

Review 2016







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Front cover:

Josh Rawcliffe as Enjolras
 in *Les Misérables*, June 2016

Back cover:

Morven Wright (F4),
 National 5 acrylic painting

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Editorial

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the High School of Dundee Review 2016! Once again, the diverse talents of our pupils and staff fill every page. A year in the life of the High School family displays, in full colour, the fantastic range and depth of inspiring achievements and events which take place at the School. From the exciting public launch of Campaign 2015-20 and the extraordinary *Les Misérables* performances to the deep reflection of the Commemoration of the Battle of Loos, and the thrill and engagement of being a part of Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, the family is clearly thriving!

This Review would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of a number of individuals. Kirstie McKie set in place the framework before she embarked on the even more challenging task of motherhood, and to her we are greatly indebted. Mrs Audrey Davie coordinated all the submissions from the Junior Years with her customary efficiency and eye for detail. The editorial team were ably assisted by David Brett, Jasmine Cortazzi and, in particular, Graeme Mutch. However, greatest thanks are owed to Irene McGrath who devoted hours of her time away from school to the Review 2016. We simply would not have made our deadlines without her.

I hope that you enjoy the vibrancy, commitment and joy conveyed in all the pages that follow; integrated curriculum in reality!

Lise Hudson
 Deputy Rector



Rector's Report

At Prize-Giving this year we welcomed Ann Grewar Schmidt back to her old school, an FP who has enjoyed a successful career in law. We cherish our links to our FPs, and the Old Girls and Old Boys' Clubs are generous supporters of the school, financially and professionally. So many have achieved success in their personal and professional lives. Ann was Head Girl and House Captain of Lindores, as well as Colour Sergeant and a member of the Interact club. After completing a Law degree at Oxford, she worked for the prestigious law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and then Ocado. Since 2007 she has been a Partner with Logos, a City law firm with close connections to Iceland. She spoke with insightful poise and presented the prizes with great style.

Community

One thing Ann referred to eloquently was the strength of the HSD Community, and this has been manifest throughout the session 2015-2016. It has been another very successful year for the school, characterised not least by an outstanding commitment to the wider community 'beyond the Pillars'.

Our Charities Committee and Interact Club raised a staggering total of £37,631.42, equivalent to just over £30 per pupil, for local, national and global charities.

It may also have been noticed that we have participated in Dundee's own Oor Wullie Bucket Trail initiative by sponsoring one of the statues, for a good cause, the Archie Foundation!

What a Year!

What about the year that has just passed? It closed with a bit of a shock to many, namely the outcome of the EU Referendum. Whatever one's views and mood we have to press on and stay true to ourselves. The High School in its 777 year history has survived the Scottish Wars of

Independence, the Reformation, the sacking of Dundee in the erroneously named English Civil War, the Union of the Crowns, the Union of Parliaments, the Industrial, American, French and Russian revolutions, two World Wars, the collapse of heavy industry and jute, and the fall of the Berlin Wall. We will therefore take all these recent scuffles in our stride. We will keep faith in ourselves to continue to provide the high quality education our pupils deserve – one that is Scottish, British, European, Global!

Nursery

We are so grateful for the generous gifts of the Old Girls to the Nursery, with the garden now hugely improved by the new resources they have provided. Thank you! Now completing its second year the Nursery is a market leader in Tayside and the staff should be very proud. Congratulations to Sarah Tosh and her team of staff for the excellent Care Inspectorate Report. We have been graded 5s across all areas!! A superb result for a first CI inspection. It is well known that a child's early years are crucial for his or her development and we are committed to ensuring our nursery is dedicated to the highest standards of

care and nurture. We are now about to receive Partner Provider status with Dundee City Council which will enable parents to access funding for some or all of their children's time with us.

Meanwhile last November the whole High School was subjected to a visit by HM Inspectorate on what they describe as a Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement Visit, the first for eight years. The outcome was very positive. I quote from their report:

In the lessons we observed as part of our visit, overall children and young people are benefitting from high-quality learning experiences in the nursery, junior and senior stages. Children and young people are motivated and engage well in their learning. Their relationships with staff are very positive. Children and young people are very well behaved and feel confident they are listened to.

Parents, pupils and staff were questioned about their experience of school and we were delighted to see that 100% of those parents who replied agreed that "My Child enjoys learning at school". 97% of parents agreed that they were happy with the school. Particularly gratifying was the pupil view. 93% said that they enjoyed learning at school, a remarkable statistic! However, it is also clear that we can still do more in involving the pupils and parents in shaping school improvement.

WW1 Centenary

This year we continued our commemoration of those FPs who were killed or wounded during the war, and at the Armistice Parade we focussed on the names of those who died between August 1914 and November 1915, which were read out by Head Boy Nathan Moorjani, and Deputy Head Girl Taskeen Bailwal.

It is very moving to record the number killed at the Battle of Loos (11), in September 1915. The School's CCF drill team and chamber choir Cantabile also took part in the televised National Battle of Loos Centenary Commemoration Parade and Service at City Square in Dundee in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay and the First Minister.

However, it was also salutary to note the five who died at Gallipoli, which we don't normally think of. One thing that is not properly recorded is the contribution made by our female FPs to the war effort. There were clearly quite a number, mostly active in the medical and nursing units, but records are thin on the ground. Watch this space!

At the Armistice Parade 2016 we will remember those killed between November 1915 and November 1916.

Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts

I am delighted to report that we have now received full planning consent for our plans to convert the former GPO building into our performing and visual arts centre. Fundraising is proceeding and we need £5 million to set the ball in motion. We stand currently at £1.8 million in gifts and pledges so the target is tantalisingly close. It is truly a once in a century opportunity for the

school first and foremost. However, it is also a wonderful resource for the city and wider Tayside community. If we had all the money in place now the Centre would be open in two years' time. I will be keeping all members of the HSD family informed of developments and hope this is something you will feel inspired to support.

Integrated Curriculum

Elsewhere it has been a hugely busy and successful year. Once again our academic results placed us in the leading group of Scottish schools.

Academic attainment will always be a cornerstone of what we do. But it is by no means the only one. We wish to foster creativity, enterprise, imagination and a spirit of adventure.

Our pupils are well-rounded and grounded, and go on to make the world a better place. In fact, this past year many of them have also wandered far and wide in the context of our Integrated Curriculum.

Our Hockey, Netball and Rugby Tour to South Africa in the summer of 2015 was a vibrant success and F6 Geographers benefitted from a Field Trip to Barcelona. More than 50 F3 (S3) pupils took to the slopes of Val d'Aosta in the Italian Alps in December to spend five days skiing in glorious sunshine. A Classics trip to Italy coincided with a Berlin visit at Easter, and then in the summer some fortunate pupils travelled to California for drama and IT, Wales for the CCF camp, and Wimbledon for the tennis.

Perhaps the most extraordinary trip though was the month spent in Ecuador and the Galapagos by an intrepid group of F5/F6 pupils.

Communication is vital for our globetrotters and this year our debaters have been particularly successful. Almost 1000 teams entered the Oxford Union schools debating

tournament, with the top 100 of them qualifying for the finals. After defeating Eton and Westminster in the semis, we lost by one vote to Dulwich. 2nd in the UK! The team won 4 of the top trophies available at all the major Scottish universities. A vintage year.

I wish I had the space to talk about all our achievements. But do look at our school Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter, or indeed the news items on the website, not to mention the Highlights eNewsletter for more news of our pupils' successes!

In conclusion, I cannot quite believe I now have completed eight years as Rector of this wonderful school. It is a pleasure and privilege to be responsible for this vibrant, dynamic community. Progressive and yet traditional! Thank you once again to all colleagues, our directors, our parents, but above all to every single one of our pupils for everything they have contributed to ensure that HSD remains a very special place.

Dr John D Halliday
Rector

L4 and 5

Marshall Prize for Descant Recorder
Zoe Loveday
Robbie Prize for Public Speaking
Martha Baldwin

L6

Academic Merit Prize
Isla Hutchinson
Evie MacCallum
Zamin Okhal
Jonah Phillipson-Masters
Jan van der Kuyf

Special Prize for Chess
Alastair Baptle

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Bagpipes
Archie Macdonald

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Guitar
Maishah Mason

L7

Academic Merit Prize
Olivia Black
Sophie Elder
Zoe Faloon
Ryan Jennings
Ross Mauritzen

Leng Silver Medal
for Singing (Boys)
Ryan Kilburn

Dr Rita Forrester Prize
for Art in L7
Elizabeth Lang

Hutton Prize for Environmental
Studies in L7
Angus Macfarlane

Tie for International Recognition
(Sailing)
Tom Mitchell

Prize for Brass
Fraser Smith

Old Girls' Prize for Creative
Writing in L7
Alasdair Turrent

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Strings
Dara Alijani

Academic Merit Prize
Old Girls' Prize for Creative
Writing in L7
Eve Campbell

Academic Merit Prize
Walter Smith Memorial
Prize for Drama in L7
Woodman Trophy for Mathematics
Old Girls' Trophy for all-round
ability in L7

Rory Grant

Russell Prize for Chess
Stark Cup for Public Speaking
John McLennan Prize for
Proxime Accessit
Sneha Sripada

Old Girls' Prize for Piano
E M Stewart Prize for Dux of the
Junior School
Jennifer Bonnyman

Form 1

Academic Merit Prize
Steven Chen
Lewis McLennan
Angus Neville
Maisie Ross
Malavikha Sudarshan
Dominic Westwood
Jack Williams

Betty Sword Prize for Academic
Improvement in Form 1
Cassius Haresign

Larg Prize for Bagpipes
Jamie Hutcheon

Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)
Andrew Lothian

Robertson Prize for Proxime
Accessit of Form 1 (joint)
Rohan Tauro
Catriona Taylor

Old Boys' Club Prize for Creative
Writing in Forms 1 - 3
Alexander Mill White Prize for
all-round ability in Form 1
Florence Whytock Memorial Prize
for Dux of Form 1
Ethan McCoigan

Form 2

Academic Merit Prize
Michael Anderson
Fraser Coupar
Brooke Fairweather
Hannah Meade
Molly Ross
Suzanne Stirling
Lauren Tyson

Betty Sword Prize for Academic
Improvement in Form 2
Finn Cox

Tom Durrheim Prize for
Recitation in Forms 1 - 3
Catriona Paterson

Tie for International
Recognition (Hockey)
Andrew K Paton Memorial Trophy
for all-round Sporting Ability in
Form 2 Boys
Jamie Golden

Tie for International Recognition
(Pentathlon and Tetrathlon)
Maggie Stewart Memorial Salver
for all-round Sporting Ability in
Form 2 Girls
Corrie Hay

Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)
A S Drummond Prize for Public
Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Leng Gold Medal for Singing
Alex Fish

RSL Macpherson Prize for
Proxime Accessit of Form 2
Ailsa Millar

Neil Fraser Cup and Prize for
all-round ability in Form 2 Boys
RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux
of Form 2 (joint)
Jonathan Lang

Prize for all-round ability in
Form 2 Girls
RSL Macpherson Prize for Dux
of Form 2 (joint)
Eileen Mauritzen

Form 3

Academic Merit Prize
Yvonne Clarke
Robert Connolly Brown
Robbie Coupar
Alex Denholm
Hathsu Dissanayake
Kirsten Grant
Anna Hudson
Bogdan Kapelyukh
Shona MacTavish
Sid Sripada

Tie for International
Recognition (Orchestra)
Ruairidh Cowieson

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)
Matthew Rawcliffe

Tie for International
Recognition (Hockey)
Rachel Strachan

Chris Rea Prize for Games
in Form 3 (Girls)
Shona Campbell

Chris Rea Prize for Games
in Form 3 (Boys)
Iain Robertson

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)
Laura Murphy

Academic Merit Prize
Chess Club Prize in Forms 1 - 3
Luke Wyatt

Jane Spiller Prize for Dux
of Form 3 (joint)
Sophie Levin

Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)
A S Drummond Prize for
Public Speaking in Forms 1 - 3
Jane Spiller Prize for Dux
of Form 3 (joint)
Hannah Alijani

Prize list 2016

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize

Joe Carstairs

Lucy Graham

Brian Zhuan Hua Lim

Alice Raitt

James Taylor

Tie for International
Recognition (Hockey)

Holly Duval

Tie for International Recognition
(Pentathlon and Tetrathlon)

Abby Hay

Tie for International
Recognition (Basketball)

Harry Morrice

Southgate Prize for
Musical Ensemble

Abhisri Chaudhuri

Sarah Elgin

David Mathers Trophy and Prize
for Improvement in Mathematics
in Forms 3 and 4

Campbell Cunningham

Jane Ray Prize for
Home Economics

Stephanie Mitchell

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

Charlotte Jennings

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International
Recognition (Sailing)

Games Merit Scarf (Sailing)

Anna Sturrock

Rank Foundation Fellowship
RSL Macpherson Prize for
Proxime Accessit of Form 4

Caitlin Mitchell

Armitstead Trust Prize for
Dux of Form 4

Asad Jafferbhoy

Form 5

Academic Merit Prize

Alice Inman

Joshua Rawcliffe

Tie for International
Recognition (Swimming)

Eilidh Grant

Tie for International
Recognition (Girl Guiding)

Caitlin Mann

Tie for International
Recognition (Choir)

Finlay McKillop

Prize for Higher
Environmental Science

Elizabeth Bearn

Prize for Higher Music Technology

Lucas McConnach

Isabella Hunter Award
for Higher Art

Holly McKendry

Larg Prize for Strings

Oran McNair

Ilsley Prize for Outstanding
Performance in Drama

Lynden Nicely

Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize
for Higher MusicBlock Prize for Creative Writing
in Forms 4 - 6

Sandy Adamson

Larg Prize for Woodwind
Southgate Prize for Musical
Ensemble

Simon Allen

Prize for Higher Latin
James Stevenson Memorial Prize
for Higher German

Callum Fuller

Prize for Higher Drama
Robert Biggar Prize for Higher
Geography

Hannah George

Academic Merit Prize
Armitstead Trust Prize for Higher
Modern Studies

Olivia Hayhow

Tie for International Recognition
(Cricket)

Games Merit Scarf (Cricket)

Rory Johnston

Prize for Higher Spanish
Southgate Prize for Musical
Ensemble

Sandy Taylor

Academic Merit Prize
Prize for Higher Spanish
James Stevenson Memorial Prize
for Higher French

Catriona Murphy

Academic Merit Prize
Tie for International Recognition
(Scouting)Caird Prize for Higher Business
Management

Logan Thomson

Prize for Higher Classical Studies
Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for
Higher HistoryD Arnot Shepherd Travel
Scholarship

Kristin Vagg

Academic Merit Prize

Tie for International Recognition
(Orchestra)

Prize for Higher Economics

Robert Zhan

Glenday Award for Higher Biology
J B Meiklejohn Prize for Higher
Mathematics (joint)Christopher and Philip Daft Prize
for Higher Physics (joint)EM Stewart Prize for Higher
English (joint)Dennis J Paterson Prize for
Dux of Form 5 (joint)

Eile Wyatt

J B Meiklejohn Prize for Higher
Mathematics (joint)Christopher and Philip Daft Prize
for Higher Physics (joint)G H Philip Prize for Public Speaking
in Forms 4 - 6London Angus Association Trophy
for Reading and Public Speaking
in Forms 4 - 6Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy
and Prize for Higher Chemistry
(joint)EM Stewart Prize for Higher
English (joint)Dennis J Paterson Prize for
Dux of Form 5 (joint)

Alex Smith

Tom Durrheim Prize for Essay
Writing in Forms 4 - 6Sandy Wardlaw Memorial
Trophy and Prize for Higher
Chemistry (joint)J B Meiklejohn Prize for Higher
Mathematics (joint)Christopher and Philip Daft Prize
for Higher Physics (joint)G H Philip Prize for Public
Speaking in Forms 4 - 6Prize for Higher Computing Science
Dennis J Paterson Prize and Trophy
for the Best Individual Speaker in
the Inter House DebateBeckingham Trophy and Chess Club
Prize in Forms 4 - 6Dennis J Paterson Prize for
Dux of Form 5 (joint)

Ivan Kapelyukh

Form 6

Leaver Award

Gonzalo Alessi-Cuenda

Lachlan Andrews

Max Annandale

Samuel Barnett

William Barton

Fraser Binnie

Maria Borodkina

Andy Boyle

Benjamin Braid

Rachael Chalmers

Colette Colman

James Cosgrove

Paolo Crowe

Anna Currie

Rachel Dashwood

Lucy Drummie

Stuart Duncan

Andrew Elliott

Sibelius Erskine-Smith

Robyn Gibson

Archie Grieve

Qasim Habib

Rebecca Handy

Thomas Hayes

Filip Jovanovic

Lucy Karczewska

Paige Lawrie

Anna Lockley

Olivia MacAlpine

Matthew Macaulay

Alexander Mackay

Louise McFadden

Collette Minns

Anisah Mohammed

Nathan Moorjani

Rebecca Morrison

Finley Muir

Rachel Murie

Arya Nair

Fingal Oswald

Jenny Overend

Claudia Paduano

Malgorzata Pyrek

Nick Ramsay

Charlotte Riley

Emma Robson

Adam Shimi

Emily Stubbs

Jack Tong

Marcus Wadland

Freddie Waller

Cara Walsh

Lewis Wilson

Harriet Wood

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Anderson Prize for Investigation at Advanced Higher Biology Form 6 Leaver Award Fariad Akbar | Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Rachel McGarrity | J Torrington Bell Prize for Dux in Art Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Claire Mather | Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies Sir John Leng Trust Prize for Dux in History |
| P Gordon Grant Trophy for Games Form 6 Leaver Award Rehan Baig | Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Blair McKay | Baker Trade of Dundee Prize Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Euan Robb | Tie for International Recognition (Debating) Cambridge Gavel for Contribution to Debating Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Ciara Mitchell |
| Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Girl Form 6 Leaver Award Taskeen Bailwal | Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Laura Meiklejohn | Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics (joint) Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Zhenteng Shen | The Rorie Trophy for Inter House Debating Airlie |
| Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Sally Burnett | Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Eilidh Reynolds | Larg Prize for Voice Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Eden Miller | Inter House Shield for Champion House Aystree |
| James Smart Prize for Investigation at Advanced Higher Chemistry Form 6 Leaver Award Annie Caldwell | W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computing Science Form 6 Leaver Award Megan Ross | Larg Prize for Piano Dott Prize for Dux in Music High School Quaich for the Best all-round Instrumentalist Form 6 Leaver Award Eleanor Scott | Lowson Prize for Head of School (Girls) Emma Duncan |
| Spankie Quaich for Higher Engineering Science Form 6 Leaver Award Liam Campbell | Larg Prize for Brass Form 6 Leaver Award Christie Swinton | Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French Dux in Spanish Eiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Modern Languages Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Pippa Henderson | Erskine Prize for Head of School (Boys) Nathan Moorjani |
| Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in German Form 6 Leaver Award Miranda Cook | Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Amelia Townsend | Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology Frank Young Prize for Dux in Natural Science W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Anushka Pathak | Rector's Prize for Proxime Accessit Anushka Pathak |
| William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (English) Form 6 Leaver Award Robin Davidson | Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography Form 6 Leaver Award Victoria Vitale | T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education - Girls (joint) Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship Form 6 Leaver Award Emma Duncan | Harris Gold Medal and David Gray Book Prize for Dux of School Ciara Mitchell |
| D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarship Form 6 Leaver Award Rory Forster | Alan Hall Prize for Dux in Engineering Science Form 6 Leaver Award Iain Wallace | | |
| Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award David Hill | Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport Form 6 Leaver Award Graham Watson | | |
| Prize for Higher RMPS Form 6 Leaver Award Eilidh Hill | Prize for Higher Graphic Communication Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Be-Niaz Ahmed | | |
| Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Christopher Keatch | Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education (joint) Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Form 6 Leaver Award Eve Cowan | | |
| William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics Form 6 Leaver Award Scott Macandrew | Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Dux in Physical Education (Boys) Games Merit Scarf (Rugby) Form 6 Leaver Award Ewan Fox | | |
| Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics (joint) Form 6 Leaver Award Kenny Matheson | Larg Prize for Percussion Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School Form 6 Leaver Award Allan Hamilton | | |
| William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (History) Form 6 Leaver Award Susie McAdam | Rector's Prize for Deputy Head Boy Prize for Higher Physical Education Form 6 Leaver Award Grant Harley | | |

Prize list 2016

Welcome

Session 2015-16 has seen a number of changes of staff in all areas of the School's life. We have attempted to record as many as possible under the headings of Welcome, Farewell and Hatches and Matches and we offer our very best wishes to all concerned.



Alex McGrory, Head of Admissions

A former pupil of the High School of Dundee, Alex graduated from Dundee University with a BSc in Town & Regional Planning and pursued her Planning career for over 10 years in Aberdeen. Part of her remit included promotion of the local transportation strategy, which led to her gaining a Diploma in Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations and a switch in her career path. Since her Aberdeen days, Alex has lived in Dubai, Australia and latterly Hong Kong before returning to her roots. She has a love of glass fusion art and enjoys running.



Allan Wilson

Allan Wilson joined the Computing department in October 2015. He has been a teacher of Computing for over 10 years, previously working at Glenwood High School, Webster's High School then more recently, Monifieth High School. Outside of school Allan is a keen hill runner where he indulges in his other passion of landscape photography.



Andrew Downie

Andrew joins the High School as the APT Guidance for Airlie, and as a member of the Chemistry department. Having graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Andrew joined Teach First and spent six years teaching Science in two challenging London schools, where he was also a Deputy Head of House. He then taught Chemistry for four years at Albyn School in Aberdeen, where he led an overseas expedition to southern Africa and was heavily involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Andrew loves being outdoors, particularly scaling the Munros, running and cycling. His wife Jo teaches in our Learning Skills department, and they have a one-year-old son called Lewis.



Carolyn McDonald

Born and bred in 'bonnie' Dundee, Carolyn graduated from the Northern College of Education and took up her first teaching post in the city. Her next job took her over the border to England and then further afield to the UAE. On returning to Scotland Carolyn spent six happy years in the Junior School here at HSD before being lured overseas once more, this time to the sunny climes of Qatar. Delighted to be back in the fold after an absence of ten years, Carolyn is thrilled to be part of the Learning Skills Department.



Chris Allan

A native of the Scottish Borders, Chris started his teaching career in Aberdeen after graduating from the University of Edinburgh. Four years at Albyn School were followed by five years at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. He is now well established in the Guidance and Physical Education departments, and is an enthusiastic participant in the High School's tennis and rugby programmes. His photo shows him holding the Rabbo Pro 12 trophy when it visited School last year.

Chris spent 14 seasons playing with Aberdeen Rugby before retiring last year. He has a love of travelling, cookery and DIY and enjoys spending his spare time with his young family.



David Wilton

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and moving to Forfar at a young age, David graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and started his career in Glasgow teaching bagpipes at The National Piping Centre. Having competed at the very highest level in his field, he is considered one of the best pipers in the world. He also has 7 World Highland Dancing Championship titles to his name! Now well established in the Music Department, he is the new Pipe Major of the High School Pipe Band. Outside of work David runs his own competitive Pipe Band, Lomond and Clyde, and gained a 3rd place at the 2016 World Championships.



Diane Wedderburn

Bienvenue / ¡Bienvenida!
With us in Modern Languages since August 2015 is Mrs Diane Wedderburn, who teaches French and German. Diane joined us from Waid Academy, following her successful year as a probationer teacher. Diane has quickly become involved in the life of the High School, as part of the girls' choir, a keen tennis player and a star of the German play 'Goldlöckchen'. We are delighted to welcome Diane to the school and wish her a long and happy career here.



Ellie Ashton

A native of Buckfastleigh, Devon and a graduate of Lancaster University, Ellie started her career teaching English in London at Greenshaw High School. She was frequently found supporting co-curricular Drama, including co-directing A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Ellie is now well established in our Drama department, and is looking forward to staging her first play with F2 and 3 later this year.

Ellie enjoys singing, reading and visiting the theatre. She has spent much of the last year exploring Scotland by foot, and wishing she had done so sooner! She plans to visit the Isle of Skye in the near future and to continue exploring further-flung parts of the world.



Emily Collins-McIntyre

Emily joined HSD just after the October holiday replacing Anne Oliver who retired at that time. Emily, originally from Cambridge, studied Maths and Physics at the University of Warwick later completing her PGCE at Oxford University. Her first teaching post was at Wood Green School in Oxfordshire where she spent 3 years teaching maths. Her first experience of Scotland was in May 2014 when she climbed Ben Nevis. Emily moved to St Andrews with her husband Liam in the summer of 2015 joining the staff at HSD soon after.

Welcome



Emily Robinson

A native of North Yorkshire, Emily graduated with a Masters in Chemistry from Edinburgh University and followed this by completing a PhD studying catalysis at St Andrews University. She has now begun her career teaching Chemistry at the High School of Dundee, where she is an enthusiastic participant in co-curricular activities including coaching the Top of the Bench team and playing her flute in the Symphony Orchestra. Outside of work she has a love of arts and crafts, including sewing and making lace.

Fiona Trotter

Fiona joined the Junior Years teaching staff full time as a L7 form teacher in August 2015. She was already a well-known face, having taught various year groups within the junior department as a supply teacher. Originally hailing from Middlesex, Fiona has taught in primary schools across London as well as in Scotland. She is married to Alan and has a young son Ross.



Heather Yellowley

Bienvenue / ¡Bienvenida!
Another welcome recruit in Modern Languages is Mrs Heather Yellowley, teaching French and Spanish, who joins us from Morrison's Academy in Crieff. Heather joined us in January 2016 and had to, by her own admission, 'hit the ground running'. This she has done with considerable success, finding the time not only to get to grips with new classes and courses half way through the academic year, but also to become involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and this year's hugely successful production of 'Les Misérables'. We wish Heather a long and happy career in the High School.



Helen Brian

Originally a Fifer and an FP of the school, Helen graduated from the University of Aberdeen and started her teaching career in Aberdeenshire at Alehousewells PS. After four years at the International School of Lyon in France, she spent a year in Norway teaching Grade 5 at the International school of Stavanger. Now in her second year at the High School, Helen is well established in the Junior Years department, and is enthusiastically assisting the production of this year's Primary Musical.

Outside of work, Helen is very active, regularly keeping fit at the gym and running round the city's parks. She also has a love for music and has recently become a member of a Dundee soul choir. A keen traveller, she enjoys visiting friends in far-off places.



Jamie Smith

Brought up in London and Glasgow, Jamie completed his probationer year at Lenzie Academy, followed by a year at Notre Dame High School in Glasgow. He is enjoying teaching History and Modern Studies up to Advanced Higher level at the High School of Dundee, where he has joined the Charities Committee and is offering a senior enrichment class in Czech language and culture.

Jamie previously worked for several years in London as a broadcast journalist for ITV and Channel 4 News. He has also carved a living from playing Scottish and Irish folk music, both teaching and touring the UK and Europe with a number of bands.



Karlene Douglas

Karlene is a native of Forfar and continues to live there and commute into school. She studied History and Politics at the University of Dundee and has a keen interest in social history; she is keen to include social and oral history in her lessons where possible. After placements at Forfar Academy, Montrose Academy and Menzieshill High School, Karlene qualified as a teacher from the University of Aberdeen and is now an enthusiastic member of our History and Modern Studies departments. Outside of school she enjoys spending time planning trips, visits and holidays; this year she has visited Hong Kong, Dubai, Italy and Croatia.



Jasmine Cortazzi

Ms Cortazzi, our new Head of English, joins us following the retirement of Mrs Jane Phillips. A real fan of High School of Dundee, she first worked in the English Department from January -June, 2014, an experience she loved. Previously, she worked at St Leonards and had also worked at Madras College as Head of Department. Prior to moving to Scotland, she lived in Cambridge, where she was A Level Programme Manager at an international school.

With a genuine interest on other cultures and countries, she used to live in the Middle East, which gave her a chance to read some Arabic Literature and travel to Oman to climb mountains and camp- in a warm climate! Other passions include studying, she read for a MA in Educational Leadership at Nottingham, gaining a Distinction, and since then has been engaged in studying Youth and Adult Counselling. Studying aside, she enjoys organising theatre and writer visits, as well as all types of dancing.



Robyn Stewart

A native of Dundee, Robyn has just started her teaching career here with us at the High School of Dundee, after graduating from the University of Aberdeen. Being a former pupil, Robyn is no stranger to the School, and is excited to be returning to the L1 classroom where she started her education. She is now well established within the Junior Years, and is an enthusiastic participant in co-curricular activities. Outside of work, Robyn is a keen baker and has a passion for photography.



Louise Baxter

Louise joined us from Kilgraston School in August 2015 as an APT Guidance and teacher of PE. She has been an excellent addition to the department, bringing with her the experience of representing Scotland 114 times at hockey. She also possesses the excellent organisational skills required to run the PE staff monthly bonus ball draw! She is currently on maternity leave; baby Poppy arrived in August and is teaming up with big sister Lily to keep Louise on her toes! We look forward to Louise's return next year and wish her a long and successful career at the High School of Dundee.

Farewell



Tatiana Mann

Originally from Belarus, Tatiana settled in Dundee with her family in 2010. She previously graduated from the Belarus State University of Informatics and Radio Electronics with a Master's degree in Electronic Engineering, and thereafter completed her PhD in gas technology.

Tatiana was employed for 5 years with Dundee City Council as an interpreter within the educational support services prior to taking up the post of science technician at the High School of Dundee.

Away from the soldering iron, Tatiana is a keen machine knitter and crafter.



Yunchao Murdoch

Yunchao Murdoch has joined the High School of Dundee as our first Mandarin teacher. Originally from China, she came to Scotland 10 years ago to study for a Masters degree in Globalisation. During her PGDE course at Moray House last year, she undertook teaching placements at Perth and Carnoustie High Schools. Her hobbies include Chinese and Thai cooking and spending days out with her husband, David and her two young children.

Andrew Heron

Andrew Heron joined the History and Modern Studies department throughout the spring term on a temporary maternity cover position. Having recently returned to his homeland from a teaching post in Dubai, he quickly adapted to the Scottish education system, involving himself widely in the life of the school and displaying particular enthusiasm on the football field on a Friday afternoon.

We thank Mr Heron for his commitment to History and Modern Studies during his short time with us and wish him well in his new post in Stirlingshire.



Anne Spalding

Anne has dedicated eleven years to the High School and its Pipe Band. She is an outstanding prize-winning piper herself and has brought to the school her exceptional experience in playing with world-class pipe bands, turning our own Pipe Band in to the fine ensemble that it is. She has taken the pipe band to many competitions over the years and they have won many prizes under her expert guidance, including most recently the section-winning prize at the Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Competition in 2014. We, of course, have a chance to witness these high standards several times a year at events such as the Armistice Parade, Sports Day and Prizegiving. Her exacting standards as a teacher and band leader have won her many dedicated and admiring pupils, and they will miss her sorely as she chooses to retire. Our very best wishes go with her for the years to come.



Gillian Craig

Former pupil Gillian, a graduate of Royal Holloway, University of London, spent six months as Secretary to the Office of Development before deciding to pursue a teaching career and setting off to undertake her PGDE at the University of Warwick. She is always fondly remembered for her irrepressible smile and her wonderful singing voice and we wish her all the very best as she moves forward.



Gayle Spinks

This year the Chemistry department bade farewell, after 9 years of service, to Mrs Gayle Spinks. An excellent classroom teacher of Chemistry at all levels, Gayle showed particular expertise and care when guiding Form 6 pupils through their Advanced Higher Chemistry projects. She also guided the Top of the Bench quiz team to many successes, including a national final in 2014.

She also spent many weekends helping out on Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, sharing her love of the outdoors. Outside of school she is a keen snowboarder and helps to organise the RSPB Children's Club in her local area.

Her leadership of the Charities Committee for 6 years saw the school raise around £190,000 in that time for numerous local, national and international charities. Annual events such as the Christmas Fair and Sparkle Day, along with one-off events like the entire school's ascent of Dundee Law for Remembrance Day, Red Nose ceilidhs, and her appearance as a Spice Girl represent Gayle's commitment to the school's charity work, her brilliant organisational skills and willingness to throw herself into her events.

We wish her the very best of luck as she leaves us to teach Chemistry at Blairgowrie High School and enjoy a pedestrian commute.



Jason McAuley

Jason arrived ten years ago as a temporary Visiting Music Instructor on maternity cover, but his skills and excellent rapport with pupils and staff were such that after a very short time he found himself in a full-time position as the High School's brass teacher. Under his expert eye, during his time here the quality of brass playing has improved enormously. He has devoted much effort to making special compositions and arrangements of music from the Renaissance to the latest pop stars such as Meghan Trainor, not just for brass, but also for wind band and strings. He is not afraid to express his opinion - especially about saxophones! - but he is also highly dedicated to his pupils, all of whom admire his legendary performing skills on all brass instruments known to man as well as his warm teaching style. Jason describes the post he is leaving as "the best brass teaching job in Scotland", but it is very much down to what he has made of it himself that this is so. He leaves us, with a tinge of regret, to take up the post of Director of Music at Kilgraston, which has the advantage of being only seven minutes' drive from his home, and we wish him, his wife Emma, and their six children all the best.

Farewell



Liz Batchelor

It has been after much consideration that Liz has decided to leave her post at the High School of Dundee. "Miss Lacey" joined the school in 1986 aged 21, straight out of what was then Dundee College of Education after completing her B.Ed.

The Junior Years were then housed in the Main Building and pupils sat at individual, sloping wooden desks and curtseyed and saluted the teachers each morning. Liz vividly remembers meeting a pupil in the Olympia Swimming Pool one weekend and people watching in amusement as she dropped a flamboyant curtsey to her teacher as she walked past in her swimsuit! In her probationary years, Liz was lucky to be mentored by Miss Edith Nicoll, who supported and taught her so much. Liz married Guthrie in 1990, becoming Mrs Batchelor and taught L5 and L6 for 7 years before taking several years break to have daughters Grace and Ruth, both former pupils. After working in supply posts both at the High School and in local schools, Liz has spent the last 5 years job-sharing in LS which has always been an area of interest. Liz has also contributed to the co-curricular life of the school, from being "Tawny Owl" of the School Brownie Pack in the early days, to being The F.A.B. Controller of F.A.B. Club (Fun and Beyond) which she established as a sociable, fun time for pupils who attend LS to enjoy art and craft time together and to help them get to know and support each other throughout their time at the School.

Liz considers herself very fortunate to have spent the majority of her teaching career here working with wonderful colleagues in the Junior Years and so many memorable pupils. Liz will be greatly missed by staff, and pupils. She is looking forward to spending more time travelling abroad with her husband and spending time with family and in her garden.



Judy Hutchison

Judy Hutchison started her association with the High School as a new pupil to Form 1 in 1966. (By all accounts a memorable year group - including Fiona Cram and Val Vannet.) Her contribution to school life for over thirty-two years has been immense and she is truly loyal to HSD. During this time she has worked in the PE Department, the Guidance team, and for the last year, took on a part-time role in Learning Skills. In each job she demonstrated a caring and committed approach to the pupils and school.

Having trained as a PE teacher at Dunfermline College of Education in Edinburgh, Judy returned to Dundee in 1975 to teach in a local school and married Sandy 'Hutch' the year later. She took some time out of teaching to raise their children, Drew and Laura, but was persuaded to help out for a few hours a week at Senior Games with duties such as supervising pupils at the public pool. Her role within the PE department grew to a part-time position in 1984 with responsibility for netball and hockey teams, and also athletics. Lunch hours in the summer were happily spent at Mayfield sunbathing on the crash mats with the other four members of the department whilst considering pupil reports; end of year reports still demanded some deliberation in these days - G+ or VG? Then in 1995 she was offered full time work and was later to move to her present role as APT Guidance for Airlie. As the guidance remit grew so did Judy's ability to manage the workload and assist pupils through her knowledge, interest and commitment to their wellbeing. No doubt starting her working day at 7am helps her to keep on top of the job! The large number of cards and thanks that Judy receives each year is testament to her great work and Airlie pupils will remember her as a teacher who was always willing 'to go the extra mile'. This last year has seen Judy switch from PE to Learning Skills and combine this with her Guidance job. However, she did maintain her connection with PE as L7 hockey coach plus umpiring matches at the weekends.

Working as a Guidance teacher at HSD is very much a team effort and Judy has been sensitive to the needs of the pupils and also the staff. She is someone who can be relied upon to help us through hard times and then check up on us when others have moved on with their lives. She is a kind and thoughtful teacher who will be greatly missed by pupils and her colleagues for her humour, advice and support.

Throughout her entire career Judy has been involved in the wider life of the school. The school CCF has benefitted from her involvement in the cadet camps. Always keen to volunteer to help out at school events, she often supervises pupils at other departments' events and she has also helped run numerous school trips. Most recently her many skills came to the fore during our fantastic sports tour to South Africa. She acted as hockey coach, first-aider, umpire, and enthusiastic pitch side supporter. But the role she was destined to play was Judge (Judy) and penalties were deliberated with due consideration and then delivered with sharp wit and a fixed glare over the top of her glasses. There was no escape for pupils, or staff.

Judy, from the High School and generations of pupils and parents, thanks for thirty-two years of service, and from all of us, thanks for your friendship. We wish you a long and happy retirement enjoying time with your family and friends.

You deserve it.



Lynsey Smith

Au revoir / ¡Hasta luego!

The School was very sorry to lose Mrs Lynsey Smith from the Modern Languages department in October 2015 after almost ten years of employment. Loved and respected by colleagues and pupils, Lynsey's personal circumstances have dictated a move to Edinburgh, where she has a new job at George Heriot's school. We wish Lynsey, husband Wayne and two daughters, Mia and Lily, all the very best as they embark on this new stage in their life.

Maureen Morrison

Maureen has worked at HSD for 14 years. As the 'afternoon' Medical Assistant she has helped care for thousands of HSD pupils, administering care, tea, and plasters, not to mention nail varnish remover and the odd razor towards the end of session for our more hirsute pupils!!

She has provided medical assistance at many school events, including Armistice and various induction days. Maureen has always maintained a no-nonsense approach and being both a mother and a grandmother means that she is no stranger to the issues that affect our young people at each stage.

She leaves us to be able to devote more time to being a bank nurse for NHS. This gives her a greater variety of challenges and more flexible working hours. Our very best wishes go with her!



Sheila Kelly

Sheila has worked at HSD for five years, principally as an after-school care assistant but also helping in the Library. However she was known to us long before that as the mum of Andrew, Sophie and Lucie (with Martin still to come). She and her husband John are huge supporters of the School; they attend all school events and are devoted to their children's education and supporting their talents.

Sheila is a highly-experienced primary teacher in her own right and HSD has been very lucky that she has brought all her teaching talents to our after-school care. She has decided to step back from the late hours of after-school care to spend more time with her family and is now teaching music in the mornings to children at Kingspark School.

Our very best wishes go with her and we hope that we will welcome her back very often to school events!

Niall Christie

Niall was appointed as a Science Technician at the High School of Dundee in June 2015, on the day he graduated from the University of Dundee with a BSc (Hons) in Physics. Able to apply his knowledge of both practical and theoretical Physics, Niall quickly established himself as a confident and valued member of the team, assisting staff in the preparation of resources for lessons and supporting Advanced Higher Physics pupils in their project work.

Outside school Niall is an active member of the community in Dundee; he is a Boys Brigade leader, he writes a blog on indie music, and the science department has learned that his mum is an excellent baker of cakes!

Niall has decided to change his career path and has been accepted to study a Masters Degree in Multimedia Journalism at Glasgow Caledonian University, starting in September. Despite his short time at the High School, Niall has created a great impression. He will be missed and we wish him well in his new career.

Scott Ackroyd

Scott joined us as Chartwells' executive chef 3 years ago and has charmed himself into our affections, responding to all the expectations that we had of gourmet catering. From the everyday service to pupils, via hosting guest events in the Rector's office to high-profile development events on a large scale, he has not been fazed by the considerable difficulty of running a dining hall and catering base that is off the main campus.

Scott takes all demands in his stride, coping with many last minute requests, and his can-do attitude has transformed catering and hospitality at HSD in a very short time. He leaves us to start an exciting new restaurant at Prestonfield Golf Club - which will be a shorter commute! Our very best wishes go with him.

Vicki Bunce

A local lass, Vicki brought with her to the School many years of experience playing hockey at the highest level. She has achieved a huge amount in her career, representing Scotland at three Commonwealth Games and also achieving full Great Britain caps. Her bubbly personality and fantastic sense of humour allowed her to fit in well in the department and she was an immediate hit with the pupils on the hockey pitch. Vicki was instrumental in moving hockey forward within the school, using her experiences and coaching techniques to push her pupils to reach their full potential. She was also a model performer during any staff vs pupil challenges; whether indoor hockey or playing dodgeball, her competitive spirit and never-say-die attitude meant that the staff never lost! She has left us to take up a job with the Scottish Institute of Sport in Edinburgh and we wish her all the best for the future.



Trish Hourd

Trish Hourd has worked at the High School of Dundee for thirty-four years, having been first enrolled there as a pupil, aged eleven until finishing F6 and going to Edinburgh University. With a B.Sc. degree, she took her teaching qualification in Dundee and joined the Junior School in 1982, after her first post at another Dundee primary school.

Teaching first in L5, Trish adapted to HSD and finished a two-year, part-time qualification, specialising in the Primary Upper Stages. She moved to teach L7 and continued at that stage for nearly 20 years, seeing many changes and the Junior School becoming unified in a single building, under one Head in 1994. Teaching L7 led her to look for better continuity between different stages in the school. She was appointed APT in 1997 with the remit of extending liaison and transition while retaining her full-time teaching role with L7.

While at High School, Trish played a part in the co-curriculum, helping with concerts, Sports Days, school trips to York, Paris and Dalguise, L4-5 Choir and several other groups and activities. She especially enjoyed the Junior Years musical shows, where she devised some of the choreography, reflecting her great love of dance; the 2015 'Joseph' was her eleventh show. In the 80s and 90s, she led a Scripture Union group in the Junior School for several years and worked with HSD's Girl Guide Company for nine years, with its annual, week-long camp under canvas. Some of these activities led to wider involvement with the Guide Association locally and membership of an Advisory Committee at Grampian Television.

From 2003, Trish was involved in curriculum development with a greater overview of all Junior stages and progression into the Senior curriculum. She taught classes and groups from L2 to L7 and was designated Principal Teacher in 2007. Trish kept up with the rapid changes and new initiatives in teaching and learning by studying, part-time, for a MEd degree, which was awarded in 2011. She leaves with mixed feelings, having had a long association with HSD and its outstanding pupils and staff but looks forward to the freedom to pursue other interests.

Trish's wealth of experience and sense of continuity she brought to the Junior Years will be missed by both staff and pupils.



Tom Guild

As a fresh-faced, newly-qualified teacher, Tom Guild started his Physics teaching career in the High School in 1983.

Tom has seen many changes in the years since. There have been at least 3 major alterations to the curriculum, yet Tom has stayed committed to developing his knowledge of the subject and open to coming to terms with and mastering new approaches. He has seen the introduction firstly of computers to Physics education and, subsequently, iPads - technology which he has embraced more confidently than many of his younger colleagues. Tom has worked with 3 Rectors, 4 Heads of Department (as well as having a spell as Head of Department himself) and, by his calculation, 41 colleagues across the Science departments. He has worked in the school for 33 years; he prefers the statistic of 99 terms. Tom remembers his first day clearly; his first Head of Department, Nigel "Pongo" Stewart took him for coffee at morning interval and told him he was allowed two digestive biscuits. Despite all the changes that he has seen, the digestive biscuits have been a constant; two-a-day for 33 years. Tom reckons he has consumed over 10,000 in his time at the High School of Dundee.

Tom has been a rock to the department throughout his career. He has always provided a calm, secure voice of reason. Without fluster or fuss, he just gets on with things. To his current colleagues he has been a pillar of support, sharing both his clear and detailed knowledge and his vast experience of how to help pupils to learn and understand Physics.

Still fresh-faced after 33 years' service to the High School, and with a waistline that doesn't betray his 10,000+ digestives, Tom has decided it is time for him to retire. He will devote his time to his existing interests, including hill-walking and cycling, as well as discovering new and exciting hobbies.

Tom has been universally respected by pupils and colleagues alike and will be missed by all of us.

Sandra Campbell

29 years of loyal service with a smile! Sandra has weathered many a catering storm over the years, from a time when there was a separate staff dining room within the dining hall - with table service and subsidised 3-course lunches at £1.20! - to Chartwells' leading 'dinner lady'. Sandra has never shied away from taking on a new and demanding challenge and she has stayed to see something of a revolution within HSD dining, leaving it in a very good position to go from strength to strength.

Colleagues and pupils hold Sandra in exceptionally high regard and our very best wishes go with her as she enjoys a very well earned retirement.

Hatches and Matches

The staff email was this session the bearer of a number of good news items as various happy events were shared by colleagues.



Births

- These kicked off in impressive fashion in September 2015 when Susan, wife of Head of Rugby Phil Godman, gave birth to twins Olivia Lynne (4lbs 15oz) and Georgia Catherine (5lbs 10oz).
- The following month PE teacher Graeme Merry and his wife Philly welcomed Brodie Robert (6lb 1oz), and in December Ryan Welsh (Modern Studies and Guidance) and his wife Tricia had the pleasure of naming their third daughter Charlotte Catherine (7lb 14oz).
- On 1st January Head of PE Ewan Jack and History teacher Lucy Hegan celebrated the New Year in style when Rory Hugh was born, weighing in at 9lb 1oz.
- At the end of March, English teacher Duncan Campbell and his wife Lynsey were captivated by the birth of Iona Laura Catherine (7lb 11oz), and two months later Aurora Mia, weighing 9 lb 11oz, brought joy to Guidance and PE teacher Chris Allan and his wife Hannah.
- Six days later Kirstie McKie of History and her husband Gavin celebrated the arrival of Mirren Joyce Hawe (5lb 15oz). Louise Baxter (PE and Guidance) had joined the staff for the in-service meeting as we re-opened in August, but within a week Poppy Christine Lyall (6lb 7oz) provided a happy surprise for her parents and big sister Lily by appearing slightly ahead of schedule.
- And finally there arrived Thomas Hunter Anderson, weighing 7lb 9oz, to the delight of Head of Hockey Linda Clement and her husband Chris.

Marriages



In July, Librarian Iona McFarlane married Jamie Smith, and Craig Melia of History and Modern Studies married his fiancée Lucy.

And just before we returned to school in August, Andrea Douglas of the Art Department became the second Mrs Ross on the staff, when she married Rod, who just happens to be Mrs Lesley Ross's brother-in-law.

We wish all of these colleagues and their partners much joy and happiness as they embark on their various adventures through the next stages of life. Nappies rule OK?

July Summer Expeditions

South Africa

In July 2015, 88 intrepid F4–F6 sportsmen and sportswomen made the long journey to South Africa for an unforgettable two-week tour featuring sports matches against local sides and visits to some of the country's famous attractions.

On the sports front, rugby, hockey and netball fixtures in Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Tsitsikamma and Cape Town, gave the respective teams the invaluable chance to test their mettle against a range of opponents within a completely new environment. And the pupils made the most of the experience, earning a number of hard-

fought victories and, perhaps just as importantly, embracing the welcoming hospitality of the host teams.

Away from the sporting arena, the travelling party also learned more about South Africa, its history and its culture as they visited the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, took an eye-opening tour of Robben Island, and enjoyed trips to the iconic Table Mountain and some of the country's majestic natural sights.

In addition, in an undoubted highlight of the trip, the pupils were lucky enough to experience thrilling close, yet safe, encounters with wildlife including lions, giraffes, rhinos, antelope, monkeys, zebras, impalas and elephants, when they spent time at the Kariega Game Reserve, Addo Elephant Park and Tsitsikamma

National Park. Proud of their culture, the pupils were delighted to be able to share some Scottish dancing with the staff at Kariega by teaching them the Dashing White Sergeant in response to their renditions of traditional African songs!

The group also found time to fit in an exhilarating tree canopy tour and one final wildlife expedition, this time to a beach to get close to African penguins.

Head of PE, Ewan Jack, summarised the experience thus: "We were immersed in a sports-daft nation, competing well against talented and hospitable opponents and all the while surrounded by breath-taking scenery and wildlife. It really was the experience of a lifetime."



Pupils who took part in the trip share their thoughts and memories...

DAY 1

On the afternoon of the 21st July, 88 of us set off to Edinburgh airport to begin our South African adventure. Our trip began by topping up our pre-season training with a sprint through Heathrow airport to catch our flight- unfortunately we lost luggage in the process, including the girls' hockey sticks! The setback didn't dampen the squad's mood and we continued our journey to the High Performance Centre in Pretoria where we enjoyed lovely meals and had our first training session. Spirits are high as we look forward to our first matches and the trip ahead.



DAY 2

We had our first matches of the tour today; beginning the day with a hearty cooked breakfast before light training sessions in the sun to shake any pre-match nerves. Luckily, the girls' hockey sticks arrived just before we had to leave for the match. The squad made our way to Noordheuwel Hokkie to play our first hockey and rugby matches. Unfortunately, all of the teams suffered defeats with the boys losing 41-13 and 45-0 whilst the girls lost 4-0 and 9-0. We would have loved to start with wins but there was no doubting the South African spirit and the incredible atmosphere that they created- it will be hard to forget!



DAY 3

An early start on the bus to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg. We experienced the shocking and eye opening history of the country we are touring and were humbled by the struggle people had gone through. After our informative morning we returned to the HPC for a bite to eat before the whole tour party headed for the Pretoria High School for Girls, to play netball and hockey matches. Unfortunately we suffered two defeats but were encouraged by the performances. That evening we experienced our first tour court session and packed our bags for our 5:30am departure to Port Elizabeth.

DAY 4-6

After a short flight to Port Elizabeth, the squad boarded the buses and made our way to the Kariega Game Reserve. The reserve would be our home for the next few days where we were split into smaller groups and each of us were sent to different parts of the reserve. We all hoped we would be lucky enough to see lions, giraffes, hippos and the world's most famous rhino!

River Lodge: We were split from the rest of the pack and were sent on an hour long drive to River Lodge. When we arrived at our accommodation we were greeted with hot towels and iced tea then shown to our rooms- they were luxurious and most importantly had dressing gowns! Unfortunately the excitement of dressing gowns was too much for Graham and after an improvised session of Strictly Come Dancing he lay stricken on the floor with a dislocated knee. Graham was rushed to the hospital to be fixed up while the remainder of the group made our way out onto our first game drive. The drive was amazing- we saw lions, giraffes, rhinos and even better when we returned Graham was back! With our family reunited we sat down to our evening meal and enjoyed our luxury lodge.

Sibuya Lodge: After being split from the group we made our way to Sibuya Reserve where we spent the next couple of nights in eco tents. After our first night glamping we boarded the safari jeeps and set off on our first game drive. It was not long until we saw our first animals, and were snapping photos whilst gazing in amazement at the sights

just a few feet away. One afternoon we were lucky enough to canoe down the river on the reserve leading to an unforgettable time. Due to the lack of phone signal and Wi-Fi it allowed our small group to further bond over board games, ice bucket challenges and delicious South African food. Our walks to the tents at night were accompanied by lion sounding growls and eerie noises but the addition of hot water bottles waiting for us allowed us to forget our fears. We had an amazing experience whilst on the safari and it will definitely be remembered by all of us for a long time to come!

Main Lodge: After an early start and a 'pre-breakfast' snack we were all ready

made the most of the infinity pool – relaxing in the reasonably warm water while spotting monkeys and rhinos in the bush lands below. After our afternoon tea we were given blankets and hot water bottles before loading onto the jeeps to spot herds of zebras, giraffes and impalas. Following a delicious meal we were lucky enough to experience the staff singing and dancing to traditional African songs – we attempted to return the favour by teaching them the Dashing White Sergeant! This experience was magical and will definitely be a highlight of the trip.

Ukhozi Lodge: On arrival we were greeted warmly by Digby- the resident giraffe who roamed around the Lodges



for our second game drive- wrapped up in blankets with hot chocolate and muffins to keep us warm. We were lucky enough to see lions, giraffes, rhinos and antelopes before heading back for a huge buffet breakfast. In the spare time before our next game drive we all took a dip in the freezing cold pool and bonded over lunch before heading out to search for nocturnal animals. The experience at the safari was incredible and we all had a great time!

Settlers Drift: Our group felt unbelievably lucky when we were greeted with complimentary scented hand towels and drinks as we waited to be shown to our suites. The group

and was one of many amazing animals that we were lucky enough to see; including the world's most famous white rhino and her baby. On our return to the Lodge from our first game drive we received hot towels and hot chocolate to warm us up after the cold yet exhilarating couple of hours. We enjoyed our evening meal with our guide Victor where we learnt lots about the Game Reserve and South African culture. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at the Lodge and we will never forget it!

DAY 7

Today we started off the day with some pre match training- the boys practicing skills on the beach while the girls travelled to nearby pitches for a fitness and tactic session. After our morning sessions and a light lunch we were off to Linkside High School who were our opponents for the day. The matches were a huge success with the netball team winning their game 17-14 and both rugby teams winning comfortable with scores of 55-3 and 29-14. With spirits high in the squad we all celebrated our wins over dinner and a relaxed evening in the hotel.

DAY 8

We woke at 6am with high hopes for the day ahead where we went in search of elephants at the Addo Elephant Park. After a short drive we were in luck, finding lots of elephants and lions, making sure we got lots of photos to show back at home. The whole squad was excited and hoping for further success as we travelled to our fixtures at Alexandra Road High School. Unfortunately the hockey narrowly lost both fixtures but remained optimistic as the performances kept improving. On arrival back at the hotel we packed our bags ready for the morning journey to Tsitsikamma.

DAY 9

Today we made our way from Port Elizabeth to Tsitsikamma to take part in a tree canopy tour. On our way to the course we passed the highest bungee jump in the world and were all shocked at its vast height. We continued on our journey and arrived early allowing us to have some free time to explore the small village before setting out on our tree canopy tour. We got to go on 10 zip lines with the longest being 91 metres. We all learnt all about the local area and indigenous trees from our guides. We all had a great time and were delighted to see our accommodation so we could catch up on some much needed sleep before heading off on the next part of our journey in the morning.

DAY 10

First thing in the morning we travelled to the beautiful seaside town of Knysna where we spent the morning exploring the waterfront and looking around the shops. We enjoyed lunch with stunning views before travelling to Knysna High School for rugby, hockey and netball fixtures. We faced tough opposition during the games but the majority of the teams recorded victories, particular mention to the hockey squad for their first win on tour. The tour party completed our journey to George, where we would spend the night, in high spirits.

DAY 12

Today was our penultimate day and we drove to the bottom of Table Mountain. Unfortunately, we did not have time to climb it, yet the views from the bottom were mesmerising. We then took a trip to the stunning Camps Bay before travelling to our final fixtures at Stellenbosch High School. Despite losing our final fixtures the teams had improved hugely throughout the tour and were happy overall to do so well against tough opponents. We enjoyed a reception at the school afterwards where we had a chance to get to know our opponents and thank them for hosting us. We made our way back to the hotel for our final meal of the tour before having to pack up our bags as we are leaving in the morning.



DAY 11

Today we spent the morning at the Victoria and Alfred Wharf where the group got in some gift shopping and had a chance to relax. In the afternoon, we were lucky enough to go to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent 27 years of his life in jail. We were guided through the prison by an ex-convict allowing us to understand the suffering and hardships that the prisoners had to endure. The personal tales told by our guide allowed us to understand the pain that lies in South African history and how it has shaped the country today. After our eye opening tour we boarded the boats back and had dinner as a squad in the marina before heading back to the hotel.

DAY 13

We had an early start this morning as we are travelling home back to Scotland after an amazing couple of weeks. Before departing we managed one last outing to a beach to see amazing African penguins and where we held our tour awards ceremony over lunch to congratulate players who had excelled whilst away. Unfortunately, we then had to make our way to the airport before boarding our flights home. The whole squad had an incredible experience whilst we were away, with amazing food and challenging yet enjoyable matches to play - it is definitely a trip that we will all remember for a long time to come. We were greeted back at the school by excited parents who were glad that we managed to get back in one piece; eager to hear all of our exciting stories from the trip.

Iceland

In summer 2015 a group of 40 F3, F4 and F5 pupils travelled to Iceland to experience the legendary landscapes and geological phenomena of the land of fire and ice.

The young adventurers began their four-day Geography trip with a visit to a truly captivating natural wonder. At Þingvellir National Park, as well as observing the site where the oldest existing parliament in the world first assembled (in 930 AD), the pupils were able to witness continental drift and actually walk through it as they made their way along a canyon formed by the movement of the Eurasian and North American continental plates.

Highlights included watching the Great Geysir hurl water up to 70 metres into the air; visiting awe-inspiring waterfalls, such as the 32-metre Gullfoss Falls; stepping into the Visitor Centre at Eyjafjallajökull to learn more about the volcanic eruptions, which caused such disruption to air travel across Europe in 2010; and observing a corrie glacier and tarn.

The pupils also witnessed the amazing hexagonal basalt columns at the black beach of Reynishverfi; enjoyed a dip in one of the country's famed hot springs; and, as you do in Iceland, taking a bus journey through lava fields and past active volcanoes!

Head of Geography, Jenni Stewart, was awe-struck by the devastatingly beautiful, yet potentially destructive landscapes found in Iceland. Pupils too were impressed by the stunning and breath-taking views.



August

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Final - Rannoch



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Final - Great Glen



Dundee Young Baker

Ailsa Millar F2 last summer had the pleasure of meeting Greg Wallace at the Dundee Flower and Food Festival. She won the Dundee Baker of the Year 2015 at Dundee College. Creating a delicious ginger scone with rhubarb compote she beat off stiff competition from schools in Tayside. Ailsa received a trophy, £50 and tickets to the Flower and Food Festival .



Fabric/Craft Club F1 to F6



Pupils from F1-F6 now have the opportunity to learn new skills in working with textiles; the Health and Food Technology department offers a lunchtime craft club where pupils can develop their skills in sewing. The pupils have not only made an array of creative fabric items but also been introduced to new crafting opportunities such as card making and knitting, all of which develop pupils' manual dexterity and encourage creativity and enjoyment.

Edinburgh Fringe Festival Visit

A large group of L6 and L7 pupils went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the day. Our first stop was at a theatre to see a play called 'Shakespeare for Breakfast'. The play was about Hamlet the Prince of Denmark. His father had died because Hamlet's cunning uncle Claudius had poisoned him, and Hamlet tried to find out why. Before the play started, we were provided with croissants for breakfast, a lovely treat.

After the play we drove to the book festival. This was a place where you could buy books and see authors. At the Book Festival we listened to a talk by Ali Starks, the author of 'Car-Jacked'. Ali Starks read two chapters of Car-Jacked and it sounded great.

Lastly, we visited a theatre to see 'The Mystery of the Falcon's Malteser'. It was about a thirteen year-old boy and his brother who was a secret detective, and a mystery about a box of Maltesers. It was a good show and I liked the mystery. I thought it had been a fun and brilliant day, and I hope to return next year.

By Parisa Hossain-Ibrahim L6L

Nursery Kirriemuir visit

To start the nursery year, the children took a trip to Kirriemuir to visit the Peter Pan Park as part of their Pirate project. They explored the park, having great fun on the giant pirate ship.



Campaign 2015-20 launch



To mark the launch of the most ambitious capital campaign ever embarked upon by a UK independent school, which aims to redevelop Dundee's prominent former Head Post Office at Meadowside into a flagship, multi-million pound arts centre, the High School was transformed for an August afternoon into a carnival of colour, sound and celebration.

Waving flags, the School's 1025 primary and secondary pupils gathered in front of our iconic Pillars before being piped through a torch-lit processional display and across a glamorous red carpet to the Post Office building. There, the youngsters were given a tantalising glimpse of the inspiring future that lies ahead as they took part in a series of engaging activities and demonstrations by the departments which will be housed in the redeveloped facility.



As they toured the various themed areas, the pupils attended musical and dramatic performances by their peers, and contributed to the creation of a giant commemorative artwork of the school Pillars. Made up of over 1000 individual thumbprints, the canvas will be displayed in the lobby of the new building. The Health and Food Technology department displayed an array of creativity, serving Posh Popcorn with chilli chocolate and salted caramel flavours to all pupils and also



demonstrating skills from sushi to sugar craft work.

The School rescued the former Head Post Office, which dates from 1898 and which had previously lain unused for a number of years, in 2013. It plans sensitively to adapt and enhance the building to provide first-class learning and teaching facilities for Art, Drama, Music and Culinary Arts, as well as a



main school auditorium, a new dining hall and further administrative and social spaces for pupils and staff. The centre will also be available for wider community use and for conferences.

Earlier in the day, flanked by torch-bearing pupils and joined by guests and dignitaries, the Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, gave a speech in which he outlined his vision for the exciting project.



He said, "Creativity lies at the heart of all excellent education. This once-in-a-century development ensures our pupils will be able to develop an intellectual spirit of adventure, a sense of initiative and enterprise through learning and



teaching in the performing and visual arts for generations to come. It is also a true privilege for our School community to participate in the preservation and renewal of a treasured Dundee landmark."

In combination with a gala dinner at the Palace of Westminster in June, which was attended by actor Richard Wilson OBE, the day's events marked the beginning of a five-year drive to raise funds for the campaign.



Director of Development at the High School of Dundee, Oliver Jackson-Hutt, said, "Dundee is experiencing a cultural renaissance and it is fitting that its oldest school, founded in 1239, makes a strong positive contribution to this regeneration, inspiring the whole community and cultivating the leaders of tomorrow."

Work to tidy up and strip out the building has been completed, and the School is currently working with renowned architects Page\Park to finalise the plans and designs for the redevelopment.

A spokesperson for Page\Park said, "The acquisition by the School of the former Post Office building adjacent to

the main school complex has initiated a remarkable vision for an Arts complex, second to none in an academic context in the United Kingdom."

To find out more about the campaign and the project, or if you would like to donate to the campaign, please contact the School's Office of Development at the High School of Dundee, Euclid Crescent, Dundee, DD1 1HU. Tel: 01382 202 921. E-mail: development@highschoolofdundee.org.uk.

September

Arkwright Scholarship Technology Dept

Logan Thomson F5 was identified as a future leader in the world of engineering after picking up a highly sought-after scholarship. He is one of only 400 pupils from across the UK to have been selected to receive a 2015 Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, a prestigious award granted to the most talented STEM students in schools in order to inspire and nurture them in engineering and technical design.



Applicants have to demonstrate they possess the skills and potential to become leaders in the industry by progressing through a rigorous selection process involving an assessed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and a university-based interview.

More than 1500 pupils applied in 2015 and, having been successful, Logan receives £300 this year and next to help with his studies in STEM subjects. After being matched with the Reece Foundation, one of more than 200 sponsor organisations which support the scheme, he also benefits from enrichment activities such as mentoring and industry visits to enhance his experience of engineering in a real-world context.

Having attended the annual awards ceremony in Glasgow, Logan said, "I was surprised when I found out I'd got the award but I'm very happy and will try to make the most of it. I am interested in product design engineering or mechanical engineering as a potential career and I hope that the scholarship will help me to develop my knowledge and experience in these areas and more generally."

The scholarships, which are available to pupils in Forms 5 and 6 across the UK, are regarded as one of the most prestigious accolades that a sixth form student can receive.



Roddy Grant rugby coaching session

Edinburgh captain and Scotland 7s flanker Roddy Grant paid a visit to Mayfield to give a coaching session to pupils in L6-F1, before watching them in action in practice matches and then answering their questions on all things rugby related. He was invited along by Head of Rugby and Elite Sports Development, former Scotland internationalist Phil Godman.

Roddy commented on the level of skill, positivity and the determination shown by the boys, highlighting that "Dundee has been a real hotbed for rugby talent and a lot of great players have come out of the High School. I think rugby here is in safe hands, there was a lot of great coaching going on and I was really impressed by the set-up."

The special coaching session coincided with the first home matches of the School's senior XV's in the Scottish Rugby Union's new schools conference competition. To mark the historic occasion, the first XV were piped on to the pitch for their match against Glenalmond, and half-time entertainment was provided by pupils in L5-L7 taking part in mini rugby matches.

As well as having the chance to watch the School's rugby teams play their part in the biggest changes in Scottish schools rugby in a generation, parents attending all sports fixtures at Mayfield and Dalnacraig on a Saturday morning can now play their own part in a brand-new 'Touchline Club'. Aimed at enhancing the match-day experience and creating a real buzz to spur on the High School teams, the 'Club' serves bacon rolls and complimentary teas and coffees from the glass lounge or, if weather permits, outside, from 9.30am onwards on match days.

Lorraine Kelly's ceilidh

To kick-start Kelly's Ceilidh, an event which saw Lorraine Kelly dance her way around as many fund-raising ceilidhs across Scotland as possible in aid of this year's STV Children's Appeal, the TV star joined primary and secondary pupils at the School for a lively jig and an energetic reel!

Speaking after getting her challenge underway with the first of many Dashing White Sergeants and Strip the Willows, Lorraine said, "I'm absolutely delighted to kick it all off in Dundee. The High School of Dundee kids were amazing, they really threw themselves into it and I think they knew the steps better than me! It's going to be hard in the wee small hours but it's the energy of the people you meet that keeps you going. It's been a great way to get the challenge started and especially nice to do it in Dundee."

Performing a special Appeal dance along the way – Kelly's Kaper – and accompanied by her friend Maxine Jones, the host of ITV's Lorraine then departed to do-si-do her way around the country to Edinburgh on a 24-hour charity ceilidh challenge, with the goal of raising funds for children living in poverty across Scotland.



Nursery mud pies

The children had great fun in their mud kitchen making mud pies with all the natural materials in the nursery garden.



L2 Potato Planting

In June 2015, before they left L1, the boys and girls had planted potatoes as part of their upcoming L2 Food and Farming topic. Over the Summer holidays the potatoes enjoyed the Scottish weather and got plenty of sunshine and rain and they began to grow. On their return to school in August the children discovered that their potato plants were looking tall and green and bushy. One sunny September morning the children had great fun harvesting their potatoes. They then visited the Health and Food Technology Department to work with Mrs Ross in order to learn how to make potato salad. A yummy time was had by all!



L1 Harvest

I liked learning about harvest.
I saw pictures of tractors,
carrots, crops and fields.
It was good fun.

Rory Harrold - L1



L1 Construction Fun - Lachlan and Matthew

I liked making this model with Matthew. I was really pleased with it. I liked the red hearts.

Lachlan McKelvey - L1

We worked well together and we used lots of pieces. It is very colourful.

Matthew Gordon - L1



Loos centenary



In September the School commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Loos, the First World War conflict which had a devastating impact on the city of Dundee. An estimated 7000 Scottish soldiers lost their lives in the Western front battle, which began on September 25, 1915. The 4th Battalion of the Black Watch, known as Dundee's Own, had shrunk to 423 men by the beginning of the battle; only 180 survived the day. Of the 20 officers who led their men over the top, 19 were killed, among them eight High School former pupils.

To mark the centenary, special assemblies took place throughout a week in which pupils learned about the battle in France, and its devastating effects on the School and the wider community, from Head of History Gordon Fyall and History teacher Ryan Welsh.

The School's CCF drill team, and chamber choir Cantabile, took part in the televised National Battle of Loos Commemoration Parade and Service at City Square in Dundee in the presence of Prince Charles and the First Minister.

The Rector said, "Our school flag is flying with pride but also great sadness today and tomorrow as we remember the slaughter and sacrifice of the ghastly Battle of Loos. But alongside the bloodshed we also remember with pride the leadership, courage, and

integrity of the High School FPs who served in the Black Watch and led their men from the front, by example. During the war over 700 FPs served, and over 130 were killed. Many were awarded medals such as the Military Cross for gallantry."



In April, as part of a history expedition to the WW1 battlefields of France and Belgium, a group of F4-6 pupils visited the Pas de Calais Cemetery, the site of the battle, where they were able to find the names of some of the men immortalised on the School's own First World War memorial. This was one of a series of events organised by the School to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1.

Barcelona

Advanced Higher Geographers participated in Autumnal field work in the city of Barcelona and the surrounding environs in order to build upon and improve their field work skills. Themes included coastal management and change, tourism and urban regeneration. They were challenged to look at cities from an alternative point of view and carried out field work among the tourists in the coastal resort of Sitges.



Chris van der Kuyl talk



Chris van der Kuyl, chairman of 4J Studios – the company responsible for the hugely successful Minecraft video game – came in to talk to Form 2 about the future of technology and applications development generally.

Chris was also present to act as an Expert under the Apps for Good programme, seeking to bring the real world into the classroom as the pupils experienced the development of smartphone and web applications from concept to fully working prototype.

Under the programme, the pupils have to generate an idea for an application that can help to solve a problem, then produce mock-ups, and market, implement and present their idea, which could potentially then be put into full development and appear in the Google Play Store.

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L4 Visit to Loch Tay

In September, L4 visited the Scottish Crannog Centre at Loch Tay. In school, the children had been learning about the Celts, so the visit provided the ideal opportunity for the children to learn more about this Iron Age people in a hands-on way. Inside the roundhouse itself, they could see at first hand how historians and archaeologists have pieced together evidence to determine how they think the people of Loch Tay lived 2,500

years ago. The pupils also had the opportunity to watch and try out many of the methods and tools used during the Iron Age such as drilling, grinding flour and starting a fire. Finally, they visited the museum to look at primary evidence excavated from an underwater site two miles away from the site of the Crannog Centre.

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October

Nursery - Looking for conkers

The children went for walks around the local environment to find conkers to bring back to nursery. They then discovered that the squirrels had got to them first!



L3 Trip to Megginch Castle and Port Allen



L3 enjoyed a trip to Megginch Castle, which is situated between Perth and Dundee. This outdoor educational trip was organised in connection with the L3 Environmental Studies project about the River Tay.

The children enjoyed a variety of activities at Megginch Castle, including bee keeping and exploring the walled garden and the orchard.

A trip to Port Allen afterwards allowed the children to view the reed beds which are situated there.

Next year we are hoping for some sun.

L4 Gardening Club

With plenty of warmth and rain on the cards, this year's first group of Junior School gardeners set to work quickly to weed and re-plant for the new school session.



Emily MacDonald commented, "I enjoyed when we were out in the garden organising the different sections and basically getting the garden up and running again." Nasturtiums and poppies quickly filled the flower bed with colour and the shrubs in pots were joined by bedding plants to add extra colour and growth heading into autumn.

Indoors, we prepared our own eco-friendly mini pots, great for protecting baby roots. "I really enjoyed planting spider plants into newspaper pots that we had made," said Cameron Brown. Explaining about recycling, Amy Leburn said, "To make the bird feeders, we got an apple juice carton and cut four holes into it. We had to be careful to not make them too big or all the seed would fall out. It was really fiddly but great fun." Zoe Loveday added, "I loved making the bird feeders as it was hard work but it was a lot of fun trying to get the seed inside the feeder."

Quite right Zoe. Gardening is indeed 'Hard work, but fun trying!'



Our Dynamic Earth Trip

F2 pupils had a fantastic experience discovering our restless planet during the Geography field trip to Our Dynamic Earth at the end of October.

They took part in a workshop on natural disasters, where they built a hospital and mapped out a suitable location for it in San Francisco using Google Earth. Their main aim was to try and avoid areas of severe shaking and liquefaction in the event of an earthquake and build a structure which could withstand it.

The other aspect of their trip was a gallery tour where they enjoyed the updated exhibits which included riding a time machine, getting up close and personal with an erupting volcano, flying over glaciers and watching a 4D show on the world's biomes.



Primary and F1-F2 Rugby House Matches

Primary Rugby House Matches

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

F1-F2 Rugby House Matches

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



F1 and 2



Primary

Glowing official report for High School of Dundee Nursery

The Nursery, which opened its doors in August 2014, received a glowing report from the Care Inspectorate, earning the second highest possible rating in each of the four areas under review. The quality of care and support, the quality of environment, the quality of staffing and the quality of management and leadership were all graded 'very good'.

The inspectors added that 'Sensitive, caring and respectful staff interaction, healthy meals and snacks, quality resources and purpose-built accommodation supported every child to feel nurtured and to thrive. Children were engaged, motivated and excited about their play and learning experiences.' In addition, staff were found to be 'sensitive, caring and responsive, which gave children the confidence to communicate openly with staff and to feel secure as they tried new activities and learned from their experience.'

The report also noted that the experiences of the children were enhanced by teaching staff from the School coming in to provide specialist input on a regular basis, that parental involvement and feedback was valued and sought by nursery staff, and that the safety, health and achievement of children was central to the development and implementation of all plans within the Nursery.



As part of the inspection, a survey of the thoughts of parents was also carried out, with one commenting, "I cannot praise the service provided by High School of Dundee highly enough. I have

a happy child who loves going to nursery and is thriving in this caring, nurturing environment. The staff are wonderful and have built a strong relationship with my child, which gives me confidence and reassurance. An excellent facility."

Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said, "We've had a very busy first year and I cannot praise our amazing team enough for all of their hard work and dedication. They really have poured their hearts and souls into our new nursery and in to building relationships with our children and families."

The Rector observed that "It is well known that a child's early years are crucial for his or her development and we are committed to ensuring our nursery is dedicated to the highest standards of care and nurture. Developing children's intellectual curiosity and talents, firing their imagination and nurturing their physical and emotional wellbeing, is hugely exciting as well as being a significant moral responsibility, and this cannot begin early enough. I'm delighted that the Care Inspectorate has found that all areas of what we do are very good."

The High School of Dundee Nursery is located at the purpose-built, £1m Mary Lily Walker Building alongside the School's extensive sports facilities at Mayfield. Catering for up to 64 children, it is open from 7.30am – 6pm, 50 weeks of the year.

The full Care Inspectorate report can be viewed at: <http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/member-of-the-public>

Molecular Gastronomy Laboratory

Junior School pupils from L1-L6 entered a competition in the library for Harry Potter Week. The pupils had to create a picture of a chocolate frog, and then Librarian Iona MacFarlane selected 8 winners, who were given the opportunity to come to the HFT Department and create their very own Bertie Botts 'every flavour bean'.



The pupils were welcomed into the department and put into groups, using the sorting hat. There were 4 groups, Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Slytherin and Ravenclaw. The pupils then decided what cocktail of flavours they wished to make their jelly beans; these included apple, raspberry, cranberry, lime, pineapple and coffee.

Using Molecular Gastronomy and exploring science and food the pupils experimented with the use of agar agar. The agar powder was mixed with their flavours and heated in a pan. Using a pipette, they dripped the hot liquid into jars of cold oil which allowed for spherification to take place and created round jelly-like beans with different flavours. The pupils very much enjoyed this experiment and were delighted to take their container of Bertie Botts beans back to their classroom to allow their peers and teacher to taste.



November

L6 Heartstart

Five L6 pupils completed the eight-week Heartstart Emergency Life Support course, during which they learned a variety of skills including learning how to put a casualty into the recovery position, techniques to help if a casualty is bleeding and choking and how to recognise the signs of a heart attack. The course culminated in learning how to administer CPR. All the children showed a high level of dedication and maturity throughout the course and were mindful of the need to be confident and reassuring should they ever have to use these skills on real casualties.



The photo shows Hamish Will, Ollie Hall, Kirsty Bett, Heidi Dunbar and Naomi Sibson. The children were ably assisted by Anushka Pathak, Form 6.

L2 Farm Trip



On a misty November morning the boys and girls of L2 went to visit Newton of Arbirlot Farm. The children found out all about the different types of crops that were grown on the farm and learned that the same crop can't be sown in a field two years in a row. They also learned different products that these crops are made into once they are harvested, and encountered two huge piles of rape seeds and wheat and actually got to touch and feel these.

The pupils were shown lots of different types of farm equipment and were told that a combine harvester costs more than a small house, but only works for two months of the year! They particularly enjoyed seeing the cows at the farm and were able to see two calves that were less than a week old.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip and it was great to get first-hand experience of the sights, sounds and smells of a working farm.

L4 Science: Open Morning

A team of Trainee Scientists took part in lots of investigations on Open Morning this session. Amongst the activities were chromatography, using ©Skittles and ©Smarties, and coloured pens; 'Money Laundering' - cleaning dirty coins with vinegar and salt; creating 'Density Layers' with different concentrations of salt and sugar; making bread dough with different temperatures of water; designing a water clock, and making hovercrafts. The final activity involved the teams of scientists creating the biggest tower possible from marshmallows and spaghetti.



Scarecrow Wedding

I hay by declare you husband and wife!



Pupils at the Nursery made the long-held dreams of Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay, the leading characters from the popular children's book *the Scarecrows' Wedding*, come true by organising for them their own suitably rustically themed wedding ceremony and reception.

The sacred scarecrow dress code of checked shirt and straw hat was respectfully observed by the young guests who watched excitedly as the scarebride and scaregroom exchanged rings and were joined in matrimony by the Rev Dr Janet Foggie who, perhaps



unsurprisingly, was presiding over her very first scarecrow wedding!

In honour of the heart-warming special occasion, scarecrow favourites *The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow* and *Bring the Corn*, were enthusiastically sung and

acted out by the pupils, who then sat down for a special lunch.

Rev Foggie said, "I am delighted to have been able to marry Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay; these are the first scarecrows I have ever married! All the

children helped the scarecrows make their promises and I couldn't have done the service without them. It was a pleasure to share in their special day."

The event was inspired by the children's love of the book, *the Scarecrows' Wedding*, which they read as part of their harvest topic. After being moved to make their very own Harry and Betty, which they stuffed and dressed themselves, they came up with the idea of planning the wedding which the characters yearn for in the story!

Nursery Manager, Sarah Tosh, said, "The children have had a very busy few weeks organising the wedding, it was an amazing day and lots of fun was had by all!"

Armistice 2015

The traditional High School of Dundee Armistice Parade and Service, with the Combined Cadet Force on parade, was attended by guests who included the Lord Provost Bob Duncan, military and civilian service personnel and Nigel Seaton, the Principal of Abertay University.

The ceremony, which was observed by pupils, staff and members of the public, concluded with a wreath being placed in front of the school's war memorial by Head Boy Nathan Moorjani and Deputy Head Girl Taskeen Bailwal, assisted by Junior School pupils Victoria Scott and Angus Porter.

In a particularly poignant moment of the proceedings, Nathan and Taskeen read out the names of the 29 former pupils who lost their lives in WW1 between August 1914 and November 1915. Many of that number were killed in the Battle of Loos which began in September 1915 and which had a devastating impact on the city of Dundee.

A prayer was also delivered by The Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Jeremy Auld.

Rector Dr John Halliday said, "The Armistice Parade is a powerful chance for the School to remember the sacrifices of former pupils and all of those who have given their lives in the First World War and subsequent conflicts. However, in this centenary year, we remember particularly those who lost their lives between August 1914 and November 1915. 4000 men of Dundee died during WW1, 130 of whom were pupils at the High School. We look back at the mistakes of history and hope to learn from them so that we do not repeat them."



Higher Geography - Holderness field trip

Higher Geography pupils narrowly avoided Storm Barney as they carried out their data collection to support the new Higher Geography Assignment. Europe's most rapidly eroding stretch of coastline did not fail to impress as we stood on crumbling cliff edges watching settlements being given over to the mercy of the North Sea. Atop Flamborough Head lighthouse, the

Holderness coast stretched as far as the eye could see. Whitby awaited with tales of the unexpected, and pupils knitted together the cultural, social and environmental challenges that have faced and continue to face this part of the Yorkshire coast.



F5 & 6 John Muir Award Morton Lochs

L3 Trip to the RNLI

Both L3 classes took it in turn to visit the RNLI in Broughty Ferry, in conjunction with the L3 project about the River Tay.

The children were able to meet the crew, learn about water safety and see an RNLI lifeboat close-up. They also had fun trying to get into the proper dress and equipment in record time; they didn't realise how hard that can be.

As the RNLI receive only a small amount of funding from the government, they were very grateful for the children's donation of £100.



December

Ski Trip



More than 50 F3 pupils took to the slopes of the Aosta Valley in the Italian Alps in December to spend five days skiing in glorious sunshine.

By day the young people, who ranged in ability from beginners to advanced, made the most of lessons on some of Europe's premier pistes, before the evenings saw them

relax with activities such as ice skating, exploring the historic Roman walled town of Aosta, and sampling bona fide Italian pizza.

Head of Art Adam Kerr, who led the trip, praised the pupils' confidence and skiing progress which had developed to an astonishing level by the end of the week.

High School Musical

F6 pupils raised the roof – and a tidy sum for a good cause – with their very own performance of High School (of Dundee!) Musical.

To mark the festive season, the year group took to the stage of Trinity Hall to entertain fellow pupils and staff with a rousing performance of the teen comedy musical, in the process raising £400 for Dundee Disabled Children's Association.

The light-hearted parody, which was organised by the School's Interact Club, saw the action relocated to the High School of Dundee, enabling the enthusiastic cast to make a number of well-received, in-jokes. And, in spite of being staged after only two days of rehearsals, the production was a huge success.



QUIPE

Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement Visit

The School welcomed inspectors from Education Scotland (formerly HMIE) for a Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement (QUIPE) visit. The School's capacity for evaluating its own work and for making improvements which have a direct impact on the quality of experiences for its pupils was examined, and was given a strong official endorsement of its ability to ensure continued improvement in the quality of education which it provides for its pupils.

The report was put together by the inspectors following discussions, feedback and work with staff, parents and pupils throughout the School, from Nursery to F6. Among its findings were that, 'there is strong leadership of change and improvement' at the

School, with the success of this 'due to the strategic vision of the Rector together with the Board of Directors and their sustained focus on continually improving the educational provision.'

The report also states that, overall, 'children and young people are benefitting from high-quality learning experiences in the nursery, junior and senior stages,' that they are 'motivated and engage well in their learning' and that 'their relationships with staff are very positive.'

The range of co-curricular opportunities available, the systems in place to ensure child safety, improvements which have been made to the curriculum, and the School's work on supporting pupils to reach their full potential, are all also highlighted.

The Rector stated, "I am very pleased with this report from Education Scotland, which reflects all the hard work that my colleagues have put in

to ensuring that our pupils have the best possible education. Particularly gratifying is the recognition that the relationships between staff and pupils are 'very positive' and the pupils are 'motivated and engage well in their learning.' The questionnaire returns suggest that virtually all parents are happy with the school and this is of course especially pleasing. This is down to the constant push to improve. We can never be complacent. We evaluate our performance constantly and aspire to evolve our integrated curriculum which develops academic potential, co-curricular involvement and pupil wellbeing in equal measure to ensure our pupils are well grounded and prepared for the dynamic world of the 21st century."

Nursery December

Over the course of December the boys and girls took part in lots of Christmas crafts, dramas and learned and lots of Christmas songs during their Music sessions. They invited all of their parents to come to the nursery for a Christmas sing-along. There was also a surprise guest ... Santa!

Mrs Anderson of the HFT department really enjoyed helping the pre-school children to build edible Christmas Tree pizzas. This was a lovely festive project with the nursery and the children very much enjoyed the activity, especially eating the trees for their snack!



L4 Celtic Board Games

Pupils in L4 designed and made their own Celtic-themed board games as part of a history, language and technologies cross-curricular project. Using their knowledge of the Celts, the children designed the board games to include crannogs, wild boar, bear caves and a multitude of other traps and challenges! They employed technology skills to create the board, using cut paper techniques. Skills in the use of clay were developed to design and make four unique playing pieces which were then painted in a variety of metallic colours to reflect the Celts' skills in metalwork. As part of a homework activity, the children came up with a series of challenge cards to add an extra degree of excitement to their games. These challenges were typed and formatted in ICT with Mrs Davie. When playing the games, the children enjoyed sharing their creations with their peers, while undertaking a typical Celtic pastime of playing board games with friends and family.



Bebras Challenge



Cosmo Bobak F2 was one of only 15 participants out of more than 27,000 in his age category to get full marks in the Bebras Challenge, an Oxford University-organised problem-solving contest which introduces pupils to computer science.

Cosmo's result places him in the top 0.055% of students across the UK who sat the Intermediate test, and has led to him winning through to the second round which will be held at Oxford in January.



The Challenge, which tests computational and logical thinking, ultimately aims to inspire excitement about computing. More than 56,000 students took part this year, with High School pupils also turning in strong performances in some of the event's other five categories.

In the Kits category, Junior School pupils Ian Anderson, Finlay Scrimgeour, Lewis Smith and Edward Walker all also gained top marks, whilst in the Senior category, Joshua Small joined Cosmo Bobak on

the Hall of Fame board after falling just one question short of also achieving a perfect score.

Head of Computing, Scott McBride, who organised the School's participation along with Audrey Davie in the Junior School, said, "More than 870 of our pupils, from L2 to F6, participated in the Challenge and the School as a whole did extremely well. To get full marks in the Intermediate assessment is a tremendous achievement, of which Cosmo can be very proud."

Hour of Code Event

Pupils from L1-L7 took part in the annual Hour of Code Event, a global initiative which reaches tens of millions of young coders in over 180 countries. The event is designed to introduce and develop coding and programming skills and to show that everyone can learn, whatever their level of ability. A new range of activities was introduced this year, with Star Wars and Minecraft proving especially popular. Our pupils joined in enthusiastically with the event and the skills they explored will be further developed within the Computing curriculum in the Junior Years.





Nativity 2015

An Out-of-this-World Christmas!



Once again, the Early Years Nativity brought some magic and sparkle to the end of a very busy term. Four of our pupils found themselves blasting off into outer space! In the week before Christmas, these brave astronauts left behind family and friends, to take to the skies in a rocket ... on a Mission to the Edge of the Universe!

But oh dear - disaster struck and the spacecraft crashed! These poor astronauts faced the possibility of life on a distant planet, separated from loved ones by hundreds of millions of light years! Fortunately, they managed to persuade their weird and wonderful alien hosts to lend them an old space craft. As luck would have it, the astronauts returned home in time for Christmas and of course, just in time to see the High School of Dundee Early Years Nativity!

The Nativity is one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the school calendar and the Early Years pupils didn't disappoint. They had a wonderful time and for four days in December, Trinity became the new Broadway!

The dedication of the pupils cannot be underestimated and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. Throughout November and December, the children learned songs, rehearsed dance routines and memorised lines. A few of our pupils even learned to fly a spacecraft!

I am delighted to announce that the collection over both performances raised an amazing total which was shared between two Scottish charities; the Blake McMillan Trust and the Children's Hospice Association Scotland. As ever, we are so grateful for the support and generosity of our High School of Dundee friends and family.

Remember to clear your diary for next year... preparations for Nativity 2016 have started already, so be sure to come along!

Mrs C E Proudfoot
Deputy Head, Junior Years



Christmas Parties

Our annual Christmas parties are always one of the highlights of the winter term. Dancing, party games and a special visit from Santa Claus make sure all our Junior Years pupils have a great time! Our photographs show some of the fun that went on.





L7 Science: Circuits & Symbols Project

L7 pupils investigated series and parallel circuits and the making of their own switch, before planning an 'object that lit'. This year, they had to use paper plates and bowls as the basis for their model and this encouraged their creativity whereby inventive designs were produced.



L7 Enterprise 90kg Rice Challenge

During the winter term, the L7 Enterprise Group took part in the JTS '90kg Rice Challenge'. By selling 180kg of rice, we enabled a farmer in Malawi to send 2 children to school for a year. To accompany our rice, and create an unmissable Christmas gift opportunity, with the help of Junior School pupils we compiled a 'Rice and Curry Recipe Book'.

We built on the theme of rice at the Charity Fair in November, selling rice-filled stress balls and running a 'Guess the Weight of the Rice' competition. As well as supporting children through school, our rice-related ideas raised a total of £287.



January

Ciara Mitchell Scottish Schools Young Writer

Ciara Mitchell, F6, was highly commended in one of Scotland's most prestigious student literary competitions. She was one of only five pupils to receive such an accolade in the Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year 2016 award, an annual contest which challenges 15 to 18-year-olds to write a non-fiction piece on a contemporary issue for a serious magazine or newspaper.

Having also earned her a spot on the final shortlist of eight for the title, Ciara's entry - an essay on the responses to the recent Paris terrorist attacks - was

praised by the adjudicators as being 'eloquent' with 'urgency and pace'.

Head of English Jasmine Cortazzi, said, "Ciara richly deserves to be shortlisted for this prestigious title. Her piece takes an original angle on our response to the Paris attacks and is convincing in its argument, as well as revealing of her lively personality and spark."

The Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year award is organised by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland in association with the Young UK and Ireland Programme.



Mock Court Case Trials

In January the L7 Young Speakers participated in the Tayside regional trials of the Mock Court Case Project, where they competed against various schools from across Perth and Dundee. The trials were held in Dundee Sheriff Court and saw the pupils take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, researchers, robe makers, court artists and journalists. Both teams worked exceptionally hard preparing for their day in court and performed very well on the night. The defenders achieved second place in their section and the pursuers secured the group's place in the national final for the second consecutive year by being awarded first place in their section.



Nursery Fun in the snow

The children couldn't wait to get their cosy mud suits on and play in the snow when it came. They collected it in a wheelbarrow to transport it to an area of the garden where they could build a snowman.

L5 Burns Day

Burns Day got off to a great start with pupils making their own tartan bonnets and mapping Scottish landmarks.

After lunch, pupils clad in tartan got together for the annual L5 Burns Supper. The proceedings began with the haggis being piped in by Alastair Binnie, L6s, followed by Mrs Vannet addressing the haggis, a tradition that she has carried out for years. This year was special, however, as it will be the last performance before her retirement.

The pupils then performed numerous Scottish musical pieces and recited Scots poetry to honour the Scottish bard. They tucked into a delicious feast of steaming haggis, pancakes and shortbread before ending the afternoon with Auld Lang Syne and some ceilidh dances.



Chemistry SCIS Masterclass

Euan Brown (5Li1) and I attended a Masterclass Chemistry day at the University of St Andrews, run by the Scottish Independent Schools Council. We spent the morning in the lab and experienced various techniques for synthesising different molecules such as aspirin. Getting some practical experience of Chemistry in the lab was really fun and useful. After lunch we analysed the chemicals we had made, using NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. Using the same machines as postdoctoral researches was really exciting and fascinating.

Written by Katie McLennan (5Wa2)



Burns Night

One hundred or so tartan-clad F6 pupils joined together for a very special celebration of Burns' life, songs, poetry, and indeed, his legacy on Friday, 22nd January in the Dining Hall, which was suitably transformed and glamorised for the evening's proceedings.

Starting with an introduction to Burns, Dr Halliday highlighted that Burns was born into relative poverty to a farming family, but benefited from the emphasis his father placed on education and became a well-read, articulate and gifted wordsmith. Burns loved music, dance and especially favoured the ladies (fathering twelve children by no fewer than four women, although interestingly, he had only one wife.)

With the scene set for celebrating the evening, Emily Wilson-Pearce ceremonially piped in the haggis ready for Marcus Brown's humorous and dramatic rendition of 'Address to the Haggis'. Guests then enjoyed a traditional Burns Supper with a modern and elegant twist. Next, Nathan Moorjani's 'The Immortal Memory' prompted our guests to take note of the Burns' statue just outside the McManus Gallery and to note that Burns had visited Dundee, and indeed, had family from Angus.

Traditional Burns songs performed by Verity Brown, Alice Inman, Kirsty Barron, Finlay McKillop, Lynden Nicely, Catriona Murphy and Sian Gregson followed, giving a sense of Burns' rich musical heritage and passionate legacy. Our own Chamber Orchestra provided a beautiful and tuneful variety of music which Burns himself would have been proud to hear. A ceilidh to live music added to the revels, with the pupils revealing their lightness of foot and quick turns on the dance floor.

Then guests settled to hear Mrs Vannet's brilliant and inspired interpretation of 'Tam o' Shanter', which she had learned by heart when a pupil in Form 6. Not to be deterred, David Hill's funny, and slightly risqué, 'Toast to the Lassies' got a spirited reply from Ciara Mitchell whose wit and feistiness were not to be suppressed. As the evening drew to a close, guests came together to sing 'Auld Lang Syne.'

The Burns Supper was a great success and we look forward to the next one with glee!



February

Curling

Two School teams displayed ice-cool nerves to win through to places at the finals of the Scottish Schools Curling Championships.

At the Dundee heat, the team of Iain Wallace, Sam Marshall, Jamie Meade and Innes Chalmers joined that of Alex Mackintosh, Caitlin Jones, Freddie Wilson and Rory Forster in qualifying for the showpiece event of Scottish schools curling. This was the second year in succession that Alex, Caitlin, Iain, Rory and Freddie had reached the finals, after having secured the High School's first appearance at the event in twenty years in 2015.

Alex, Caitlin and Jamie's achievement, meanwhile, followed on from their having been a part of the Dundee Juniors quartet which won the National RCCC Skill Award competition at Perth in November.



Design a Healthy Lunch HFT

As part of Food Technology, Form 2 pupils were asked to produce a healthy meal to be served in the School's Dining Hall. The competition involved teams of pupils following all the stages of food product development; staff then evaluated the dishes and a group from each class were selected to go through to the next round. The meals produced included Red Thai Curry, Gourmet burgers with parmesan wedges and tomato relish, Smoked paprika chicken fajitas and Coconut Chicken curry with rice. Pupils also created posters and menus to advertise their chosen dish.



Later, in June, the finalists worked alongside Chartwells to produce and serve the meal to over 200 pupils and staff. The winning dishes were Red Thai Curry with Coconut Rice (courtesy of Hannah Bell, Katie Simpson, Tegan Hunter-Franks and Kirstin Petrie) and beef burger with tomato relish and parmesan potato wedges (credit to Lauren Tyson, Corrie Hay, Joanna Johnstone, Lucy Robertson).

Head of Health and Food Technology Lesley Ross was very pleased: "The creativity and flair demonstrated by the pupils was admirable and great teamwork and entrepreneurial skills were evident throughout the challenge. It was wonderful to see the support from staff and pupils for the finalists."

Mock Court Case Finals



In February the pursuers team from the L7 Young Speakers club competed in the national final of the Mock Court Case Project in Central Hall, Edinburgh. The team of lawyers and witnesses faced five other schools from across Scotland and performed in front of several lords

and ladies from the Supreme Court in London as well as an audience of over a thousand people. Although the team did not win this year, they performed extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed participating in the competition.

L4 Roman Soldier Visit

L4 were transported back in time when Roman soldier, Marcus, came to visit. A Roman legionary, Marcus (Mr Faulkes from the Classics department) spent the morning explaining what life in the Roman army would have been like. He showed the children his uniform, complete with shield, gladius (a sword) and pilum (a spear). The children enjoyed learning about the role of the Roman Army in Scotland as well as what life would have been like for soldiers stationed along Hadrian's Wall. The visit culminated with the children learning how to march like Roman soldiers. This was a sight to behold when the children decided to replicate this on the way to the lunch hall later in the day!



Space Challenge Day



As part of their project work, L5 pupils took part in a special Space Challenge Day, participating in an intergalactic tour when they were visited by St Andrews University's mobile planetarium. As they stepped inside the huge inflatable dome, featuring a simulation of the night sky, the children were shown how to locate stars, planets and constellations by Astronomy PhD students Lisa Lehmann and Felipe Ramon.

With help from Dr Duncan Brown from the Senior Years Physics department, the L5s also ventured deep into the final frontier to learn how we search for exoplanets. They then mapped out a new solar system to discover if any of the planets lie in the 'Goldilocks Zone' where life could potentially be supported.

Following on from that, the pupils made an attempt actually to reach the stars as, using compressed air, they launched rockets which they had designed and constructed in the classroom into the sky!



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L4 Harry Potter Activities

L4 had great fun at the Library celebrating Harry Potter Week. The children enjoyed listening to an extract from the series while sitting under twinkling candles of 'The Great Hall'. They made their own Harry Potter glasses to help them get into character. Finally, wands chose their wizards and duels were held. No 'Unforgivable Curses' here!



Rotary Chef

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 Tim Baker, with some mouth-watering main courses.

The impressive selection included Fish en papillote with Asian greens with coconut rice, Red Thai curry, and hot chocolate fondant with orange.

After taking on the enviable job of tasting the sumptuous offerings, Mr Baker, along with Mrs Ross and Mrs Anderson, chose Katie Tonks and Ailsa Millar as the winners to progress to the district final.



There, Ailsa and Katie performed extremely well, demonstrating tremendous creative culinary flair to win through to the next round, the District Regional North East Final. Competing against much older age groups, the girls did themselves and the school proud, even though they were not selected for the National final.

Space research

In February, having watched the space launch live on TV, the children were eager to learn about space and were interested to know why Tim Peake had gone there. They carried out space experiments, researched space and made models of rockets from lots of different building materials.



Skiing Championships



A team of F3 pupils showed their ability to get to grips with a slippery slope by turning in an impressive debut performance in the Scottish Schools Alpine Skiing Championships. Competing in the novice class race at the Glenshee event, Ryan Tindal, Tom Constance, Ian Robertson and Cameron Murray put everything into their two runs to finish in a highly creditable fifth place overall.

Deputy Head David Brett commented on how much the pupils had enjoyed their day and also the valuable experience that the novice skiers especially had benefited from as they competed, at an appropriate level, on the same course as the experienced racers, noting that "It was also great to see the boys build upon the skills which they developed during the recent school ski trip to Italy."

Winter Skills



Fearsome weather conditions did not deter a group of 12 pupils from Forms 5 and 6 from the challenge of learning how to enjoy the great outdoors during the winter months. They braved driving wind and heavy snow fall as they took part in a Winter Skills training weekend in the Cairngorms, aimed at teaching them the techniques required for safe hillwalking at that time of year.

As well as walking to the summit of Meall a Bhuachaille, the adventurous youngsters learned how to create emergency snow shelters. And although the conditions were against the pupils being able to work on skills such as self-arresting with

an ice axe, the snow did allow them to enjoy some improvised sledging!

Although the training opportunities were somewhat limited by the weather, the pupils were still able to practise a number of key skills and techniques and to get an invaluable insight into what the weather can be like on Scotland's hills during winter.



March

Easter Nests L1

L1 visited the HFT department as part of the L1 Easter Challenge Day. They followed a simple recipe to produce little Easter nests, learning about cooperating with others, 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 as much as we enjoyed having them!



I liked the chocolate and the rice crispies. I enjoyed mixing them together. I had fun. *Jamie Kay L1*



This was chocolate day. I enjoyed eating my Easter egg nests – they were crispy. *Rory Harrold L1*



L6 Botanic Gardens Trip

The Botanic Gardens trip was a very good day out. The butterflies were really colourful and were interesting to learn about. The pond dipping was great and we caught a lot of fish and insects. It was fascinating to see how many different creatures and insects, such as sticklebacks, tadpoles, fish, beetles and millipedes, there were in the little pond. All the animals we found were alive and moving about in our tubs. It was fun to see how many plants lived in the rainforest and it was also fun to learn about them. The 'Glass Class' was a very warm and relaxing place to have

lunch and to tell everyone about our day. We learnt about the desert and we didn't realise there were so many different types of cactus. The hedgehog trail was fun because we were allowed to look at lots of plants and have some fresh air away from the greenhouses. Our favourite part was the Butterfly House, because the butterflies land on you and you could see them closer up. There were lots of different kinds and it was a bit scary at first, but we got used to it and we wanted millions to land on us!

By Cameron Houston and Jacob Shaw



L6 Jacobite Day

Jacobite day in L6 was a huge success. A Jacobite came to visit the L6s and showed all his weapons which they would have used to fight with, and all his very unusual clothing that they would wear. Very practical and very cosy but not so stylish!

We also went to visit one of the Jacobite flags, the last remaining flag that featured at the Battle of Culloden, at the MacManus Galleries. All in all Jacobite day was a huge success. **Evie L6B**



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Bird feeder

Following our space project, some of the children were interested in recycling and saving the planet Earth. They decided to make bird feeders from bottles and other scrap materials. The boys and girls placed them in the nursery garden, hoping to see the birds take the seeds.



L2R and L7C iPad Collaboration

From January to March, L2R had been looking at 'Famous People' from the past as their project in class. As a homework activity, each pupil chose to research a famous person that they were interested in. With a buddy from L7C, the children then used Keynote to create a presentation about their famous person, based on their research.



L3 Egyptians

Children in the Junior Years have been finding out about various aspects of one of the most captivating civilisations in world history!

As part of a special 'Egypt Day', pupils in L3 made a colourful mosaic of the famous 'Eye of Horus', played the board game 'Senet' and made traditional Egyptian flatbreads, along with decorating bags with hieroglyphic designs to put them in.

The day's activities were the culmination of a classroom project on ancient Egypt.



Senses of Spring

I see beautifully white snowdrops, yellow daffodils like the sun and crocuses like a magic carpet.

I hear birds singing as they build their nests and new-born chicks chirping for food.

I feel warmer air as the days get longer and the nights get shorter.

I smell the fresh flowers, the tree blossom and lovely green grass.

I taste delicious pancakes and scrumptious, chocolate Easter eggs.

By L2M



L2 Discovery trip

L2 visited Discovery Point as part of their 'Famous People' topic. In class the children had been finding out about different people from the past and had learned about Captain Scott's expeditions to Antarctica in order to try and be the first man to reach the South Pole. On the trip some of the pupils had the opportunity to dress up in clothes that explorers from Captain Scott's time would have worn. The group were then given a guided tour of RRS Discovery. They saw different parts of the ship and learned about the types of work that would have taken place on board.



AH Stats conference

Form 6 pupils Paige Lawrie, Paolo Crowe, Filip Jovanovic and Scott Macandrew, accompanied by Dr Spiezia, attended the annual Advanced Higher Statistics conference for pupils and teachers held at Dollar Academy.

The day started with an insightful presentation by Professor John McColl from the University of Glasgow on the importance and relevance of statistics in the modern world.

This was followed by a talk by Mr Peter Edmund, principal assessor for Advanced Higher Statistics, on how graphics calculators can be used to advantage in the preparation for the exam and on the day of the exam itself. He also provided valuable insights into how to improve grades with exam preparation and on the day.

In the afternoon there were more presentations and also opportunities to discuss Statistics in an informal environment and a chance to engage with pupils and teachers from other schools from all over Scotland. It proved to be an informative, engaging and inspiring day for all involved!



F5 & 6 John Muir Award Tentsmuir



L3 Poetry Competition

All L3 pupils entered the competition which comprised two preliminary rounds and a final. Miss McFarlane, our adjudicator this year, was very impressed by the high standard of the finalists. She commented, 'Our winner, Sophia, brought the poems to life! She understood the importance of every word; her expression was wonderful and she connected with the audience very well.'

Congratulations go to Sophia Mordente who won the L3 Poetry Competition this year!



Classics Trip: Pupils seize the day when in Rome

The last full day of the spring term and 34 excited pupils with large suitcases were standing at the school gates ready to catch a coach to Edinburgh airport. Safely through security, we all went aboard the Ryanair flight to Rome. There were splendid views of the snow-covered Alps as we flew across Europe, landing finally in the evening at an airport just south of Rome to be driven by coach into the centre and our hotel near the Termini railway station.

Early the next morning we were up and ready to sight see. First the Baths of Diocletian, or rather the Church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, for Michelangelo had taken the Roman building and transformed it into a massive church, retaining much of the marble work of the original building.

Next another church, the enormous papal basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore built in the 4th century while Roman emperors still sat upon the imperial throne, its interior covered in mosaics and its ceiling covered in the gold Christopher Columbus brought back from America.

From there to the Colosseum, Rome's massive stadium of gladiatorial slaughter followed by a welcome wood-fired pizza before a trip around the Roman forum and the Palatine Hill with its beautiful gardens. Bougainvillea and wisteria flowered over the old ruins of the imperial palaces, and Seville orange trees gave shade to the garden paths.

Then wandering through the imperial fora and through the back streets to the Trevi fountain. Night was falling and the crowds were enjoying the evening atmosphere, throwing their coins in the fountain and enjoying ice-creams.

The next morning, Good Friday, we made an early start for the Vatican and queued briefly in the piazza before entering the

huge basilica with its treasures. The daring members of the party then climbed the lengthy staircase to the top of the dome through narrow passages and staircases that leaned sideways as one progressed higher. What a fabulous view from the top!

We walked back through the city, stopping in the Piazza Navona which is shaped by the Roman stadium hidden underneath the medieval buildings, and visiting the Pantheon, with its extraordinary Roman concrete dome built by the emperor Hadrian and the cat sanctuary that exists at the spot where Julius Caesar was assassinated and then through the Jewish quarter to the river Tiber and the site of the Circus Maximus. At this point pupils felt that Rome was well and truly done. They were certainly exhausted!

We travelled south the next day by coach, stopping at the Greek ruins of Cumae at the northern end of the Bay of Naples, though the Sibyl's cave was closed to visitors. Next, we saw the well-preserved amphitheatre of Pozzuoli with its passages and chambers underneath where animals and gladiators were housed before being lifted through trapdoors to the arena above through 48 separate lifts.

Our hotel in Sorrento was luxury compared to Rome and the pupils enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the town as it celebrated the Easter holiday. On Easter Sunday we explored Pompeii, visiting some of the newly-restored houses near the amphitheatre and wandering through the streets of the ancient city. Next day was the ascent of Mount Vesuvius, unfortunately shrouded in dense cloud, though we got the occasional glimpse through swirling mist of Naples far below. In the afternoon it was the turn of Herculaneum, the other town destroyed in AD 79, ending at the boat houses and the 300 or so skeletons of those trapped by the pyroclastic flows. It was a very moving experience.

Our final day before return was out on the island of Capri, home of Hollywood stars and Roman emperors. Again low cloud hid the topmost peaks, but it was a beautiful place to spend a few hours. Cloud and a chill in the air didn't stop intrepid Dundonians from sampling yet again the numerous ice-cream flavours to be had at the local gelaterias.

Finally - too soon! - we had to return home to Dundee, weary but classically enthused. Many thanks to the staff who enabled the trip - Miss Stewart, Mrs Anderson, Dr Spiezia and Mr Faulkes.



Futures Breakfast

Dr Brodie Paterson, Flight Physician with East Anglian Air Ambulance and Emergency Medicine Consultant with NHS Tayside, was guest speaker as around 60 pupils in Forms 5 and 6 gathered for the School's Futures Breakfast, an annual event which allows the youngsters to meet people working in various careers and professions.

As well as offering the pupils a fascinating insight into his own challenging work, both manning emergency helicopter missions and working in the A&E departments of hospitals, Dr Paterson shared advice about how to approach career decisions, emphasising the importance of making your own luck and making the most of your opportunities.

He was joined by around 30 professionals from lines of work ranging from Law, Business and Engineering to Journalism, Medicine and IT, who were also present to share their experience, offer advice and answer questions.



Teacher of Business Education, Neil Higgins, highlighted that "The aim of the event is to try to give the pupils genuine insight into the sorts of careers they are considering so that they are equipped to shape their own futures. The event is always organised by a committee of pupils. This year

we really worked on broadening its appeal so that it is not seen as just a business breakfast, but rather a careers breakfast which offers pupils the chance to meet people in the fields of work they are interested in, develop links and potentially even organise work experience.

StAnza Poets

F2 pupils had the opportunity to have two StAnza Poets from the St Andrews Poetry Festival share their work with them: Ellen McAteer, who lectures on the Creative Writing Masters programme at Oxford University, and Rebecca Sharp, who featured on the Saltire 2014 list for being one of Scotland's most outstanding women in her contributions to Scottish culture and society.

Ellen McAteer started the session by singing one of her poems entitled 'Blue Valentine' as she played her guitar. She then shared a number of poems. Here is a stanza from 'Mourning in Arduaine' which puns on the idea of morning and also mourning. Reflecting on her inspiration, Ellen revealed that the loss of her father had seeped into this beautiful poem:

*Even when the rain
tears you from the horizon
I know you are there:
I can feel the shape of your shores
through the currents that reach mine.*



Rebecca Sharp told us that she has a background in theatre. Her dramatic exhibition at the festival featured a collection of her poems inspired by the elements of air, water, fire and earth. She had created an installation which married the idea of perfume and poetry in The Old Chemist's Shop in the St Andrews Museum to create a holistic and multi-sensory experience. Rebecca also told us that she had worked in

collaboration with an artist to produce a beautiful book uniting paintings and verse. Her work has been described as 'lyrical, beautiful and clever'.

What a fabulous chance for our pupils to hear, meet and enjoy talking to real artists at work.

Model United Nations Conference 2016

For one March weekend, sixteen of our pupils were transformed into United Nations ambassadors and travelled to Edinburgh. Here they worked together in the spirit of diplomacy and world peace with pupils from almost 40 other schools, some from as far away as Iran!

Representing the nations of Spain and Somalia, the High School delegates were treated to an audience with the current Chinese Consul General, Mr Pan Xiuchun, who fascinated attendees by discussing China's growing role in the world.



Throughout the weekend our pupils, representing their nations, worked tirelessly to pursue their goal of world peace by participating in committees, debating, lobbying, giving speeches, writing resolutions, making amendments and voting on solutions to a variety of problems to global crises including Syrian refugees, the rise of right-wing political groups, the Zika virus and Donald Trump's presidential candidacy.

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 the new friends that they had made throughout the day.

On Sunday, the final day, our 16 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 had learned important new skills, made new friends and earned themselves a great addition to their UCAS forms.

L6 and L7 Science Club Report

Term 1

With the need to look at alternative sources of energy for the future, the Science Club members turned their attention to designing and testing their own wind-powered turbines. With a range of plastic bottles and interesting ideas, along with some ingenious adaptations along the way, all of the teams produced wind turbines which generated enough power to lift up to 90g with a pulley system!



Term 2

As the new Forth Road Bridge moves towards completion, the Science Club undertook a bridge building project of their own. A visit to the Computer suite with Mr Preston allowed the pupils to digitally experiment with bridge design before attempting to construct their own. The bridges had to span a metre and had to bear as much weight as possible. They also had to be wide enough for a '500ml bottle car' to cross. Armed with drilled lolly sticks, plastic cable ties and string, the designs were completed over a number of weeks.

The final test day came! How much weight could one bridge bear? And the winner..... managed a staggering 11kg before breaking under the strain! Another successful year for our budding scientists and engineers, with huge thanks to Dr Brown, Mr Preston and Dr Taylor for all their help and advice.



Director's Trophy Netball

Competing in the Dundee District Primary Schools Netball Association's Director's Trophy at Ward Road Gym, the L7 netball team played three games against Barnhill, St. Joseph's and Fintry. The girls won these round robin games 9-1, 6-5 and 7-1 and so qualified for the final to be played against Barnhill. They had lost to Barnhill earlier in the season and the match could have gone either way. However, the girls fought really hard and stayed strong and won the final 11-2.

Well done girls! A great result!

Jenny Bonnyman, Megan Cant, Sophie Elder, Lizzie Inman, Claire Joss, Lucy Timney and Beckie Fairweather are pictured with the trophy and their medals.



L4 DCA Visit

L4 visited DCA to take part in a Scots Language Through Film event. In class, the children had been learning about the vibrancy of Scots language by reading "Thi Dundee Gruffalo". Particular enjoyment was had learning about the Gruffalo's "barkit knees" and the "purpil jags a doon ees back"! During the event at DCA, the children watched

"The Gruffalo's Child" on the big screen. This was followed by a reading of the "The Gruffalo's Wean" by Matthew Fitt, a renowned Scots language author. As an extra treat, the children heard a reading of "Thi Gruffalo's Bairn", a Dundonian translation of the "The Gruffalo's Child", which is still in draft form.



L7 Fair Trade Tuck Shop



The L7 Enterprise Group opened a Fair Trade Tuck Shop for pupils in the Junior School. Business was extremely brisk as pupils eagerly snapped up cookies, biscuits, cereal bars, bananas and homemade muffins. By supporting the tuckshop, pupils helped to improve the lives of the families and communities of producers in developing countries where, all too often, poverty is rife. Although the intention was not to make a profit but rather to support Fairtrade and raise its profile in school, the superb support of Junior School parents and the Home Economics department meant that the Tuck Shop will also make a donation of £175 towards WWF.

Berlin Trip 2016

In March the History Department took a group of fourth, fifth and sixth year pupils to Berlin. We embarked on our trip from the school at 5am with five of our most enthusiastic teachers, who were just as excited as we were. We had a busy week ahead of us.

Berlin, a city famous for the part it played before, during and after the Second World War, would be home to us for the week ahead. We commenced our activities with a boat trip along the River Spree in the glorious German sunshine. This overview of the city gave us an insight into its vast history, and gave us an idea of the many historical sites that we would be visiting. Despite the sunshine, it was a crisp day and 'Hei e Schokolades' on board the boat were necessary to keep us cosy. After a fun boat trip, we continued our 20km walk through the streets of Berlin, soaking up the atmosphere and stopping briefly at monuments where Mr Fyall enriched our knowledge of the city's history. Later on, we wrapped up warm and began our tour of Berlin by night. We visited various parts of the wall, as well as the unusually quiet Brandenburg Gate, and learned about the Cold War's impact on the city.

On day two of our tour around Berlin we visited two of the city's most famous suburbs for their involvement in WW2; Wannsee and Potsdam. We were shown round the house in which the Nazi officials gathered in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to discuss and coordinate the implementation of what they called "The Final Solution to the Jewish Question". After a thought-provoking morning, we lightened our spirits with some traditional German 'Lebensmittel' - Bratwurst and Apfelstrudel on the streets of Potsdam - before taking a tour of the interesting

Cecilienhof Palace, where the Potsdam conference was held in 1945 and is most famous for the meeting of the 'Big Three'. After an intellectual and active day in Berlin, we enjoyed a well-earned burger and chips in the Hard Rock café, followed by a competitive evening of bowling with Mr O'Donnell.

On the Friday, we travelled to the western and northern suburbs of Berlin, visiting the Olympic Stadium (including the Bell Tower) and Sachsenhausen. After another early bus journey in the morning we arrived at the Olympic Stadium which was built for the 1936 Summer Olympic Games - fully constructed by the Nazis. Inside the Bell Tower is a memorial to the German men who fought and died at the Battle of Langemark near Ypres in WW1. Hitler fought in this battle and many German/Nazi phrases were inscribed in the walls. Despite the significance of the building we were all relieved to be leaving due to the miserable and haunting atmosphere that it left with us. Our day became increasingly dark as we explored the ruthless side of Nazi Germany and it was highly important that we stopped at the Plötzensee Memorial to commemorate around 3,000 people executed between 1933 and 1945 by the Nazi justice system. Our sombre mood continued with us with our trip to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp being the pinnacle of reflection on the harsh reality of Nazi Germany. Sachsenhausen was established in 1936 and our guided tour allowed us to get an insight into life as a prisoner and the layout of the camp made us understand in better detail just how brutal the Nazi regime was. This day was arguably the most harrowing of the trip and the dismal weather accurately reflected our emotions.



On Saturday the 26th we began our day with a walking tour of Berlin, taking in the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate, Bebelplatz and of course the Berlin Wall. Yet first we began by visiting Goering's Air Ministry in the glorious sunshine and continuing on to Hitler's WW2 Bunker where we worked up an appetite for a hearty lunch. After lunch, we visited the Jewish

shopping. In the afternoon we were all excited to be going to Checkpoint Charlie where most of us were able to get a photo with the guards before going into the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. We finished the day at the Jewish Museum of Berlin which was a poignant reminder of why we came to Berlin. After a very moving afternoon we returned to the Hotel for a fun and intense quiz night with all the teachers involved too!

Overall, it was an amazing and insightful trip to Berlin for all. Although the trip was dotted with sad moments and times for quiet reflection, we left the city on Sunday with a greater perspective and understanding of how life was in Germany for many people during the Second World War, the Cold War and



Holocaust Memorial commemorating the 6 million murdered at the hands of the Nazis. We re-visited the Brandenburg Gate and then proceeded to visit the Reichstag, the German Parliament Building. We climbed the glass dome which gives you 360° views of Berlin. "Es war wundervoll!!!" From the West we walked to the East, going back to Berlin's Cold War history where we visited Bernauer Strasse; a street on the border between the Berlin districts of Wedding and Mitte and is a focal point in German Post-War history. It was an important reminder of how the wall destroyed urban space and human lives, and separated family and friends.

We woke the next day to glorious sunshine, yet our mood was slightly dampened with the reminder that this was our last day. In the morning we visited the DDR Museum which shows the daily life of a German in East Berlin from 1945-1989 with clothing and a car on show from that time. After a while looking around the museum we then went to Alexanderplatz where we had lunch in Alexa Shopping Mall and went



today. We all loved the trip and many of us are keen to revisit the city very soon! Thank you to the staff team of Mr Fyall, Mr Melia, Mrs Craig, Mr O'Donnell and Mrs Hutchison for a most memorable experience.

Hannah Levin and Olivia Hayhow



FAB report

F.A.B. (Fun and Beyond) was set up last year and is a co-curricular club for pupils who attend Learning Skills. Its primary aim – as its name suggests – is to provide fun and relaxation for its members, who work exceptionally hard in class and fully deserve the good times they have enjoyed together each Tuesday after school this session. Open to pupils from L5 to L7, it has also fostered friendships between year groups and an informal support network has developed.



What have we been up to? We have exercised culinary skills, baking Easter Nests and Halloween Chocolate Bark. As "F.A.B. Controller" I still have pangs of guilt for sending the slightly chocolate-coated "Fablings" out to their parents with sheets of semi-set chocolate for an interesting journey home ... we learned that an hour was perhaps a little short for that task! We have been artistic, making everything from Christmas decorations to bird houses, worry balls to tie-dye butterflies. We have had such fun together. Mission accomplished Fablings! Well done! Over and out!

Mrs Batchelor aka The F.A.B. Controller!



Chemistry Analysts Competition

Having worked hard over a number of lunchtimes to practise our techniques and prepare, Alex Smith, Elle Wyatt and I travelled to Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen on 10th March. We competed in the Regional Heats for the National Schools Analyst Competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. Throughout the day we performed three practical experiments as a team; each was scored

and our total score calculated. These were at Advanced Higher Chemistry Level, so we performed a TLC and Colorimetry experiment but also used the results of our final experiment to determine the concentration of a solution. Overall, we placed second in the Scottish Region which we were very proud of!

By Isabel Campbell

Piano Day

To showcase their love of their instrument, more than 60 pupils from Forms 1 to 6 took part in the School's 11th annual Piano Day, a celebration which offered the youngsters the chance to take centre stage and perform in front of an audience on the School's grand piano in Trinity Hall.

Featuring a real mixture of styles and a range of abilities, the event included a series of informal, individual performances during the day, followed by an impressive recital concert in the evening attended by parents, staff and fellow pupils.

Piano teachers Stephen Armstrong and Avril Evans organised the event. Stephen observed that "the day was a great success, culminating in an evening recital full of excitement, emotion and great music all written for this incredible instrument!"





Jonathan Gibson
Founder & Managing Director

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April

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition Braemar



L6 Young Enterprise Report



The first L6 Young Enterprise Team, comprising of six pupils, had a very successful start to the year with their Happy Scottie Dog (HSD) framed pictures. Having conducted market research, the company decided upon four typically Scottish emblems on which to base their designs. The team worked closely with Mr Walker, Head of Technology, who assisted them greatly by using the school's laser cutter to

produce each emblem with pin-point accuracy. The children then went on to assemble the pictures using a variety of different tartans to suit all tastes. The Happy Scottie Dog Company sold their pictures at the Christmas Charity Fair and their profits were donated to the SSPCA.

In the second term, another L6 Young Enterprise team, comprising this time of 8 pupils, were 'Building on a Fiver'. The idea behind the venture was for each member to start a business with £5 and work hard to make as much profit as possible with their chosen project. The children had to develop a number of entrepreneurial skills to establish and build up their business, showing great creativity in the process. Their products included scented candles, character

bookmarks, sunflower kits, flavoured jellies, tissue holders and hand-painted cards. The group chose to split the money between two charities – Crisis UK and the British Red Cross.



Both projects were very successful and together the teams raised a grand total of £1408.72.

L6 in Dalguise 2016

In April we took a trip to Dalguise for the weekend. It was possibly the best school trip so far. We did many activities ranging from going on a massive swing to surviving in the wild. Our dorms were good quality and served their purpose for our three night stay. Food was also tasty and we had vast options per day. Our favourite activity was zipwire. Now, L5s are eagerly awaiting their Dalguise adventure!

Written by Archie MacDonald and Alistair Clark, L6.



L7 Science – Laboratory visits

During the session, L7 have been able to use Senior School science laboratories and they have enjoyed making use of their facilities. Pupils' science skills were enhanced through solar cell and copper investigations.



Nursery April 2016

The children braced themselves for the chilly weather and went to Baxter Park to play. They had fun exploring the whole park, playing on the chutes, swings and even having picnics there.



Sports Awards

To mark the deeds and efforts of pupils in F4-F6 in a range of sports over the course of the past 12 months, the PE department organised the School's first-ever Sports Awards Dinner, with Scotland rugby player Richie Vernon as the inspirational guest speaker.

Video portraits of the pupils nominated for each award, music and swirling lights added to the sense of occasion in Trinity Hall as prizes were handed out to players in the School's hockey, netball and rugby teams, as well as to pupils in recognition of an array of individual accomplishments.

Richie, who plays for Glasgow Warriors and has earned 24 caps for his country, passed on some words of wisdom and reflected on his own sporting experiences at the School, recalling in particular his first rugby match in L6 and punishing training sessions at Lochee Park!

He said, "I feel really fortunate to have had the sporting experiences which I enjoyed at the School and it's fair to say that some of my fondest memories took place here. More than anything, the teachers made rugby fun. The most



important thing is taking part in the process, not the winning."

Richie, who has also played in two World Cups, added, "It's a real honour to be asked to come back to help recognise and celebrate the achievements of the pupils. I have always been very proud of the sporting heritage of the School and it's fantastic to see that it's continuing

with such a number of talented pupils across a range of sports."

Head of PE Ewan Jack hopes that the Awards Dinner, the success of which owed much to the organisational efforts of PE teacher Christy O'Donnell and the technical wizardry of F6 pupil Allan Hamilton, will become an annual event on the School calendar.



May

Bannockburn

As part of their Scottish Wars of Independence topic, L5 pupils travelled to the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre. They were able to see examples of the weaponry which was used in the battle, find out about the tactics which both sides employed and discover more about some of the key characters who were involved.

The highlight saw the pupils pitched into an interactive 3D recreation of the battle which not only allowed them to follow or recreate the actual events that transpired, but also gave them the opportunity to explore what would have happened if the other side had won!

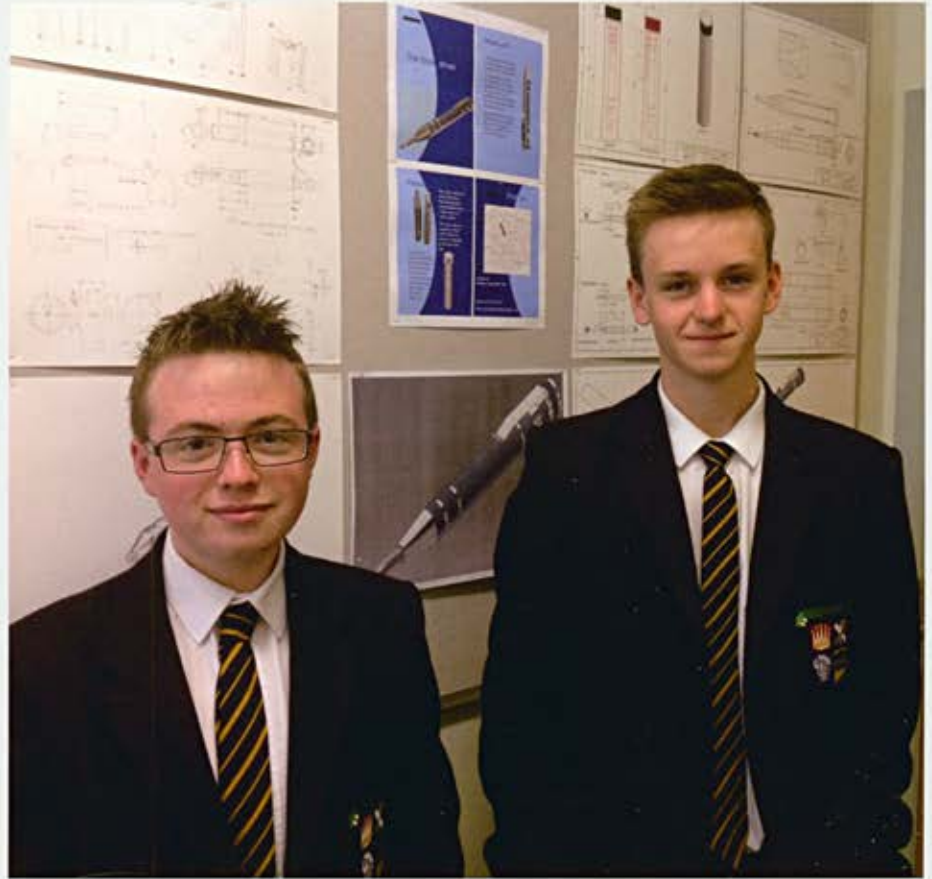


Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

Jack Davies and Peter Robertson, both F5, were invited to interview for the chance to secure a sought-after Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. These Scholarships support 16 to 18-year-old students during the final two years of their school studies and are awarded only to the highest-potential students across the country who show promise to be future leaders in the Engineering profession.

Jack and Peter were chosen from over 1400 applicants following a rigorous selection process comprising a detailed application form, a teacher's reference and a two-hour engineering aptitude exam. This year's interview day was hosted by Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, so the boys had a chance to see engineering being studied at first degree level and beyond. Only 400 Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are awarded annually and recipients have gone on to become CEOs of their own companies, directors of industry and leading academics.

Toward the end of the summer break we found out that Jack had been successful in his application and although there was disappointment on Peter's behalf, he has still benefited from the experience and to get to the interview stage was in itself a significant achievement. Jack's success this year, together with that of Logan Thomson last session, means that for the first time we have two Arkwright Scholars within the school, and we look forward



to more as we move towards the selection process this year.

During their sixth-form studies, Scholars receive £600 to support their endeavours to widen their knowledge of engineering and to fund their technical projects at school. Scholars are also provided with exciting and exclusive opportunities to learn more about engineering, such as mentoring

and company visits. Schools receive £400 per Scholarship awarded to their students, which helps to strengthen the teaching of maths, sciences and design technologies at the school.

Thanks are due to Mr David Preston of the Technology department for his dedicated and enthusiastic commitment to overseeing the application process.

Chit Chat Club

This session, L1 has enjoyed a new co-curricular club called Chit Chat Club. Each week we enjoyed a little afternoon tea and engaged in great conversations. At the end of each group, we invited a special guest to focus our discussions. Mrs Braid, Mrs Davie and Miss McFarlane led discussions with us about Spring on the Farm, Computers and Games, and Books and Reading.



Public Speaking Competition

Mark Twain claimed that it usually took him over three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech! Our eleven HSD finalist speakers probably had less than three weeks to win and wow the attention of a rapt F2 audience on Friday, 17th March. Able to select from topics as diverse as science fiction, bravery and 'Our world is beautiful', the finalists showed great charisma, stage presence and eloquence.

Hannah Alijani's speech started powerfully with recreating the image of the three-year-old child, Aylan Kurdi, who was wearing a red t-shirt, when he was found face down, dead on a Turkish beach. What had led to this tragedy?

His family left Kobani to escape war and fighting between IS and Kurdish forces. The way that Hannah wove this tale and made parallels between the three-year-old child and her own three-year-old sibling was especially moving in focusing our minds on the refugee crisis and in considering our response to human suffering. Is our world actually beautiful to all who live in it?

In contrast, Alex Fish adopted a different approach to the topic Our World is Beautiful, presenting the case that some might argue that our world is beautiful because of the richness of natural beauty and sounds which inspire us living on Planet Earth. On the other hand, there are those who would disagree, stating that we have polluted our world with landfill sites selfishly and with no regard either for wildlife, or for each other. At least through argument and debate we can shine the light of truth on matters which politicians would prefer to be hidden.

Maybe beauty needs to be redefined as imperfection as it leads to human endeavour and the quest for a better future?

In the senior competition, Ivan Kapelyukh created a sense of a Brave New World in his speech. He outlined a situation in which technology is progressing at the fastest rate ever, in a world where smart phones have shaped our modern society. However, as artificial intelligence gains more power, we need to address ethical questions about intelligent machines, especially as automation will soon orchestrate everything from transport to business, and from research to medicine.

Alex Smith's speech also presented an interesting stance on a theme popular in science fiction, myth and contemporary living; the pursuit of immortality. She argued that it is likely that only the rich would have the means to be able to afford the luxury of eternal life and this would not be an ethical quest when in the developing world people do not even have clean water or food. Furthermore, extending our lives could be counterproductive, as our lives are of value because they are limited and transient. Moreover, practically speaking immortality would not be sustainable in an over-populated, ageing world. This would ultimately destroy the delicate social structures and planet on which we depend.

After much deliberation, our judges Dr Halliday, Mrs Phillips and Mrs MacDonald selected two ultimate winners and runners-up. Alex Fish was awarded the F1-3 prize with Hannah Alijani as a close second. Alex Smith won the F4-6 competition, with Ivan Kapelyukh's talent recognised as runner-up.

Finally, in the words of one of our articulate and gracious finalists: "It was a delight to speak and to listen to all the other speakers present their views on the fascinating topics."

A special thanks to Mrs Ovenstone-Jones for her expert chairing skills and also to our judges.



Comic Book Day



I liked my costume – I was Oor Wullie! My bucket made a good seat. I even took it to the school library that day.

Oliver Walker - L1

English Writing Competition 500 words

Emily Baxter, F2, was one of 25 finalists in the age 10-13 section of BBC Radio 2's 500 Words, a UK-wide children's story-writing contest which this year attracted over 125,000 entries.

In May the 13-year-old travelled down to the fitting location of the Globe Theatre in London to rub shoulders with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, and well-known actors and pop stars, as the final judgement was made during a gala event broadcast live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show.

The winning entries, as decided by a panel of the UK's top children's authors including Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Francesca Simon, as well as The Duchess of Cornwall, who is patron of the competition, were then read live on air by celebrities.

A delighted Emily said, "When I found out I had made it through to the final, I was shocked. I didn't expect it at all! I'm really excited but a little bit nervous too as the whole thing is live on the radio!"

Emily sealed her place in the final of the annual contest, which challenges youngsters aged 5-13 to write a story on any subject in 500 words or fewer, with a thought-provoking, Suffragettes-inspired tale entitled 'Equal Rights'.

"I've always been interested in learning about that movement," she said, "and after going to the cinema to see the film 'Suffragette', I thought it would be interesting to write a story which switched things around for women and men, with women being in power and men being discriminated against. I like to write but I hadn't done a piece like this before. Hopefully it will give me confidence to try writing more, and also encourage other pupils to give it a go as well."

You can read Emily's story on the BBC website under '500 Words'.



L1 and L6 iPad Collaboration



I liked the story which we made on Angus' iPad. Angus was very good at typing the story and helping me.

Jamie Kay L1

It was fun and I liked the L6s – I liked them helping me and they were good on their iPads.

Matthew Gordon L1

Scott from L6 was very good at explaining how to make a story on the iPad. I felt good – this was exciting.

Sebastian Kilbane L1

Leng Medal

Alex Fish (F2) won the 2016 boys' Gold Leng Medal contest, placed ahead of six other competitors, including fellow High School pupils Ruaridh Cowieson (F3) and Ryan Kilburn (L7).

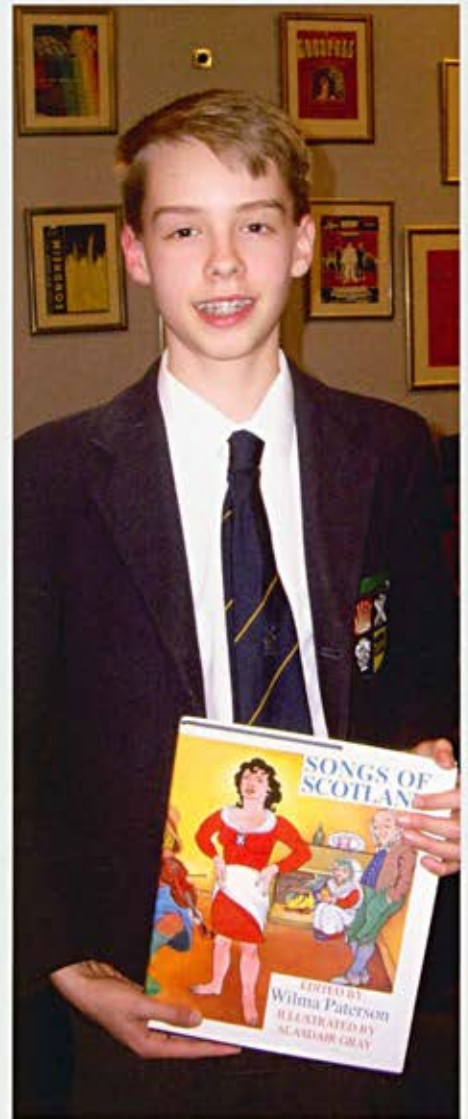
The Gold event is open to all those who have, in the current year or previously, won medals in the 'silver' competitions which are held annually at each school in Dundee and the immediate surrounding areas for pupils from Primary 7 up to the 4th year of Secondary.

Alex, who had taken part in the contest twice before, struck Gold this year with his impressive rendition of the Skye Boat Song.

He said, "I felt shocked but very happy to win. The standard this year was amazing and I never thought I stood a chance! I chose the Skye Boat Song because of its simple yet effective tune. It lets the singer tell the story through a combination of dynamics and words."

Five High School pupils also took part in the girls' Gold competition: Abhisri Chaudhuri (F4), Hannah Cowieson (F4), Charlotte Jennings (F4), Lucie Kelly (F4) and Emily McLean (F3).

The Leng Medal contest is organised by the Sir John Leng Trust, which was set up by Sir John Leng in 1901, to encourage the singing of Scots songs.



F2 Geobus visit

In May, the whole of F2 explored the issue of climate change through an active learning workshop. This was run by Geobus staff and Dr James Rae from St Andrews University.

The pupils examined how movements in the Earth's plates have affected Scotland's geographical position over time, before being shown how to identify different rock types. They also examined the effects of slight changes in global temperatures whilst identifying the current and possible future impacts of climate change on our planet.



L2 HSD in the Community Visits

Throughout the Summer term, the L2s visited various places of interest around Dundee as part of their 'High School of Dundee in the Community' project. These included the Caird Hall, the McManus Galleries, Dundee Central Mosque and St. Andrew's Parish Church. While visiting each place the children were given a tour of the building and as a result found out lots of information about the features of each venue. During the visits, they saw two different organs, had the opportunity to ring the bells in the church and learned what a super trouper is! Thereafter, they planned and built models of either the Pillars, the Caird Hall or the Mosque.



L4 – Pirate Biscuits

In May, L4 were invited to the Home Economics department by Captain Ross and Captain Anderson. Their mission was to bake “Pieces of Eight” using a traditional shortbread recipe. Dressed in pirate hats, the children eagerly took up the challenge, ably assisted by Mrs. Davie.

As well as having a “Jolly Roger” time the pupils had practice in rolling and shaping, marking and cutting and baking their dough. There was great excitement and the pupils were delighted with their treasure.

According to the children, the biscuits were much tastier than the traditional “ship’s biscuits” eaten by pirates on board ships in the Caribbean.



L2 Famous Artists



During our Famous People topic we looked at two very famous artists. Claude Monet, a French artist, was known as the father of Impressionism. We made these pictures on the iPad, using coloured dots to create an amazing impression. He loved his garden at Giverny. We made this fantastic mural to look like his famous painting the Water Lilies.

Vincent Van Gogh was a Dutch painter who travelled to Paris then on to the South of France looking for brighter colours. We were inspired by his paintings of the Sunflowers and decided to try our own. Don't they look stunning?



L4C Scots Language Review Winners

In May, it was announced that two pupils in L4C had won prizes in a competition to write a Scots language review of "The Gruffalo's Child". Noor Ibrahim and Nathan Ogston wrote the reviews at a Scots Language Through Film showing of the film when they visited DCA in March. Noor's review was one of four in Scotland judged to be the "Review Writing Winner" of the Scotland-wide events, while Nathan's review was selected as one of eight "Commended Review Writing" winners.



Swimming Report

Five L7s and four L6s competed in the St Leonards swimming gala, also attended by Strathallan and the hosts St Leonards. Everybody performed well in their races, but there were a few outstanding results:

In the medley relays both the L6s and L7s won their races.

Lucy Clarke, in L6, had a great swim and won her final of the U11 25m Freestyle.

Kate Dalglish, also from L6, triumphed in the U11 25m Butterfly Final.

Reese Brown L7 won her U13 50m breaststroke final.

Martha Reeves L6 succeeded in her 100m U11 Individual Medley Final and won by a considerable distance.

In the U11 Freestyle relay, the L6 relay team comprising Martha Reeves, Lucy Clarke, Heidi Crowhurst and Kate Dalglish, won their final.

There was also success in the U13 freestyle relay when the L7 team comprising Megan Cant, Sophie Elder, Lucy Timney and Claire Joss won their final.



With all of the great swims and successes we came out on top, winning the gala with 81 points. Strathallan came second with 68 points and St Leonards scored 36 points.

We all had a great day at the gala and hope to compete in many similar events in the future.

By Claire Joss and Sophie Elder L7

Lendrick Muir

When we arrived at Lendrick Muir, we were greeted by lots of friendly 'Articulate' staff and shown around the huge grounds which included a volleyball court, football pitch, basketball court and an adventure playground.

After a good night's sleep and a yummy breakfast, we started to work on our morning activities which were French language projects. These included creating comic book characters and cartoon strips, making a French cooking film and producing a podcast. Afternoons were spent taking part in exciting outdoor activities such as cycling, gorge walking and survival skills. Evenings were just as entertaining with a carnival, a French movie, a camp fire and dodge ball. On our final night, we had a disco where there was a photo booth and we were given a T-shirt and certificates. The journey home was paused at Loch Leven so we could play 'Capture the Flag' and take part in a Mini Olympics. We had an amazing time at Lendrick Muir and would really love to go back!

By Lucy Timney and Evie Campbell (L7C)



L1 Animals Project – Elmer the Elephant

I had lots of fun making my Elmer model – my uncle helped me. This is a very colourful corner – I like the bright colours.
Lily Malley L1



Outdoor Education



F3 District Rotary Competition Winners

F3 pupils Hannah Alijani and Alex Denholm achieved 2nd and 3rd places respectively in the Senior Section (for those aged 13-17) of the Rotary Club Writing District Competition 'Our World is Beautiful'. Hannah's piece was a moving story, created to make us consider our attitudes towards those in need: Syrian refugees. Alex submitted a poem on the way our world is both beautiful but also dark with injustice: "Stars not found in unrelenting darkness cannot shine." Head of English, Ms Cortazzi, praised the girls' talent, facility with words and passion in writing.



Nursery Sports Day

Our nursery boys and girls showed the true spirit of competition in practising the races for their Sports Day during weekly PE sessions. They learned many new skills and techniques, developing their gross motor skills, and having lots of fun in the process. Whilst the weather may have disappointed, the children didn't!



The Transit of Mercury

A rare celestial event took HSD pupils by storm in May, when pupils throughout the Junior and Senior Years gathered on the Pillars to take it in turns to observe the solar system's smallest planet, Mercury, move across the face of the sun, an event that happens only around 13 times a century.

With the help of Head of Physics Jamie Darby, and taking advantage of a telescope fitted with a filter to allow safe viewing, the youngsters were able to witness the planet – which is 3,032 miles in diameter but is 48 million miles from Earth – appear as a tiny black dot against the sun.

Jamie Darby was struck by the opportunity to witness this rare event, which was visible only for a window of a few hours. He stated that the last time the phenomenon occurred, it actually wasn't visible from Western Europe because it happened on a dark, November evening, so the pupils were fortunate to have a clear blue sky allowing for perfect viewing conditions.



June

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Laggan



L6 Scottish Parliament Trip



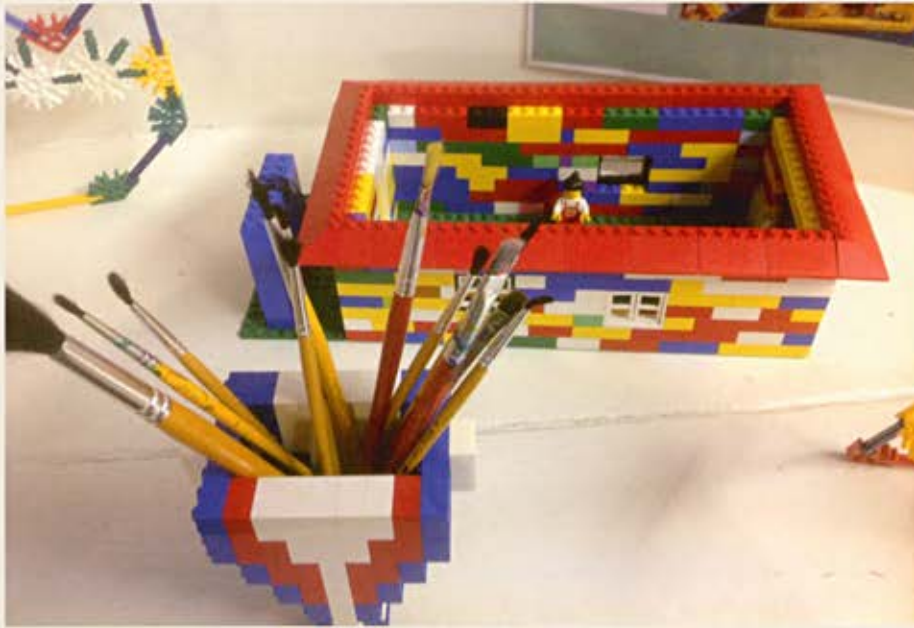
L6 visited the Scottish Parliament to link in with their Citizenship unit in class. Before undertaking the visit, they explored their place in society by looking at aspects of councils and democracy.

During the trip they were able to make real connections with their learning in class and develop their understanding of how the Scottish Parliament is run. They were lucky enough to

explore the Parliament, visit the chamber, and hold a meeting in a Committee Room. In addition, L6 also had the opportunity to discuss a variety of matters; they looked at the Act of Union, discussed the Right to Vote, and identified some of the laws that have been passed both in Scotland and the UK.

It was an informative trip that allowed L6 to develop their life skills and become even more knowledgeable about their place in society.

Construction Club



K'NEX Truck Model

I enjoy building models – clicking the pieces together and sometimes adding to them.

Sophie Timney L5



Mobile Phone Holder

I had fun making my own mobile phone holder – I think this could be quite useful!

Angus Ledlie L5



K'NEX Coat hangers

I personally enjoy being allowed to make helpful objects invented by myself and independently. Hope you like my coat hangers!

Hamish Lowrie L5



LEGO Four Squares

I would recommend building and making things – it's fantastic fun.

Emily Elder L5



K'NEX Swing

I like Construction Club because I enjoy making models. I also love being creative.

Sara Okhai L5

Brown Cup



Team HSD rode a wave of success at Scottish Schools Sailing Championships!

At the Scottish Schools Brown Cup Championships at Loch Earn, the squad of Anna Sturrock (F4, Laser Radial class), Tom Mitchell (L7, Topper 5.3), and the brother and sister pairing of Ross (L7) and Eilean Mauritzen (F2) (RS Feva XL) proved they had plenty of wind in their sails as they fought off competition from over 60 boats, representing 11 schools, to seal the team silver medal.

Scoring consistent results throughout the course of the three-race event, the youngsters ran eventual winners Dunblane High School close, pushing competition favourites Lomond High School into third place in the process.

There was further cause for celebration when Anna scooped the runners-up medal in the handicap category.

Early Years - Italian Lunch



I liked the Italian decorations in the dining hall – green, white and red.

Angus Harrold L2



The Italian colours were all over the school dining hall – they looked smashing!

Ben Thompson L2

I liked the Italian food. We had a yummy meal and lots of fun.

Eleanor Campbell L1

Junior Years Talent Show

One of the highlights of the year was the biennial Junior Years Talent Show, which took place in Trinity before a very excited audience. The Junior Years Pupil Voice helped to organise the event and the judges had a very difficult task in choosing their winners from the talented pupils who performed before them.

The L1-3 winner was Eilidh Payne with a beautiful rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow, and from L4-5, Amy Leburn and Caris Hamilton won with an entertaining performance which included both cheerleading and violins. In the L6-7 category, the judges decided on joint winners; the Bingo Ladies (Anna Leonard, Elizabeth Lang, Zoe Faloon, Fiona Sharp and Sneha Sripada), who performed a comedy sketch, and Finlay de Vale, who sang Just a Friend to You.

The total raised from the afternoon was £291.35 and this money was shared between two deserving causes - the Starlight Foundation and Children's Cancer UK.



Thanks are due to our very able judges, Mrs Ashton, Mrs Braid, Ms Morgan and Mr Jack. The event itself was ably hosted by three of our Pupils Voice members - Ben Watson, Nathan Ogston and Alexander Milnes - and Alan Hamilton,

from the Senior Years, was responsible for sound for the event. Alan has been a huge support over the years to the Junior Years and his help and expertise will be missed.

F5 Post Exam Programme

Form 5 pupils came to the department to experience an array of creativity; they produced 'Festival T shirts' using various textile skills and looked forward to proudly wearing their creations at Glastonbury and T in the Park!

A tempting array of Petits Fours, including French brandy truffles and Dark chocolate peppermint creams, were created too.



Summer League netball

During April and May 2016, the Junior School L7 Netball team played in the Dundee District Primary Schools' Netball Association Summer League, which began with two matches at Ward Road Gym after school on a Thursday against Blackness and Craigowl. The girls played extremely well and won both of these matches in their league, qualifying for the final against St. Joseph's. The team fought really hard during this match and were 3-2 up at half time. St. Joseph's changed their tactics and started to come back in the second half, but the girls remained strong and kept up their good passing, effective defence and consistent shooting, to come out on top with the final score being 7-3. Well done girls! A great end to a successful season!

Nursery Garden Party



Two weeks of lovely sunshine in the nursery garden allowed the children really to enjoy being outside, making paddling pools to keep cool, playing in their pirate ship, helping to plant and grow flowers and herbs and having picnics.

Then, to wish them well as they prepared to move on to the Junior Years and other schools across Dundee after the summer holidays, a Garden Party was organised in which the children sang a series of songs for proud parents and family members.

The youngsters, who were joined at the event by children in the ante-pre-school year, were also presented with their very own nursery lions to keep, before having the chance to enjoy a piece of celebratory cake.



L2R Art Project



As part of their Creative Writing activities, the L2 children created an imaginary monster. They wrote a character description about their monster and also wrote a fictional story about bringing their monster to school and the adventures that it experienced! In order to coincide with this work, the children were also involved in a long-term Art project to create a felt monster toy. They cut out, sewed and decorated their toy independently and were very focused and industrious throughout the project in order to achieve these colourful results. What great work!



Pirate Fun Day

I liked Pirate Day – it was fun going on a bouncy castle dressed as a pirate!

Indira Sharma L1



Pirate Day was fun and it was really exciting – I wore a parrot on my shirt!

Lily Malley L1



It was fun on Pirate Day – I enjoyed playing pirates in the playground and my sword had a jewel in it.

Ross Trotter L1



New HSD Cook Book

Mrs Ross has been very busy creating a cook book. Developing, styling and photographing recipes for the new HSD eCook Book has taken over two years. Watch out for further information on when it will be available and sold online.

A glimpse of some of the contents is provided by Aengus McCrimmon F5 serving a sumptuous afternoon tea, and the presentation of a plate of delicious venison. All recipes are tried, tested and trusted by pupils and made many, many times by Mrs Ross!



John Muir Trust Award



Over the course of the year a group of four pupils from Forms 5 and 6 completed the John Muir Trust Discovery Award, which is dedicated to helping to protect and maintain Scotland's wild places.

We were required to complete four sections: discover, explore, conserve and share a new area. Most of this work took place at Tentsmuir, where we undertook a variety of tasks including litter picks, path and fence maintenance and bird counts, to name but a few. We felt that by volunteering there we could make a real difference to the environment, and at Tentsmuir we met a Scottish Dragonfly Society volunteer whom we then went on to help at Monikie Country Park.





At the end of the year we planned and undertook a trip to Sutherland on the north-west coast of Scotland. On this trip we counted dragonflies in certain areas to help the Dragonfly Society; the photograph illustrates how beautiful they are. We climbed Stac Pollaidh, a mountain near where we were camping. We also explored an area with lots of small caves and dried-up river beds caused by the unusual rock type in the area. After our trip we prepared a support pack for Mr Ross to help him run conservation activities with junior school pupils in the future.

Overall, completing the John Muir Award was a fun and enriching experience and it has taught us all a lot about conservation and the environment around us.

Logan Thomson F6



People who help us

Police Officer

The policeman told us about helping people and about dialling 999.

Jamie McRobbie L1

It was exciting hearing about the policeman's job. He has lots of interesting things to do – like keeping people safe.

Sophie Barrie L1

The policeman wears a very bright jacket so that people know he is a policeman and he can be seen at night. He carries a very important badge.

Aarav Balakrishnan L1



Mr Goldie - the vet

I liked holding the dog who was my patient – he was soft and fluffy. I enjoyed dressing up as a vet.

Eilidh Payne L1

I liked holding this dog – I had bandaged its sore leg. I like the green colour.

Diya Prasad L1

I got to wear the stethoscope – Mr Goldie, the vet, wears a stethoscope to listen to animals' hearts.

Oliver Walker L1



Fire Brigade

The fire crew came to visit L1 as part of our 'People Who Help Us' project. They showed us all the equipment in their fire engine and we all had a shot of squirting water!

It was very good when the fire engine came to school. The fireman showed us the inside and we saw the giant hose. I got to try on a fireman's helmet.

Brodie Scrimgeour L1



IoPS Reflections on Light 2015-16 Physics Poster Competition

Every two years the Institute of Physics in Scotland runs a team competition, inviting contestants to produce an explanatory poster on an aspect of physics. 2015 was the International Year of Light, so this year the competition focused on the electromagnetic spectrum and its applications.

For our entry, we investigated the journey of a photon from its emission on a distant exoplanet to its detection by a satellite orbiting the Earth, examining various optical phenomena and applications of light, including novel developments in photovoltaics and orbital telescopes, as well as the revolutionary potential of photon-based quantum computing. We also submitted an essay on the use of laser interferometry in gravitational wave astronomy, recently used by LIGO to observe a black hole collision.

In June, we attended a prize-giving ceremony at the Royal Society of Edinburgh where we were presented with the F4-6 senior category prize and were given the chance to learn more about James Clerk Maxwell, the founder of electromagnetic field theory. As a team, we greatly enjoyed this opportunity to research the topic beyond the scope of the curriculum and found the poster design process to be challenging but also fascinatingly informative and very rewarding.



L4 Botanic Gardens Visit



In June, L4 visited Dundee Botanic Gardens and Riverside Nature Reserve to develop and extend their learning in Science. In class the children had been exploring what plants need to grow and had tried their hand at growing their own runner bean plants.

During the visit, the children took advantage of the glorious weather to explore plants which are used for food, building materials or for textiles. Following a self-guided trail, they also explored a variety of trees ranging from the monkey puzzle tree, to an elm which provided a shaded space to retreat from the sunshine. In the hot house the children discovered that the stems of

papyrus plants are actually triangular and that the colouring for red cheddar cheese comes from the seeds of a plant called the "lipstick plant."

At the nature reserve the children had the opportunity put their maths skills to the test to measure the heights of trees. They also had the chance to explore the wild flower meadow to identify the key parts of a flower.



Goldl ckchen

Herr Nolan of the Modern Languages Department, once again staged a novel and very appealing German fairytale, namely 'Goldl ckchen', adapted and penned by the man himself. The Form 3 German class worked hard to perfect their lines and their version of the famous classic, albeit with a definite departure from the regular ending, had the audience rocking in the aisles, and showcased the creativity and enthusiasm our pupils have to offer.

Post Exam Programme

This year's event aimed to inspire creativity beyond the exam-focused curriculum, saw pupils learn about Exoplanets and the search for extraterrestrial life (Dr Duncan Forgan, St Andrews University); explore how digital technologies can help and hinder us as we go through life (Dr Wendy Moncur, Dundee University); and find out how the head of the award-winning Dundee based company Vivomotion, Dr Mhairi Towler, combined science, art and entrepreneurialism to get where she is today.

Pictured with Mr Rodger is Professor Matthias Klaes of the University of Dundee. From his talk, entitled 'Dundee's Nobel Laureate', pupils learned how one of the most prominent economists of the 20th century, Nobel Prize winner Ronald Coase, developed some of his key theories in Dundee during the early 1930s, in the course of his early career as a lecturer at the Dundee School of Economics and Commerce. Interestingly, that institution was then a newly-founded business school in its purpose-built premises, in what is now the School's Bonar House.



Also on offer was a talk on the history of terrorism and the opportunity to understand some of the common myths which are sometimes present in today's discourse on the subject. This was given by Yannick Veilleux-Lepage, a PhD candidate at St Andrews University, who is shown with pupils Euan and Emily.

In a talk given by Roger Illsley, former Deputy Head of Senior School, our sixth formers were fascinated to discover that a former Dundee A-list celebrity's remains have languished in an unmarked grave less than 200 metres from the School for over 200 years.

Meanwhile, away from the lecture series, the pupils were given the chance to take part in a range of engaging activities such as geocaching, iPad orienteering, meditation, arts and crafts, mathematical murder mysteries and even an examination of how medicine started and developed in the classical world.

They also had the opportunity to undertake voluntary work for charities, participate in personal effectiveness seminars and, during a residential trip to Lendrick Muir, work on their leadership and teamwork skills.

The Rector emphasised that "The Post Exam Programme gives our pupils the chance to step outside the bounds of the exam focused curriculum and discover new interests and ways of thinking by hearing from expert speakers about a variety of topics, some of which they may not have encountered before. The activities on offer are also a central part of the programme, again enabling our pupils to try new things but also allowing them to further develop attributes like their social awareness, creativity and teamwork."

Prize-giving

At an inspirational event in the Caird Hall, members of the departing F6 cohort received leavers' awards as they bade their farewells to the School, while pupils from L4 upwards were presented with prizes in recognition of their hard work and achievements in a range of subjects.

Speaking to the audience of pupils, parents, family members and friends, Rector Dr John Halliday shared some of the many highlights of 2015-16.

These had included an HMIE inspection report which strongly endorsed the School's ability to ensure continued improvement in the quality of its education, and recognised the quality of its nursery at Mayfield; fundraising which had generated, in total, a remarkable £37,000 for various charities; an acclaimed production of Les Misérables, which Dr Halliday described as the best school drama show he had seen in his 30 years as a teacher; and the School's continued commitment to further developing its curriculum, as shown by the appointment of its first teacher of Mandarin.

Dr Halliday also spoke of the excitement within the School about the plans for the redevelopment of Dundee's former Head Post Office into a Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, which have now received planning permission; the success of the School's debating team, which had won four trophies and secured the runners-up spot in the prestigious, UK-wide Oxford contest;

the School's marking of the centenary of the devastating Battle of Loos; and the huge number of exciting classroom activities, trips, events and accomplishments across various fields which had taken place this session.

Presenting the prizes was the guest of honour, former pupil and now a partner with the City law firm Logos, Ann Schmidt.

After sharing some anecdotes of her own time at the School, she reflected

that, "It's only now that I have two young children myself, that I recognise how unique and special what you have in Dundee is. It's a veritable launch pad for life."

And turning her attention to the F6 pupils who are now bound for universities across Scotland and beyond, she wished them success saying: "It's a very exciting time to be setting off on your careers. I wish you the very best of success wherever your journeys take you."



Maths Challenge Success

A way with numbers added up to multiple maths awards for Brian Lim (F4), Sid Sripada (F3), Alex Smith (F5), Ivan Kapelyukh (F5) and Ethan McColgan (F1), who all achieved gold certificates, and Filip Jovanovic (F6), who was awarded a silver certificate in this year's Scottish Mathematical Challenge, an annual contest open to S1-S6 pupils across Scotland.

Having shown their ability in a range of problem-solving tasks in two papers, the youngsters, who took part in junior, senior or middle categories depending on their age, collected their awards at a prize-giving ceremony at St Andrews University in June. Photo shows (l-to-r) Ivan, Brian, Ethan, Sid and Alex.

Meanwhile, pupils in F1 and F2 were rewarded for their own numerical nous with gold, silver and bronze awards in the Junior Maths Challenge. Well done, Team Mathematics HSD.



Sports Day 2016

At the School's annual Sports Day a healthy crowd of enthusiastic parents, family members and friends of the School gathered at Mayfield to cheer the pupils on as they competed in a series of events, ranging from sprints, sack races, egg and spoon races and the long jump for the Junior Years, to the high jump, 1500m, tug-of-war and relay races for the Senior Years.

Those in attendance enjoyed the added bonus of being able to witness a trio of records being broken as new marks were set for Intermediate Girls Javelin (Isla Archibald; 17.89m), Junior Boys 4 x 100 relay (Lindores; 53.4 seconds) and Junior Girls 4 x 100 relay (Airlie; 57.1 seconds).

Head of PE and Games, Ewan Jack, celebrated the day saying that "Everyone involved in the Sports Day was rewarded with a cracking sunny afternoon full of top quality sporting action. It was great to see so many people turning out to support the pupils, and it was fantastic to see pupils across the whole school having such fun and showing tremendous sportsmanship as they competed in the various events."





Table Tennis Report

This session has seen plenty of table tennis action and fun for many L4 pupils. Margaret Harris Hall has been our venue for developing table tennis skills and enjoying this fast-moving sport with others. Bat grip, forehand, backhand and serve have all been demonstrated and practised. Nimbleness of feet and flexibility have been encouraged and a great deal of progress has been made within all three table tennis groups participating this year.

We have been very fortunate in being able to call on the help of several L7 pupils who have acted as valuable table tennis assistants, encouraging the younger players, offering advice, demonstrating shots and acting as umpires. These L7 pupils have made a big difference to the positive playing experiences of L4 pupils. Always popular are the target practice exercises where table tennis shots are directed at hoops, a stacked tower and trays – with the added incentive of accumulating points for accurate aim!

The concluding mini tournaments, played by each group, are exciting events with plenty of enthusiasm and new-found skills in evidence. Playing table tennis is a great way to keep fit and to develop fast reactions and reflexes. Importantly, the game also provides an arena in which to demonstrate good sportsmanship and to have fun playing with friends.

Miss M Cardno and Mrs J Chalmers



L1 Year Group Photograph – End of the Year



Les Misérables

Did you hear the pupils sing?

Our pupils wowed audiences at the Gardyne Theatre with their production of one of the world's most famous and inspiring pieces of musical theatre.

The School's five performances of Les Misérables in June drew widespread acclaim and praise, with Rector Dr John Halliday describing it as the best school musical he had seen in his 30 years in teaching.

Well over a hundred pupils were involved in the production and with sixty of them on stage it was one of the largest casts ever to perform in a High School show. The production told - in colourful and rousing fashion - the inspiring story of peasant Jean Valjean's 30-year quest for redemption following 19 years of imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread, and his attempts to evade police Inspector Javert who relentlessly attempted to track him down for breaking parole.

The main principal roles of Valjean and Javert were played with maturity and spell-binding conviction by Lyndon Nicely and Finlay McKillop. Other notable principals were Josh Rawcliffe, Alice Inman, Verity Brown, Rebecca Morrison, Joe Carstairs, Hannah George and Isabel Campbell.

Les Misérables, which has been seen by more than 70 million people in 44 countries and played in 22 languages around the world, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, making it the world's longest-running musical.

Head of Drama, Lindsay Drummond, said "Les Mis is the big one and anyone who produces shows would love to be able to have the opportunity to tackle it, so I have been very lucky. But it is quite tricky and very demanding. So you feel a huge sense of responsibility to do it justice, not only for the

originators but also to make the cast, crew and orchestra feel proud of their achievement. Fortunately we were absolutely blessed with an amazingly talented and focused group of pupils and staff who felt the same way and who put every ounce of their energy and expertise into the five sold-out performances. From the very first rehearsal to the opening night there was an air of excitement amongst the cast which transferred to their performance onstage, and they thoroughly deserved their standing ovations from the audience for each show."

As may be seen from the accompanying montage of photos, this was not only a musical treat but also a visual extravaganza. Great credit is due to all the staff who assisted in this hugely successful endeavour.



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breathtaking performance



Outstanding
performances by all
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Really enjoyed Les Mis performance yesterday. Didn't realise we had such talent in Dundee! As a former pupil, I was very proud



That was the most amazing amateur production I have ever seen. Absolutely brilliant! Well done!





Their performance last night was fantastic - so glad I am going more than one night



Les Mis production - seen it 20+ times in west end and many voices rivalled that tonight.





 I think @HSofDundee's run of Les Misérables is the first musical I've been a part of to have a standing ovation every show. Amazing work!



 What a superb performance. Congratulations all round!





Brilliant show tonight!
Seriously impressed by
some of the talent on stage.
Well done!



Magnificent!



Stunning show. Extraordinary talent.



Amazing show - loved it.
Well done to all involved!



Photography Competition

The School's annual photography competition again saw keen photographers submit their finest images in the hope of snapping up an award.

Prizes were available in most popular, best technical, parental and staff categories with some superb entries ensuring that professional photographer Angus Forbes, to whom the School records its thanks for his time and expertise, had a tough challenge adjudicating the latter three groups.

The winner of the popular category was Jack Davies (4LI2), whose entry is shown alongside some of the other submissions.



Russell Mitchell - Technical



Blair McKay - Technical



Jack Davies - Popular



Mrs Vannet - Staff



Chandru Vijayasekar - Parental



Benjamin Braid - Popular



Mr Rodger - Staff



Zoe Loveday - Popular



Pavan Raju - Parental

Struan Baptie

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July

Wimbledon

A group of High School pupils enjoyed the tennis trip of a lifetime during the summer holidays.

35 F1 pupils travelled down to SW19 at the end of June to sample all the excitement which the sport's most famous event could serve up.

After the customary early morning queuing at the gates, with the advantage of Show Court tickets to their names the youngsters made their way to Court 2 to watch the women's number four seed Angelique Kerber defeat Carina Witthoef, before returning to see Ekaterina Makarova knock out two-time champion, and number ten seed, Petra Kvitova.



Not even the odd rain delay could dampen the smashing experience, which was enhanced further by the traditional treat of strawberries and cream and rounded off in ace fashion with a visit to 'Pro's Corner' for autographs and,



thanks to the pupils' hoodies, a fleeting appearance on TV!

PE teacher Jude McMullan, who organised the trip, said, "It was an unforgettable experience which was both fun and inspiring."



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California

A group of High School pupils had no need for California Dreamin' over the summer – they were enjoying the real thing!

35 pupils from F4-6 soaked up the sights and sounds of the Golden State as part of a cultural and educational trip focusing on the arts, computing science and technology.

After a long flight, which really enabled the whole party to recharge their batteries (and watch unlimited back to back movies!) after the hectic end-of-term festivities, we arrived in San Francisco. The infamous San Fran fog meant that mornings and evenings were like a Scottish autumn and the Golden Gate Bridge was only ever partly in view. However, thankfully the sun broke through for most of the daytime.

Staying in dorms at the Fisherman's Wharf hostel at Fort Mason meant the pupils experienced a traveller's existence and had the chance to make the most of travelling on a budget! The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere of hostel life introduced pupils to another way of life

and travel. Communal breakfasts with other travellers eager to hear their stories and share their news was a positive experience for all.

A fabulous walking tour of the city was given by our American guide who took us to places off the beaten tourist track, up through hidden paths and gardens which overlooked a truly breathtaking city. San Francisco felt a safe and welcoming city in which the pupils could explore and also, of course, shop!

Our boat to Alcatraz took us out into the bay so we could look back at the city and get a feel for the restricted life of the inmates held on Alcatraz Island. The Alcatraz tour gave us a fascinating insight into the historical, political and social relevance of the jail and its inmates such as Al Capone and the Birdman of Alcatraz.

The chance to explore the origins of, and future developments in, ICT came next, with a visit to Silicon Valley, home to everything and anything related to the world of technology, including the Computer History Museum, Intel Museum and Googleplex. The pupils were particularly impressed by the working environment created by Google

for their employees - basketball courts, balconies for each office, vegetable and fruit gardens, free Google bikes etc, all designed to make going to work fun. Certainly a glimpse into another world and a workplace to which the pupils understandably aspired. The staff also felt that this model would suit the High School perfectly!

As we left San Francisco and travelled down Highway 1, carving our way through the spectacular mountains on one side and ocean on the other, it really felt like a Californian trip to beat all others. The weather grew warmer and shorts appeared as on the 4th July we made an unscheduled stop at a beach, just north of Santa Barbara, to dip our toes in the ocean. Locals looked on in amusement as 40 enthusiastic Scots ran down to the sea to recreate the opening sequence of Chariots of Fire; meanwhile Mr Walker settled down for some serious sun bathing and was very nearly left behind!

We were lucky enough to stop overnight at the University of California's Santa Barbara campus. Although our stay was brief, the pupils were able to enjoy the fantastic experience of staying on campus, snatching a quick game of





basketball, enjoying fabulous meals in the canteen and waking up to views of palm trees and the Atlantic Ocean. We also made the most of the chance to experience the Independence Day celebrations on US soil, culminating in a memorable and spectacular 4th of July fireworks display and party on the beach at the waterfront in Santa Barbara.

As we left Santa Barbara and headed towards Los Angeles, the City of Angels, excitement was building amongst the pupils who felt that Hollywood was finally within reach and Universal, Sony Pictures, Venice Beach and Warner

Brothers all beckoned. Accommodation was again in a hostel in Santa Monica, an area which is home to many current movie stars. The next few days, spent in beautiful warm Californian sunshine, involved visits to Venice Beach and studio trips which enabled us to find out about the use of technology and design in film-making. We also visited the Griffith Observatory where we could see the breathtaking view of LA sprawled out before us and the famous Hollywood sign on the Hollywood Hills behind us. Our final evening was spent on Hollywood Boulevard following the Hollywood Walk of Fame up to The Chinese Theatre, where many of our most famous film stars past and present have their hands/feet/names immortalised in concrete.

It was a fitting last night before heading out for one last studio tour at Sony Pictures in the morning. As we set off for the airport to begin our journey home there was the feeling amongst the staff that we really had made the absolute most of our time in California and seen so much in a relatively short time. We hope that the pupils will return one day and be able to explore more of this fabulous state.

We all had a wonderful time and there was much hilarity along the way. It was a huge, exciting and memorable journey for all of us. The staff thoroughly enjoyed the company of all the pupils, who were superb travelling companions and brilliant ambassadors for their school and country.



Thanks to Mr McBride, Mr Walker and Mrs Ross for all the help they gave in planning, co-ordinating and accompanying us all on the trip.

Lindsay Drummond, Head of Drama

Expedition 2016 - Ecuador

It had taken two years of hard planning; in June this summer the long-awaited and much-anticipated Ecuador Expedition departed with 13 intrepid pupils and 3 school staff. The pupils influenced the trip's itinerary and they worked hard throughout the year to contribute towards paying for their trip. During the trip the pupils had the responsibility to manage key aspects of the trip from the budget, booking transport, finding accommodation, organising the meals as well as booking activities. Each day a pupil would be responsible to lead the day and ensure everyone was doing their tasks to a sufficient standard, and all this whilst we were occupied throughout most of the day and for 34 days.

Fortunately, our first phase was volunteering at Santa Lucia in the Cloud Forest, where the demands tended to be physical as our objective was to create a new Orchid garden. The setting was spectacular, high up on a ridge with 360-degree views of the surrounding hillsides. I think we surprised ourselves. In the week, we created a long winding path through thick forest and laid Orchids on either side. The reserve is valuable to the local people, to whom it provides employment, and the ecosystem is a biodiversity 'hotspot'. It has over 400 species of birds, 45 species of mammals including pumas and the endangered spectacled bear, and thousands of tropical plants which are native to the region, including an amazing variety of orchids, bromeliads, and other epiphytes. We departed satisfied, knowing we had left something special for future visitors.

After further days exploring the wonderful cloud forest at our own pace we travelled to the Cotopaxi region to undertake a 2-day trek from Isinlivi to Quilotoa. We passed the rural agricultural landscape and navigated our way with help from locals, so that at the end of the last day we climbed high to reach Quilotoa crater, which is a spectacular 3km wide with a lake 300m below. The following day the group split, with one section attempting to



reach the summit of the mountain El Corazon at 4788m. With the reduced oxygen available at high altitude and the hill being particularly steep, the going was tough. The group made steady progress but as we scrambled towards the summit we came to a halt and could go no further due to fierce winds. Our spirits remained high and a great sense of achievement was experienced by all. The views were breath-taking, particularly looking over to Cotopaxi, which erupted only recently.

We regrouped and descended into the Amazon where we spent a week undertaking a range of exciting activities, from white-water rafting, which was a great thrill, to climbing a

canopy tower where we saw a wonderful array of wildlife including eagles, monkeys, colourful tropical birds and incredible insects. There we spent a day with the local Sani community.





Extract from our blog by Andrew Lang:

"We rose at 5 in the morning to a nourishing meal of fried plantain chips and scrambled egg served by the staff of the Sani Lodge community. Then, led by our reliable guides Javier and Oldjer, we crossed a lagoon by means of canoe and walked a short distance to the Canopy Tower. This is a platform constructed at the very top of a 35-metre tall Ceiba tree which, we had been told, was in the vicinity of 500-600 years old. The Canopy Tower (aside from offering outstanding views of the Amazon rainforest for miles around) gave us the perfect opportunity to observe numerous and diverse species unique to the particular area which we were visiting. Among the animals we saw were the rare Harpy Eagle, multiple Red Howler Monkeys, a Three-Toed Sloth and innumerable varieties of bird species - all within one morning!

"After returning to Sani Lodge and resting for a few hours, we embarked on the afternoon activities. The group were led by either Javier or Oldjer on various paths through the jungle surrounding the lodge. The guides, having resided in the rainforest for most of their lives, were experts in seeing and hearing animals that we would have never noticed without their help.

"Having finished the walk and completed our activities for the day, we returned to the lodge to a filling meal and time to ourselves before bed."

But the memory that will perhaps live longest in the memory for the young explorers was of their visit to the awe-

inspiring wonder that is the Galapagos Islands, where they had the chance to learn to surf, sea kayak with penguins, swim with reef sharks and turtles, and see wild giant tortoises, unique marine iguanas and various bird species in their own stunning natural environments.

Stefan Baldacchino:

"Ecuador was the best experience of my life. The work we did and the people we met helped all of us take a step back and think about the world."

Logan Thomson:

"Ecuador was a really fantastic experience; exploring a new country and finding out about Ecuador's incredible culture. Over the 34 days we were away we had a great time exploring all the different environments in Ecuador, everything from high altitude rainforest

to the stunning Galápagos Islands. My favourite experience was probably snorkelling in the Galápagos where we swam with white tipped reef sharks and giant turtles."

Katie Young:

"Although most of the group didn't previously know each other we quickly developed a sense of trust and friendship.

"Ecuador pushed me to do new things and forced me out of my comfort zone but it was truly an unforgettable experience and I'm very grateful for the opportunity.

The 5 weeks passed very quickly and the pupils have gained valuable life skills as well as memories to treasure for many years to come."





Charities

£37,631.42 raised

This amazing sum of money was generated by pupils and staff in 2015/16 through a number of fundraising initiatives and events over the academic year, ranging from enterprise events, the School's annual Christmas Fair and a Comic Book Characters Day, to an Edinburgh-to-London sponsored cycle, charity events organised by the School's Interact club, and a school team completing the Etape Caledonia challenge.

Among the charities which received cheques from the School for various amounts are: Save the Children, Poppy Scotland, the Dundee Food Bank, Scottish Autism, the ARCHIE Foundation, Cancer Research, Children 1st, Marie Curie, CHAS, and the Blake McMillan Trust.

Claire Reid, teacher and Charities and Community Outreach Coordinator for the School, said, "It is wonderful that our whole school community comes together throughout the year to take part in a variety of different events which benefit many charities, and my thanks go to everyone who has had a part to play in fundraising this session."



Our Rector Dr John Halliday was delighted that the School had been able to raise such a significant sum, which is equivalent to each pupil generating more than £35.

He said, "Developing our role within the community is very important to us and it is a goal which we are keen to encourage even further among our pupils. I am delighted that the efforts of our pupils and staff, and all those who have supported their fundraising, has enabled the School to make such a remarkable donation to a variety of good causes."



Build on a fiver

A team of Junior School pupils were able to make bumper donations to two charities, thanks to a rather impressive entrepreneurial feat.

After being tasked with starting a business with just £5 each, the eight members of the L6 Young Enterprise team were able to turn their combined £40 into an amazing total of £1083.72 – an incredible 2,607% return on investment!

The thrifty children had to demonstrate a number of key business skills as they produced, marketed and sold products ranging from scented candles, handmade cards and character bookmarks to sunflower kits, flavoured jellies and tissue holders as part of a 'Building on a Fiver' challenge.

At the end of the project, which ran throughout the spring term, the youngsters were delighted to hand over cheques for more than £540 to both Crisis UK and the British Red Cross.

L3/4 Gruffalo Puppet Club visit Age Concern

In June 2016 a small group of L3 and L4 pupils made a trip to the Age Concern Centre in Dundee. The children had attended a lunchtime club throughout the summer term with Mrs Duff, to make the characters and set for their puppet show production of the Gruffalo. After numerous weeks of learning lines and practising voices, the pupils were able to perform their show to the elderly clients at Age Concern. Both children and adults thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we hope that more of these activities can be organised in future.



Comic Book Character Day

Minnie the Minxes, Dennis the Menaces, and other renowned rascals were represented in a special Comic Book Character Day in which children from across the entire Nursery and Junior Years made donations in the sum of £520.21 to the ARCHIE Foundation, in order to dress up in the flamboyant fashion of their favourite fictional figures. However, with a team of superheroes like Batman, Superman, Wonderwoman and even Bananaman also on hand and ready to maintain order, thankfully any concerns were unfounded!



Etape Caledonia

Congratulations to Team HSD on taking on and conquering the challenge of the Marie Curie Etape Caledonia on a beautiful May Sunday!

Even the unexpected presence of warm sunshine throughout the day couldn't hold David Brett, Rector Dr John Halliday, Jason McAuley, Craig Melia, Roy Middleton and David Smith back as they cycled their way along an 81 mile Highland Perthshire route, climbing just under 2000 metres in the process!

Dr Halliday and Roy were fundraising for Marie Curie and generated a fantastic combined total of more than £3500.



Christmas fair



The Christmas fair took place in Trinity Hall and Baxter Hall in November, charging a small entry fee for adults. A range of stalls run by charities, local traders and pupils sold cards, crafts, jewellery, art, festive items and homeware and refreshments and cakes were also on offer, along with a raffle.

A magical elves' grotto featuring face-painting and other activities provided entertainment for younger visitors and there was a drop-off point for donations to the 'Bring a Smile of Christmas' appeal.

Overall £1298.64 was raised and this was distributed among various charities such as Barnardo's, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Maggie's Dundee, Save the Children and Tayside Cancer Care.

Jessica Slingsby Charity Walk

Jessica Slingsby walked 13.1 miles through the streets of Edinburgh on Saturday, 11 June and into the wee small hours of Sunday morning as part of the 2016 Moon Walk, an event which sees participants complete half, full or even double marathon overnight walks to generate cash to fight breast cancer and raise awareness of the disease.

Jessica, who became old enough to take part in the annual fundraiser only two weeks previously, completed the challenge alongside her mum and others as part of team 'Bring Me Sunshine', in aid of the charity 'Walk the Walk', in the process raising over £1,000 for charity.



L4 Fundraiser - Walk round Curlypond

In the middle of January, two L4 pupils, Moya Craig and Jessica Forster, led an impressive group of around fifty friends and family on a sunny walk around Curlypond in Montrose. The track is five kilometres in length, and it took them just over one hour to complete. The walk was followed by an array of cakes and treats at the bake sale which featured Jessica's scrummy brownies and Moya's delicious cupcakes. The determined pair raised an incredible £980 towards Meningitis and Septicaemia Awareness, inspired by a three-year-old boy at Moya's mum's nursery in Montrose who is living with the disease. Despite recovering well, the brave boy will remain in Ninewells hospital for a further four months. A very inspiring and admirable story and huge congratulations to the pair!

Josh Rawcliffe Cycle



Josh Rawcliffe cycled almost 500 miles in just five days to raise over £1400 for a cause that is close to his heart.

The F5 pupil set the wheels turning in May 2016 for a sponsored bike ride from Edinburgh to London to generate cash for Dundee Disabled Children's Association (DCCA).

He was inspired to take on the fundraising challenge after spending time volunteering with the charity over the course of nine months and, such was

his enthusiasm, he actually completed the journey a day ahead of schedule!

Josh, who was accompanied for part of the way by his dad and his brother Matthew, said, "The DCCA is an incredible local charity giving care, support and fun to loads of children and young people with various needs. I get to see first-hand what they do and how important it is to so many people and their families so I wanted to make my own contribution to this organisation, which is run almost solely by donation."



Mark Beaumont: Africa Solo Talk - April 2016

Former pupil Mark Beaumont returned to the School to share the inspirational story of his latest record-breaking cycling trip. At an event in aid of the ARCHIE Foundation, the adventurer and broadcaster talked about his amazing solo 6,762-mile journey from Cairo to Cape Town, which he completed in 2015 in the fastest-ever recorded time of just 41 days.

Travelling through 8 countries, navigating mountainous roads, deserts and grasslands, climbing a total of more than 190,000 feet, riding at night in the company of elephants and giraffes, and overcoming dehydration, illness and even attempted robbery, Mark managed to average 160 miles per day, enabling him to beat the previous record by an incredible 18 days.

Mark's latest achievement marks an unprecedented hat-trick, as he has previously set records for cycling around the world and cycling across the Americas, and his talk also touched upon his experiences on those trips and other more recent challenges.

The proceeds from this event raised £3061.50.



MARK BEAUMONT AFRICA SOLO

In aid of The ARCHIE Foundation

Friday 22nd April 2016 at 7:30pm

Trinity Hall The High School of Dundee
Euclid Crescent, Dundee, DD1 1HU

Tickets sold by Groucho's by phone or in store 01382 228496
132 Nethergate, Dundee, DD1 4ED

£15 for adults and £12.50 for under 18 in full time education
(50p booking fee added per ticket)

Event Sponsor



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Macmillan Coffee Morning – Sept 2015

The School brewed up a donation of £357.49 for Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning through a pupil-run tuck shop and a cake sale organised by staff.

Oor Wullie Bucket Trail

The School was pleased to be able to give a very warm welcome to a known troublemaker over the course of the summer holidays!

Standing, or rather sitting, on proud display in front of the main school gates throughout July and August was a giant Oor Wullie statue which the School sponsored as part of Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, the hugely popular Dundee-wide public extravaganza which aimed to help the Archie Foundation raise £2m for a new operating theatre suite at Tayside Children's Hospital.

The biggest mass participation art event ever to take place in Tayside, it saw 55 individually decorated sculptures go on display in the streets of Dundee and beyond to form an enchanting visitor trail.

And, sporting a unique outfit which was designed by pupils Rebecca Hamilton, Jennifer Bonnyman and Evie Campbell (all L7), and brought to life by F6 pupils studying Advanced Higher Art, the School's very own wee rascal took his place in the line-up!

Along with the other 'Wullies', after ten weeks the School's statue was auctioned off in aid of the Archie Appeal and in spite of a valiant effort by the School community to raise enough money to give the cheeky chap a permanent home, the sculpture was sold to another buyer. However, with the bidding during a memorable evening at Dundee Rep having reached £11k, the School was delighted that its statue had helped generate such a fantastic contribution to a very worthy cause.

At the time of going to press, the new whereabouts of the High School Wullie was unknown, in spite of a heartfelt plea for information from the Rector which was published in the Courier newspaper! However, the School lives in hope that one day Wullie might return!





Stop press!

There's now one more Oor Wullie!

After going out on a number of trips over the past few weeks to find as many of the 55 sculptures on the Oor Wullie Bucket Trail as they could, pupils at the nursery decided to create their own wee rascal.

With the help of staff, the youngsters built their own papier mâché homage to the renowned rogue, which now sits proudly on display within the Mayfield building, surrounded by multiple Oor Wullie selfies.

Lisa Yule, Deputy Manager at the Nursery, said "The children have loved taking part in the Bucket Trail. They have been taking selfies with the Nursery Wullie when they arrive in the morning and leave each night, and we've asked parents to bring in pictures of the pupils with the other Wullies which they have been finding in their own time, as well as with the Nursery."

Junior Years Nativity – Dec 2015



The Christmas message reached the final frontier when L1-3 pupils embarked on a mission to spread seasonal cheer to parents, guests, fellow pupils, and even little green men, by performing their intergalactic Nativity play, 'An Out of this World Christmas'.

Featuring a sackful of catchy tunes, the uplifting production told the tale of four brave astronauts who set off on an adventure to the far reaches of space, only to crash-land on a distant planet.

Faced with the prospect of not being able to return home by December 25, the plucky astral explorers had to teach the strange planet's alien inhabitants all about the joy of Christmas and its true meaning in order to win their help and make it back in time!

The total amount of £2206.19 raised was shared between the Blake McMillan Trust and Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Mashimoni

Junior Years annual sponsorship of five pupils at the Mashimoni School in Kenya

Junior Years raised enough money through the sale of Spree books to continue to cover the cost of school fees for the five children we have sponsored for the last few years at the Mashimoni School in Kenya. £120 per child provides them with two nutritious meals a day, a school uniform, books and stationery and a quality education. Support from us has made a huge difference to these underprivileged children living in Kibera, offering them a lifeline for their futures. The 'BalCraig Foundation Kenya Appeal' are extremely grateful for our continued generosity and kindness.



Non-uniform Day – March 2016

Pupils came to school in more relaxed dress for a non-uniform day in March 2016. The proceeds of £1478.83 were given to Save the Children for their Syrian Refugee Crisis Appeal.



Sparkle Day – Dec 2015



Children from L3 handed over a cheque for £623.26 to Save the Children after pupils across the school generated the funds by taking part in a Sparkle Day in December.

Receiving the cheque, Save the Children volunteer Moya Fox said, "We're extremely grateful to the pupils and the School for donating this money which will go towards the child refugee crisis appeal."

Uniform



Rugby



Hockey



Cricket



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Debating

Four Trophies and a Nearly ... (reprise)

Question for our regular readers; do you recall when the Review debating report first used this title? It was in 2005, when a High School team lost the final of the Oxford Union competition on a 4-3 split, and the piece went on to refer to 'an initial entry of 260 schools'. In March 2016, our email to the Rector from the northbound train stated 'Almost 1000 teams entered this competition. 100 of them qualified for finals day. Of these, eight broke to semis, including Eton, Westminster, Winchester, Dulwich and St Paul's. After our defeat of Winchester and Eton in the semi, and a wait of almost an hour at the end of the final for the judges to decide, the fact that in the end they announced 3 votes for Dulwich and 2 for HS of Dundee means that we can legitimately say we came 2nd in the UK from an initial entry of 1,000 teams.'

We also hold more trophies this year than any other school in Scotland. After all the hard work the debaters have put in in previous years to reach this standard, the run of success began in September when the annual Worlds-style competition hosted by St Columba's Kilmacolm was won for the first time by a High School team consisting of Ciara Mitchell F6 with Ivan Kapelyukh and Steven Roy (on the left of the photo) F5.

In November, the first of the big university competitions saw Ciara and Ivan come 1st and 2nd respectively on tab, break first out of 32 teams and come home with the Glasgow University Union trophy. A fortnight later, Ciara and Steven broke top of 48 teams at



St Andrews and took 1st and 4th on tab. Trophy number three.

We had to wait until the traditional March slot for the Edinburgh (48-team) tournament; this time Ciara and Ivan tabbed 3rd and 2nd (yes – that way round!) - but we still brought home the silverware. This was all good practice not only for their superb achievement in Oxford but also for finishing 5th out of 92 teams from all over the UK in Durham a week later. The photos show them in the traditional pose by the Oxford Union plaque (badly in need of a polish), and by the despatch boxes in the famous Chamber.

Despite being in F5, Ivan's late-in-the-year birthday entitled him still to compete in the Northern Junior

Debating Competition in Newcastle, where he topped a tab of 96 speakers and with his F4 partner Sandy Neville broke as top team, narrowly losing the final to Watson's. Meanwhile the juniors as we understand them (F1-3) were working away in the ESU competition in which Bogdan Kapelyukh F3 and Dominic Westwood F1 fought through three rounds and were eventually knocked out in the semi-final. In the Auld Hoose competition run by Robert Gordon's, Bogdan reached the final with Elena Cotroneo F3; along with Alex Fish F2, they also gained further experience in Edinburgh Juniors, and at the ICYD qualifier held in St Andrews. Two junior teams competed in the East of Scotland tournament hosted by Morrison's, at which Ciara and Ivan acted as judges and Steven gained a number of plaudits for his first outing as tabmaster.

With a sizeable cohort of keen debaters, for once distributed fairly evenly among the houses, the House Debate this year featured eight experienced speakers and was of an exceptionally high standard. Opposing the motion This House endorses the decision taken by HMG to authorise the bombing of Syria, the winning team were Alex Smith and Ivan Kapelyukh F5 for Airlie, with Ivan also being named Best Speaker.



As a debating society we have always most enjoyed – and therefore had greater success in – the short-prep competitions which have brought us all of these awards. Nevertheless the ability to research and craft arguments for long-prep motions is also one that teaches a useful life skill, and so Steven and Ivan participated in the tournament organised by the Law Society of Scotland (some might say this is just so Mrs McGrath receives her annual invitation to sit on the final judging panel in the Parliament chamber) and Ciara and Steven competed in the English Speaking Union’s Mace, which is the oldest debating competition in the UK.



Scott Ralston, currently studying at UCL and a veteran of Team Scotland 09. World Schools has continued to grow in size and impact since we hosted the 10-day event here in Dundee in 2011; the 2015 tournament in Singapore involved 53 teams from across the globe. The photo shows the Scottish contingent at the opening ceremony at the Gardens by the Bay. Mrs McGrath continues as both manager of Team Scotland and secretary of the Worlds tournament executive committee.

She and Mrs Ovenstone-Jones are constantly on the lookout for new talent and new reserves of news geekery and political awareness. If social policy is your thing, if you enjoy assembling arguments, if you are excited by the

idea of persuading others to your way of thinking (always remembering that the side of the motion imposed on you by the draw may be diametrically opposed to your own views) come along to Mrs McGrath’s room on Wednesday lunchtimes (unless a different day this year suits more people) to hone your skills and enjoy the challenge. The vast majority of degrees and careers demand teamwork, logical thinking, the ability to select and justify evidence and the presence of mind to think on your feet and translate those thoughts into fluent presentation. Trained debaters have all of these qualities in spades. Could this be you?

Having won through three rounds for a place in the semis, Steven was obliged for family reasons to be replaced by Ivan, who with Ciara went through to the final which they lost narrowly in a debate on Apple’s refusal to cooperate with the FBI. All the finalists gathered for a photo in Teviot, Edinburgh.

Researching arguments and examples in advance is vital preparation for competing in the World Schools Debating Championships, in which Ciara will this summer be competing for the second time as a member of Team Scotland. This will be the 12th occasion in the last 18 years on which a High School pupil has been a member of the 5-strong team, and Ciara is the 4th of our debaters to have been selected twice. The team is coached by our FP



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Chemistry

CREST Gold

Over the past year, we have undertaken a CREST Gold Award project, in which we investigated the chemistry of art. Using egg yolk as a binder, we made egg tempera paint, which is the predecessor of oil paint and was used by the ancient Egyptians to paint the sarcophaguses and by famous painters such as Michelangelo.

We produced a wide range of coloured pigments using the chemicals found in a lab and then created a work of art with our paints. The inspiration for our final paintings was the work of wildlife artist, Derek Robertson, who we met up with to discuss ideas. Our finished painting of birds and colour palette are shown below.



This project has been a fantastic opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Advanced Higher lab and to explore an area of Chemistry not covered by the school curriculum.

Written by Elle Wyatt (5Ai1) and Alexandria Smith (5Ai2)

Silver Crest Award 2016

Brian Zhuan Hua Lim (4Li1) and I have been working towards our Silver CREST award in Chemistry. We have aimed to create a rainbow effect using salts of different metal ions. An example of some of these salts include calcium chloride, indium chloride and barium chloride.

We have dedicated our Tuesday lunch times with the aid of our teacher Mrs Broom, who has sacrificed time and resources in order to help us achieve this award. We began by deciding our topic. We decided on the use of metal ions to create a rainbow due to its chemistry tying in with our topic of metals as well as atomic structure. Another reason is as the chemistry produces an extraordinary visual spectacle and also has practical applications such as fireworks.

During our time of achieving our goal we have encountered a variety of difficulties which we have had to overcome. Our primary concerns at the beginning were obtaining certain chemicals, such as caesium, which is highly reactive and obtaining it was also not economically viable and our other concern was how to produce a long lasting reaction. This problem led us to explore the use of sprays of ionic compounds dissolved in ethanol, as well as nichrome wire.



Ultimately we have decided on the use of mineral wool soaked in a solution of the different ionic compounds in ethanol. As we began experimenting with different compounds in order to perfect our experiment, we discovered that ethanol did not burn with a clean enough flame and often masked the colour produced by the ions. We resolved this problem by using solutions of methanol, which burns with an invisible flame. However, we had to be cautious due to the toxic nature of methanol.

We have now essentially perfected our experiment and it only remains to further our understanding of the chemistry involved in the process and to present our findings and results.

Written by Asad Jafferbhoy (4Wa1)

F1 Science Club

This year the F1 Science Club started off investigating how our new iPad microscopes could be used. We used the microscopes to record crystallisation in real time and also took pictures of a wide variety of bugs. We entered the best pictures at <http://enlightenment.hw.ac.uk/>, a competition run by Herriot



Watt University and sponsored by the Wellcome Trust. EnLightenment is an educational project that aims to encourage girls and boys to develop their interest in the physics of microscopy, through the beauty of biology. The competition was launched in 2015, the UN International Year of Light. This activity offered pupils the chance to build a smartphone microscope from kits, creating a resource which will be used over multiple years across a range of disciplines. Above is a picture we took of a daphnia.

We also carried out a range of other activities including using chromatography to create tie-dye effects on t-shirts and allowed the public to help us with these in the Chemistry Department on open morning.

Written by Dr Taylor.

English *Creative Writing*

In the light of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Ms Cortazzi asked the question:

Why is Shakespeare so famous?

For several reasons! Here are just three. Firstly, for the beauty and influence of his language. Shakespeare introduced 3000 words/ expressions into the English language, including words such as: frugal, hint, bedroom, green-eyed monster, the milk of human kindness. He even invented the 'knock knock' jokes, as those of you who have studied 'Macbeth' will know. Scholars claim Shakespeare had a vocabulary of between 17,000 and 29,000 words. (This is amazing when you consider that the King James' Bible has 7083 words.)

Secondly, Shakespeare is famous for his ability to explore the universal questions we all ask ourselves in life: What does my life mean? What makes me who I am? Who has the greatest influence on my life? Fate, God or my own actions? It is Shakespeare's tragedies especially that ask and investigate these questions and others, such as: is revenge ever justified? For example, Hamlet is commanded by his father's dead ghost to seek vengeance on his own uncle for murdering Hamlet's father and then marrying Hamlet's mother. Yet Hamlet's quest for revenge leads to his own madness and the suffering and deaths of innocent people...

Thirdly, Shakespeare is famous for his poetry. You all know the sonnet: 'Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?' in which the speaker tries to compare his beloved to a day in summer before deciding that actually the comparison is flawed and that his beloved is infinitely superior.

High School Dundee pupils have been able to attend various Shakespeare productions over the year, some at the Dundee Rep and others which were National Theatre Productions or played by members of the Royal Shakespeare Company, including: 'Much Ado About Nothing', 'As You Like It', and 'Hamlet'.

Theatre Trips in honour of the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's Death

The English Department arranged a series of trips to theatre and filmed performances of National Theatre and Royal Shakespeare Company performances to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Hamlet

HSD pupils watched the live filming of the RSC's production of 'Hamlet' at the Odeon Cinema in Dundee. Paapa Essiedu, the first black actor to play Hamlet at the RSC, played Hamlet against the backdrop of an African military state. He struggled to take revenge for his father and hesitated in killing his uncle... The Times has reviewed the production as a 'riveting ride', a 'landmark production', and 'simply terrific'.



As You Like It

Pupils attended the National Theatre's production of 'As You Like It' which was filmed live. This was a good opportunity to learn something of the ingredients of a Shakespeare comedy with characters being banished, in disguise and falling in love with unsuitable people in a forest setting away from the court.

Much Ado About Nothing

<http://www.dundeerep.co.uk/event/muchadoaboutnothing>

Watching the razor sharp word play between Benedick, the confirmed bachelor, and Beatrice, a confirmed maiden, HSD pupils enjoyed seeing the story of this relationship unfold in a sparking production at the Dundee Rep. Beatrice and Benedick happily traded insults until their friends tricked them into falling in love...



Jungle Book Trip to the Dundee Rep

F1 pupils were a little surprised at the Metta Theatre Company's highly dynamic interpretation of Kipling's 'Jungle Book', which subverted and challenged expectations of a more Walt Disney style production.



Performers rocked to the sounds of urban beats, rolled to the movements of contemporary street dance and leapt with agility circus style. Dancers adopted the movements and gestures of the key animals in a refreshing, convincing and contemporary way. The key messages relating to Mowgli's search for identity and quest to fit in to the wolf pack were conveyed well and are increasingly relevant in today's world.

'Flash Fiction' 2015 Competition



Ethan McColgan and Jenny Shang (both F1) were awarded special commendations for their entries in the Special Collections' Centre 'Flash Fiction' 2015 Competition run by Aberdeen University.

The contest challenged pupils aged 8-13 to select one of four pictures and use this as an inspiration for a tale of no more than 500 words.

Demonstrating impressively concise writing, Ethan and Jenny's stories, 'The Lost Life of Nathaniel E. Grant' and 'The Fall of the Pinici Tribe' respectively, caught the eye of the judges, with Ethan's entry declared the overall runner-up.

Head of English at the High School, Jasmine Cortazzi, said, "Given that there were over one hundred stories entered from the length and breadth of Scotland, this is a very fine achievement." Special thanks are due to Mrs MacDonald for promoting the competition and encouraging her F1 pupils to enter it.

The Silence

Sandy Adamson, F5

Winner of the Block Prize for Creative Writing in F4-6

The silence rumbled and echoed around the helmet creating a cold symphony of nothingness. The universe spun infinitely before him, stretching on further than the mind could comprehend, terrifying, yet strangely magnetic, pulling him in. He clenched his hand, holding to the chord that was attached to the hull, just to make sure he was still there. He was.

Slowly the vast expanse of space loosened its grip on him and let him slip back into reality, placing him gently back on the side of the ship. He looked down. One hand gripped the chord attached to the hull and in the other was a welding tool, with a small blue flame burning at the tip of the implement. An open panel in front of him showed him a maze of wires and circuit boards entangled together, like a complex patchwork crafted by a mad artist. He swallowed and moved his face muscles to stretch feeling into them. He placed the tool to the board and with mechanical precision he sliced down; like a surgeon, operating on an colossal beast. He placed his hand on the circuit board and pulled, revealing a bundle of black wires, burnt and sparking sporadically; the source of the problems.

Back in the airlock air hissed like the ship itself was letting out defeated sigh. Around him sound slowly returned to his ears. His eyes passively gazed at the blank LED until it flashed green. A robotic voice echoed around the metal chamber. It didn't matter what it had said. He knew what it meant. A series of pulls and button presses later the helmet made a satisfying click and wheeze of air escaped from the gap in the seals. He removed it from his head and placed it in the container beside the spares that were there but never needed. The suit came off next. It felt like peeling off wet clothes, heavy, and feeling as if he was removing a part of himself. The suit was off but it still felt like he was wearing it.

The beast hummed in delight of being well again. Metal footsteps bounced off the corridor walls in a rhythmic beat, creating the dull soundtrack of life on the ship. The lights reflected the walls as he paced his way towards the mess hall. The room had two tables to fit 10 people around each. It felt eerily empty as he stepped into it. Sounds bounced off the hard walls without stopping. He sat down with his plate of food where the steam rose up and clouded his tired eyes while he picked at it unenthusiastically. Even after 5 hours of working in the suit he still had no appetite, so after shifting the food from one side of the plate to the other he gave up. As he stood up the chair scraped against the floor, creating a break in the peaceful hum of the ship, bouncing the harsh sound around the room.

He navigated his way through the corridors and passages, making his way to the cockpit. He passed door after door, each one closed. The roof was close to his head and the walls almost touching his shoulders, even though he himself was not particularly tall. He saw one door coming up. He would not go in. He would not go in. He would walk past the door.

He stopped outside the door and faced it. The ship was warm but standing outside it gave off a chill. The coldness blew softly around him, and with the utmost gentleness moved his hair. It lay its hands on his shoulders and started to guide him into the room. With a sudden movement he turned, angrily pushing off the cold's persuasive touch, and stormed off in his original direction.

The cockpit lay on the extremity of the ship, and, as he climbed the ladder, he felt more and more weightless. Each rung of the ladder he climbed he grew lighter and lighter until he reached the cockpit, where he was suspended in the air. He pushed off the ladder and drifted slowly towards the commander's seat. He positioned himself into the seat with one hand grasping the handle so he would not float into the wrong direction. After a moment of awkward struggling the straps finally holding him were in place, his feet were in the foot-well and his headset was pressed against his ear with the microphone brushing lightly against his bottom lip. He just sat in wonderment, as he often did at the awesome scene at the window. The complete emptiness. The lack of anything for thousands of miles at a time. Just him. Only him.

In the cockpit the comforting hum of the ship was reduced to a whisper and only when focused on would be audible over the silence. He searched for it, the hum, the thing that provided familiarity in a place where familiarity was scarce.

He couldn't find it. The silence had swallowed it up. He lifted a heavy hand and tuned the dial on the console. As he did so the static crescendoed to a light buzz in his ear. He listened to it. The crackle and pops of the sound waves sounded like intonation of a human voice. Someone whispering into his ear. He didn't want to listen, but he kept the headset on and the whispering continued. He closed his eyes. It was right. He needed to face the room.

He started his descent of the ladder. Even as his weight returned and his senses were being grounded back into reality, he felt more detached from himself than ever. He was a puppet, with a puppeteer guiding each step, each heartbeat, each thought. The door was in front of him again. The cold remained and watched. It knew it needed to do nothing.

He pressed the centre of the door where it clicked and slid open. The room had a ice-blue hue and was lined with human sized pods each with a small window. In each window was a face, eyes peacefully closed and face completely relaxed. 20 pods were in the room in total, all closed apart from one. He walked to the first pod and looked at the face that was in the pane. The eyelashes and hair looked as if they had recently been out in snow fall, patches of ice covered the face. He wiped the condensation to clear the glass. He looked at the face.

He had needed to do it. You would too. You would have done the same if supplies were that low, supplies like oxygen were too precious to spare. The decision was almost impossible, almost – but not quite.

A choked sobbing echoed around the silent chamber. It took him a second to realise it was him. Although it could be only him. There was no one else to break the human silence that had been cast over the ship. With one hand on the wall he slid down to the floor, covering his face with his hands, the sobbing echoing around the silent chamber.

The Lost Life of Nathaniel E. Grant

Ethan McColgan, F1

Winner of the Old Boys' Prize for Creative Writing in F1-3

Runner-up in the University of Aberdeen Flash Fiction Competition

On a sunny afternoon in 1861, Nathaniel E. Grant strolled home from his office with a contented smile on his face. He was a tall, handsome man. Nathaniel had become a man of high esteem, a powerful and influential banker, who due to his affluent family and banking success, was somewhat of a celebrity within his hometown of Pennsylvania. His adoring wife, Abigail, greeted him, as she always did, with a loving hug and a kiss. They had been married for eight happy years now and their love for each other was abundant. Pennsylvania was economically thriving, and had a vibrant and neighbourly community. Nathaniel's life was close enough to perfect, but very soon that was going to change.

On April 12th 1861, the American Civil war broke out following unrest in the Confederate "slave" states. Nathaniel's two older brothers were esteemed generals in the Union Army and this inspired him to join, for he abhorred slavery and wanted to save the Union. Nathaniel, along with a small group of friends, left their wives and amicable town to join the horrors of war.

In only their first battle, two of Nathaniel's friends tragically lost their lives. Nathaniel was plagued by nightmares that constantly replayed the bullets piercing through their skin. The vision of bloodshed and the cries of the dying haunted him. Letters were his only communication with his beloved Abigail, and he wrote many of these, describing the death and devastation of the war. He missed his wife dearly and longed for the day that he could hold her in his arms again. But the war raged on. With every fierce and gruesome battle that followed, Nathaniel witnessed more bloodshed and the lives of his friends being taken prematurely. Almost three years after leaving behind the serendipity of his life in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel fought his last conflict. This was to be the most bloody battle of the whole war. Nathaniel shot mercilessly at the Confederates. For these men had taken his friends lives and almost his own will to live. It was only his desire to be reunited with Abigail that kept him alive. The Confederates were weakening. The Union army advanced. Suddenly a grenade was thrown. Nathaniel acted quickly and bravely. He jumped into the grenade's path, heroically saving another soldier's life. But Nathaniel was gravely injured. He blacked out with pain.

As Nathaniel lay in his hospital bed, weak and tired, it was then that the war had its most devastating effect on him. The dreadful news was broken that the Confederates had sieged his hometown, burning it and killing everyone.

Nathaniel returned home but Abigail was gone. He had lost everything. Nathaniel was heart-broken, demoralised, and full of sorrow. He had returned from the abomination of war and was greeted by a pain ten times worse.

Years on from the war, the town had reconstructed to what it was before. Content and thriving. All except for one man, Nathaniel E. Grant. He rarely spoke to anyone and everyday he revisited the site where his house once stood, and thought about his beloved Abigail and life before the war. Ironically, America was now "The Land of The Free" but Nathaniel E. Grant was trapped in the past, enslaved by his memories.

Kate

Ivan Kapelyukh, F5

Winner of the Tom Durrheim prize for F4-6

Pupils are asked to explore a poem by Robert Burns in a way of their choice. The winning entry provides an alternate perspective on the character of Kate from Tam o'Shanter, and the structure - inspired by the Burns meter - consists of three verses each following an AABBC rhyming scheme, with iambic tetrameter in the first four lines and a dimeter in the last line of each verse.

Through heavy, drenching, violent rain,
The howling wind's ruthless refrain,
Thunder smote down from on high,
As lighting tore the midnight sky,
She sat alone.

When witches relished damned souls' screams,
And spirits preyed on sinners' dreams,
Creatures rent the air with howls,
As candles cast the house in shadows,
Waiting, patient.

Stumbling footsteps made her start,
As sadness gripped her guilty heart,
With drunken force the door was slammed,
She raised a shaking, bruised hand,
To greet her Tam.



Behind You
Jenny Shang, F1
Highly Commended F1-3

The darkness engulfed her like a blanket as she walked along the icy road. The tall trees seemed to grow closer and closer for every step she took closer to the edge. She kept on walking until she reached the edge of the park, as she opened the old, rusty gate she heard mumbling. She looked around her but there was no one to be seen in the desolate park so she progressed. The park had been abandoned for years since there was an accident where the centre of the park had collapsed and a group of children had also fallen, along with everything else into the endless abyss. Many stories evolved around the accident and some said that every year, there was a day that the children crawled up the edge of the pit and roamed the park until sunlight. But no one believed that story anymore.

Emilia had walked along this path many times before, even though no one believed the stories anymore, they tended to avoid this area of town anyway so she could always rely on this area to be isolated. Every day she came to this park to reflect on each day of her life. While her thoughts roamed her head, an eerie coldness had settled across the park. The birds stopped singing and even the rats scurried into their cramped, dirt homes. The wind picked up and sent the leaves dancing across the path.

Emilia suddenly became aware of the situation and moved to gather her things together but as she reached for her phone she realised that it wasn't there anymore. She started pacing around the park, eyes focused on the ground as her mind began to grow increasingly panicked by the second. She finally found it and as she picked it up she saw a reflection of something in the distance. Emilia quickly turned round to face nothing but an empty space.

As the weather continued to turn stormier and the clouds grew darker she went to the small cabin at the side of the park for shelter. The cabin was damp and the wallpaper was falling apart due to years of harsh weather and wind. She tried to get some sleep and eventually fell into a restless and fitful slumber. When she awoke again the weather had calmed and the stars shone from the deep, dark blanket of oblivion above. She pulled the small, tattered blanket up to her face and looked out of the dirty window, she could make out the figure of a small child walking towards it. As the child came closer to the window, Emilia could start to make out the child's face. Its clothes were shaggy and torn, dripping with water with each step it took. Its hollow face stared at her, a supernatural glow emitting from the space where its eyes should be but instead there was only a dark empty space. To her horror, more and more children started to gather around the first one, all of them having the same face, drained of emotion and all wearing the same torn rag covering their bodies. She heard the drip, drip, drip noise advancing towards her but that wasn't right. They were outside and she was inside. She shouldn't be able to hear that. Dread filled her soul as she slowly turned around and face the group of children behind her. It was a reflection.

Son Of Gaia, Brother Of Kronos: The Pebble
Susie McAdam, AH 2016
Highly Commended F4-6

I am
Small and stubborn,
Without use or purpose,
The pebble
you notice on your path and
all you want to do is
Kick as far as you can,
Kick me into the gutter down,
and hear me Plop!
I plummet into the depths below,
You don't care. You walk on.

But usually not even spared your notice,
I am not fashioned by your carve,
The Trevi Fountain or the Greek Parthenon,
I am not by your arrangement,
The Great Wall or Stonehenge,
I am not touched by your hands,
nor admired by your eyes,
Thus, I am to be unworthy of your worth.

Oh! If I were a pillar,
Or the tip of a cairn on a wind-whipped mountain top,
Or a statue of your thieving king,
sitting proudly with protruding belly,
Would you then honour me?

Yet, when this day is done,
And metal and fire reign from the skies once more,
You will envy me as your
soft flesh betrays your weakness,
For I was forged in that fire
alongside that metal that slashes your veins,
Birthed by Gaia herself,
The Titans are my brothers.

Time, Fate and Death are your lords,
But all three serve me,
Time does not age me but corrects,
Fate does not determine me but guides,
Death cannot vanquish me,
I am immortal.

In the end, I am the sole legacy of kings,
All giants must fall, as must all empires,
But I will survive the next Hiroshima
Even after your pyramids and cathedrals collapse,
After your expiration I shall witness the
cockroach coronation,
The birth and death of many nations,
And when you recede to rot and dust and fossil,
And only a grave-stone shows you ever were,
Then you will realise,
I conquer all.

You cannot wear me down,
merely smooth and perfect me.

Art



Holly McKendry F5 Higher (range of media)

The New Higher Art and Design qualification requires candidates to explore and develop a single theme. Holly's work illustrates this beautifully. Her self-portraits display her aptitude in working with a range of media to explore which media handling technique will create the most successful results. Compositionally she has investigated how the sitter's body language can affect the mood of the painting



Daisy Hutton F5 Higher pastel work



Emily Norman F5 Higher acrylic painting



Rachel Rose F4 National 5 Acrylic painting



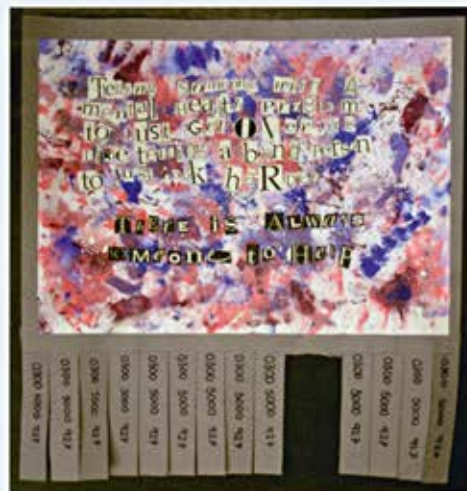
Amy Ovenstone-Jones F4 National 5 Acrylic painting



Caitlin Mitchell F4 National 5 Acrylic painting



Morven Wright F4 National 5 Acrylic painting



Amy Ovenstone-Jones F4 National 5 Acrylic painting

Form 2 pupils worked with Mrs Ross on a project that was designed to raise awareness on mental health issues. Pupils were provided with a brief to find a way of making the public aware of the mental health issues that young people faced and where they could find help. In conjunction with guidance, pupils were asked to investigate the different obstacles that children faced in the modern world, and present their findings to the rest of the class. The final products that were devised ranged enormously. Posters, presentations, interactive displays and digital information points were some of the solutions.

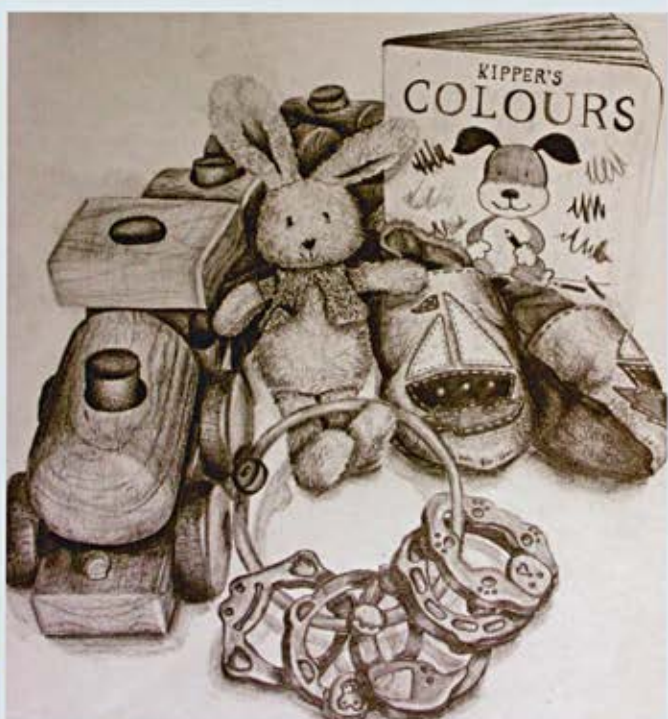
A wide range of pupils from L6 to F1 participated in the Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy Schools Art Award 2016 adhering to the theme of 'Horses'.



Lucy Graham F4 National 5 Development board and Final Piece (range of media)

The New National 5 Art and Design qualification requires candidates to take a single theme and use it to further develop their media handling techniques. Lucy's work maintains a realist quality whilst exploring visual impact created through the depiction of a vibrant subject matter. Choosing a subject matter that contains difficult elements such as ellipses, parallel lines, text and organic forms, Lucy still managed to create a real sense of depth in all her pieces.

Current Work



Hannah Alijani F3 National 5 Unit Outcomes- pastel on paper, pencil on paper.

Business Education...

Enterprise Review 2015 - 2016

F1 & 2 Enterprise Club

An enthusiastic group from last year were joined by new F1 pupils in their lunchtime club. The team completed a number of projects the highlight of which was the House cupcakes at Open Morning which were enjoyed by all and raised £54 for Action for Children.

F4 / 5 / 6 Dundee Schools' George R Donald Fund, Enterprise Competition, Michelin Dundee, November 2015

The first year of the competition run by Dundee Chamber of Commerce for all Dundee. Hannah Levin, Logan Thomson, Eildh Reynolds, Lynden Nicely formed a fantastic team and worked very effectively together through the demanding challenge set by Abertay University. Mrs Kate Wyatt from RSB Lindsays Solicitors joined the team for the day and offered wonderful support and insight throughout. The presentation, on designing a careers event, was judged to be strong and their concept developed better than many but St Johns had a great catch line and pipped them to the post.

Form 5 Social Enterprise / Skill Development Enrichment

Two teams were set the annual challenge of producing and selling their products at the Christmas Charities Fair.

Gala Luxuria – A great team, they worked hard to produce hand-made bath bombs and lip scrubs in beautiful packaging for the luxury market. They had supply issues and breaking bath bomb manufacturing disasters but learnt massively from the experience and thoroughly enjoyed it with a profit of £38.00 for NSPCA.

Rummage – The team had hundreds of wonderful ideas, which took up much of their time! In the final hours of the deadline they worked with incredible speed to ensure they had card-making packs available for their stall on the day. A fun team, they learnt a huge amount and donated £74.00 to Children 1st

Form 6 Children 1st Dragon's Glen

Eden Miller – MD, Sales – Grant, Production – Paolo, Finance – Lucy, Design – Robyn Gibson, IT – Viktoria Vitalie, Marketing – Pippa Henderson

The main concept, developed by the team, was iPad covers designed by Robyn for two markets. The school with a pillars design and Scotland with a famous building outline. The Dragons were very impressed and happily invested £500 into the products. Sadly, due to numerous suppliers letting them down, the product never made it to the market so the team had to change to plan B with lots of small projects including Chalk Mugs, Valentine's Day Cupid delivered gift bags and Mother's Day treat cards. At times during the year the team were very frustrated but they learnt to persevere and adapt at short notice – perhaps a truer picture of business life today.

Form 2 Enterprise Challenge

2-day Enterprise Challenge 9th and 10th June - a new, international enterprise competition for F2 combining skills from 9 departments through mini tutorials throughout the event. The skills developed over the two days included teamwork, leadership, presentations, research, product development, ethical sourcing, packaging design and production, accounting, global awareness and working under pressure to tight deadlines.

Mr James Taylor, Commercial Director of Mackie's at Taypack Ltd and Mr Scott Ackroyd, Food and Service Manager at Chartwells Catering kindly gave up their time to join Mr David Smith and Mr Neil Higgins as judges for the afternoon's pitches.



The winning team (pictured with Mr J Taylor) all contributed very effectively to produce a great pitch of their concept Dino Bites with excellent ideas covering all aspects of the brief.

COUPAR, Fraser – CRAWFORD, Michael FISH, Alexander – JOHNSTON, Joanna PETRIE, Kirstin – STUART, Ishbel

F4 Enterprise Day

A one day, intensive challenge linked to the F5 Social Enterprise opportunities available to the pupils in the following year. The teams had only £60 start-up capital and had to come up with fresh, innovative ways of maximising their returns. It was a tough remit under very tight deadlines but as always, it brought out some fantastic ideas.

The winning group was Piggy Bac cases from an impressive team full of creativity and practical business know-how. Hopefully we will be able to see the success of their idea when they put it into practice next year as a Social Enterprise group.



F5 Enterprise Day

A great fun Enterprise Day combining old and new skills as part of the Post Exam Programme with the Home Economics, Art and ICT departments help. The day also helps refresh skills for the potential Dragons' Glen team - a national competition we enter annually with a F6 team, up against graduate teams, raising money for Children 1st by maximising the return from an initial investment of £500.

The winning team was Rio 2016, which produced an incredibly professional and shop-ready mango and passion fruit preserve. The team consisted of Malcolm Campbell, Euan Brown, Rachael Kennedy and Emily Norman.

CCF

Well-drilled cadets are well practised in lifting competition trophy!

During a week-long residential training camp at Penally in Pembrokeshire, the School's 22-strong drill team defeated six other schools from across Britain to lift the Central Camp drill title for the third time in succession.

The annual competition saw the teams perform a number of precise military drill sequences in front of commanding officers from Cadet Training Team Wales, which oversaw the week's activities. The pupils' achievement was even more impressive given that, with a range of military and adventure training exercises taking part during the day, they had only the evenings to prepare themselves for the contest.

Major PA McClellan, the officer commanding Cadet Training Team Wales, praised the HSD drill team for being "head and shoulders above all the other drill teams in the competition. The contingent was by far the best in camp and it was a pleasure hosting such an outstanding group."

In all, more than 50 cadets from the High School attended the camp.

Lt Colonel Colin McAdam, officer commanding the High School's CCF, praised his contingent for "demonstrating considerable determination and selfless commitment in reaching the standard they achieved" and went on to note that the team leader, Cpl Grant Harley, was very effective in command and the indomitable spirit of the squad was evident during both the competition and the training".



Members of the School's CCF enjoyed success during a residential training camp at Penally and took part in a number of other activities during the school year



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