Marine, Dalgety Bay.**

Mr McDiarmid spoke to the youngsters about his career in engineering, the types of jobs that engineers do, and getting into the profession, before giving the pupils the chance to ask him questions.

Mr McDiarmid said, "In many ways this is a new perspective for the pupils, giving them the chance to talk to engineers and find out what they actually do on a day-to-day basis. From my point of view, it's good to be able to pass on some knowledge. The more outside influences you can put in front of pupils the better."

Last year the High School became the first independent school in Scotland to implement the Primary Engineer Programme which also promotes the value of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths – subjects.

Head of Technology Mr Walker said, "This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to engage with real engineers and to let their creativity run free. It may even create pioneers of the future!"



Burns Supper

To mark Burns Night children in L5 enjoyed a Burns Supper featuring all the traditional elements including the time-honoured piping in and toasting of the haggis followed by Scottish themed music organised by the Music Department, Scottish dancing and recitals of some of the famous poet's work.

The pupils also used a range of classroom-based activities and lessons to develop their appreciation of the National Bard. As well as making storyboards based on his famous poems and learning some of his works, the children used maths skills to calculate the distances Burns would have travelled across Scotland, their artistic talents to make Scotch bonnets and broaches, and their English abilities to work out the meaning of Scottish words.

Meanwhile, pupils in the Senior Years took part in Burns themed assemblies led by Head of English Mrs Phillips, in



which they learned about the man behind the modern day myths, his status as a poet for the world and the origins of the Burns Supper, before rounding things off with rousing renditions of Auld Lang Syne.

Scottish Schools Swimming Championships

Grand celebrations were in order at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships when Cameron Murray (F2) won bronze in the 100 Freestyle and the girls U12 relay team won silver!

Eilidh Grant (F4) came fifth in the 400m Freestyle and seventh in the 200m freestyle.

Eilidh's younger sister Kirsten (F2) came twelfth in the 200m Freestyle.

Not to be outdone by his sisters, Rory (L6) came fourth in the 50m Freestyle.

Another one not to be outdone by her sibling was Hannah Murray (L7) who came fifth in the 50m Backstroke.

Conor Walsh (F2) came tenth in the 100m Freestyle.

Blythe Brown (L7) came sixth in the 50m Freestyle while Emily Baxter (F1) came seventeenth in the same race.

To crown their achievements Cameron and the girls received their medals from Commonwealth Games Gold medallist Ross Murdoch!



February

L2 Famous Artists Project

L2 enjoyed learning about some very well-known artists. Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland in 1853 and later moved to the South of France. One of his most famous paintings is 'Sunflowers'. In Art and Design we tried to imitate his lively brush strokes and vibrant colours.

We then researched the work of Claude Monet who was born in France in 1850. Monet was known as the 'Father of Impressionism' and used quick dashes of colour to create lively, atmospheric pictures. Monet loved his garden at Giverny and painted his famous 'Waterlilies' there. Here are our beautiful 'Waterlilies'. Our Impressionist pictures were made on our iPads.



L6 Enterprise Red Nose Competition

The L6 Enterprise Group joined in the fun of Red Nose Day by organising a cartoon competition. Pupils and staff used the Red Nose theme to create a wonderful selection of clever and witty stories.

The winners were Naomi Whyte (L3R), Olivia Cotton (L5G), Zoe Hutcheon (L6C) and Mrs Braid of the Junior School.



L1 Snow People

These friendly snow people have big buttons and smart winter hats.

Christopher Fleming L1

L4 McManus Galleries Visit

L4 visited the McManus Galleries to see a special exhibition, "Roman Empire: People and Power". The exhibition was part of a British Museum tour which visited only one Scottish museum.

The children were lucky enough to see very rare artefacts from the Roman period including a piece of armour called "Lorica Squamata" which was made of a series of small scales attached to a fabric undershirt, and a beautifully preserved child's sock.

Highlights of the afternoon included assuming the role of a Roman Emperor in a recreation of Emperor Nero's Golden House, working together on an interactive game and trying their hand at making Roman mosaics. The children also took part in a coin making activity using a replica of a coin mould that was found locally.



L6 Life in Water Study

L6 pupils enjoyed their experiments in the laboratory as part of a 'Life in Water' study. Both Chemistry and Biology staff offered experience and equipment to our budding scientists and Lorn Gow (L6L) noted that, "It was a great experience to work together." Pupils were able to photograph and record video evidence of reactions for their iBooks compiled in the Junior School.



L7 Netball Team

On 26th February the L7 Netball team played in the Dundee District Primary Schools Netball Association's Kennedy Cup at Ward Road Gym. The girls played three matches on the night against St. Joseph's, Clepington and Fintry and won them all. Their success saw them progress through to the final which was played on 26th March against Eastern. The girls tried really hard during this match but Eastern were the stronger team, defeating HSD 9-5. Although the girls were a little disappointed they were delighted to be declared runners-up. A great result for their first final!

Blythe Brown, Alexandra Colquitt, Annabel Dow, Hannah Forrester, Reave Kilcullen, Katie Macpherson and Hannah Murray are pictured with their medals.

Mock Court Case Trials



The L6 and L7 Young Speakers took part in the regional trials of the Mock Court Case Project, where they competed in Dundee Sheriff Court against various schools from across Tayside. The two teams of Pursuers and Defenders consisted of lawyers, witnesses, researchers, robe makers, court artists



and journalists. Both teams worked very hard in the months leading up to the trials and performed exceptionally well on the night. The Defenders team achieved first place in their section and were put through to the national finals.

Advanced Higher History

Pupils studying Advanced Higher History received a lecture on the famous conflict from Professor Anne Rubin, Associate Professor of History at the University of Maryland, who was visiting Scotland to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the American Civil War.

During an engaging talk, Professor Rubin focussed on Sherman's march through Georgia – the critical campaign in November and December 1864 which helped to ensure the surrender of the Confederacy.

The lecture provided twenty eager pupils with the ideal opportunity to top-up their knowledge of this exciting period of American history. The lecture was also a valuable insight into life at university. Indeed, several members of the Advanced Higher class hope to continue their study of History at university.

Mr Fyall said, "We have been fortunate to welcome a range of inspiring speakers to the department over the years and

Professor Rubin's talk was another fantastic opportunity for our pupils to gain expert insight into one of the key areas of their studies."

Professor Rubin thoroughly enjoyed her time with the Advanced Higher class. She said, "It's fascinating to talk to people from other countries to see how they interpret the events and history of the Civil War. I was very impressed by the pupils and how much they knew about the subject."





Brewin Dolphin U18 Shield Final

The High School of Dundee rugby 1st XV, cheered on by a vocal travelling support, played their part in an entertaining Brewin Dolphin U18 Shield competition final at Murrayfield against Glenalmond.

After conceding early points in the match, which was played on the 4G pitch behind the main stadium, the

team fought back valiantly in the second half, pinning their opponents back in their own half for long periods, before eventually losing out 46-7.

Although they weren't able to bring the title back, the boys can be proud of their efforts.

Coach Mr Jack said, "The team has improved so much since the start of the season. Getting to the final of a national schools competition was a brilliant achievement and a great reward for all

the hard work the boys have put in. We came up against a quality side in the final in Glenalmond and we would like to congratulate them on a well-earned victory."

This is the second year in succession that the High School has contested the decider for one of Scotland's national U18 schools titles, with last year's 1st XV squad having made the final of the 2014 U18 Cup event.

English Department 3

This month it was all back on the coach again to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* at Edinburgh's King's Theatre. This timeless classic is a novel which is studied widely in Form 4 and pupils were keen to see it staged in this production. The event did not disappoint and the thought provoking message of the novel lost none of its power in the dramatisation. The pupils once again thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the theatre.

Fair Trade Fortnight

To celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight pupils made banana and chocolate muffins which they sold on the Pillars along with other Fairtrade products. Pupils learned about Fairtrade while discussing

ethical issues and exploring the various Fairtrade products available. The Fairtrade Interval was a great success, all muffins sold out, and pupils very much enjoyed selling the Fairtrade goodies.





FMC Technologies Visit

Higher Technological Studies pupils were privileged to visit FMC Technologies, a world leader in deep sea technology which, in 2011, set a new world record for the deepest drilling and recovery of oil and gas. Only eleven schools are invited to visit the Dunfermline site and the pupils were extremely fortunate to discuss opportunities in Engineering with the experts.



International Hockey Selection

Rachel Strachan has been selected as goalkeeper for the Scottish Hockey U16 Development Squad, at the ripe-old age of 13!

Rachel, who plays for her school team and Grove Menzieshill, earned her spot in the squad after fending off competition from almost thirty other talented young keepers from across Scotland in a day-long trial.

As well as taking part in regular training sessions at the Scottish National Hockey Centre in Glasgow, Rachel will also be involved in district games, a tournament in Ulster and potential international matches against England and Wales.

Rachel said, "I'm delighted to have been chosen for the Scotland squad and I'm looking forward to the challenge of stepping up a level in terms of training and playing, as well as meeting new people."

Rachel demonstrated her all round sporting prowess by also being selected for the Perthshire U15 district netball squad.

Maths Department

February was a busy month for competitions in the Maths Department.

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge saw Form 4 gain twenty-nine certificates. A gold certificate and 'Best in School' was awarded to Ivan Kapelyukh and Alex Smith. Ivan then went on to gain a merit certificate in the follow-on Pink Kangaroo Round and Alex along with Elle Wyatt and Alice Inman, who

also won gold, gained a participation certificate in the Pink Kangaroo. Robert Zhan, Oran McNair and Katie McLennan received Gold certificates. A further six silver and sixteen bronze certificates were also awarded.

F3 likewise did very well. There were two gold, eight silver and ten bronze certificates awarded. Caitlin Mitchell and Joe Carstairs received gold certificates. Caitlin qualified for the follow-on Pink Kangaroo Round and gained a participation certificate.

Mathématiques sans Frontières

Towards the end of the month the top sections in F4 and F5 from the school entered the Mathématiques

sans Frontières competition. This is a competition open to schools throughout Europe and is one in which a whole class can contribute to the entry. 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 group were therefore assigned this task, while the other questions were spread out among the rest of the team members who tackled them in small groups. The competition lasted for two periods and our results were then collated and sent in. No podium place this year but it was fun!

Rotary Young Chef

A group of High School of Dundee chefs staged a masterclass in the art of taste bud tantalisation!

Five pupils in F1 and F2 took part in the School's heat of the Rotary Young Chef Competition 2015, in which they vied to impress Rotarian judge David Herbert, with some mouth-watering main courses.

The impressive selection included chicken stuffed with boursin cheese wrapped in Serrano ham, rosti potato and sugar snap peas, Asian salmon with a black bean salsa and coriander yoghurt, chicken with mango en papillote with mange tout and new potatoes.

After taking on the enviable job of tasting the sumptuous offerings, Mr Herbert, along with Home Economics teachers Mrs Ross and Mrs Anderson, chose Jamie Houstoun, Lucy Arnold and Ailsa Millar as the winners.

In February Ailsa progressed to the Regional Final which was held in the training kitchens of Dundee College. Ten competitors fought it out for a place in the Scottish final in Aberdeen. Although Ailsa produced a wonderful array of food, for which she was highly commended by one of the College Chefs, it was a pupil from Fife who went through to the final. Well done Ailsa in getting so far!



Rotary Young Musician

HSD saw success at the district final of the 2015 Rotary Young Musician Competition, which covered all of Scotland north of the Central Belt. In the instrumental section trumpeter Colette Colman (F5) came second overall whilst alto saxophone player Alasdair Rennet (F6) was awarded the trophy for Best Male Performer.

At the event held in Perth, nineteen young musicians from as far afield as Orkney to Cowdenbeath played a programme of their own choice of contrasting pieces. Each performer had already won their own local heat to qualify for the event.

Scottish Schools Indoor Athletics Championships

Form 6 pupil Rhys Paterson fought off opponents from across the country to earn himself silver medals in the over-16 category 60m and 200m races.

Remarkably, this is the third year in which Rhys has won a medal at this prestigious event.



Chinese New Year

In the Nursery we celebrated Chinese New Year by making an enormous dragon. Mrs Stevenson, our music teacher, helped us to do a dragon dance. We made our own instruments and played them as our friends danced with the dragon. It was great fun.

"In the Junior School we made Chinese dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year. We liked using lots of bright colours to make our dragons fiery and interesting,"

Sameea Hossain-Ibrahim and Eilidh Petrie (L2)



Harry Potter Week

A fantastic time was had by all during the School's inaugural Harry Potter Week. The Library was expertly turned into Hogwarts and almost every pupil in the school ran through platform 9 and $\frac{3}{4}$. The Sorting Hat ensured everyone was placed in the correct Hogwarts House (lots of Gryffindors!). Table-top Quidditch was keenly contested, as was owl racing!

Junior School pupils threw themselves into the magical spirit when they entered a competition to create a chocolate frog. Miss MacFarlane selected eight winning designs and the winners hopped on their broomsticks over to the Home Economics Department to create their very own Bertie Botts Every Flavour Beans. The pupils were welcomed into the department and put into groups using the Sorting Hat. There were four groups, Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Slytherin and Ravenclaw. The pupils then had the difficult task of deciding what flavours they wished to make their jelly beans. The choices included apple, raspberry, cranberry, lime, pineapple and coffee.

Using Molecular Gastronomy and exploring science and food, the pupils experimented with the use of agar, a jelly-like substance. The agar powder was mixed with the specially chosen flavours and heated in a pan. Using a pipette, the budding wizards dripped the hot liquid into jars of cold oil which allowed for spherification to take place and created round jelly-like beans of different flavours. Mrs Broom, Head of Chemistry, explained the science behind spherification. The pupils very much enjoyed this experiment and were delighted to take their container of Bertie Botts Beans back to their classroom to share.

Even the Dining Hall got into the magical spirit, providing pupils with Gillyweed Salad, Sorting Hat Tortillas and Harry's favourite, Treacle Tart. The pupils adored the celebration and we plan on making it bigger and better in 2016.





The tenth annual Piano Day saw all HSD piano players from L3 to F6 given the chance to take centre stage and perform on the School's grand piano, in front of an enthralled audience in Trinity Hall.

During the day a series of informal, individual performance classes took place, before parents, pupils and staff were treated to impressive Junior School and Senior School recital concerts in the evening.

Five of the School's most advanced pianists were given the fantastic opportunity to take part in a master class session with Nicholas Ashton, Programme Leader for the B.Mus (Honours) degree at Napier University, to discover the keys to further improving their technique and skills.

Featuring pupils ranging from complete beginners to those working towards coveted Grade 8 ABRSM exams, and with a range of musical styles on display, the day was a real celebration of the instrument in all its glory.

Miss Evans, who organised the event along with fellow piano teacher Mr Armstrong, said, "Piano playing remains very popular at the School with over one hundred pupils currently having lessons. The Piano Day is a fantastic chance for pupils of all abilities who love playing piano to perform in front of a friendly and encouraging audience and for the School as a whole to celebrate its piano playing talent."

March



L2 Discovery Trip

On Tuesday 24th March L2 went on an expedition to the Discovery as part of their research in to Captain Robert Falcon Scott. This visit was the highlight of the 'Famous People' topic.

The children were shown round the boat and Freya and Jack even managed to sit in Captain Scott's cabin! Meanwhile, back in Discovery Point, the children were allowed to try on some of the clothes and equipment Captain Scott and his crew may have used.



CBBC Ten Pieces Project

L6 worked together to take part in CBBC's Ten Pieces Project, which is aimed at introducing children of primary school age to classical music. The children worked creatively, enthusiastically and energetically to the soundtrack of "Short Ride in a Fast Machine" by John Adams.





iPad Collaboration Lesson

In the spring term pupils from the upper primary classes visited the L1, L2 and L3 classes to deliver a lesson on how to use a presentation app on the iPad called Keynote. My class worked with the L2s, who had already decided on a famous person to research. We were really excited to meet our L2 partners and to teach them how to use their iPads. We used many apps, including Safari, to search for images and Keynote transitions to make it look professional. Finally we used the cameras to take selfies for the front page of our presentations. The L2s visited our class a few weeks later to see their presentations using Apple TV. Everybody loved producing our presentations and it was a great opportunity for the classes to get to know one another.

By Zoë Faloon



L3 Crittercam Design Project

We worked in groups to design a Crittercam which is a special camera that films what animals do when left all on their own. Then, using junk we had brought in from home, we created our Crittercams. Every camera was different and had special parts. Once our Crittercams were complete we explained to our classmates how they worked. We had so much fun creating our Crittercams!

Amy Leburn

We made a Crittercam for humpback whales because we wanted to find out about bubble net feeding. Our Crittercam had a memory function so that it could be returned to the owner once the recording was done. We thought our Crittercam was very clever.

Our Crittercam had sensors to detect movement. We wanted to know about humpback whales and how they hunt. We also wanted to find out how

humpback whales communicated. Our Crittercam worked really well!

Mitchell Clark, Jessica Forster
& Alexandria Ramsay

Our Crittercam had jet skis to launch it into the water and suction pads to stick it to the whale. We wanted to find out about whale behaviour. We wanted to know how they breathe and why they do somersaults. Our Crittercam will record the information and then we will know.

Rhys Lockhart & Elliot Rouf

L3 Megginch Castle Visit

Pupils in L3 headed for Perthshire to visit Megginch Castle where they learned about a variety of the components of its diverse ecosystem.

As they were taken on a tour of the castle's impressive grounds by the School's Outdoor Education Instructor Mr Ross, and Catherine Drummond-Herdman, the owner of the castle, the children observed a number of different tree types, found out about the special soil in the area, saw some of the animals that live in the grounds and discovered some of the food that is grown on the estate.

They were also buzzing with enthusiasm after learning about the bees which are kept at the castle.

In the afternoon the children then travelled on to Port Allen where they uncovered its importance for people in the past and took part in a nature scavenger hunt.



L3 Visit to the RNLI

On a beautiful sunny afternoon in March, the L3s went to visit the RNLI station in Broughty Ferry as part of their River Tay topic. They met with Scott Huggins, one of the mechanics, and William, a launcher, who initially showed the children a DVD that explained the different types of rescues the RNLI can be involved in. The children found out that the RNLI had even rescued a boar and a dolphin! They then went downstairs to see the equipment the volunteers use and saw all the suits hanging upside down by their boots

ready for the next shout. At the back of this room was a door to the ramp where the inshore lifeboat is launched from. William showed the children some of the equipment carried on this lifeboat. Cara got the opportunity to try one of the suits on for size and the children passed around one of the adult life jackets so they could feel how heavy it was. All the children were given a pencil, activity book and sticker to take home. The year group kindly donated £170 to the RNLI to say thank you for this interesting and enjoyable visit.



L4C Assembly



L4C's class assembly was a celebration of World Book Day. Authors JK Rowling, David Walliams and Roald Dahl starred alongside their creations Hermione, Chloe and Matilda in a special World Book Day themed 'episode' of the TV

programme 'Pointless'. Our special guests were put through their paces during three rounds which focused on story settings, book covers and bestselling books. Chloe and David won the 'coveted Pointless trophy' after naming 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as a book which had sold over one million copies. The children then shared their favourite books while dressed as their favourite characters. The assembly finished by singing a specially adapted version of 'Think of A World Without Any Flowers'.



L4 Roman Challenge Day

To end the Roman Topic in style L4 enjoyed a 'Roman Challenge Day' which involved them using their mathematical and problem-solving skills to design and construct a Roman chariot. After placing the wheels on the axle, the chariots were finished off with the addition of a couple of strong horses to pull them. The L4s also made the chariots as decorative as possible. The pupils had a great time working together and showed creativity and perseverance.



L4 Table Tennis Club



This year the L4 Table Tennis Club was as popular as ever. No previous knowledge of the sport is required, allowing the children to learn the skills step-by-step. Firstly we focus on holding and controlling the bat and ball, then how to get into position at the table. Then we move onto the different types of shots including serves and backhand. Finally, when the children are ready, we finish the season with a tournament. It is always fascinating to see the skills and focus that develop as the children quickly gain confidence and their proficiency improves.

This club could not take place without the L7 volunteers. Pupils who have previously played table tennis often give advice to the younger players while monitoring the tables. It is during these training sessions that the L7s excel, displaying valuable leadership skills as they motivate the younger pupils. Senior pupils assist also and this year Kate Spalding was an invaluable member of the club.

L4H Assembly

As L4H's class assembly fell on Red Nose Day, the children decided to share a serious message about 'greed' and 'need'. With everyone in the Junior Years dressed up in their red clothes and sporting their Red Noses, L4H had a wonderful atmosphere in which to perform.

Firstly, King Midas and his family showed the disastrous outcome of being too greedy, then the Good Samaritan showed the audience how to be helpful and caring towards others. The assembly finished by showing all the silly faces the class had made of themselves on the Red Nose website.



Miss Ward Trophy

On 12th March the L6 Netball team played in the Dundee District Primary Schools Netball Association's Miss Ward Trophy at Ward Road Gym. The girls played three matches on the night against Blackness, St. Andrew's and Craigowl, and won them all! Their success saw them progress through to the final which was played on 26th March against Eastern. The final was a nail-biter and at halftime the girls were unfortunately 1-0 down. However, they put up a valiant fight in the second half and came out on top as the eventual winners, scoring 3-2. This was a great result as it was the first time the girls had played together competitively as a team. Well done!

Jenny Bonnyman, Megan Cant, Sophie Elder, Sarah Elliot, Beckie Fairweather, Zoe Hutcheon, Lizzie Inman, Claire Joss, Lucy Timney and Colette Wiewiorka are pictured below with the trophy and their medals.



'Watt's Watt' Win!

Six L7 pupils were victorious in the Watt's Watt challenge, a special event to celebrate two hundred and fifty years since the Scottish Engineer James Watt made radical improvements to the steam engine and sparked the Industrial Revolution.

The exciting challenge involved completing a number of experiments,

one of which was to create enough electricity to turn on a small lightbulb using only an apple, copper and zinc nails.

Demonstrating super-charged scientific thinking, the High School team generated the most power the judging panel had ever recorded, winning the challenge in the process.





L7 Paris Trip

Sixty-five pupils travelled to Paris by coach with eight members of staff. Extracts from their diaries provide an insight into their experiences...

Monday/Tuesday: Overnight travel and arrival in France

"The bus was fancy and I found it really comfortable. I managed to sleep about six hours. I read a magazine and listened to some music on my iPod Shuffle. We crossed the channel through the Channel Tunnel. It was strange because we didn't seem to move even though we were travelling at one-hundred-forty miles per hour" – Dominic

"After tea at the hotel we played lotto and French games. I won 21!" – Callum

Wednesday: Montmartre, Sacre Coeur, Arc de Triomphe, Paris by night

"On Wednesday morning we woke up at 7am and went down to breakfast. After breakfast we headed out on the

bus to Sacre Coeur and after that some shopping at Montmartre. Then we walked up Avenue des Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. It was very fun! At night we went on a coach tour called 'Paris by Night'. It was amazing! Everything looked fabulous!" – Jasmine

Thursday: River Seine cruise, Eiffel Tower, Aquaboulevard and Eiffel Tower construction

"Today was the best day so far! We went to up the Eiffel Tower and to Aquaboulevard. The view from the top of the tower was amazing! It made the Arc de Triomphe look tiny! Aquaboulevard was one of the best waterparks I have ever been to. I loved the middle water slide. Dinner was fabulous! I had chicken and chips. After dinner we did an Eiffel Tower challenge." – Liam

Friday: Euro Disney day and quiz evening

"We woke up and I was so excited for Parc Disney! We had breakfast which was cereal, juice and croissant. Then we travelled to the park which was full of really fun rides. One of them was called Indiana Jones. It was my first roller coaster and it was so scary but also very good! After dinner we did activities and drew portraits." – Christina

At night we had to do a caricature of a chosen person. I chose Mr O'Donnell. It was terribly funny." – Callum

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

"We woke up and were sad because we were leaving today. We decided to make the most of our last hours and went down for breakfast in high spirits. We finished our packing and set off for home. We travelled for miles but stopped in Calais. We went into the Eurotunnel and stopped for tea once we were back in Britain. We were all sad about leaving but excited to tell our families about our trip." – Phillippa

And finally, in the words of Ethan, *"Overall the L7 trip to Paris was absolutely amazing! I have seen some wonderful sites and had great fun with my friends the whole time I was there."*



Advanced Higher History Conference 2015

The History Department was delighted to welcome back two leading experts on the American Civil War to our annual Advanced Higher Conference – Dr David Silkenat of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Emma Hart from the University of St Andrews. Dr Hart got proceedings underway with a fascinating lecture on 'Slavery and the Ante-Bellum South' which not only cemented the pupils' prior learning but also introduced several new ideas to consider. With many of the group preparing dissertations on slavery, Dr Hart's contribution to the conference was invaluable. Dr Silkenat was up next with his engrossing lecture on 'Civil War Memory'

which explored many different historical opinions of the war and Lincoln's leadership of the Union. Dr Silkenat, originally from New York, challenged the pupils to consider differing interpretations and left them with much to ponder.

Once again the annual conference proved to be an invaluable opportunity for our Advanced Higher pupils to hear from experts in their field of study and significantly helped with dissertation research. The History Department would like to thank Dr Silkenat and Dr Hart for giving up their time to share their expertise with us.



Angus Young Sports Personality of the Year

Congratulations to Anna Sturrock (F3) for winning the accolade of Angus Young Sports Personality of the Year, sponsored by Radio Tay – Cash for Kids. Anna, of Forfar Sailing Club, represented the British Sailing Team during the Irish Topper Nationals and was 1st Lady. She also became UK National Female Topper

Champion. Anna then qualified for the UK National Junior Squad and was selected for the RYA Scotland elite racing team which is a world class podium programme.

Other short listed finalists included gymnast Sarah McKenzie (F2).

Alasdair Rennet



Multitalented Alasdair Rennet rounded off the spring term with a duo of impressive successes, one of which was heralded in the Scottish Parliament!

At the 83rd Arbroath and District Musical Festival, Alasdair (F6) won the Blue Riband, the top award which is given to the performer adjudged to be the best in the entire week-long event.

Having earned the accolade by virtue of winning the open woodwind category on his oboe and the open instrumental

recital on his alto sax, Alasdair received congratulations from Holyrood politicians after Angus South MSP Graeme Dey tabled a motion to commend the festival, and its Blue Riband winner, at the Scottish Parliament!

Shortly before, Alasdair also demonstrated his sporting prowess by picking up a silver medal in the U18 section of the Scottish National Table Tennis Championships in Perth and, as a result, was named in the new Scotland Youth Squad for the sport.



Craft Club

Pupils from F1 to F6 have been given the opportunity to join Craft Club to learn new skills in working with textiles. We hope to develop new crafting opportunities such as card making and knitting, all of which develop pupils' manual dexterity and encourage creativity and enjoyment.

Dundee Schools Cross Country



Pupils from the High School of Dundee did themselves proud in the Dundee Schools Cross Country Championships, returning from the event at Baxter Park with a haul of medals to show for their efforts.

Competing against all of the other secondary schools in the city, six out of the School's seven teams turned in podium place finishes. The highlights saw the senior boys, the senior girls and the F1 girls teams win their categories.

Results:

First in Senior Boys

(Euan Rose, Ross Armstrong, Alasdair Rennet, Euan Chalmers)

First in Senior Girls

(Eilidh Grant, Hannah George, Alex Smith, Holly Duval)

First in F1 Girls

(Corrie Hay, Lucy Roberston, Emily Baxter, Lauren Tyson, Isla McRobbie, Eilean Mauritzean)

Public Speaking Competition

Diverse and interesting speeches were the order of the day in March when speakers from F1 to F6 competed in the English Department Public Speaking Competition. Establishing their own stance and angle inspired by the topics Identity, Progress or Hope, each speaker spoke with conviction and originality. The Judges had great difficulty choosing a winner but eventually named Taskeen Bailwal (F5) as the F4 to F6 winner and Hannah Alijani (F2) as the F1 to F3 winner. The runners-up were Ivan Kapelyukh (F4) and Lucy Darroch (F3). Many thanks to Professor Whatley of the University of Dundee and Mrs MacDonald for judging.

Second in F1 Boys

(Archie Frame, Cameron Dow, Jake Strachan, Russell Mitchell, Finlay Mclean, Callum Elliot)

Second in F2 and F3 Girls

(Kirsten Grant, Shona McTavish, Corrie Richardson, Sally Hasselgren, Katie Bonnyman)

Third in F2 Boys

(Alfie George, Cameron Murray, James Lawrie, Jamie Reid, Peter Forte, Nick Finlay)

Design a Healthy Lunch Competition

The Home Economics Department and Chartwells, the School's catering provider, arranged for a nutritionist to visit Form 2 pupils to teach them about the importance of a healthy, well balanced meal.

Pupils were then tasked with producing a healthy meal to serve in the Dining Hall. Four F2 classes went head-to-head to create a healthy dish which was then served up to Home Economics staff for judging. Meals produced included Red Thai Curry, Moroccan Chicken Tagine, Mild Chilli Bean Pasta Bake and Bean Enchiladas. It was a tough decision but eventually two groups were selected for the final. The finalist worked hard to create beautiful dishes which were then put to the vote in the Dining Hall! After much deliberation F1 and F2 pupils chose their winner. The winning dish was Mild Chilli Bean Pasta Bake produced by Catriona Addison, Charlotte Sharpe, Katie Anderson and Amy Annandale. Well done to the girls!



GWC Model United Nations Conference



Since the start of year pupils from F3 to F6 enjoyed researching and debating a variety of international issues, from the outbreak of Ebola in western Africa to the rise of ISIS in the Levant. As part of the High School of Dundee's Model United Nations club, our young ambassadors-in-training were able to practise skills in public speaking, persuasion and argument until they were ready for the main event; the Model UN Conference at George Watson's College!

Sixteen High School pupils formed two delegations and travelled to the conference in Edinburgh where they spent the weekend working together in the spirit of diplomacy and world peace with pupils from almost forty other schools – some from as far away as Iran!

Attendees were treated to a lecture and question session with keynote speaker Mrs Zoja Bazarnic, Principal Officer at the US Consulate in Edinburgh. Other guest speakers included lecturers, journalists, entrepreneurs and social policy researchers who spoke to pupils about a range of topics

including the Ukrainian crisis, marine welfare, the impact of social media and human trafficking.

Throughout the weekend our pupils, representing the nations of Japan and Mexico, worked tirelessly in their committees by debating, lobbying, giving speeches, writing resolutions, making amendments and voting on solutions to a variety of global issues.

It wasn't all hard work however, on the Saturday night hundreds of pupils from each school made their way to the dance floor to enjoy a traditional Scottish ceilidh with their new friends.

On Sunday, the final day, our sixteen delegates gathered in the General Assembly for their final debate session. They were able to see the fruits of their labour as various resolutions were passed or rejected by the assembly. After an energetic weekend, everyone agreed that they learned important new skills and made new friends.

Higher Geography



After ten years visiting the Yorkshire Dales National Park, March saw the sun set on this particular Higher Geography fieldwork visit since the new National Higher course has removed the study of limestone environments. Instead Higher pupils will now visit the Holderness Coast in Yorkshire to witness Europe's most rapidly eroding stretch of coastline.

In addition, August 2015 will see a group of Geography pupils return to Iceland – the land of fire and ice. Pupils will visit an array of awe-inspiring landscapes while in the country, including destructive volcanoes, energy fuelled geysers, magnificent glaciers and powerful waterfalls.

Thursday 13th August





National Curling Final

This year saw The High School of Dundee taking part in the finals of the Scottish Schools Curling Championships for the first time in twenty years!

The team of Alex MacKintosh (skip), Caitlin Jones (2nd) Iain Wallace (3rd), Rory Forster (alternate) and Freddie Wilson (lead) put in an impressive performance at the weekend-long meeting of twenty-four teams at Murrayfield, winning three out of their five group stage matches.

Although the side narrowly missed out on qualification for the quarter final, a balance of hard work and team spirit ensured a performance that everyone could be very proud of.

Maths Department

March was yet another busy month for the Maths Department.

AH Maths Statistics Conference

On the 13th of March 2015 Tess Picken and David Nkansah (Form 6), accompanied by Dr Spiezia, attended the annual Advanced Higher Statistics conference at Dollar Academy. The day started with an insightful presentation by Mr Simon Johnson, Assistant Rector at Dollar Academy, on the importance of statistical understanding in the

modern world. This was followed by an opportunity to discuss statistics in an informal environment and a chance to engage with pupils from other schools from all over Scotland. In the afternoon Mr Peter Edmond gave valuable advice to pupils and staff about the current SQA AH Applied Maths exam in his capacity as Principal Assessor. He also gave a demonstration of Texas graphical calculators and their use in statistical calculations. An informative, engaging and inspiring day for all involved!

Maths Senior Team Challenge

On the 17th March, Josh McLaggan (F6), Anastasija Polakova (F6),

Scott Macandrew (F5) and Kenny Matheson (F5), accompanied by Mrs Craig, represented the School in the Regional Final of the *UKMT Senior Team Challenge*, held in the impressive Playfair Library at the University of Edinburgh. The UKMT Team Challenge aims to promote mathematical dexterity, team work and communication skills whilst giving the pupils the opportunity to compete against other schools in the region. In a very closely contested competition and after three rounds of rigorous problem solving, the team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the national final in London, but nevertheless enjoyed the experience.



Royal Geographical Society Expedition

Not even temporary blindness and the most daunting mountain range in the world could stand in the way of Harriet Wood (F5) earning herself a prestigious Les Morgan award for leadership from the Royal Geographical Society, in recognition of her inspirational exploits during a five-week-long expedition in the Himalayas.

Along with forty-eight other explorers, Harriet headed to India to map glaciers and stars whilst also putting her endurance and survival skills to the ultimate test as she dealt with all that the harsh mountain environment could throw at her, including a rather scary,

and thankfully short-term, issue with her sight. Harriet explained, "I managed to go blind for a week owing to altitude sickness. I had to be guided around camp."

Having shown an aptitude for handling extreme challenges, Harriet was one of only three people identified by the expedition leader as having demonstrated the outstanding leadership qualities which the award recognises. Harriet was honoured to have been chosen to receive the award. She said, "To have my name alongside other explorers who have been recognised by the RGS is a real thrill."



Rugby International Selection

Form 4 pupil Sean Gauld has earned a place in the Scotland U16 rugby squad.

Sean spent the Easter holidays representing his country in matches against Wales and England at the BMW Wellington International Rugby Festival 2015, at Wellington College in Berkshire.

Sean, who plays for Dundee Eagles as well as the School, earned his spot after progressing from the Tayside and Fife regional team to the Caledonia U16 side, and from there into trials for the national squad.

Sean, who can play both back row and second, said, "I am proud to have been selected, not many people my age have the opportunity to represent their country."





Scottish Secondary Schools Team Fencing Championships

The High School trio of Alexander Berg, Andrew Lang and Hathsu Dissanayake demonstrated impressive technique and no shortage of talent as they finished

in a highly creditable fourth position in the Senior Boys Epee category at the Scottish Secondary Schools Team Fencing Championships at Kilgraston.

Guitar Day

Around forty pupils from L3 to F6 put on a scintillating display of carefully crafted chord progressions and stunning solos in Trinity Hall as they took part in performance sessions during the day. In the evening the HSD guitarists performed in a concert featuring a variety of styles of music.



World Book Day



It can be taken as read that the High School of Dundee enjoyed this year's World Book Day!

To mark the annual event, the School began a day-long chapter dedicated to the celebration of all things literary.

As a result, pupils from L3 upwards took part in a range of novel activities, kicking-off with a game which challenged the youngsters to identify which fictional characters were coming to dinner by solving clues, identifying quotes and unravelling the meaning of props.

In addition the pupils submitted 'shelfies' (book-related selfies), recorded video reviews of their favourite books and developed their appreciation of the world of literature, quite literally, by playing 'Pin the Book on the World Map'!

The pupils also had the chance to find true love, as they embarked on a Book Speed Dating challenge in which they read the first page of five different books, a minute per book, before choosing the one which had captured their heart.

School Librarian Miss McFarlane said, "World Book Day is a fantastic opportunity to promote books and reading in a general sense. It was great to see pupils and staff all the way through the School embracing that concept throughout the day."

Swimarathon

A team of High School of Dundee pupils have been rewarded for the lengths they went to during a marathon charity fundraiser!

F1 pupils Lucy Robertson, Lauren Tyson, Isla McRobbie, Corrie Hay and Eillean Mauritzen, won the prize for the most lengths swum by a school team at the 2015 Dundee Swimarathon, an event that raised over £23,000 for local charities, sports clubs and the End Polio Now campaign.

The team members, who raised over £300 for Mountains Horse Rescue Sanctuary in Forfar, received a trophy for their efforts at a civic reception in the City Chambers.

Other High School participants included F3 pupils Rachel Flack and Eleanor Anderson, who raised almost £400 for the Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland.



Winter Skills 2015



Adventurous pupils took to the mountains of the Cairngorms and Western Highlands to learn safe hillwalking techniques. Conditions were very favourable with great snow for practising skills from self-arresting with the ice-axe to walking on ice with crampons. An encounter with gusts of up to 60mph in the hills of Glen Feshie gave the hardy group the chance to put their newly honed safety skills to instant use.

Logan Thomson (F4) said, "It was great to learn how to safely go walking in winter. The conditions were great and we learned a wide variety of skills. A highlight was sitting at the end of the Buachaille Etive Beag ridge, having lunch overlooking Loch Etive, after walking up a snowy ridge using crampons. It was hard work but well worth the effort and early start."





Solar Eclipse

The High School of Dundee was a spectacle of wonderment as all one thousand Junior and Senior School pupils donned safety glasses to witness the solar eclipse.

With clear blue skies and an uninhibited view of the sun, the youngsters had the perfect opportunity to experience the natural phenomenon, which saw up to 95% of the sun blocked out by the passing moon.

As well as having the opportunity to observe the rare celestial event, the pupils also had the chance to learn about the science behind it, as Mr Darby explained the eclipse through the School's sound system whilst they watched it unfold.

Mr Darby said, "The pupils were certainly in the right place at the right time to get an amazing view of a phenomenon which they won't have the chance to observe again until 2026. It was fantastic being able to describe to them the science behind what they were witnessing."

Dr Halliday said, "This must surely go down as one of the world's largest ever Physics lessons!"



Spring Concert

The High School of Dundee commemorated the First World War in stirring fashion at our annual Spring Concert. Over three hundred musicians from the Junior and Senior schools took to the stage to take part in a packed programme of moving and inspiring performances under the theme, '1914-1918: Four years that changed the world'.

Our talented choirs, orchestras, jazz, wind and pipe bands all featured in the event which included renditions of pieces appropriate to the period, like 'It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary', 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying

Machines' and 'When the Poppies Bloom Again'.

Music characteristic of the combatant countries, such as Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance March No.4' and Johann Strauss's 'Emperor Waltz', were also performed. A number of readings were given, including 'Dulce et Decorum Est,' and 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' by Wilfred Owen.

The concert, which was enthusiastically received by an audience of close to one thousand, was part of a series of events being staged by the School to mark the centenary of World War One.

April



L1 Easter Nests

L1 visited the Home Economics Department as part of the L1 Easter Challenge Day. They followed a simple recipe to produce little Easter nests, learning about cooperation, weighing and measuring, food hygiene and other cookery skills. The pupils were very excited to be in the department and appeared to enjoy their visit very much.

Scottish Swimming Championships



Form 4 pupil Eilidh Grant, made a big splash at the Scottish National Age Group Swimming Championships, returning from the event with a gold medal and two silvers in the 16-years age group.

Eilidh sped her way to victory in the 1500m Freestyle race, before taking second place in both the 800m Freestyle and the 200m Freestyle events.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

On April 30th it was the turn of Form 1 and 2 to compete in the Junior Maths Challenge. A total of forty-nine certificates were awarded: eight gold, thirteen silver and

twenty-eight bronze. 'Best in School' was taken by Sid Sripada (F2). Sid, along with Nathanael Fagerson (F2), qualified for the Junior Kangaroo.

Battlefields Trip

The History Department Battlefield Tour to Belgium and France for F4 to F6 was a unique, thought-provoking experience that provided a lot of special memories. Our trip began with a six-hour bus journey to Hull involving Miss Hegan and Mr Fyall's insightful overview of the First World War – along with a lot of card games! Departing from Hull, we took the ferry to Zeebrugge overnight. This was followed by another bus journey to take us to our first stop, Essex Farm Cemetery in Ypres.

This location is said to be where Major John McCrae composed the renowned poem 'In Flanders Field'. This was a really poignant place to begin, as the hard reality of the harsh conditions and vast number of casualties involved was portrayed. We also saw the headstone of the youngest soldier to be killed in action, Rifleman Valentine Joe Strudwick, who was only fifteen years old. We then visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, which really emphasized the huge casualty figures of the First World War. The final resting place of over ten thousand soldiers, the cemetery covered an entire field of land. The Memorial to the Missing was the most touching part of the cemetery, with wall after wall of names of soldiers who were never found – thirty five thousand of them in total. This cemetery was the resting place of some of the pupils' relatives and it was a very touching opportunity for them to pay their respects. We then visited the newly instated Black Watch Memorial, which was partially funded by donations from the School raised on Armistice Day 2013. This memorial commemorates the eight thousand nine hundred and sixty Black Watch soldiers who died during the war as well as the twenty thousand injured, and we were able to appreciate the huge loss of life the war caused.

Later in the day we visited Hooge Crater and the trenches nearby. The German trenches have been restored and the concrete dugouts left as they were at the time of the War. We entered the trenches and dugout to get a feel for the size and conditions that the soldiers lived in and were shocked by how small and basic they were. We then returned to Ypres, dropping off our bags before visiting the In Flanders Field Museum. That evening we attended The Last Post Ceremony within Menin Gate. This ceremony has taken place every single day since 1929. Olivia Wight, Catherine Allan and Marcus Wadland laid a wreath on behalf of the school. The crowd was silenced by buglers and a lone piper, as they remembered the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives, surrounded by the names of thirty five thousand soldiers.



On the third day we woke up to Mr Fyall's calls through the tannoy system in the hotel and set off on the bus to France. We made a few stops on the way, one of which was the Pas de Calais cemetery, formerly the Loos battlefield, where former pupils Harvey and Sydney Steven are remembered. Buried in the cemetery are approximately eight hundred and eighty-five British soldiers who died in the Battle of Loos, along with the names of around three hundred soldiers who were never found. It was a very moving experience for us to see the colossal amount of people from Dundee who lost their lives in this battle. The stillness contrasted greatly with the horrifying stories we had all heard about the battlefield and also allowed us to reflect on what this place once was. Rachael Kennedy and Gregor Vagg laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the resting place of our former pupils. After visiting Vimy Ridge and exploring the Canadian and German trenches, we continued our day by visiting Newfoundland Memorial Park. This land remains much the same as during the war, allowing us to see the long lasting effects of war on the landscape of France. Here we saw the 'Danger Tree' which has been preserved, clearly showing the advances made across No Man's Land. We then explored the trenches that remain and climbed the steps to the peak of the small hill where sits Newfoundland Caribou – the Memorial to the Missing. This memorial commemorates Canadians who lost their lives in battle.

On the fourth day we briefly visited Langemark German Cemetery to see the difference between the German graves and the Commonwealth graves. It was eerily quiet around the cemetery and instead of the white, well-kept gravestones of the Commonwealth, the German stones were dark, fading and flat, often having the names of around eight soldiers buried under the same stone. It was astonishing to see the War from a German perspective.



On Saturday afternoon we travelled to Bruges. When we got to Bruges we had a guided walking tour of the city. It lasted around two hours and it was amazing to see the beautiful sights and learn all about the history and culture of the city. The tour guide took us first to Minnewater Lake, which is renowned for its beauty. We then walked through the city and were able to see the beautiful houses, famous hotels and monuments, and lovely stalls selling many different things. After splitting up into separate groups, we were given time to appreciate the city of Bruges. The Belfry of Bruges, a medieval bell tower, stood tall in the city reaching a remarkable eighty-three metres. We were given the opportunity to climb the three hundred and sixty-six steps to the top of the tower to see the remarkable views. Although the stairway was incredibly narrow we managed to get to the top, even in time to hear the bells going off. Then to the chocolate museum and finally to the place we had been waiting for – the chocolate factory. We ran in with excitement and threw on our white lab coats, ready for the mess. We got to fill our bags with chocolate and draw the factory's mascot. It would be an understatement to say we made a mess! Melted chocolate was everywhere from our shoes to our hair – even on the floor! Along with a mess, we got to make lollipops, buttons, letters, whatever we wanted in either dark or milk chocolate – we probably made enough to last us a lifetime. The chocolate factory was a great way to have fun and spend time with new friends – everyone had a great time.

The next morning we went on a riverboat cruise around the canals of Bruges. As we sailed famous landmarks were pointed out to us and we were particularly lucky with the weather as it was a glorious day. The Tour de Flanders also passed by while we were on the cruise which was exciting to watch. After our amazing morning we had the rest of the day to shop! With fifty-four chocolate shops in the town centre it was hard to resist. We all set off to discover if Belgian waffles lived up to their reputation – they certainly did. We spent four hours taking in the beautiful city and its amazing chocolate shops, spending all our money on whatever chocolate we could find – it was Easter after all. The sun was beating down whilst we ventured around, talking the shop owners into giving us free chocolate wherever we could. Our free time in Bruges was the perfect way to end this amazing trip. It was the most relaxing place and was a pleasant contrast to the solemnness of war. We loved spending time together in this amazing city and reflecting on our time whilst eating our chocolate in the sun – the best Easter any of us could have asked for. We even made friends with the local people!

Overall, the Battlefields trip was a memorable experience for all of us and we are extremely grateful to all of the teachers for putting up with our banter (and joining in) and allowing us to cherish these amazing and reflective moments. From the harsh reality of the battlefields, to the chocolate factory in scenic Bruges, to watching the sun-set on the deck of the ferry – every second was special.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition Braemar



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition Lochnagar



F3 Geography Dundee Fieldtrip

Form 3 Geography pupils took part in a fieldtrip around Dundee. The trip involved collecting data in different land-use areas around the city including environmental quality pedestrian and traffic counts. The sun was shining and the pupils enjoyed working in a real and dynamic environment. The data will be used to form the evidence for their National 5 assignments.



Higher Philosophy Lecture

Professor Timothy Chappell, Director of the Open University Ethics Centre, left Higher Philosophy pupils with lots to ponder after a guest lecture.

Professor Chappell discussed the key characteristics of Kantian ethics and how they differ from comparable principles in Utilitarianism, before opening up the floor to questions. He explained, "It's about whether we decide what rules we have, by asking questions regarding the point of those rules, or if we instead ask if those rules make sense."

He added, "I think the pupils wanted to understand the positions better, then perhaps make a judgement for themselves later."



Pushkin Prize

Yvonne Clarke (F2) was announced as a winner in the 2015 Pushkin Prizes – a prestigious literary contest which is open to S1 and S2 pupils from across Scotland and Russia.

Yvonne's prize was a place on a residential creative writing course at the inspiring Moniack Mhor Writers' Centre near Beaulieu in Inverness-shire, where eleven other winners, including two from St Petersburg, joined her to receive tuition from poet and naturalist Gerry Cambridge, and the writer and poet Diana Hendry.





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HSD Karate Champions!

Zoe Faloon (L6) and James McKenna (F1) have the proud distinction of being Black Belts in karate at the tender ages of just 11 and 12 respectively, an achievement which places the duo in an exclusive minority of only approximately 2% of karate students.

As if these amazing accomplishments were not enough, James and Zoe have also been busy using their finely honed skills to win a number of prominent titles.

James was crowned champion in his category (5ft – 5ft 4 inches) at the Scottish Karate Association Championships in Glasgow. Zoe meanwhile won gold in the age 9-11 Kata event and bronze in the 9-11 Kumite event at the UK All Styles Karate Organisation National Championships in Manchester, making it three years in a row she has emerged from the tournament with medals.



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May

Abi Elphinstone visits the Junior School

A popular children's novelist showed pupils in the Junior Years that there's much more to being an author than writing at a desk!

Abi Elphinstone, whose debut novel 'The Dreamsnatcher' has been named a 'Top 10 Children's Book Not To Miss in 2015' by The Bookseller, came to the School to talk to pupils in L6 and L7 about the amazing research which she embarked upon in order to write the book, and its forthcoming sequel.

Her adventures included taking part in 'catapult practice' sessions with Burmese temple guards, abseiling into caves in the Brazilian jungle, learning how to make wooden flowers and catapults, and observing wild cats in the New Forest!

Abi also spent some time in the Library with the L6 boys book group as well as being interviewed on video by pupils in the L7 book group.



L1 Springtime

Daffodils, chicks and bunnies are beautiful in Springtime.
Millie Hutcheson L1

Springtime brings bright colours.
Ben Thompson L1

L3 Poetry Competition

Congratulations go to Emily Macdonald who won the L3 Poetry Competition.

All L3 pupils entered the competition which comprised two preliminary rounds and a final. Mrs Sloane, our adjudicator this year, was impressed by the high standard of the finalists. Mrs Sloane commented on Emily's wonderful expression and her connection with the audience.

Well done to Emily and all the finalists!



L3 Trip to Edinburgh Zoo

On Friday 29th May L3 went on an exciting trip to Edinburgh Zoo. After we had our snack our first stop was the panda enclosure. We got a really good view of one of the pandas before she went inside, but the male panda was nowhere to be seen as he was sleeping.

Then we went to see the penguins. Some were in the water and some were in their nests. One of the king penguins is called Sir Nils Olav. He is actually Colonel-in-Chief of the Norwegian Royal Guard! After we visited the penguins we saw the sun bears that were sleeping and then we saw zebras, some bongos and the wallabies. Then we went up to the dinosaur trail and some of the dinosaurs squirted water at us! After lunch we visited the Education Centre where we had a quiz and learned about endangered animals. In the afternoon we went on the bird walk. We ended our day with a visit to the chimpanzee enclosure, which was really funny because there were two chimps playing in a little hut. One came out, and then the other one wanted to come out, but the first chimp kept yelling at him as if he was saying, "Stay in there!" Afterwards it was time for home. It was a tiring day with lots of walking but it was great fun!



L4 Science

Children in L4 enjoyed growing runner bean plants in self-watering plant pots, which they made from recycled plastic bottles. In addition to learning how to provide the plants with the correct conditions for germination, the pupils also learned about pollination, fertilisation and seed dispersal.



L6 Physics

For once L6 enjoyed being kept in the dark during the school day. Under the supervision of Dr Brown, the classes experimented with ray boxes and mirrors to enrich their study of light and reflection.



Pirates Ahoy!

While the senior pupils were focused on exams, the L4 motley pirate crew raided the galley! Cap't Ross was well prepared for the invasion, with the able assistance of First Mate Anderson. L4 pirates followed the treasure map and made many pieces of eight. Strangely many of these went missing before the crew returned to their own 'galleon'! These well-mannered pirates left the galley as they found it – 'ship shape and Bristol fashion' and thanked Cap't Ross and First Mate Anderson for their hospitality.



Nursery Splatter Picture

We made a giant splatter picture outside. It was very messy! When it was dry we brought it inside and added some more decorations. We all had to work together and help our friends. We displayed our big picture in the Nursery foyer for everyone to see.



Nursery Sports Day



Our first Nursery Sports Day was a great success. There were four races including hoop race, bean bag race, egg and spoon and sprints - so lots of stickers to be won! Mums and Dads, as well

as proud grandparents, came to cheer us on. The PE teachers gave us lots of encouragement as well. Mrs Tosh said it was a wonderful afternoon! Afterwards we enjoyed ice lollies in our sunny garden.



International Cycling

Form 2 pupil Alfie George pedalled his way into pole position in a national cycling competition, becoming the yellow jersey holder in the U14 section of the British Cycling Youth Circuit Series after notching up his first ever national victories in his age group, firstly at Hetton in Tyne and Wear and then on the Isle of Man.

Alfie said, "I got my first national win in this category in the first race of the season. It was my biggest victory and I trained really hard for it. I was delighted to win the Isle of Man event too."

Slugs in the Nursery

Mrs Powrie has been coming down from the school to show us some different insects. Today she brought slugs. They were very slimy but we loved watching them. Mrs Powrie put a piece of clear plastic over the table and we went underneath to watch the slugs. They were very interesting and we were desperate to touch them!



Special Leaders Award

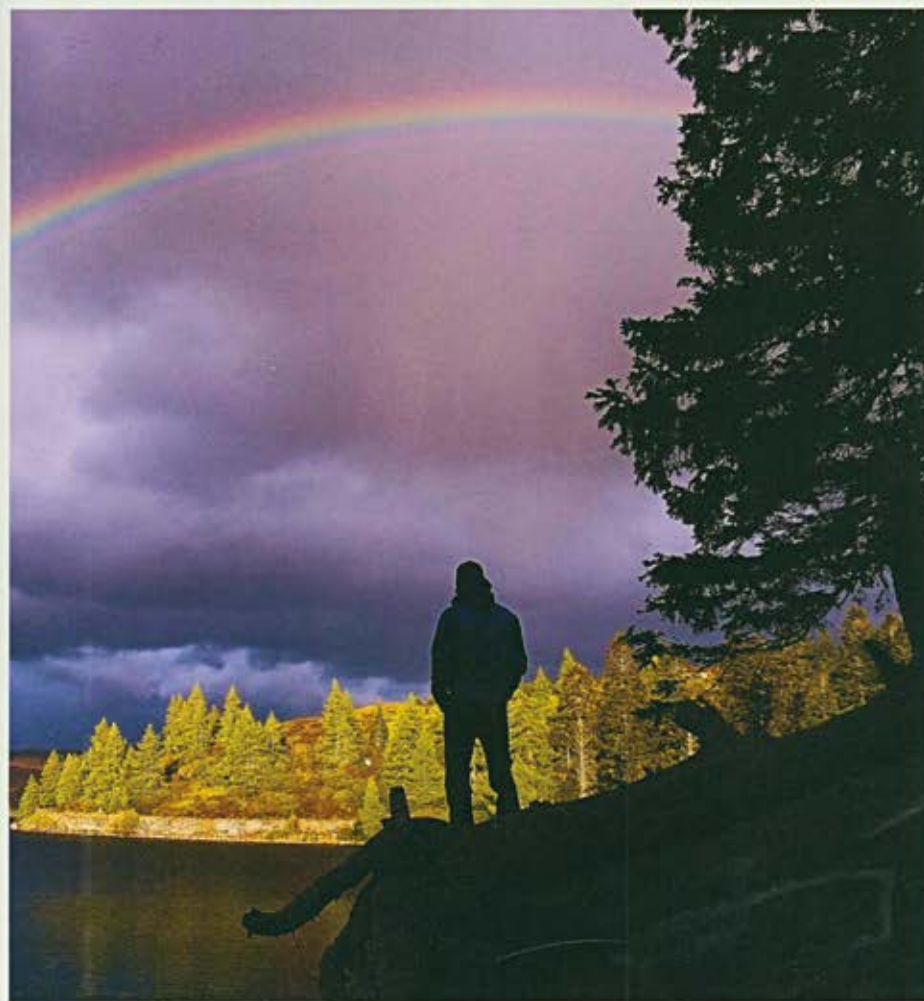
May was a successful month for Engineering Science at the High School. Stuart Duncan (F5) was awarded the Special Leaders Award with Distinction for Science, Technology and Mathematics. This award is the highest honour possible in this field.

The department's success did not stop there. Be-Niaz Ahmed (F5) was awarded the Special Leaders Award with Merit for Science, Technology and Mathematics - the second highest level of award.

In order to receive these prestigious accolades the pupils had to research engineering in Scotland, interview engineers and interpret the question, 'If you were an engineer in Scotland - what would you do?'

What an excellent achievement!

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Final Loch Ordie



Music in May

The month of May meant another magical High School of Dundee musical performance!

Those attending the 'Music in May' concert at the Caird Hall were treated to an eclectic mix of music including classical, pop and film score pieces, performed by various groups from the Junior and Senior Years.



Gleneagles Tennis

Form 3 pupils Lewis Hall and Susanna Porter were part of a select group of around forty youngsters from across Scotland who were invited to attend a coaching session with Judy Murray and Leon Smith, to mark the opening of the brand-new indoor tennis arena at the Gleneagles Hotel.

Lewis and Susanna had the chance to take part in a series of drills aimed at sharpening their skills and to put questions to the coaches, who are responsible for guiding Britain's leading players

Lewis and Susanna, who both train regularly at the national tennis centre at Stirling University, were invited to attend the session after serving up some strong performances in regional tennis tournaments across Scotland.

Lewis, who has represented the North of Scotland at U18 county level, said, "The event went really well and it was inspiring to receive advice from coaches who have experience of the top level of tennis."

Susanna, who has also previously represented the North of Scotland, said, "It was great to be involved in the session. I really enjoyed it and I picked up a lot of pointers."



Outdoor Adventure trip to Aviemore



International Pentathlon

A pair of multi-talented High School sisters gained international recognition after demonstrating their prowess in five disciplines!

Abby and Corrie Hay appeared for Scotland in the pentathlon, a multi-discipline sport in which participants take part in horse riding, swimming, fencing, running and pistol shooting.

The girls helped the Scottish team win their fixture against Ireland at the National Sports Centre in Dublin, with Abby (F3) coming third in the individual U17 category and Corrie (F1) finishing in fifth place in the U15 age group.

The sisters train every day, before or after school, to ensure they keep their skill levels up in the various disciplines.

Abby said, "I was proud and excited to have been picked for the Scottish squad and it was great to help Scotland win. We were both really looking forward to the event beforehand and although we didn't see each other that much, as were both busy competing, it was nice to have each other there."

Racing Car Champion

May saw Sandy Mitchell (F3) move effortlessly through the gears from karting titleholder to racing car champion, motoring his way to two wins and a second place during a round of the MSA Formula Championship held in Thruxton, Hampshire.

Sandy reached speeds of up to 135 mph and set a new lap record, as his outstanding performance moved him up the grid to fifth place in the overall MSA standings and second place in the rookie standings after three rounds.

A delighted Sandy said, "It was an awesome weekend of racing, what a feeling taking my first two wins in cars!"



June

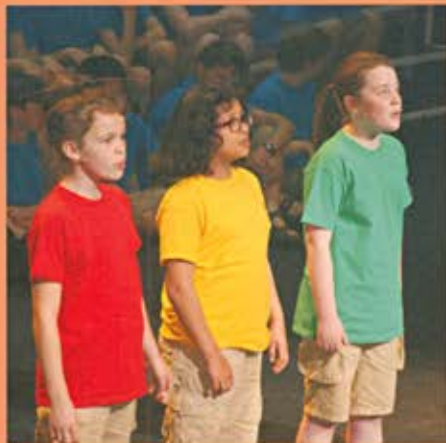
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

This year the pupils of the Junior School put on a dazzling production of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. It was performed in front of sell-out crowds in the Space Theatre from the 9th to the 12th of June. Pupils in L6 and L7 had been rehearsing their production since October and their hard work certainly paid off!

Written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, 'Joseph' is sung through from start to finish with no spoken dialogue, which proved to be a challenge for the performers, however, they rose to the occasion with flair.

As always, our pupils put on sparkling performances on stage and behind the scenes, and teachers provided valuable backstage support. Under the guidance of Director Miss Shand and Musical Director Ms Morgan, the children performed with energy and enthusiasm.

For several years Mrs Halliwell has been in charge of the wardrobe for our biennial productions and has made and altered more costumes than she cares to remember, often requiring several late nights of sewing. Joseph will be Mrs Halliwell's final musical and her talents and energies will be missed.



CHAS Knit-a-thon

L5 pupil Annan Stuart put her creative skills to very good use by taking part in a giant knitting enterprise on behalf of the Children's Hospice Association in Scotland. Annan knitted a scarf, which was one and a half meters long, and will be included in a giant scarf the charity will use to raise its profile. Afterwards Annan's scarf, along with hundreds of others, will be sold to raise money for CHAS. Annan used blue and purple wool from the Outer Hebrides to knit her scarf, which is very stylish and striking.

L1 Pets

We have been learning about all kinds of pets.

Christopher Fleming L1

Friendly cats make lovely pets.

Rosie Patterson L1



L4 Visit Glamis

L4 pupils enjoyed a sunny visit to Glamis. Firstly, the children spent some time in the village looking at the key features which make Glamis such a fine example of a typical Scottish village. They particularly enjoyed the sundial! Next stop on their tour was the castle where they got to hear all about its beginnings as a royal hunting lodge. The children then applied their artistic skills to drawing the castle, enjoyed lunch, and then had a fantastic time in the play park. To end the day the children had great fun exploring the nature trail and the highlight was definitely a competitive game of "Pooh Sticks" in the Dean Water! A super day was had by all.



L5 Construction Club

You don't always need to work to a plan – you can come up with your own designs. I enjoy working with other people when we can share ideas. Endless possibilities!

Angus Clark L5

When building with Lego you can let your imagination go free and create what you want. My favourite models were the helicopter, elephant and car, which I worked on with Angus. Teamwork is helpful for building.

Archie Macdonald L5

At Construction Club we have the choice of focusing on our own models or doing this with a team mate. You can use instructions or even adapt these for yourself – I enjoyed doing this with a two-seater fairground swing, which became a four-seater swing.

Hamish Will L5

I had fun at Construction Club and I made K'NEX models which I had not made before. My favourite model was the giant K'NEX cricket – I used lots of imagination for this. Everyone should try Construction Club and build models at home as well.

Andrew Loveday L5





There are always plenty of fiction and non-fiction books to choose from in the Library, as well as many interesting activities to take part in. Our final visit of the year was no exception and it was also time to ask Miss McFarlane about what books she recommends for our summer holiday reading.

Camperdown Visit

On a lovely sunny day we visited Camperdown Wildlife Centre to see lemurs, otters, wallabies, eagles and bears!



Nursery Chefs

We really enjoyed our visit to the Home Economics Department where we got to make chocolate dipped fruit to take home. Very yummy! Olivia and Jessica had so much fun they ended up covered in chocolate!



L7 Netball Team Summer League Report

Between April and June 2015, the Junior School L7 Netball team played in the Dundee District Primary Schools Netball Association Summer League. They played three matches at Ward Road Gym after school on Thursdays against Clepington, St. Peter and Paul's and Barnhill. The team played extremely well and won all their matches in their league, which meant they qualified for the final. This was played against Eastern on 11th June. Having been beaten by Eastern in a previous final, the match could have gone either way. The girls fought really hard during the match and were 8-2 up at half-time. However, Eastern changed their tactics and started to come back in the second half. Our girls remained strong and came out on top, with the final score being 10-5.

Well done, girls! A great end to a successful season!



Water Fun in the Nursery

Ben had great fun in our water tray. He enjoyed joining the pipes and hoses together and pouring the water through them in to the bucket on the floor. We also really enjoyed looking after our babies. These activities were really good fun but the water area did have a very wet floor for a few days afterwards!





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Strathmore Trophy

The Computing Department once again sent four Form 2 students to compete against twenty other schools for the prestigious Strathmore Trophy, held at the University of Dundee.

This year the task was to design and code a mobile application for the popular Android platform. The group designed a 'Cops and Robbers' maze game called 'Slammer Escape' where the robber had to escape from prison guards. They presented their idea to industry leaders, receiving praise for their concept and application of skills within such a short period of time. Despite not coming away with a prize the group – consisting of Alex Mackintosh, Katie Joss, Emily McLean and Alexander Nagy - enjoyed the experience.

F6 June Aviemore Expedition



Hadrian's Wall



After our planned visit to Hadrian's Wall was abandoned at Abington Service Station due to a sudden breakdown, we found ourselves back in Dundee desperately trying to rearrange the trip. Four days later we were off again.

Travelling down the M74 with a sense of déjà vu, we thankfully made it to the Roman Army Museum without any mechanical problems and proceeded to enjoy viewing the displays of reconstructed armour. Afterwards we had a walk along a well-preserved section of the wall built on the top of the great cliffs of the Whin Sill.

Then down to the fort of Vindolanda, where we met archaeologists who

showed us some of the latest finds, including leather shoes and ox bones. We observed the on-going excavation of a Roman road through the camp with a large water tank and the cavalry barracks. We looked at the well-preserved bathhouse, headquarters buildings and the excellent museum where many of the finds are displayed.

Then too soon, it was time for our return journey to Dundee, which was thankfully uneventful! High noise levels in the bus indicated a great day out.

A big thank you must go to the ex-pupils – now university students, who came with us at this very busy time of year!

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. The following pupils did exceptionally well and were invited to the Award Day at St Andrews University.

Junior Division

Silver: Sid Sripada F2
Luke Wyatt F2

Middle Division

Gold: Brian Lim F3
Aleksandra Jovanovic F3
Ivan Kapelyukh F4
Alex Smith F4
Elle Wyatt F4

Senior Division

Gold: Filip Jovanovic F5

Well done to everyone who took part.

Maths Club

Every Tuesday at lunchtime a group of dedicated Senior School pupils descend upon BH10B to explore the delights of Maths and logic puzzles. Kindly run and supervised by Dr Spiezia and Mrs Craig, we play board games such as Quirkle and Q-bitz where we use our logical skills and visual dexterity to solve problems.

Open to all year groups, the club aims to promote and develop mathematical skills, through games and puzzles, in a fun, friendly and relaxed environment.

We need players to beat the reigning champion Robert Connolly Brown! If you think you are up to the challenge why not enter the Q-bitz tournament where only the fastest at pattern recreation will succeed. So come one, come all, F1 to F6 are welcome to join.



Model UN Conference – Inveralmond High School

On the 11th of June a team of eleven excited Form 3, 4 and 5 pupils travelled to Inveralmond Community High School in Livingston to take part in their annual Model United Nations conference. With almost thirty secondary schools from across Scotland in attendance, the conference was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to show off their research, public speaking and debating skills.

Representing the nations of Mexico and Japan, our pupils began by joining various committees, each focussing on a different global political, social and economic issue. Topics of debate ranged from biological warfare to care for the elderly, and it was here that each team spoke in favour of their own solutions to these issues. Pupils made their case admirably, with several High School of Dundee resolutions being passed.

After solving many of the world's problems, the High School delegations took part in an emergency debate concerning the plight of refugees. Speaking in front of hundreds of other pupils, they enthralled their audience with impassioned and cogent reasoning, with more than one pupil earning an ovation from the crowd.

After participating so conspicuously throughout the conference it was no surprise that our pupils featured prominently on the podium. Overall, three pupils earned commendations for their committee work and another won the 'Highly Commended' award for his contributions. Clearly the delegations from the High School of Dundee had impressed all!



Young Baker of the Year

Ailsa Millar was crowned Dundee Young Baker of the Year 2015 after winning the Great Scone Challenge at Dundee and Angus College.

Ailsa saw off competition from seventeen other local secondary school contestants with an entry of delicious stem ginger scones with poached rhubarb and ginger cream!



Sailing



The highlight of the School's sailing calendar is The Brown Cup, held at Loch Earn every year. This year eighty-four competitors took part in the competition.

After an intensive training weekend, where gusts of up to fifty miles per hour were recorded, the weather settled down for the main event.

The High School team of Sara Paton and Emily Norman (both F4) sailing in a RS Feva, Rachel Flack (F3) and Rheanna Mitchell (F2) also paired in a RS Feva and Eilean Mauritzen (F1) in a RS Tera secured 11th place overall. There were

also two individual entries from the High School, Tom Mitchell, our only Junior School entry, and Anna Sturrock (F3) who was sailing in a Laser. At the end of the series of races which make up the Brown Cup, there were spot prizes for Rachel Flack and Rheanna Mitchell, Tom Mitchell gained third place overall in the Topper section while Anna Sturrock took fourth place in her sailing group.

With over seventy boats on the water, The Brown Cup was a very competitive event and, once again, the High School of Dundee sailors maintained their reputation and high standard of sailing.

by Rachel Flack

The Good Person of Szechwan



Pupils in F4 to F6 brought Bertolt Brecht's play, *The Good Person of Szechwan*, to life on the stage by making use of a number of the distinct, and often unexpected, techniques which the German playwright employed in order to make his audiences act on the situation being played out.

As a result, those attending the shows at the School's Trinity Hall experienced the actors directly addressing the audience, music and sound effects being played by the actors, actors sitting in the audience when not on stage, and the use of explanatory placards and narrators.

Head of Drama, and the show's director, Mrs Drummond said, "Any of Brecht's epic plays are incredibly challenging to produce and perform. They demand experimentation and great courage from the actors. They are exhausting, confusing, amusing and pretty crazy really!"

Set in China, the story is classic parable of good versus evil. It tells of three gods' attempts to discover one truly good person on Earth, a far from straight-forward task which leads them to the title character, Shen Te, played by Alice Inman. She is a poor but warm-hearted young woman, who offers them shelter. In return she receives a gift of money from the gods. Shen Te is drawn into a chain of events which leads to her adopting a male alter ego, her cousin Shui Ta, so often that, as Shui Ta, she is accused of murdering Shen Te!

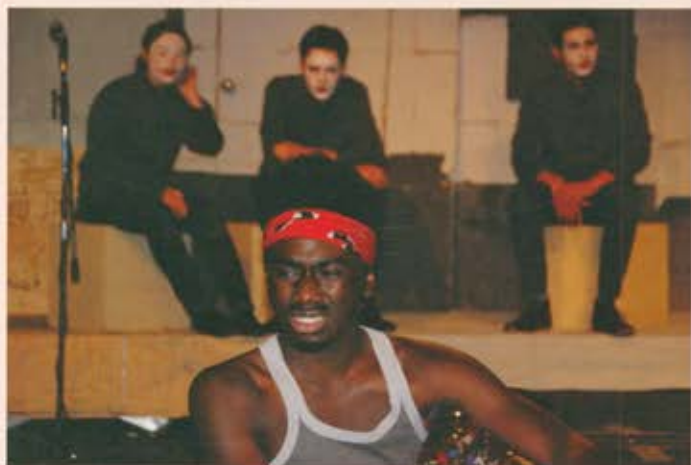
As well as exposing the audience to Brecht's unique performance techniques, the show forced the audience to consider issues such as social injustice and the exploitation of the weak by the powerful.

The production involved more than thirty pupils on and off-stage and featured a live band performing songs composed and arranged by the School's Director of Music, Mr Stuart-Fotheringham. Utilising again devices adopted by Brecht, the shows also featured heavily stylised make-up for each of the characters, applied and designed by F2 pupil Emily Beaton.

"A play such as this, is not normal school play fodder," added Mrs Drummond. "The pupils should be lauded for their commitment, talent and dogged determination that they do justice to the spirit of a practitioner who never succumbed to mediocrity and who gave a voice to the people he felt mattered."

...The Good Person of Szechwan was quite simply one of the best school productions I have ever seen in all the 30 years I have been involved in schools, if not the best. The individual performances were superb, but it was also a massive team effort by the cast as well as the directors and back stage crew. To perform a play of that complexity, that length and with such style was something I don't think I have seen before so completely achieved... Dr Halliday

...it was a hugely challenging piece to undertake, and the evening was full of excellent individual performances by all the cast. Special mention required for Alice Inman, however; her role required a huge "learn" and total concentration in two alternating personas for the entire evening. She was outstanding... Mr Illsley



Sports Day 2015





A year in...

Business

It has been an exceptionally busy year in the Business Education Department, with lots budding entrepreneurs trying their hands at a variety of moneymaking ventures!



F4 Enterprise

The Business Education Department ran a very successful F3 Enterprise Day in June 2014. The second placed team, FooDiY, were keen to start developing their pitch to produce bags of ingredients and exciting recipe ideas. The Home Economics Department was instrumental with its assistance, as it has been in many other enterprise ventures. The team launched their product at the Christmas Charity Fair and did very well selling the majority of their stock, gaining a profit of £90 in a highly competitive environment. The group has now put in place many exciting plans to take their business to the next level. In addition one of the team members, Logan Thomson, was so inspired by the group's success that he has started his own hammock making business to raise money to fund his 2016 trip to Ecuador.



F1 & 2 Enterprise Club

The F1 and 2 Enterprise Club spent the year exploring a range of different business ideas. We got involved in the 'Society of Cosmetic Scientists Scrub Up on Science Challenge' by investigating how to make a bath bomb. Then we had to produce a sales pitch to send to the judges. We used our iPads to film and edit our pitch. Towards the end of this year we once again used technology when we promoted our new healthy popcorn business on Instagram. To raise capital for this venture we sold one-hundred £1 shares. This venture was very successful – raising £65 for the Bethany Christian Trust and providing our shareholders with a 16% return on their investment.



Photograph by Dundee Courier

Dragons Glen

Dragons Glen is now a firmly established enrichment choice for F6 pupils. The challenge, run by Children 1st, sees pupils competing against graduates working for a range of different firms. The pupils are challenged to make £5,000 out of a £500 investment. In order to gain the initial investment they have to pitch to three entrepreneurs. This year the group won the backing of Chris Van der Kuyl who decided to mentor the pupils after they produced an excellent business plan and pitch for a seasonal cookbook.

The pupils, with Chris' expert advice, worked hard to produce the cookbook in time for the Christmas market. The group brokered a deal with Let's Talk Print, whereby the pupils agreed to work back the time taken to print the books. This was a great way of keeping costs down – increasing the likelihood of making a profit.

Once the book was printed it was launched in spectacular fashion when the group hosted a fundraising Junior School Art Exhibition. The pupils put their all in to maximising their sales by entering negotiations with several local outlets, including Waterstones, to have the book stocked. They had to work hard for every sale.

At the conclusion of the competition, all the hard work was worth it as the pupils made a phenomenal profit of just over £3,700 and were delighted to be awarded a special commendation at the Dragons Glen Awards Ceremony at Edinburgh Castle.

Business Breakfast

March saw another successful Business Breakfast, this time with internationally renowned fashion designer Hayley Scanlan as the guest speaker.

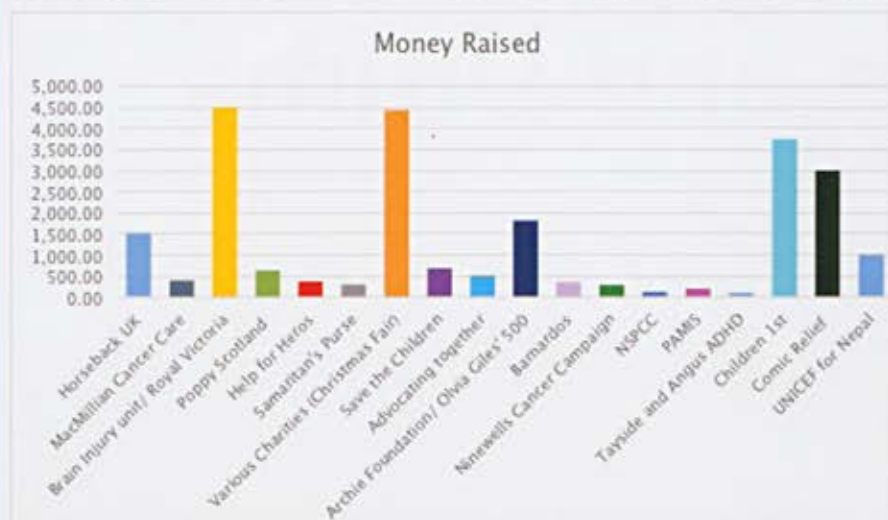
The award-winning designer shared some words of wisdom with ninety eager F5 and F6 pupils. Drawing on her own experiences in the world of fashion and design, Hayley, whose creations have been worn by a host of celebrities, spoke about the importance of hard work and making the most of opportunities which come your way, as well as passing on general business advice.

This event once again allowed pupils to meet many business leaders from a variety of professions including Engineering, Finance, Marketing, I.T. and Law. There were ample networking opportunities and our guests were very impressed with our enthusiastic pupils.

Dundee High School CCF and Pipes and Drums



Charities – Grand total raised £32,941.70



Another successful year saw the Charities Committee raise £1600 for Horseback UK during the first week of term. This impressive sum was raised as a result of a whole-school walk to the top of Law Hill to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War One. The Committee was delighted to support Horseback UK which helps physically and mentally scarred servicemen and women rehabilitate through working with horses.

The following month the High Helpers set up a stand on the Pillars during interval on Friday the 26th of September to sell crisps and cans to the pupils for 50p. Staff also brought in home baking on the Monday morning to sell to all staff at interval. All of this money went towards Macmillan Cancer Relief. We raised £408.78 and many people in the School were very happy to donate to this worthy cause.

The High School's first ever 'Charity Chit-Chat' was held on the 28th September 2014. It was an opportunity for seven chosen charities to share why they believed the School should support them. The seven charities involved were Advocating Together, ADHD Dundee and Angus Support Group, Dundee Carer Centre, Bethany Christian Trust, Tayside

Children with Cancer and Leukaemia (TCCL), PAMIS & the Terrence Higgins Trust. After each group had presented their case to the pupils of Forms 5 and 6, it was decided we should support all seven charities. This event was organised by the school's Head of Charities Committee, Mrs Spinks.

The annual Armistice Ceremony, held on the 14th November, raised £645.71 for Poppy Scotland through the sale of poppies. Many of these poppies were then placed at the foot of the war memorial. The High Helpers also raised £383.43 for Help for Heroes through the sale of hot chocolate and doughnuts.

The School got into the festive spirit on Saturday 29th November when it threw open its doors for the annual Christmas Fair.

The seasonal extravaganza featured a plethora of stalls run by charities and local traders, selling the likes of hand-made cards, crafts, jewellery, art, Christmas goodies, homeware and much more.

Excited youngsters even got to meet Santa Claus himself when he arrived in his sleigh to collect toys for Tayside 'Bring a Smile for Christmas' campaign! Afterwards the children enjoyed many activities in the elves' grotto while their parents relaxed with a nice cup of tea

and some homemade cake. A good day was had by all and £4,429.12 was raised for charity – an all-time record high – well done to all involved!

Ticket sales for the Junior School Nativity raised £1,818. This money was split equally between The Archie Foundation and Olivia Giles' 500 miles.

F6 raised £361.80 for Barnardos through their entertaining interpretation of the Nativity.

Christmas Jumper Day raised £688.45 for 'Save the Children' while the staff Christmas card raised a further £493.69 for 'Advocating Together'.

An incredible festive achievement!

Our Comic Relief efforts this year were a huge success, raising £3,058 for the worthy cause! High Helpers and several teachers challenged pupils to a 'Beat the Goalie' competition in the front playground. In the spirit of Mary Berry, a Red Nose cookie bake-off was held with bakers in F1 and F3 claiming the title. The Junior School organised a Red Nose themed cartoon contest. Finally, on Red Nose Day itself, the whole school came together to create a giant red nose in the middle of the playground.

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Philosophy Club

August

The Philosophy Club discussed the ethics of eating meat, and whether it would make any difference if an animal bound for slaughter not only knew of its prospective fate, but was happy with it. Would you eat a pork chop from a pig that expressed a whole-hearted desire to be eaten?

October

Is there such a thing as you, or me for that matter? What evidence could you use to support such an idea? All you have is a variety of experiences tied together in the bundle you call your memory. Maybe a person is no more than a collection of memories. Luckily, the Philosophy Club is a kind, compassionate, mutually supportive group of people who won't forget each other. There may not be such a thing as you or me, but perhaps there is more to existence than being a thing.

November

Is revenge sweet? If so, can it ever be justified, and does it matter what form it takes? How just is poetic justice? Our answers were 'sometimes', 'yes', and 'not very', and in that order. Needless to say, those conclusions were reached only after half an hour of sustained intellectual amusement.

February

The Philosophy Club celebrated the recent release of 'The Imitation Game' by discussing Alan Turing's ideas about the possibility of artificial intelligence. Does anyone play the imitation game at parties? Perhaps they do on wild evenings in the senior common rooms of Cambridge University. Either way, the game suggested an interesting thought experiment to Alan Turing, and the conclusions raised an interesting question: If a well-programmed computer could imitate an intelligent human being so successfully that other human beings were convinced they were

communicating with a 'real' person, would that computer then qualify as a person?

March

Is everything fully explained by quantum physics? The most reductionist member of the Philosophy Club says so, but some members expressed doubts. Can doubt be fully explained by quantum physics? And, if it can, does that also explain the experience of doubt? Or is experience another matter entirely?

June

What is love, and is it perfectly symbolised in lichens? Do sharks love pilot fish, and vice-versa? The Philosophy Club made use of four biological concepts and four words in ancient Greek to explore the nature of love, and we were both better informed and wiser by the end of the discussion.

Debating

Our 9th Internationalist

Being chosen to represent their country at the World Schools Debating Championships is the ultimate goal of competitive debaters across the globe. Over the years since 1999 the High School of Dundee has provided Team Scotland with eight internationalists; three of them were selected twice, and three of them returned home as World Champions.

Joining this elite company this year is Ciara Mitchell (F5), who will set off for ten days in Singapore at the end of July with the other four members of Team Scotland, their two coaches, one of whom is our FP Scott Ralston, and Mrs McGrath, who is the team manager. We look forward to another thrilling tournament, attended, as usual, by over fifty nations.

On the domestic circuit competition can, at times, be no less passionate. Debaters have a consuming interest in tabs, which are the tables produced at the conclusion of each tournament showing the positions of teams (of two) and individual speakers. 'Topping the tab' very often brings a prize in its own right and represents a substantial achievement over a number of rounds before the top teams 'break', sometimes to quarter-finals, often to semis and then a final. Thus it was at the Cambridge Union in February, when out of forty-four teams who had fought through several rounds to reach Finals Day from an initial UK-wide entry of six hundred teams, Ciara and her partner Rachel Allen (F6) broke second and Ciara went on record as topping the speaker tab.

Our friends and rivals from Dulwich College - top of the team tab and eventual winners of the final - belong to a cohort of professionally coached London teams; they have two hours a week with an Oxford debater, watch a video of a debate every fortnight and then write two thousand words of analysis on it. And in order to reach

this final, Ciara and Rachel beat them in round four, with Ciara scoring the highest single mark awarded in the competition. We were just slightly thrilled about this and the girls were delighted to pose for photos in the prestigious Cambridge chamber.

The previous week, in the rather less glamorous surroundings of a university lecture theatre, Ciara and Rachel had scored a comprehensive victory in the Edinburgh University Schools Competition final and brought home the trophy that HSD last won in 09. In the autumn they broke third in the Glasgow University Union tournament and very narrowly lost the final, and in St Andrews Ciara also topped the tab out of sixty-four speakers.

Two weeks after Cambridge we were competing at Finals Day at the equally famous Oxford Union; a very differently organised event attended by ninety-six teams. After three rounds we were right up there, with a second and three firsts - so we ended up in the top room,

(commonly known as the 'room of death') with Alleyn's who broke top, St Paul's Girls who broke third, and the all-conquering Dulwich team (see Cambridge above - and indeed Durham below) who broke seventh but won the final. We came fourth; enough to knock us out of the break. Ironically, had our speaker points been lower and we'd therefore been in the next room down, we might have done better as all we needed to break was a third; proof that along with the skill and determination, you do need a bit of luck in these things and we missed out on just a smidgen thereof. So we finished fifteenth on the team tab; on the speaker tab Ciara was fourteenth out of one hundred ninety-two and Rachel, with four fewer points, was twenty-seventh. It was quite gratifying at one point, in the ladies', to overhear another coach remark "Oh goodness, my girls are terrified - they've got the HS of Dundee in the next room".

One week after that we set off for the two-day tournament at Durham, which is a huge affair attracting an entry of one hundred twenty-eight teams. Some might say this is too big, especially when the last sixteen this year included five teams from one big London school and four from another. However our two F4 boys, Ivan Kapelyukh and Steven Roy, cheered us all up; of the two hundred fifty-six on the speaker tab Steven was the top Scot, which was interesting as





three of our internationals were there. We did tease him that by finishing thirty-first, he had qualified for a trial for Team England next year!

Three days later the Final of the ESU Mace competition, a long prep which takes place over a number of rounds, was held in the Glasgow Union. On this occasion Ciara was partnered by Gwenan White (F6), and together they won their semi to reach a final in which the four teams each contained an international. We were pleased to offer our congratulations to the winners from St Columba's who went on to bring home the Four Nations International Mace for Scotland.

The last Saturday of term (by that time we'd been debating four weekends out of five) again saw four internationals, this time with junior partners, in the final of a fundraising - for Team Scotland -

tournament run by St Columba's. Ciara yet again topped the speaker tab and was teamed with Elena Cotroneo (F2) (the combined years of the speakers had to add up to seven), who therefore had the honour of reaching a final in her very first tournament.

Turning back to the younger debaters, in September Ivan and his partner Sandy Neville (F3) reached the final of the Northern Junior Debating Championship, which is now in its eleventh year at RGS Newcastle. Out of eighty-eight speakers, Ivan came second on the speaker tab and Sandy was twelfth. Our other team was Steven with Alex Smith, also F4. On a busy Saturday at the end of January when the seniors were otherwise engaged, Ivan and Steven reached the final of the Dundee University tournament. Ivan partnered Ciara through two rounds of the Law

Society competition, losing narrowly to the eventual overall winners of the final, which was held in the Parliament in June. Mrs McGrath was again a member of the judging panel; she did admit that sitting in the First Minister's seat was not quite as much of an honour as being invited to join the panel for the World Schools Final last August in Bangkok! The boys, meanwhile, have got the bug to the extent that not only have they signed up for Debate Academy at Uppingham School in the summer, but they also gave up a Saturday to judge at the the Morrison's Invitational in April, a junior tournament where Elena spoke with Alex Fish (F1) taking two firsts, with Alex winning the prize for Best Novice Speaker.

A good time was had by all; sums up debating really. It's a hobby for people who enjoy hard work, are genuinely interested in current affairs, can get passionate about behavioural economics and can think of nothing better than spending Saturday after Saturday travelling all over the country in order to argue with like-minded people. If this is you, Mrs Ovenstone-Jones and Mrs McGrath will be pleased to make your continuing acquaintance!

Junior Debating

Each year the English Speaking Union's Junior Debating Competition for F1 to 3 gives pupils the chance to engage in debate on challenging and diverse topics. This year topics included holding the CEOs of big companies criminally responsible for environmental damage caused by their

companies, the impact of the Scottish Independence Referendum on British politics and abolishing juries in criminal trials. Senga Barron and Amy Johnstone, both F2, gave engaging speeches on the difficult topics and both went on to participate in further public speaking competitions. Kirsten and Aisling Ellis, also F2, won through to the semi-final where they were defeated by a more experienced team.

Golf

This year saw the return of F2 and F3 golf at Panmure Golf Club. Groups were mixed ability and all improved greatly over the five-week block which culminated in a Texas Scramble.



This year also saw the return of the thirty-six hole competition at Strathmore Golf Club. The weather was kind to the twenty boys who entered. The morning eighteen was played in glorious sunshine with some good scores being posted. Harry Ogilvie, Mac Duncan and Spencer Cunningham were all at the top of the leaderboard. The sun once again graced us with its presence in the afternoon and the boys attacked the testing course with the morning leaders mounting a strong challenge to win the cup. Past winners Paul Kidd and Simon Burnett were also in with a shot at the title. However, a new name was added to the trophy, Dino Leddie. Dino's morning round saw him playing one over his handicap. His afternoon round sealed the deal when he played twelve under his handicap. Dino amassed a total of eighty-one points overall with an impressive forty-seven in the afternoon eighteen. Well done to all the boys, and in particular Dino, for holding their golf together over two rounds.

House Netball

This year the Senior House matches were won by Aystree and the Junior House matches by Wallace.



F1 Netball Report

We began our Netball season with friendly matches against Lathallan and Madras. This allowed the new team to bond and show what they could do – fantastic preparation for our Scottish Cup matches after the October break.

Our first Scottish cup match was against Balwearie High School. After four exciting quarters we were victorious! The Player of the Match was Kara MacRitchie for her excellent shooting and for her amazing general play.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 23 – 8 Balwearie High School (13/11/14).

Our second match was at home against Balfron High School. We put up a good fight but unfortunately lost the match. Everyone worked very hard, especially Kara who was nearly sick from the effort! Player of the Match was Fiona McKechnie.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 5 – 11 Balfron High School (17/11/14).

The following week we played Kilgraston, unfortunately losing by a narrow margin. We didn't know it yet but we would meet this team again later on in the competition!

Final Score: High School of Dundee 7 – 11 Kilgraston (24/11/14).

After Christmas we travelled to Glasgow to play Williamwood. We needed to win this match to progress to the semi-final stage of the Silver Selection. We gave it our all and left Glasgow the victors. This meant there was only one game left between us and the final!

Final Score: High School of Dundee 10 – 5 Williamwood High School (12/02/2015).

Our semi-final against Carnoustie High was exceptionally close but our home support really helped to push us to victory. We were going to the final!

Final Score: High School of Dundee 20 – 16 Carnoustie High School (11/03/2015).

Finals day was held at Ravenscraig Sports Facility in Motherwell. It was a day full of Netball as final matches from the other sections were also being played. Our match was against Kilgraston, a team that had already beaten us in an earlier round! However, we were determined as they hadn't beaten us by much in the first match. At half-time there was only one goal in it but as play continued, Kilgraston began to creep away from us. Sadly, we eventually lost the closely contested match. Everyone played really well and our substitutes gave great support from the bench. We returned to Dundee with our heads held high. Player of the Match was Fiona McKechnie.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 16 – 22 Kilgraston (26/03/15).

Every single player in our squad of twelve contributed to our successful Scottish Cup run and I hope we can all work hard again next season to take one step further and win the final!

Report by Eilean Mauritzen (F1 Netball Team Captain)



F2 Netball Report



Our season started in November when we played Monifieth. We were strong, however Monifieth managed to break our defence.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 17 – 22 Monifieth High School (5/11/14).

Our second match, against Lathallan, was much stronger. Despite their excellent defence we secured a convincing victory. Player of the Match was Rachel Rose.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 21 – 10 Lathallan School (10/11/14).

We played a difficult game against a strong Arbroath High side. Despite their fast attackers getting the better of us we still played well. Anna Hudson was Player of the Match.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 10 – 18 Arbroath High School (19/11/14).

After Christmas we played a fantastic game against Firrhill High. Our fast attack broke their defence and we left with a win, reaching the quarter finals! Player of the Match was Hannah Alijani.

Our quarter final against Notre Dame High School was to be the end of our run in the tournament. We played well but unfortunately the Notre Dame side was just too strong for us.

Player of the Match was Catriona Addison

Final Score: High School of Dundee 11 – 18 Notre Dame High School (25/02/2015).

Open Team Netball Report 2014/15

The Open Team, made up of players from Form 4 to Form 6, had an extremely positive start to the season – a convincing friendly win over Madras College, who in previous years have been incredibly tough competition. The match allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the players of 2014/15 and with this, Victoria Vitale (F5) earned player of the match.

The Open Squad was selected as we entered the Open section of the Scottish Schools Cup. The first round involved teams playing in a round robin tournament in the local district.

Our first Scottish Cup match was a home match against Grove Academy. Victoria Vitale (F5) and Emma Duncan (F5) were awarded Players of the Match.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 30 – 4 Grove Academy (26/11/14).

The second local match was played in Arbroath against Arbroath High School. We played a determined match, beating the home side in two of the four twelve minute quarters. However, a convincing defeat in the other two quarters meant we narrowly missed allocation into the Gold Section of the Scottish Schools Cup. Arbroath High School went on to reach the Quarter Finals of the Gold Section, showing the achievement of our closely fought game. Again, Victoria Vitale (F5) proved her consistent ability and received Player of the Match.

Final Score: Arbroath High 38 – 28 High School of Dundee (01/12/14).

After allocation into the Silver Section, the Open Team reached the knock out stages of the Scottish Schools Cup, playing the first knock-out match at home against Portlethen Academy. A convincing defeat of the opposition put us through to the second knockout stage. For the fourth time, Victoria Vitale (F5) earned Player of the Match.

Final Score: High School of Dundee 23 – 13 Portlethen.

Second Round

We breezed through the next round of the knockout section with our second away match of the season against St Ambrose High School, Glasgow. The team worked hard to earn a large points difference and Molly Andrew earned Player of the Match.

St Ambrose 9 – 26 High School of Dundee (15/01/15).

Quarter Finals

Our team reached the Quarter Finals of the Silver section, coming up against one of the strongest teams in the league, Anderson High School, who eventually went on to reach the finals of the Silver section. The Shetland team travelled 14 hours to play us at Mayfield, where we put up a strong fight. However, this was our final match together as Anderson knocked us out of the competition. For the final match together, Captain Molly Andrew and Vice-Captain India Stobbs, earned joint Players of the Match.

High School of Dundee 17 – 44 Anderson (09/03/15).

Library 2014/2015



What a busy year in the Library! Summer was spent preparing lovely, brand new picture books for the Nursery pupils, then almost as soon as we returned to school in August, we were off again! The Reading Café, Justice Society and Higher Philosophy pupils were fortunate enough to be invited to a talk by Malala Yousafzai where we also got to listen to J.K. Rowling.

In September we celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday alongside the Home Economics Department when pupils in L4 to F1 designed a sweetie fit for Willie Wonka's factory in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

In October, our Papercraft Club began. Designed to give life to those old library books which are just too well loved to give to charity, we began by making some pumpkins out of old copies of Lemony Snicket's 'A Series of Unfortunate Events', suitably creepy! Over the course of the year we also made poppies for Armistice Day, Christmas Trees in December and flowers for Valentine's Day. We are looking forward to continuing and expanding upon this project in 2015/16. Also in October we launched a 'Reading for Wellbeing' collection, consisting mostly of senior fiction with a focus on emotional health. 'Bibliotherapy', as this type of collection is often known, is well regarded as a safe and satisfying way to explore emotions and feelings, to shed the feeling of being the 'only one' who feels a certain way and to work through emotional situations. This has been very popular and is used by PSE staff as well as pupils.

In November F1 enjoyed a visit from popular Scottish author Lari Don. Lari was here to promote her new book for teenagers, 'Mind Blind', which many of the children had already enjoyed in the L7 Book Club. Lari spoke with real enthusiasm about reading and writing, took lots of questions from the pupils and read an excerpt of her book to the audience.

In December the L7 Book Club started to tackle Anthony Horowitz's 'Diamond Brothers' series, having enjoyed 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio, 'The Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Rickett' by John Boyne and 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Since December we have read the 'Harry Potter' series

again, plus 'Fever Crumb' by Philip Reeve and have heatedly discussed its themes of environmentalism and technological advancement. L7 Book Club continues to be well attended and attracts new members every few weeks, the future of senior school reading looks bright!

In January, aside from welcoming Mrs Beth Charlett as our new Library Assistant, we spent hours preparing potions, collecting candlesticks and arranging owls in advance of the very first Harry Potter Night, organised by the publisher, Bloomsbury.

In March we celebrated World Book Day as usual, playing a range of games including 'Book Speed Dating' which went down a storm! L3 also celebrated the recent Paddington film by making their very own Paddington Bear, complete with suitcase and the all-important marmalade sandwiches.

April found us busier than ever with a new L6 Boys Book Group meeting weekly. The boys read a Bear Grylls book and complemented this with visits from Outdoor Education teacher Mr Ross, who encouraged the boys to use the book's themes as a springboard for knot tying and raft building. We await the finished raft!

In May we welcomed the author Abi Elphinstone to HSD. L6 and L7 sat transfixed while she related tales of her research adventures for her debut novel 'The Dreamsnatcher', describing her meetings with an elusive Romany Gypsy, her catapult fashioning abilities and her descent into South American underground caves! Many children have been suitably inspired to begin their own creative writing projects following her visit which shows how powerful her words were. We also held a book sale in May, in aid of the Unicef Nepal appeal.

In June, the Reading Café started a conversation with award-winning author Louise O'Neill. Her novel 'Only Ever Yours' can be compared to Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale'. The pupils asked Louise about her thoughts on social media use and the portrayal of women in the media, themes which feature heavily in her novel. Louise's answers also included a reading list of novels that influenced and affected her, which the Reading Café members plan to devour over the summer holidays.

In addition to all this we continued to revamp the library collection, constantly adding fantastic new books and removing the older, tired volumes. We delivered reading promotion activities and library skills classes to L1 to F2 every week, we worked with new departments and we devised new ways to promote reading. We continue to investigate e-books and hope to offer them through the library catalogue very soon. We have had an absolutely wonderful session and cannot wait for the new school year and to continue placing the right book in the hands of every child.

Form 1 Girls Hockey

Getting back into playing hockey with our new teammates presented some challenges but we played well. Many of us went on the rugby and hockey tour during the October break, which really helped to improve our hockey skills and bring the team together. We enjoyed playing in a foreign country and learned a lot from playing with the older teams. However, in the run up to Christmas we seemed to be losing our winning streak and due to some poor weather our hockey matches and training were put on hold until after the February mid-term. We found this really frustrating, as we were all desperate to play! When we finally got back to playing we had rediscovered our winning streak. Our last game against Mary Erskine brought the season to a close with a win.

Ailsa Millar (F1)

Rugby



With the high achievements of last years 1st XV to follow, this season was always going to be tough. With lots of new faces and little 1st XV experience, it took a while for the team to perform to our capabilities. A cup exit to St Aloysius, alongside heavy defeats to Robert Gordon's and George Watson's exemplified this. Following these results, and some negative feedback, morale was at an all time low. However, being placed in the shield side of the cup was the best thing that could have happened to us. A momentous win, driven by our forward pack, against Glasgow Academy kick-started our season and placed us in the semi-final of the shield. For the first time the team started to believe in themselves and their abilities and this was shown by two convincing victories against Howe of Fife. The home semi-final match against

Lorreto is a game the team will cherish forever. After taking the lead through some superb backs play and kicks by Joe Drummie, a monumental effort in defence held off a late Lorreto surge and placed us in the final of the Brewin Dolphin Shield. After managing to keep the squad fully fit, we entered the shield final at Murrayfield back pitches with high hopes. However, on the day we were outplayed in every department by a stronger Glenalmond side. The Final was an experience none of the team will ever forget and the medals will be kept by every member for the rest of their lives. We would like to thank Mr Jack and Mr Merry for their efforts this year and for sticking by us through thick and thin.

Paul Kidd and Fraser Brown

Tennis season 2015

New kit for the 1st and 2nd VI this year had the girls all dressed in white and ready for Wimbledon. Now looking the part and with a regular turn out to practice, there was no doubt this year's senior teams meant business. Training involved several serious elements including working on partnerships for double pairing and talking tactics, alongside fun games to end the sessions on a lighter note. 'Jail' seemed to be a firm favourite and brought out the competitive side in each individual. An exciting mix of hard hitters, speedy servers and dazzling 'volleyers' suggested a promising season lay ahead.

A slow but steady start followed, the 1st VI narrowly lost 5-4 against Kilgraston, although the 2nd VI came away with a clean sheet, winning all matches. This gave our players great confidence when they faced tough competition during a midweek fixture at Glenalmond. Unfortunately we did not get the results we were looking for, and this proved to be a learning experience. However, the girls still had fun and experimented with different types of play.

A tight fixture against Morrison's Academy left the girls fighting for every point, resulting in a well-deserved win. More was to follow against Robert Gordon's College with both the 1st and 2nd VI winning all matches. This boosted our girls' confidence in their ability, preparing them for stiff competition at St. George's. Unfortunately St. George's came off the better team, but tight matches resulted in deuce in every game with some show-stopping play.

This year we hosted our very own Primary Tournament. We invited four other schools, with each school entering two couples. The sun was shining, the courts prepared and a group of excited L7 girls were ready for action. This tournament was such a success that it will now be an annual fixture. Tennis at the High School continues to grow, with new fixtures against Lathallan and a boys fixture against Morrison's Academy.

Overall a relatively successful season for all the teams, but a special mention must go to the Form 1 duo of Georgia and Suzanne Stirling, who won every tournament they entered and brought home the Silverware (Morrison's Academy, St. Leonards and Glenalmond College tournaments). This pair have certainly been role models, inspiring their peers, teammates and all of those who have had the pleasure of seeing them in action! Definitely a double act to keep an eye on as they move up through the school.

In addition, Lewis Hall and Susanna Porter (both Form 3) were representing Tayside Tennis team in the recent Scottish Inter District Tennis Championships. The under 15 team including Lewis and Susanna were runners up to North East District in the final of the under 15 section of eight Districts taking part. Tayside Team were second equal overall in the whole event.



Lewis Hall (outside left) & Susanna Porter (outside right).



The junior tennis team (Form 1-3) representing at the annual Kilgraston tennis tournament. With Georgia and Suzanne Stirling (centre of photo) winning the Junior Championship 6-3 in the final.



Girls' Primary Tennis team at the annual Primary Kilgraston tennis tournament.



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