



Review 2021



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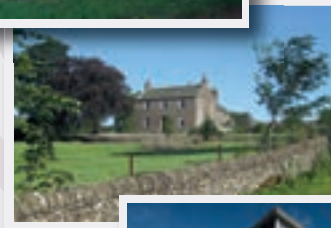
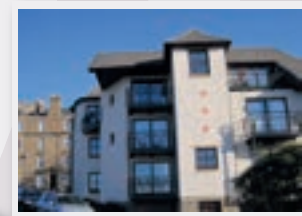
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Struan Baptie
Director

Contents

	Introduction	
	<i>Rector's Welcome</i>	4
	<i>Staff Welcome</i>	5-9
	Senior Prefects	11-16
	An Extraordinary Year	17-56
	Making a Difference	57-68
	Enriching experiences in Senior Years	69-76
	Writing	77-84
	Spotlight on Sport	85-96
	Out and About	97-114
	End of Year Celebrations ..	115-122
	News	
	<i>Prize List</i>	124-126
	<i>Staff Farewell</i>	127-129
	<i>Staff Births</i>	130

Editorial

Despite the ups and downs of a year of blended learning, it has been fantastic to help collect the School's highlights to create The Review 2021. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Pupil Editorial Team which has included members from every year group from L6 through to F6. It has been such a positive experience working together as a creative team and having the opportunity to contribute thoughts and ideas at our lunchtime meetings.

On behalf of the Pupil Editorial Team, I'd like to thank all pupils and staff who have contributed their writing, photographs, and stories this year. It wouldn't have been possible without you!

We would also like to say a special thank you to Mrs Tevendale and Mrs McGrory for all their hard work behind the scenes and keeping the whole team on track whilst we have been in school and learning from home.

I'd also like to wish the best of luck to the new Co-Editors of The Review 2022: Rebecca Hamilton, Victoria Scott, Maisie Tait and Lettie Wiewiorka.

Anna Kerr, F6



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Rector's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our Review 2021!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful support whether you are reading this as a Colleague, Pupil, Parent, Grandparent, Former Colleague, Former Pupil, Former Parent or Grandparent, Board Member, Friend of the School or indeed a member of our wider HSD/ DHS Community! These pages are the results of your support and are a testament to the transformative power of the educational experience that is part of the DNA of HSD.

As you will see in the pages of Review 2021, despite the challenges, we have been able to offer a wealth of experiences to all our young people from sporting events, creative writing through to debating and outdoors education. These activities and opportunities demonstrate the living reality of our core values and provide a diverse and rich experience for all. From our Nursery and Junior Years to the Senior Years and beyond our pupils make every one of us who have the privilege of nurturing and inspiring them proud.

This year's Review highlights the wonderful return to Musical concerts and performances, despite the restrictions. In addition, it demonstrates the renewed joy with which we took learning outdoors. From L6 and L7 outdoor activities at Willowgate to the wonderful F1 and F2 Actions on the Arts.

We had Sports Day again and although it was disappointing not to be able to welcome Parents as usual, there was a particular power to our young people enjoying healthy sporting competition and ice cream in the sun! Duke of Edinburgh has continued, heading into Dundee for a local experience which has developed new skills and awareness of the immediate environs of the school and Dundee.

It has been particularly important to have been able to hold some of our traditional events and none more so than Armistice 2020, which was particularly poignant as we marked the very sad loss of Mr David Preston, who gave so much to the school personally, professionally as a teacher and member of the CCF. Charity events such as the Nursery's Red Nose Day, Halloween dress up and Sparkle Day, and wonderful performances brought much needed joy and celebration of being together again. It was a particular pleasure to be able to hold both a F4 and 5 Prize Giving, a F6 Prize Giving Assembly and a Leavers' reception in

glorious sunshine on the Pillars to round of the year in style. It is a memory that will live long in our affections.

Our pupils are at the very heart of everything that we do. Nurturing, developing and empowering them is our core purpose and passion. Fundamentally Covid has reinforced the values that are important. It has demonstrated our incredible capacity for change. It has shown us that there are other ways to do things. It has highlighted (if we needed it) what a flawed assessment system we have and by association how stifled this makes education in Scotland. It has highlighted vast inequalities. It has raised awareness of the need for us to be much more focused on inclusion, diversity and building a more representative staff community. We must address bullying and discrimination in our community first and with confidence and as individuals as part of a whole.

It has demonstrated the power of volunteering and the importance of the needs on our doorstep and the satisfaction that can come from doing something for the good of others. It has demonstrated that we are facing a future which is not certain against a backdrop of a climate emergency and future threats. We could be overwhelmed but we have the chance to embrace the challenges.

I believe that there is so much untapped potential in our curriculum. Now is the time for us to work together to unleash it. We are looking to collaborate more and work in partnership with one another across the whole school. Nursery and Junior Years colleagues are crafting and influencing those fundamental building blocks of learning every day.

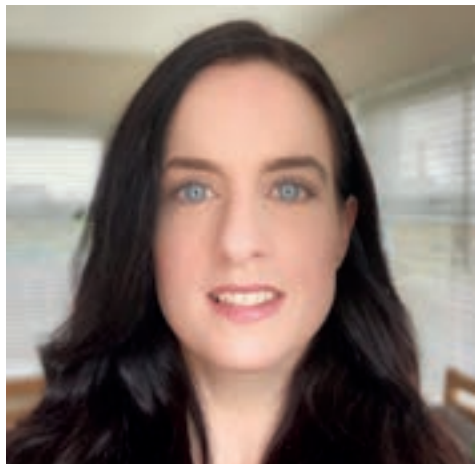
I am committed to working with the community to find the best ways to build dynamic, creative and aspirational learning across the whole school. Our focus on intellectual excellence is undimmed. The High School is rightly proud of this reputation, and we will continue to foster curious minds, a strong work ethic and an expectation of full engagement with all the opportunities on offer, many of which are on display in this publication.

I hope that you enjoy the reminders of yet another extraordinary year in the pages of this year's Review.

Lise Hudson

Welcome to ...

Dr Nicola Kiernan



Nicola joined the High School family in August, having previously worked as a Teacher of Chemistry, Deputy Exams Officer and STEM Coordinator for Edinburgh Academy. Most recently she held the role of Acting Head of Chemistry.

She is dual qualified in both Chemistry and Physics and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing integrated Science through research, action and application. Nicola also has a PhD in Soft Condensed Matter Physics and is currently undertaking a PhD in Digital STEM Education.

Nicola is a mother to four sons; Harvey (19), Murray (16), Finlay (14) and Ruairidh (11), with her two youngest having joined the School at the start of session.

Outside of work, Nicola enjoys running, weightlifting and academic research. A fond lover of music, Nicola also plays the piano, flute and clarinet as well as listening to Rufus Wainwright - in her own words - obsessively!

There are many advancements that Nicola would like to see come to fruition in the world of Chemistry, particularly that of 'Green Chemistry'. This looks to modernise and economise our practices to ensure that from the first hypothesis and experimental trial, Chemists are considering how to recycle waste products effectively and efficiently (in particular, the previously unrecyclable plastics) and how to minimise harmful effects on the natural world.

Stephen Ferguson



After studying a degree in Maths and Philosophy and then a PhD in Philosophy of Maths at the University of St Andrews, with a year in Bristol reading for a Master's in Mathematical Logic in between, Stephen started his teaching career at Stewart's Melville College in Edinburgh.

He then moved to Strathallan School where he spent the next twelve years, before joining HSD's Mathematics Department in Easter 2021. Stephen is an experienced fencing

coach and, if the weather is good, he loves to be outdoors, up a mountain or paddling his sea kayak. He is a keen advocate of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the benefits it brings to those who get involved.

Alison Campbell



As a former pupil of the High School of Dundee, I am delighted to be back on the 'other side'! It doesn't seem like 20 years ago that I was sat on the windowsills in what was the sports hall in Bonar for netball...and now I am teaching in a classroom formed in that space!

After I left school, I completed an MA (hons) Finance and Management Studies at Aberdeen University, which is where I also completed my PGDE. After working in Aberdeen schools for two years, I took up a post at the Scottish Agricultural College (now SRUC) lecturing in Rural Business on the degree courses. After 6 years, I made

the move back to the classroom by joining the Business Education department at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen.

In my spare time I enjoy walking my dog, running, and going to the gym, but otherwise I am kept fairly busy by my daughter Martha (4) and her endless energy for life!

Sarah Guy



Sarah joined our Learning Skills Department earlier this year having moved back to her home county of Fife after living in Glasgow. She studied Theatre at the University of Glasgow before teaching Drama for a year in Stockholm, Sweden.

Returning to Scotland, Sarah then studied and completed her PGDE and subsequently went on to teach Drama in Helensburgh for six years. She is thoroughly looking forward to this next chapter of her career as part of the HSD community.

Jim Semple



Retired Officer, Jim Semple, has recently returned from 2 years in Oman, where he was teaching Bagpipes, to the Royal Oman Police.

Jim retired from Strathclyde Police in 2008, after 28 years service, which commenced in Central Scotland Police in 1978, when Jim joined as a cadet.

A keen and competitive piper, Jim was contacted by the legendary Pipe Major, Ian McLellan, of Strathclyde Police Pipe Band in 1983. Jim transferred to Strathclyde Police in 1983, and was based in the Pipe Band Unit, Stewart Street, Glasgow. Jim is a 6 time world pipe band champion, with numerous other titles and accolades. In his first season with the band, they won the grand slam; all five major championships! Whilst piping has always been to the fore in Jim's career in the police, he has worked in many different areas over the years, including anti-crime unit, administration dept and community policing.

Jim is an adjudicator for the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and judges regularly during the pipe band season. He is also a qualified

instructor and examiner of bagpipes.

Since his retiral, Jim has taught in a number of schools. He was headhunted in early 2012, for the piping instructor's role in Oman, which he assumed in September 2012. As well as working with the Pipe Band, he successfully taught students to certificate level, SCQF levels 3 and 4, as well as improving the overall playing ability of the pipers. Jim returned to Scotland in the summer of 2014 due to family commitments. He has since commenced teaching in schools, as part of the Fair Play for Pipes Project, which aims to get bagpipes taught in as many schools as possible and to enable all children to be given the opportunity to learn the bagpipes.

In what little spare time he has left, Jim enjoys, spending time with his wife, football, gym, cinema and travelling.

Chloe Devlin



Chloe attended St. Aloysius' College in Glasgow before studying at The University of Edinburgh. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Primary Education with Mathematics, after transferring

from General Engineering after her first year.

Through her experience in STEM at university and her own personal influences, including scientific parents, she has become very passionate about women in STEM. However, she is excited about engaging all her pupils in their mathematics learning in alternative and active ways this year.

Having previously taught at Baljaffray Primary School in Bearsden, Chloe then decided to move across the country to live life on the sunny East coast.

She is excited to be involved in junior hockey this year, as she has played since her own junior school days as a goalkeeper. Chloe is also a keen singer so looks forward to hearing the wonderful choirs and musical performances throughout the year.

Overall, Chloe feels extremely fortunate to be given the opportunity to be part of such a welcoming, active and diverse community, and she is eager to take advantage of all the amazing extra-curricular opportunities that come along with it.

Eva Innes



Eva joined our Junior Years' as one of the new L7 teachers in August. Pupils and staff may recognise her from Mayfield where she coached lots of netball and some hockey to the L6/7s.

She went to Madras College in St Andrews, where Eva found a passion for both sport and science. From there she went on to study a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science. Throughout her time at university, she worked in schools around Dundee, mainly building up co-curricular activities within different sports.

Eva then went on and studied a Post Graduate Diploma in Education at the University of Dundee. The Covid world which we were living in at the time enabled her to learn a lot about different ways to teach. One which really stood out to her was outdoor learning; she hopes that in L7 this year she will be able to take her classroom outside! As she will be teaching Geography, she hopes to have this opportunity.

Along with playing hockey, Eva also coaches netball. She coaches the Dundee District Squad and gets the opportunity to travel all over the country with them for tournaments and fixtures. She also enjoys travelling into the Scottish countryside and walking up hills and Munros where she can switch off from the digital world which lives at our fingertips.

Eva is feeling grateful to be given the opportunity to work in such an inspiring and nurturing school environment and is excited to see what this year will bring!

Hannah Burleigh



Hannah has come to HSD from Yorkshire where she was teaching at Queensway Primary School. Before that she taught for six years, first in Glasgow and then in Milan, and she has taught almost every year group in the primary age range. She is very passionate about outdoor learning and is also gaining her Forest School Leader qualification.

Qualifying first from the University of Manchester with a Bachelor of Arts, Hannah then, after working with children as a classroom assistant, discovered her passion for education and trained to become a teacher at the University of Leeds. She loves to make sure that everyone in her class is included and excited about their learning.

In her spare time, Hannah likes to go hiking and take part in water sports. She also loves animals and volunteers each summer with the Cairngorm Reindeer Centre. She now has the niche skill of being able to name 30 reindeer by sight! She also enjoys performing on stage and has performed in operas and musicals to feed her creative side.

She is very excited to work with the lovely children, families and staff at HSD and would

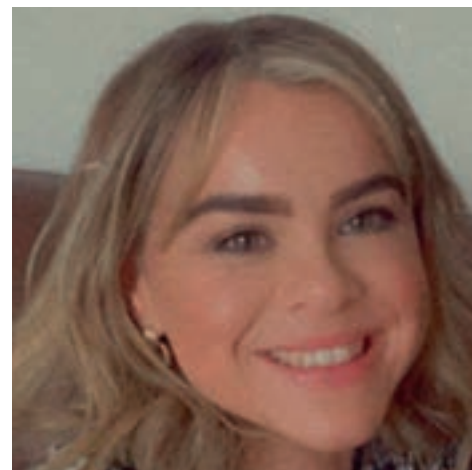
like to thank everyone for the warm welcome she have received.

Alan Wallace



Alan joined the School in August 2021 in the newly created Head of Human Resources role, this is a new role and is part of the School's Senior Leadership Team. Coming from an Agricultural Commercial and Manufacturing background Alan has worked as member of the Senior Leadership Team for Kettle Produce Ltd and more recently as General Manager for Growers Garden Ltd. Alan has two children at the HSD and moved to Dundee in 2019 to be closer to the School and allow their family to benefit from all of the opportunities that the HSD community offers. Alan is particularly passionate about working with colleagues and supporting them to achieve their professional objectives.

Rachel Lindsay



Rachel joined the school in March 2021 as our Bursar's new PA and is really enjoying being a part of the HSD community. Everyone, both staff and pupils, have been very friendly and welcoming which has made settling in so much easier.

Before joining HSD, Rachel had previously worked for The Prince's Trust, working in a partnership and development role with schools and colleges across Tayside. Having worked there for 6 years, she felt that the time was right to take on new challenges. Rachel says she is forever grateful for the opportunities that the Prince's Trust offered her – one being invited to attend the 40th Anniversary celebrations at Buckingham Palace and chinwagging with members of the Royal Family and Celebrity Ambassadors.

Prior to this, Rachel worked as a Work Adviser with the Welfare to Work Programme and worked within the Travel and Tourism Industry before that.

When not at work, most of her time is spent with her beautiful little boy Andrew, her crazy Border Collie Cooper, and husband Chris. They enjoy going out on long family walks

together and just being out in the fresh air. Rachel and Chris have just recently renovated and moved into their new family home together so are very much enjoying time spent there as well, making the most of their lovely garden- when the sun is shining!

Julie Farquharson



Julie joined the School in November 2020 as Admissions Coordinator. She has two children at the school now as her eldest has just finished in July 2021, all of whom have excelled and enjoy the school immensely. Prior to starting at the school Julie helped her husband run the family business of 60 years; The Horn Milkbar. The family has strong agricultural ties which has allowed Julie and her daughters to follow their love of horses. Julie herself competed to a high level in Show Jumping in her younger years but has since hung up her boots and spends most of her time being groom to her children or being taxi service to the many hockey matches and training sessions.

'I am excited and honoured to be given the chance to work at HSD and look forward to promoting our school and all that the HSD family has to offer!'

Returning staff ...

Gordon Rennet



Gordon began teaching here in the mid 1980's and left the school to relocate to Aberdeen in 2014 after many years teaching Modern Studies and History and also heading up the co-curricular programme. He was a very successful Head of Modern Studies during his time here and has been equally successful at St Margaret's Aberdeen. Gordon returned to the School in January 2020 with a wealth of experience and expertise. Gordon reflects on the DHS of the mid 1980's which was very different to the school as we know it today.

"After the intimidating walk up to the Pillars your first point of contact was likely to be Joe the Jannie who wore a bunnet and lived on soup as he had no teeth! Dundee to the core he really would have benefited from Google translate but was nonetheless a lovely man who couldn't do enough for you. Rules were strict for both staff and pupils. Men had to wear jackets at all times unless special dispensation had been

granted due to unreasonably hot weather; an implausibly rare occurrence. My sharp suede 'winkle pickers' were definitely frowned on but never actually banned contrary to urban myth. Lady members of staff had to wear skirts, and of course tights, as bare legs were thought outrageous. The acceptability over young Mrs Hudson's culottes I seem to recall was actually a thing. I certainly don't miss the smoke in the male staffroom, though I do miss many of the pipe smokers who looked after the young upstarts so well and made us laugh with their tales of the school in even earlier times.

"The life of a pupil seemed incredibly dull by today's standards. Copying from the blackboard where chalk was still king was 'de rigour'. However more progressive departments had their pupils copying from an overhead projector. The ultimate cruelty was being made to copy notes from faded 'banda' handouts (ask your grandparents!) which were then collected in for future use. Remarkably the pupils did this without complaint...I have to say that while it made for an easy teaching life it was not overly inspiring for either teacher or pupil.

"The High of 2021 is a much more welcoming place. It is far more relaxed and pupils are encouraged to express themselves through a vast range of creative ways led by teachers who take a genuine interest in their development. It is now far less binary. Pupils mix much more readily and there are fewer divisions based on such things as gender, sporting ability and perceived academic achievement.

'What has remained constant is the unfailing good humour of High School pupils. Coming to school in Dundee they are incredibly well grounded and appreciative of how fortunate they are. They still make me laugh every day. They always try so hard to do their best

for themselves and their teachers and are invariably thankful for the help they receive along the way. I can't wait to see what the next 35 years will bring!"

Desert Island Discs with Mr Stewart



Desert Island Discs is a radio programme that is broadcast on BBC Radio 4, it was first broadcast on 29th January 1942. During each show, a guest is asked to choose different recordings, books, or luxury items that they would choose to take with them if they were to be cast away to a desert island and the reasons for their choices.

Let me introduce you to Mr Stewart, who works in the English Department. He has 5 children and is originally from Armagh, Northern Ireland. He left Armagh for Aberdeen 30 years ago and has since traveled the world, starting with Khartoum.

Assuming that Shakespeare and the Bible are already on the island, the first item that Mr Stewart would bring to a desert island is a collection of poems by Gerard Manly Hopkins. This is because when he was a reluctant A-Level student 30 years ago he ended up reading Hopkins' poems and thought that they were beautiful. His original background was in philosophy, not literature and what is most appealing to him about the poems is the way in which Hopkins straddles philosophy, theology, and literature beautifully in his poems. Hopkins deals with metaphysics, this is how we understand the nature of reality and how God expresses himself through the elements of particular things. This is part of the reason Mr Stewart finds his poems so beautiful. He truly loves Hopkins and believes he would have to take his poems to a desert island. One of his favourite quotes from Hopkins' poems is from *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, 'Christ – for Christ plays in ten thousand places, Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his To the Father through the features of men's faces.'

Much of the music chosen is because it connects with a place and the way in which we respond to music with memories, this being said the second item is an album called *And She Closed Her Eyes* by the Swedish singer, Stina Nordenstam. In 2001/02 Mr Stewart and his two children at the time were living in Khartoum, Sudan and they went on a trip to Ethiopia. When he thinks about listening to this album it brings him back

to the Piazza in Addis Ababa and when they were travelling out East in Ethiopia. He imagines pictures of these places and is reminded of their fantastic trip around Ethiopia.

The third item is one of his favourite novels by Czech writer Milan Kundera called *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. This is one of the few novels that he has read three times, because he finds it so interesting. It is beautifully structured, and he opens up so many ideas which appeal to Mr Stewart as he loves philosophy, he loves ideas and the way in which Kundera has written the story as it comes together in many different ways. Kundera's main idea is wrong but powerful, that everything seems to be unbearably weighty, everything seems to have value and significance but in reality everything is incredibly light.

He loves watching films with his family. One of the films he would like to take is called *Theeb*. The film takes place in the Middle East during WW1, the Ottoman Empire was involved with the Germans, so the British were working with the Arabs against the Ottomans. The main plot is about the relationship between a boy and his brother as the little boy seeks revenge. Mr Stewart said the movie was beautifully filmed, he would bring it with him as it reminds him of the times he was camping out in the desert.

Next, a film called *Capernaum*, this is a film that Mr Stewart watched recently, it's more of a redemptive film with a good outcome. It's about a little boy who seeks to do right in a dysfunctional family, in a dysfunctional town and state, where everything is broken, he tries to do right. It is quite a sad film, but Mr Stewart likes it as he is influenced by where he used to live and his love for the Arab world and Arab people.

The song, "Ba Benzele" by Brian Eno and Jon Hassell brings him back to all sorts of places, one of which being on holiday with his brother, this was his first flavour of the Arab world. They went to Tunisia and stayed in basic accommodation with no air conditioning, the temperatures being around 41/42 degrees. In these temperatures you had to somehow enjoy the heat, so he would go out onto the balcony and listen to this song on his Walkman. The song takes him straight back to this balcony.

The final item Mr Stewart would take with him is a book he has read a couple of times called *Letters and Papers from Prison* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He thinks that Bonhoeffer is a really interesting character who helped shape his thinking. Bonhoeffer was imprisoned by the Gestapo for being part of a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. He was a theologian and a pastor who fought to keep the non confessing church from coming under the immoral influence of Hitler but near the end of the war Bonhoeffer was executed. Mr Stewart thinks of himself as someone who wants to follow Jesus Christ in some way during his life and Bonhoeffer has shown him a new way to do that. Bonhoeffer describes how you can never separate truth and the concept of truth from the person of Jesus Christ. Mr Stewart found this theologically and philosophically life changing and helped him transform him as a person

Maisie Tait, F5.

Niall Duncan



Niall came to teaching as a second career, having previously spent time in the Royal Navy, working as a Surveyor in Antarctica before latterly becoming involved in anti-piracy and force protection deployments around the world.

He swapped the ship for the classroom in 2011 and has enjoyed several roles in education. Immediately after passing his probation, he had a short stint at the School, providing cover in the Business and Economics Department. He then spent the following years at Bell Baxter, fulfilling roles as a PT of Employability, followed by some years as a PT of Guidance. Niall is delighted to be back at the High School of Dundee and working with young people in the classroom.

Outside of school Niall is kept very busy with his two children, Edie (1) and Olive (2). Additionally, he busies himself with training to compete in triathlons of various lengths. Balancing running, cycling, swimming and the gym is not easy, but the plus side is he gets to eat a lot! Niall also has a grown-up daughter, Ciann, who is embarking on her first career having recently graduated in Edinburgh.



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Senior Prefects



Heads and Deputy Heads of School

The Class of 2021 has enjoyed a successful year full of challenges. The pandemic, ever present, has in many ways determined this year's school experience and provided us with a different perspective which will likely stay with us for the rest of our lives. We have had to adapt to unique and often rapidly changing circumstances and deal with uncertainty and restriction. At times all of us have felt overwhelmed, but the support and empathy of our friends, family and the school staff working as a community has ensured we have been well prepared to adapt and meet the challenges we faced. It has brought us closer together as a year group and as a school, and we have now found respect for each other. We hope that none of us ever experience another pandemic but taking what we have learned this year and how we have grown, then we are perhaps better equipped than many other High School leavers to face the world outside school.

We leave the High School of Dundee with many happy memories and thank the teachers and staff for guiding us through the years. We will look back with gratitude for the wide range of opportunities given. We are very fortunate to have had many successes to celebrate during our time at school, in our academic achievements and national prizes, in our record-breaking sporting feats, in music, debating and on the CCF parade ground, to name a few.

The final week of leavers celebrations have been a wonderful way of finishing school life with the chance to meet everyone and have a good time together. After a good part of the year online, the chance to see everyone in person and chat and laugh together, has been even more poignant.

It has been our honour, as Heads and Deputies of school to represent the Class of 2021. We are now moving on to the next stage of our lives and dispersing to different parts of the United Kingdom, Europe, and the USA. The friendships we have forged, and the experiences, adventures, and good times we have enjoyed together, throughout our time at the High School of Dundee, especially in the last year, equip us for the challenges and successes that lie ahead of us. Our High School adventures are an indelible part of us all and we hope

that all of us will continue to support the School from wherever we are in the world, so that future pupils can enjoy the same opportunities. But now is the time for us to focus on the future, so as said in the Vote of Thanks at Prize-giving: "going forward, seek out the challenges in life, take your shots and don't be afraid to fail. In the words of Paulo Coelho, "The one who falls and gets up, is stronger than the one who never tried. Do not fear failure but rather fear not trying."



Laurence D Petty (Head of School)
Callum Todd (Head of School)
Angus Neville (Deputy-Head of School)
Christina Kennedy (Deputy-Head of School)

House Reports - Airlie

At the start of the year the team decided to go with Airlie Avengers as our name and Iron Man as our mascot. We made this decision for a number of reasons. The first being that The Avengers are a symbol of power and strength, two factors that we believe Airlie has excelled in this year, especially given such challenging circumstances.

Airlie consists of pupils who will not only fight for what we believe in but also pupils who bring value and character to the School such as their representing mascot. This last year was ultimately not the same as previous years, but we, as Airlie Captains, tried our best to ensure that we all came together and made sure that every Airlie pupil felt safe and comfortable in the changing school environment.

Airlie competed in the House Hockey and Rugby fixtures with a solid win in the F4-6 Girls House Hockey, a 4th in F2-3 Girls House Hockey and joint third in F1 mixed House Hockey.

During our Rugby fixtures, we achieved a joint 2nd in our F1-2 House Rugby and a 3rd in F3-4 House Rugby. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances that Covid-19 has brought this year, we are unable to participate in House Events that would normally take place, such as House Choir and the Swimming Gala.

Airlie also came a close third place in the photography competition and came a variety of 2nd-4th place in the 6 at-home lockdown challenges. We came 4th in Sports Day this year and it was great to see so many people taking part. It was fantastic to see the Airlie team place first in the Inter-House debating competition.

Airlie did exceedingly well at Prize Giving this year, earning a lot of points and ending the year on a very high note.

Although we did not win the Shield this year we are confident this will not hinder Airlie from losing our positive team spirit in future House events and that the new Captains will continue to make an enthusiastic effort to win each event Airlie partakes in.

Katie Martin & Finlay Yorke (House Captains)
Fraser Houston & Faheema Gani (Vice-Captains)



House Reports - Aystree

We are extremely proud of Aystree's performance throughout the past year. As House Captains, we have really enjoyed seeing everyone get involved with the House events both online and in person.

Despite the lockdown halfway through the year and the extremely challenging circumstances, we've all persevered to ensure there was still a strong House spirit within the Aystree community and we made the most of the limited House events that we did get.

As always, we had many successes in sporting events such as House Hockey and Rugby throughout all the year groups. Sports day allowed many individuals to use their talents to benefit our House in both track and field events. In particular, our F4-6 House Hockey Team came 2nd and the F5-6 House Rugby Team who also came 2nd.

We've really enjoyed being House Captains' year and thanks to everyone in Aystree. It's been amazing to see people of all of ages use their talents and skills to help our House succeed. We wish all the best to the new House Captains for 2021/22 and hope you can all build on this year and have even more successes.

Melissa Mitchell & Innes Chalmers (House Captains)
Hamish Findlay & Shona Graham (Vice-Captains)



House Reports - Lindores

Lindores has done exceptionally well this past academic year, especially under the current circumstances. Having just come out of lockdown, we were apprehensive about where this year would take us, but Lindores started on a solid note. We came first in the Senior and Form 1-2 House Rugby competitions and first in the Form 1 House Hockey competition. The Lindores pupils conveyed a sense of teamwork and great morale. This was an attribute they carried even when things weren't going as planned. They have worked hard while on the school campus and also from their homes during the lockdown.

The coronavirus outbreak forced us to adjust and change how we navigated and interacted within the school, which posed a challenge for House events. Although we were disappointed not to engage in the usual House events such as House Choir, Lindores took every chance that came their way to get involved in the newer House events. Our drive and determination became evident when we came first in the House taskmaster challenge during the lockdown in January. It was amazing to see everyone participating from home, and coming first place was just the icing on the cake.

We finished the school year off by winning the annual Sports Day. This win was a testament to all the work Lindores had put in over the past year, and we couldn't be prouder of you all. Your enthusiasm to represent the House made our job very easy, and it was a joy to witness you adjust with ease to the uniqueness of the current times.

We want to thank each and every member of the Lindores family for this phenomenal year; even among all the chaos that the coronavirus ensued, you still managed to keep the spirit of Lindores alive. You have just been fantastic, and we wish the new Lindores House Captains of 2021/2022 the very best.

Malachy Keough and Toluwani Idowu (House Captains 2020/2021)
Archie Gilmore and Malavikha Sudarshan (House Vice-Captains 2020/2021)



House Reports - Wallace

This year, Wallace's performance was described as being "surprisingly good" by our Heads of School for the 2020/2021 session. We as Captains are exceedingly proud of this achievement and are relieved to say that, as a House, we have finally cemented Wallace's position as a House to truly be reckoned with. All this has been achieved under such unique circumstances meaning our success this year is a credit to the entire Wallace community.

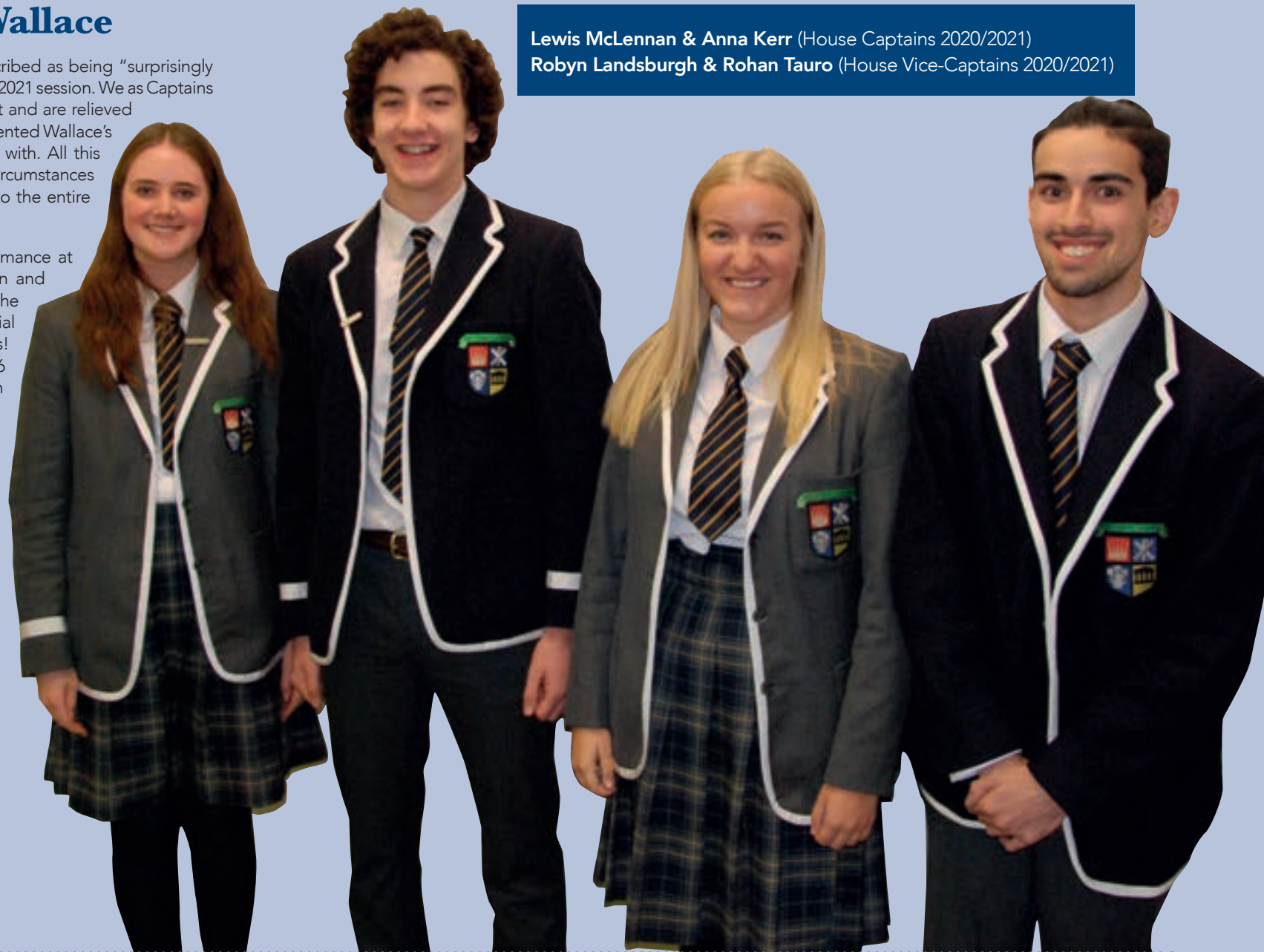
As a team we had an outstanding performance at Sports Day this year! Lots of participation and many wins landed us second place in the Sports Day table. We wanted to give a special congratulations to the Wallace relay teams! Especially to the F1-3 Boys team and F4-6 Girls team who both achieved first place in their races.

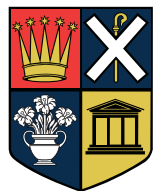
Finishing only 2 points off the Shield is something usually unheard of from Wallace but this year we have really turned it around. We really appreciate the hard work and commitment from the whole House this year, especially Mr Merry and Mrs Jack. A big thank you to you both! We wish the new Wallace House Captains the best for the next session and remember, you will always be one step ahead of Airlie!

From your 2020/21 House Captains
Anna, Lewis, Robyn and Rohan

Lewis McLennan & Anna Kerr (House Captains 2020/2021)

Robyn Landsburgh & Rohan Tauro (House Vice-Captains 2020/2021)





**HIGH
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OF DUNDEE



An Extraordinary Year



Anti-Bullying Week





Remembrance

On a bright November autumn day, the High School of Dundee gathered again, to mark Remembrance with our Armistice Parade. Despite the on-going situation with Covid-19, the High School were able to come together and still hold its traditional Parade albeit in a modified way. This I believe holds testament to the importance of this event in the High School of Dundee calendar. The Parade was live-streamed to pupils and staff in class, which was coupled with a video being made public for families and friends of the High School to watch. Highlights of the parade included the muster of the DHSCCF led by Sargent Major Anthony Milnes (F6) and commanded by Lt Col McAdam, with Capt. Rodger and Capt. Higgins leading by example and assisting in the preparation of the Cadets. Although reduced in number, the Pipes and Drums were able to accompany the parade, specifically including a moving and poignant lament by Pipe Major Andrew Lothian (F6). Additionally, as is the tradition during the parade, a wreath was laid, in honour of the fallen, at the War Memorial within the School by Head and Deputy Head of School Callum Todd and Christina Kennedy (F6) and Rosie and Emily Patterson (L7).

Included in this year's Parade was not only the remembrance of those fallen in the great World Wars, but also of Lt David Preston, who was a hugely dedicated member of the DHSCCF and a loved colleague of the school. He particularly valued the chance every year to remember the fallen of the High School of Dundee Family. Last year, he single-handedly produced the exquisite wooden panels that were added to the First World War Memorial at its rededication. Through his handiwork, these panels also stand as a memorial to him, his dedication to the School and its pupils, both past and present.

Finally, thanks must go to the Rector Mrs Hudson and all the other staff involved in the process, with whom the Parade was able to go ahead in the current circumstances. *Mrs Hudson commented*

"my sincere thanks to the entire cadet contingent for their poise, professionalism and dignity. I was very proud indeed of everyone."

2020's Armistice Parade has highlighted the fact that despite the difficulties of the pandemic, that now and always we will remember them.

Lawrence Petty, F6





Christmas Fun

Christmas Party video

F1 to 2 xmas party of 3 videos.mov



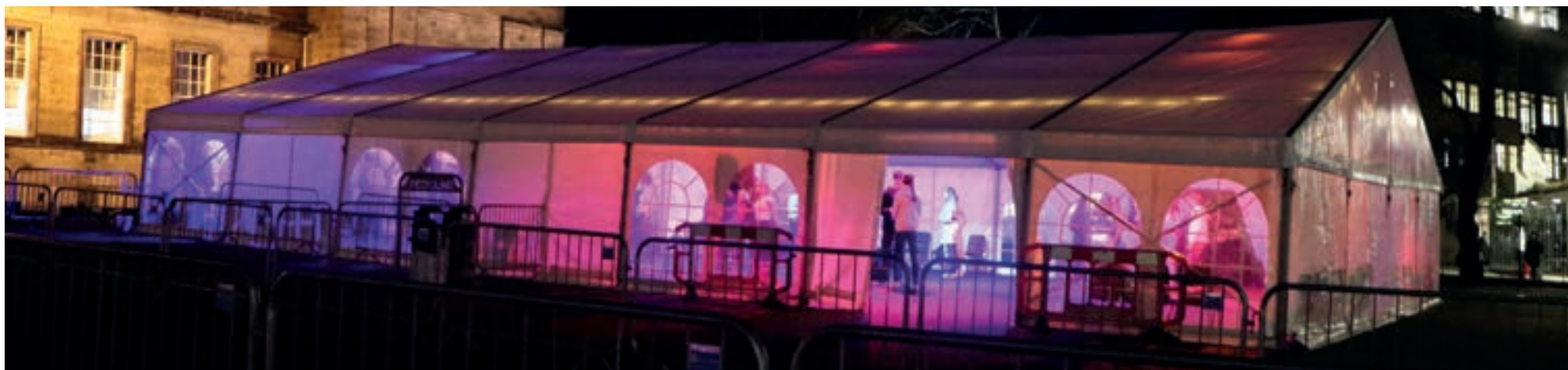
Christmas

As parents/carers of the Nursery children couldn't come into the building to see the Christmas show like every other year due to the Covid-19 restrictions and guidance, they made short Christmas videos to send home instead. The children had a lot of fun creating props, costumes and learning their lines for each of the short productions.



Christmas Fun







Pupil Think Tank

The Pupil Think Tank was set up by Mrs Hudson and Mrs Watson during lockdown in order to help bring the pupils back into the physical school environment as safely and as happily as possible. Since returning to school we have been having weekly meetings with Mrs Watson about the next steps for the group. Term 1 consisted of sending out surveys to find out which things are working well within the school and which things are needing improvement and adaptation.

'This group is something that we have worked really hard to get off the ground and running and we are so glad that we can see it beginning to have the impact we wanted it too'

*stated the Pupil Think Tank group's
Robyn Landsburgh and Finlay Yorke.*

We plan to continue this process and even pass this group onto other pupils as they progress up the school. We have worked on alternatives for events such as the Christmas dance and in the future we will be working on spreading awareness of issues such as mental health, exam stress and adding more pupil representation into the group.

Robyn Landsburgh, F6



L3 Halloween

The L3 children dressed up in some spooky costumes and enjoyed a party and other Halloween themed activities throughout the day.





Easter Bonnet Parade







Dragon Challenge Day L5



Megan Cant

Talented Megan Cant took to the virtual stage in May as part of the Webster Memorial Theatre Big Night In organised by ANGUSalive. Megan was asked to perform 2 songs as winner of the coveted 2020 Blue Riband which had been postponed the previous year.



December Concerts

Unfortunately, our usual end of term concerts couldn't go ahead in December, however Trinity was transformed into a recording studio for our online concert recordings! Over two hundred pupils from the Junior and Senior School took part across the online events which were released on the High School of Dundee YouTube channel. The 'Winter Music Celebration' included a wide range of repertoire, from the Senior Wind and Brass Ensemble performing hits from 'Hairspray' to the Symphony Orchestra playing Mozart's famous 'Eine kleine Nachtmusik' with many more ensembles in between. Senior Years' Chamber Orchestra performed Handel's 'Concerto Grosso in G Major' along with our festive favourites as part of the 'Christmas Festival' concert. Lastly, we shared our 'Festival of Lessons and Carols' featuring the Senior Years' Cantabile Choir.

Anna Kerr, F6





Little Heifetz



Winter Celebration Concert

The Winter Celebration Concert 2020: Our pupils and Music Department staff had to think of a new way to share their music with the community at Christmas time as we could not hold our usual concert in the Caird Hall. They came up with an action-packed recorded production, expertly filmed in Trinity Hall by Mr Tonner and Mr Love, and coordinated by Mrs Petrie. Mr Tonner put it all together to release on YouTube at the end of term - it looked and sounded fantastic and offered a huge variety of types of music and instrument. Groups of pupils from L3 up to F6 came to the hall to experience a formal recording session, microphones and lighting and all. They totally embraced the process - nobody got the giggles too much even when we were all decked out in tinsel and Santa hats! There were guitar and string groups of all ages as well as the Percussion and the Clàrsach Group. The staff and pupils of our Girls' Choir, Brass and Wind Ensembles and Pipes and Drums were even more ingenious, making recordings outside 'on location' or taking part in compilation recordings from their own homes. Impressed with the creativity on display Lise Hudson declared the event **'a wonderful showcase of the fantastic musical talents of our pupils and a very moving and poignant reminder of the magic of Christmas'**. We now have a treasure chest of pieces from 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik' to 'White Christmas' that we can watch again and again and share with friends far and wide.

Mrs J Petrie



Carol Service 2020  **Chamber Orchestra Christmas Festival** 





Girls' Choir

As 2020's annual Winter Concert was cancelled due to the pandemic, the Music Department adapted and delivered the Virtual Christmas Concert. Girls' Choir was just one of the many groups involved. Girls' Choir presented their own version of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' with soloists Toluwani Idowu and Catriona Taylor. Filming took place at Dudhope Park, making sure that this was a memorable event. Although things were quite different from normal concerts, the joy of making music was still there and all involved were proud of their efforts. Mrs Colgan, who was the mastermind behind the performance, said 'It was important that despite everything that has gone on this year, we as a choir can still come together and produce something beautiful and creative that can still be felt through a screen. It was a poignant moment of coming together even in a socially distanced environment'.

Victoria Scott, F5

Junior Burns Supper

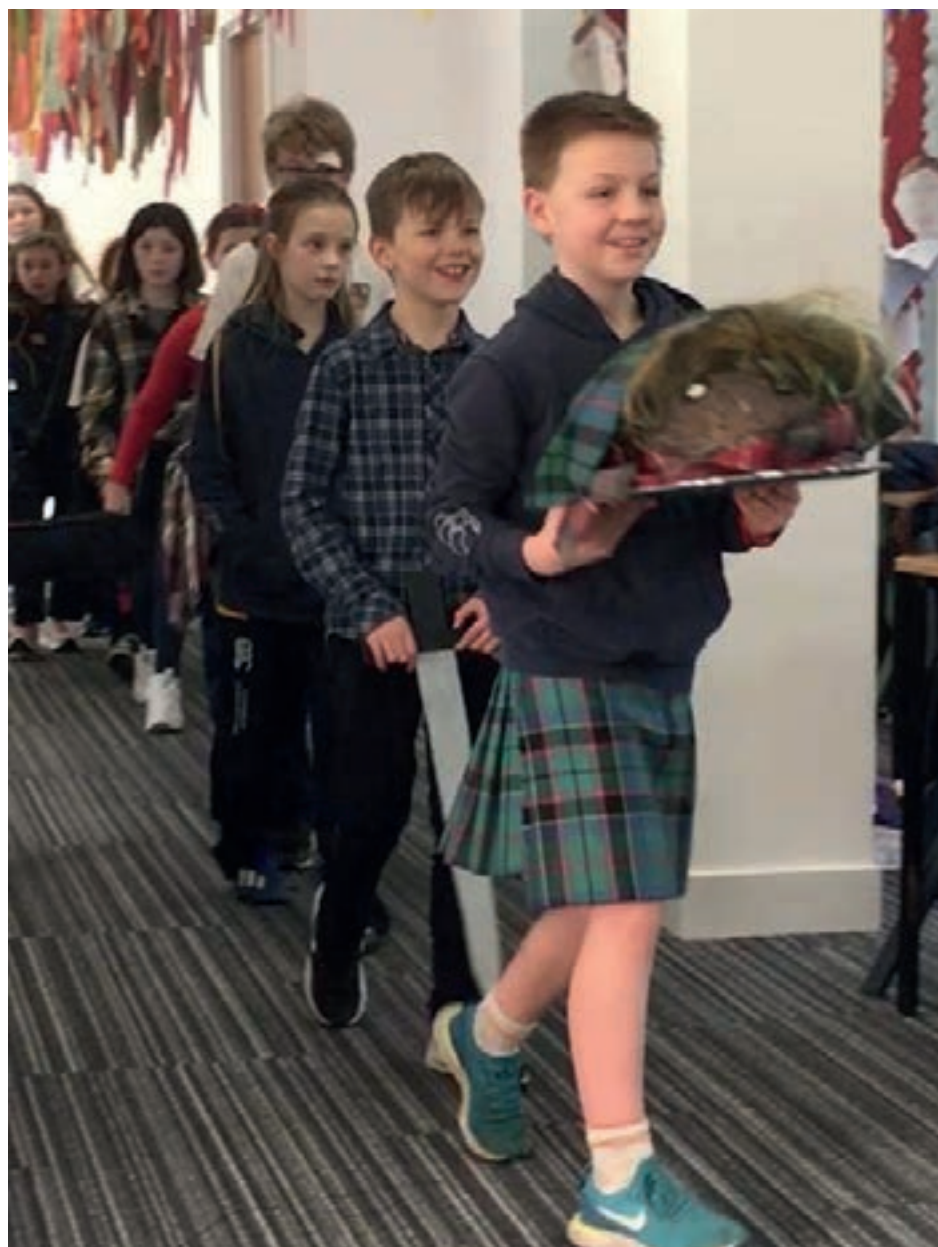
For L5 Burns Supper this year, I was at my house as we were all in lockdown. Our teachers didn't want us to miss out on the celebrations so we all watched what was happening in the Hub on Teams. We all wore tartan clothes and I drank Irn Bru. We listened to our classmates sing, do some Highland dancing and play lots of different Scottish songs on their instruments. At the end we sang *Auld Lang Syne* which was fun. I enjoyed it so much and I hope the L5s next year enjoy it as much as I did.

Elise Harris, L5K

Burns Supper - A Virtual Commemoration

On January 25th, members of the High School community commemorated the life of Robert Burns. Since 1802, celebration of The Bard has been a staple event of Scottish culture as an occasion for all to honour his memory. It also provides opportunity to brighten an otherwise dreich winter evening. Burns Night, 2021, was no less a social and joyous occasion than any other year. The Pipe Band, with 30 of its members, performed traditional occurrences such as donning tartan, the playing of bagpipes and the reading of poems. The stirring collaborative effort of the band provided a platform where all in the community could join, allowing more members of the school family to celebrate together than ever before. Whilst we did not all eat the same haggis or physically socialise together, on Burns night we were all connected and our feelings of sentiment and love for Rabbie Burns were not lost, but amplified.

Andrew Lothian, F6



Burns Supper video

https://youtu.be/QE6kUh_7DV8



Christmas Library Advent Quiz

Although Christmas looked very different in 2020, the library still managed to add sparkle and festivity to the school. Pupil volunteers helped to transform the library into a festive wonderland and filled the library advent calendar with sweets. Every day, pupils across the school were sent a multiple choice question on Firefly and the first pupil to answer it correctly won the sweets from that door of the advent calendar. The advent calendar was a great success which added a little joy to everyone's day and the school library staff kept us all cheerful during the winter period.

Isla Hutchison, F



The Nativity 2020

L1J

The Early Years Nativity is a very special event and so for Christmas 2020 we were determined that our pupils would have the opportunity to experience the energy and excitement of performing on the stage, and to do this in a Covid-safe environment.

In the absence of the usual audiences of parents, grandparents, family friends and fellow pupils, each of the Early Years classes took to the stage of Trinity Hall to re-enact the Christmas story. For one year only, this meant that we had six Marys, six babies, as many as twelve Wise Men and a host of angels!

Each performance was filmed and shared with the whole school and with Early Years' parents. On the last day of term, the pupils watched the performances - a special moment that made sure we all felt a tingly, Christmassy feeling just in time for the holidays!

Very well done to all the pupils in the Early Years, as usual, you were the stars of the show!















*Nursery
Playrooms*





Nursery Music

(Music) 1.MOV 



*Nursery
Outdoors*





Releasing Butterflies

The children observed caterpillars grow over the course of three weeks and were amazed to watch them transform into beautiful butterflies! They released them into the nursery garden and were mesmerised by the colours. Some of the butterflies even stuck around for some pictures!





Easter

The nursery children decorated the playrooms for Easter with lots of bright colours. They also made their own Easter baskets and had a Easter Egg hunt in the garden.

World Book Day



Hamish Campbell

Ausfin Lan

Georgie Kyles



Chinese New Year

The nursery children celebrated Chinese New Year by creating a Chinese dragon using a range of materials. The finished product was amazing and all the boys and girls loved using it to dance with.

A Window into the Classroom L1



Junior Health & Food Tech

Once a month, pupils in L4 visited the Home Economics department to cook a variety of dishes, such as chocolate tiffin and pizza. This gave them the opportunity to learn to cook and then eat their own delicious creations. Mrs Ross, one of the Home Economics teachers, said, "L4 have gained confidence in the kitchen and developed practical cookery skills. The pupils take great pride in sharing their creations at home." The pupils said that they love Home Economics and that they really like their teacher. They particularly enjoyed making the chocolate tiffin and liked trying new food and finding out how things are made. One pupil even described it as their, "favourite, favourite, favourite thing ever!"

Isla Hutchison and Emily Thomson, L7

Summer Trip L1-3

L1, L2 and L3 enjoyed a trip to Active Kids in Perthshire to celebrate the end of term. The weather was kind, the park quiet and all the children were on great form. During the day, each year group moved round the park so each had time turns in every area. The Fort and Pirate Ship were popular as well as the giant bouncy pillows, trampolines and the astra-slide. The bus journey home was much quieter than the journey there with a few children catching forty winks!



Technology: Design A New Cereal L6

L6 were challenged to create a new breakfast cereal! We had to decide what the ingredients would be, who our target market was and create eye-catching packaging designs. In small groups we had to share our ideas and come up with one that everyone liked before we could go on to making a prototype of the box. Our designs included "Fruity Dinos", "Rainbow Bombs", "Yumbles" and "Choco Flakes".



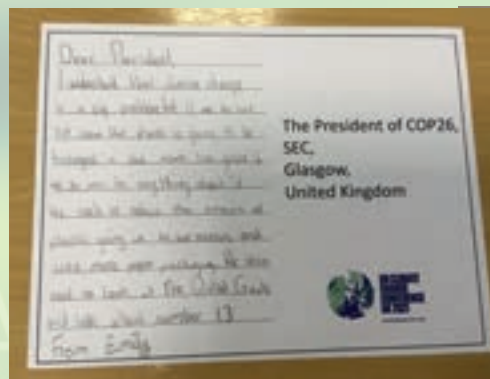
OutRight 2020

OutRight is an annual UNICEF campaign which enables young people to speak out about important children's rights issues. OutRight 2020 focused on climate change and the right to a safe environment.

Mrs Taylor and the L3 Green Fingers club spent some time thinking about the importance of trees in terms of climate change and wellbeing. They watched the BBC video "The Girl Who Changed the World with an Acorn" and then planted some acorns to see if they would germinate.

In L4S, the children explored key issues by taking part in a quiz and a discussion about what they could do to slow down the impact of climate change.

In L6 pupils interviewed adults at home to find out how ideas of climate change have changed since their parents were children. The children created posters to raise awareness of fighting climate change and displayed these in school. Finally, the pupils wrote postcards to the president of COP26 to voice their opinions of what should be done around this issue.



Quarantimes Q&A

What inspired you to start 'Quarantimes'?

During the first lockdown - back in March 2020 - I was emailing Mrs Tevendale, my English teacher, with some questions about my Higher English portfolio, and as she had asked what we had been up to in lockdown, I included some photos of cake; I have a tendency to procrastinate by baking...

She replied, informing me that she was planning on starting a school newsletter, and would I be interested in becoming the Procrasti-bake editor?

I was very eager to take her up on the suggestion and rounded up a team of writers to start "Quarantimes"!

I'm so grateful that Mrs Tevendale shared her brilliant initial idea with me, and it's been wonderful to see the newsletter go from strength to strength!

What's your favourite aspect of the job as Editor?

I've loved being involved in the growth of the editorial team itself; our columnists frequently change, and we've expanded our initial F6 crew to include many more of the younger years.

Another highlight has been digitally formatting each edition with my deputy editor, Sahar Jafferbhoy. It takes a lot of time, but seeing the finished product on Firefly or on the school website is unbelievably rewarding. I love the design aspect of it, and on weeks where I've been editing articles but haven't written any myself, it provides an alternative creative outlet.

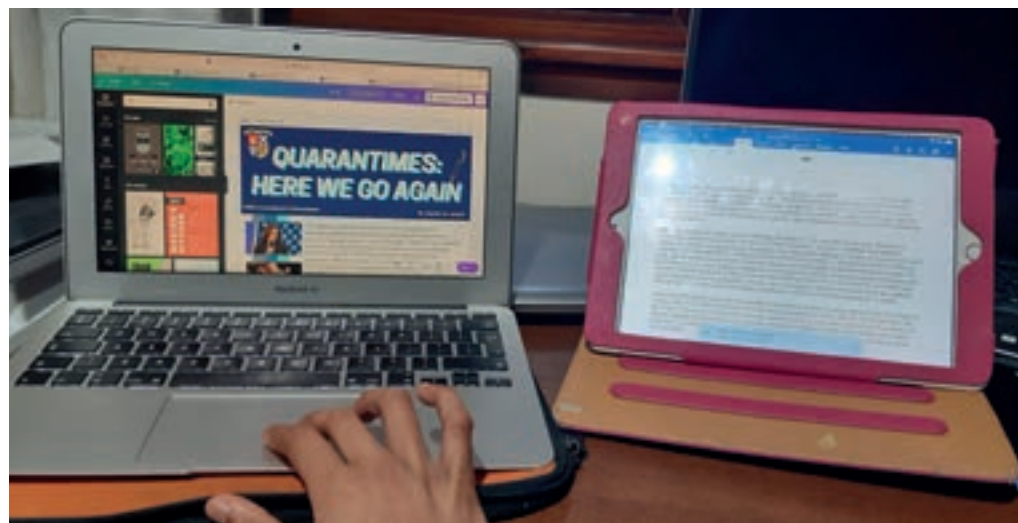
Any advice for other pupils who'd like to start co-curricular creative projects? E.g things like publishing writing, artwork, poetry, or hosting radio shows

"The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt" - Sylvia Plath

I think, especially as teenagers, we often worry about how others perceive us, and this fear of being "judged" clouds over our imagination, leading to a hasty dismissal of innovative ideas.

Just putting yourself out there is the biggest leap, but it is often acknowledged with much more support and enthusiasm than you'd expect. Don't overthink it; share your passion. It will inspire others to do so as well. Be it a self-composed piece of music, hockey skill or travel blog, there are endless creative avenues to explore - you just have to be brave enough to start.

Malavikha Sudarshan, F6



Skills for Learning – now on Instagram

We are now on Instagram - @hsd_learningskills with the aim to celebrate pupil work, share strategies and sign post good resources and information. The Team ran a competition with our pupils to design a department logo to use on the page and got some really lovely entries.



Rainbow Round-Up 2020/21

Instead of our usual assemblies in Trinity this year, because of the pandemic, we have been enjoying Rainbow Round-Ups online due to the pandemic. Mrs Rose, Mr Petrie, Mrs Proudfoot and a few JY classes have been taking turns to host them. We have had many interesting topics such as bullying, laughter, Robert Burns, Mother's Day and the Christmas story with a chocolate twist! Whilst we were learning at home, we were given challenges, including snowy sculptures, creativity with a healthy twist and helping our mums. Although Rainbow Round-ups are not like assemblies, we have all enjoyed them.

Ayanah Adam

Snow Closure, February 2021



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Making A Difference

Charities and Community Outreach Overview

Despite challenging circumstances, the whole school has made an impressive impact on the community with outreach work and their fundraising efforts in session 2020-21. We raised **£10,087.47** for various charities, volunteered for a total of **2723 hours** in the community, picked **210 bags of litter**, donated **125 bags of winter jackets** and clothes and **50 pints of blood**.



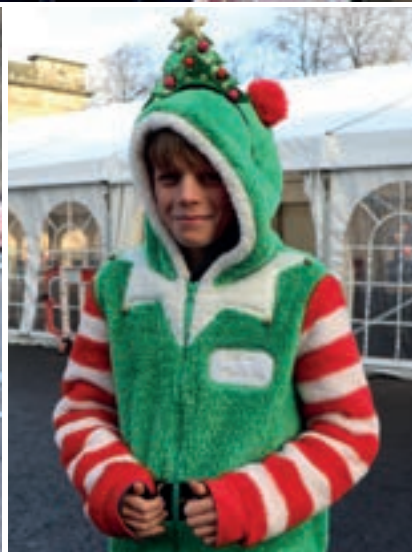
Litter Pick

Pupils, staff and High School of Dundee families were each challenged to pick one bag of litter in their local community in the month of June and record it on a google form to keep track of how many bags of litter we picked. In addition, weekly lunchtime litter picks were organised where groups of staff and pupils collected litter from around the school grounds and beyond. Many pupils started good habits and have taken pickers home to litter pick in the summer holidays. In June, when a group of pupils were picking litter as part of the Post Exam Programme, they bumped into Bonnie Dundee on one of their little picks and the groups made a joint effort in the Riverside area of Dundee.



Sparkle Day and Staff Pantomime

In December, we held our annual Sparkle Day where children in the Nursery, Junior Years and Senior School made a donation to wear a Christmas Jumper or something sparkly for the day. To compliment the day, there was a screening in all classrooms of the staff virtual pantomime. The day resulted in lots of laughs and everyone getting into the festive spirit. Money raised in the Nursery and Junior Years was donated to Dundee Bairns and money raised in the Senior School to the British Heart Foundation.



Staff Charity Christmas Card

The staff charity Christmas card raised it's highest ever amount on record this year. Pupils entered a competition to design a Christmas card and after a winning design was chosen, staff then donated to Blood Cancer UK to have their name put on the card. Blood Cancer UK was nominated as a charity because it is dedicated to beating blood cancer by funding research and supporting those affected.

Teapot Trust

In June at the Action on the Arts Day at Mayfield, pupils sold sweets at a stall, with proceeds going to the Teapot Trust which is an art therapy charity based in hospitals.

Face Mask Donations

The Charities Committee collected £1 donations from pupils, staff and visitors to the school who required a disposable face mask throughout the year. Pupils in the Senior School came up with this initiative to raise funds for Parkinson's UK and to help save the planet.

Kilt Walk

In March, a group of pupils and their parents in Junior Years, took part in the virtual kilt walk. Each family walked around 7 miles for sponsorship and raised £3050 for the charity Funeral Link. Funeral Link supports and offers choices to people who struggle to afford a funeral as well as bereavement support in the city.

Children First

The Home Economics Department rounded up a group of pupils who went to work making homemade face masks as a lunchtime club. The group worked hard and sent their proceeds to the charity, Children First.

November

A group of 15 pupils and staff took part in Movember in 2020 and raised over £900 for the men's health charity. Their mustaches also sparked important conversations around men's health within the school community.

Feel Good Friday

Anti-Bullying week culminated in Feel Good Friday and Stroll Along Saturday. On Feel Good Friday, pupils were invited to wear something to express themselves and something which made them feel good. The day raised an amazing £940.24 for Feeling Strong, the Dundee-based Young People's Mental Health Charity. On Saturday families and staff from across the Nursery, Junior Years and Senior School met at the V&A and completed a walk which went to Broughty Ferry Castle. This helped raise awareness of the positive impact of fresh air and exercise on mental health.

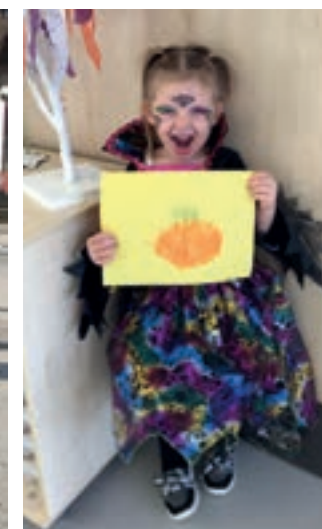
MacMillan Longest Golf Day

In the final days of term four Form 5 pupils were sponsored to play 72 holes of golf in one day at Drumoig Golf Course in Fife. They successfully completed the tough task and raised an outstanding **£1777** for MacMillan Cancer Support.



Halloween Dress Up Day

Pupils in the Nursery, Junior Years and Senior School dressed up for Halloween and celebrated with games and 'creepy cones' which were sold with proceeds going to charity. The whole school community raised over £1000 for Maggie's.







Comic Relief

Well done to Nursery, Junior Years and Senior School for the collective fundraising effort on Friday, 19th March! Between sales of red noses and money collected we have donated an amazing £1261.84 to Comic Relief! This money will go a long way to helping tackle poverty and inequality through their various projects.

Not to mention the lovely smiles on faces, in person and virtually! Well done everyone!

Miss K Douglas

Charities and Community Outreach Coordinator

The Nursery children dressed in support of Children in Need and Red Nose Day. They all looked brilliant in their yellow spots and red clothes!



Interact Halloween Fundraiser

The global pandemic has meant that coming up with innovative ways to raise money for charity has become quite difficult. Therefore, the Interact Team took on this challenge and came up with the idea of a Halloween dress up day for the whole school to participate to raise money for Maggie's Cancer Charity (Dundee). All age groups took part from the Nursery to Form 6, even HSD staff embraced the challenge. The Creepy Cones filled with Halloween sweets were also sold to raise money for Maggie's, these went down a treat. Everyone that took part was hugely creative with their costumes, the day saw a huge variety including witches, vampires, pumpkins and even the Ghost Busters, to name a few, parade around HSD. The best costumes were awarded with prizes in categories such as best individual, best group, and best staff. Overall, the Halloween day was a great success and raised a considerable amount of money for those who need it most.

Melissa Mitchell, F6



Charity Sports Matches

This year saw another charity sports match afternoon, where the boys played the girls at hockey and rugby. Each side got very competitive and the match was refereed by the PE Department at Mayfield. Pupils made a donation to play in the matches and spectators also paid which helped raise £200 for the Carolina House Trust in Dundee.

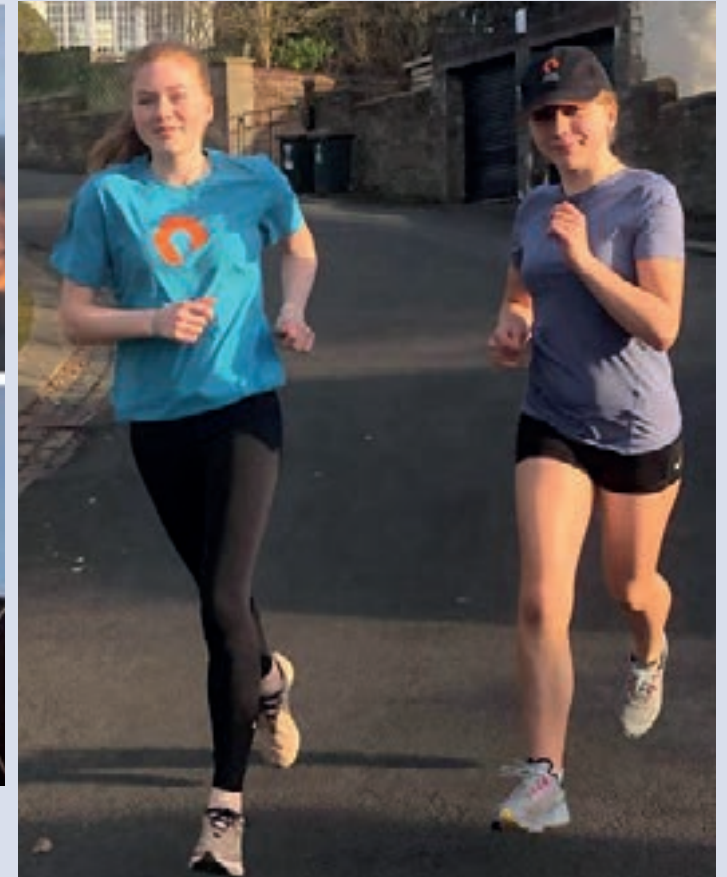
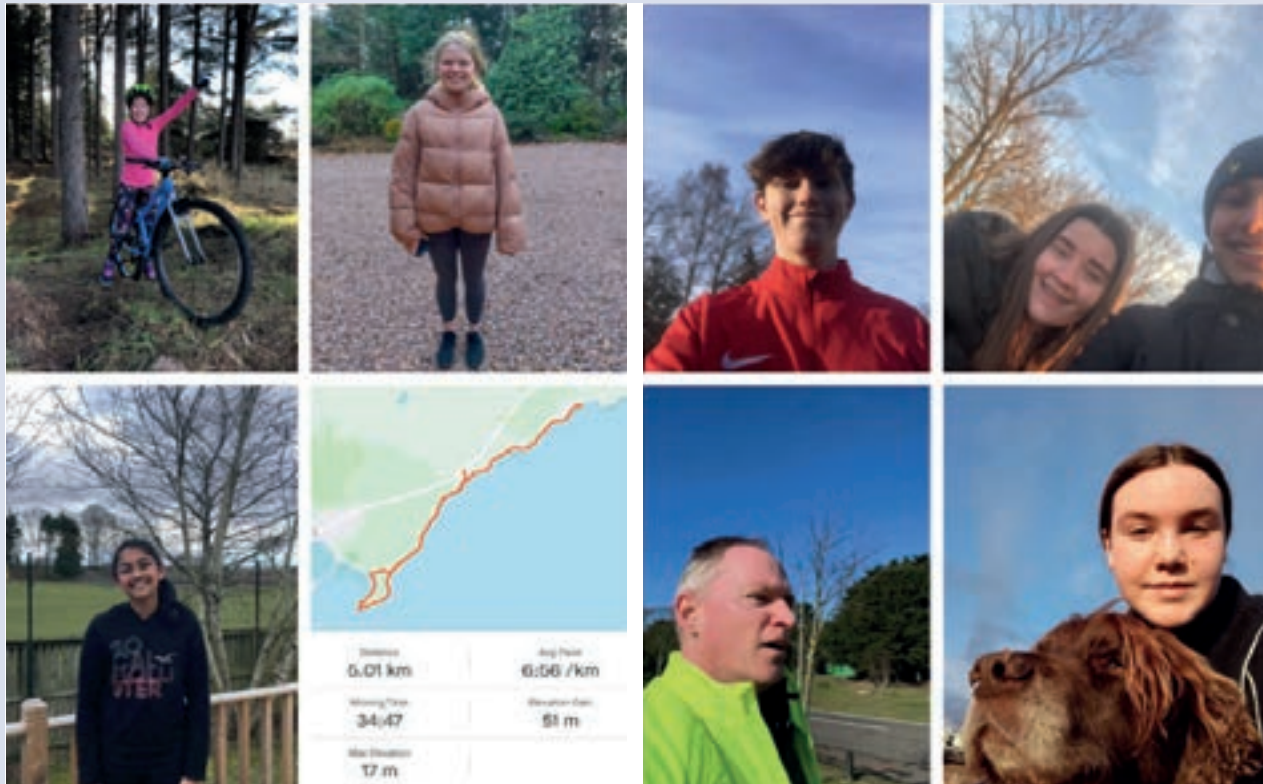




Virtual 5k Challenge

During the winter lockdown a number of pupils, staff and parents from the Nursery, Junior and Senior Years participated in a Virtual 5k Challenge to raise money for the NHS Tayside Covid Fund. It has been amazing to see so many people get out, have fun and be active in such challenging times. The charity uses the money to provide much needed care and comfort to patients, staff and volunteers. Proceeds from the charity are also used to fund much needed research into fighting Covid 19. At the time of writing, our event has raised over £1000! We have also had donations from a couple of different companies which has been so greatly appreciated. It was lovely to see the school community come together to support the event and secure sponsorships from friends and family. A big well done to everyone who completed the Virtual 5k!

Rose Ryan, F5





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**Enriching Experiences
in Senior Years**

Resilience, Zooms and our 11th Internationalist

Debaters are a resilient lot. The last big tournaments of session 2019/20 were lost to the incoming surge of Covid – but by September software had been written, practised and improved upon, protocols established, and by a combination of Zoom, Teams and Discord, a substantial majority of competitions were back online, enabling continuing participation by our pupils whether school was operating on campus or from home.



At the start of May this led to delight and celebrations as Dominic Westwood F6 became the 11th HSD pupil to have been selected for Team Scotland. In company with pupils from four other schools, he represented his country at the World Schools Debating Championships over a ten-day period at the end of July. Hosted by Macau, the event involved teams from 74 countries, divided by time zones into Hegel division and Panda division for the eight preliminary rounds. After the break they amalgamated, which meant some teams found themselves debating at 3 am; but it was better than there not being a tournament at all! Scotland finished 13th in Hegel and 26th overall; of the five members of the Scottish team Dominic placed highest – by 20 rankings - on the speaker tab.



The screenshot shows him speaking in the Partial Double Octos, in which Scotland went out to China (who won in 2018 and were semi-finalists in 2019).

A number of other pupils have participated in online tournaments throughout the year, experiencing a fair degree of success and accumulating skills along the way. A novice team of Caitlin Cowie and Ruby McIntee F3 achieved an excellent result when they competed in the long-established Northern Junior Debating Championship organised by RGS Newcastle (we've attended every year since 1995) and broke 3rd to reach the final.



At the start of November Dominic and his partner David Logan, also F6, competed in an international online student tournament run by our Former Pupil Steven Roy, which involved 162 teams including from Yale, Duke, Oxford, Cambridge, TCD, UCD and all the big London universities. They gained very valuable experience against such formidable opposition and in fact reached the schools semi-final, going out to opponents from Eton and Westminster.



At the end of the month Edinburgh University made the – much appreciated - effort to run their Junior comp online and we entered three teams. Scott Xu and Finlay Thomas of F1, with no experience of debating other than practising and talking about it on Wednesday lunchtimes, won the Silver final, which allowed them to nominate a charity of their choice to receive a £50 donation.



In February, Zara Taylor F4 and Ruby McIntee F3 participated in the Scottish round of the International Competition for Young Debaters and qualified to compete at the UK Finals Day in May, run from Cambridge.



At Edinburgh Schools senior comp in March, Dominic and David reached the Gold final, while the Silver final was won by the B team of Ksenia Kapelyukh and Hamish Doig F5. Speaking in his very first tournament, Hamish also topped the Novice tab, while in round 2 Ksenia scored the highest individual mark in the whole tournament.

A week later two teams competed at St Andrews Schools, where Ksenia was placed 4th speaker, while Dom and David attended Oxford Schools Finals Day, for which they had qualified at the start of the month. Since it was online,

the latter had turned into a huge event with schools logging in to compete from all over the world; a team from India was in the final. The lads very much held their own in 'playing with the big boys and girls', including a number of experienced international debaters, finished a very creditable 23rd out of 132, and concluded that they were now match fit to take on all comers at Durham three weeks later.

Thus it proved in the first weekend of the holidays, as we settled down to spend two days at our screens at home. Competitive senior debating traditionally reaches its conclusion at the end of term two, as pupils turn to final preparation for the exam season, and Durham Schools is the last of the major UK competitions. This year, online, it was able to expand its usual cap of around 100 to 132 teams, including a number of internationals from India, Canada, Greece and even Vietnam. Our teams were Dom and David, and Georgia with F3 Ruby in her first senior tournament. They finished 24th



on tab, which was a great achievement. The two F6 boys however ... on 13 out of 15 team points after five in-rounds, broke 3rd behind two teams from Eton! After a quite remarkable run, and putting out an England international in the quarters, they lost in the semi to the tab-topping Eton team who went on to win. Dom finished 8= on tab out of 264 speakers, while David was 19= and Georgia was 34=.

Our former debaters continue to flourish on the international stage; Ivan Kapelyukh, recently awarded a funded PhD at Imperial, reached the quarter-finals of the European Universities Debating Championship, which was tabbed by his former school partner Steven Roy. Alex Fish topped the tab at the first debating tournament he entered in the Oxford Union. Steven very kindly made the journey north to judge the annual House debate, held this year – for obvious reasons – outside at Mayfield, with the F2 audience seated in the stand and the debaters speaking from the big lectern, shipped up from Trinity by valiant janitorial efforts and benefitting from the newly-installed sound system. On the motion 'This House Regrets politicians' increased usage of social media for communication' the Airlie team of Ksenia Kapelyukh and Anthony Hingston



were victorious, with Ksenia also winning Best Speaker.

We very much hope that this year will see us back to stupid-o'clock starts on Saturday mornings to catch trains or pile into Mrs McGrath's newer Volvo in order to debate face-to-face with our good friends and rivals across the country. As was remarked at the August Zoom meeting of the Tournament Committee of the World Schools Debating Championships (Mrs McGrath is still a member of the Board of Directors) what cannot

be replicated online is the waiting-around-in-the-hotel-lobby or sitting-next-to-someone-on-the bus chats, which are so valuable in building and cementing friendships and understanding across the country and the globe. You don't get to choose your side of the motion in competitive debating; what you do want to do is discuss it endlessly afterwards, always accepting that there is another side to the argument and that differences can be talked through, resorting neither to insult nor to polarisation. Does that sound a bit like proselytising? Shamelessly so! If you want to benefit from those skills that debating brings to your development, and have a lot of fun in the process, do come along and get involved.



John Stuart Mill Cup

A team from HSD has competed in the John Stuart Mill Cup since it began in 2018. To quote the organisation it is ***"a tournament in which teams of high school students match wits with each other discussing ethical issues of public concern. It's not a debating competition and isn't won by proving the opposing side wrong. Rather, it's a collaborative discussion, and the team that best displays the virtues of insightfulness, thoughtfulness and civility takes home the ultimate prize, the cup itself!"***

While last year's event was cancelled, due to lockdown restrictions, this year's event was online, and went ahead successfully despite one or two technical difficulties. Our team included Anisha Azad, Sarah Richmond and Reuben Stewart from the Higher Philosophy class, and Isla Hutchinson from Form 4.

There were three qualifying rounds, followed by a semi-final and a regional final, from which both the winners and the runners-up would proceed to the national final at the end of June. After a cautious first match, in which all the teams were acclimatising themselves to the ethos of the competition, our team grew in confidence and went forward to the semi-final by a good margin, having scored full marks from one of the judges for their discussion of the ethical implications of public nudity.

Full marks again, from another judge, for an analysis of questions arising from no-platforming possible speakers at University campus events, and we were through to the regional final. At that point, however, technical and administrative difficulties got the better of the organisation, so we agreed to be co-champions with Banchory Academy.

Mr A Cummins

The High School of Dundee Law Society

In early September, four students came together to found the High School's first Law society. This group has been working closely with weekly meetings that discuss different laws and debate ethical issues to further their appreciation of law. Meetings are also held with Lindsay Conchar, lecturer in law and social sciences, where various law paths and careers are discussed. Lindsay mentioned, "It is heartening to see the future generation of lawyers and leaders so engaged and passionate about the world around them." The author of 'The Secret Barrister' has also responded to the society's Twitter page to congratulate them on reading and discussing the topics covered in the book. Victoria Scott, Colette Wiewiorka, Maisie Tait and Rebecca Ramsay have all worked to find connections into law in Dundee through internships and work experiences for new members that are interested in joining. The group is proud to be the first law society that can offer guidance to pupils considering, or interested, in the world of law.

Colette Wiewiorka and Maisie Tait

Book Club

Every week, many pupils from across the Senior School meet to have lunch and chat about books in a fun, relaxed setting. Book Club is mostly composed of pupils in F1 and F2, although older pupils also attend. There are four different types of Book Club which alternate on a weekly basis, so there's always something for everyone to enjoy. One of the participants said "It's fun because you get to meet like-minded people." The pupils talked passionately about their favourite books such as Redwall, which was "very adventurous and had lots of animals" and The Giver because of its "interesting concept." Ms Lloyd-Wiggins, who runs the Book Club, said "The Book Club is a space where students can come to share their love for books with one another. We are a sociable group and we love to swap ideas, share new book discoveries, and talk about authors that we love. We're always happy to welcome new members." The Book Club is an extremely valuable activity which encourages pupils to read and talk about books in a lively, informal environment.

Isla Hutchinson

Chess Trophies

Beckingham Trophy and Chess Club Prize: **Ramit Kanodia**

Intermediate Chess Club Trophy and Prize: **Ramit Kanodia**

Congratulations to Ramit Kanodia F3 who retained the Intermediate Chess Trophy by defeating Krish Akula F2 in the final. This competition was open to all pupils in F1-F3.

Congratulations again to Ramit for defeating Nhat Nguyen F1 in the final of the Beckingham Chess Trophy, open to all pupils in F1-F6. Nhat played a great game and threatened mate but one slack move cost him dearly.

Both competitions were of a double eliminator format and Ramit remained undefeated in both competitions. He really is very good!

Well done to all competitors..

Grandmaster Middleton

Allied Health and Science Society | Working together towards shared goals

The High School of Dundee has a good track record of presenting strong pupil competitors for entry into health and science universities and medical schools. At the start of the first lockdown, around 20 of us in Form 5 who were interested in careers in medicine came together to form a society. Here we could share ideas and concerns, working together towards shared goals to help each other have the best chance possible to get into Medical School whether or not pupils came from a family background of medicine or other health and science careers. While not initially aware of what would become the full effect of it, we knew that Covid would present new and different challenges for us all to succeed in our chosen career paths. So as our society was formed, the decision was made to include other health and science careers, such as veterinary and dentistry to help as many people as we could overcome the obstacles that lie ahead.

We started to hold Zoom meetings every week before the end of Summer Term 2020 where we discussed what we were going to do and how we were going to work together. Each week different individuals would create and present on topics that interested them or that they felt would benefit everyone in the group.

After the summer, we were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to use a large classroom that could safely fit us all inside in a time that pre-Covid, would have been filled with enrichment, but was now an empty slot at the end of the day.

We also used this valuable in-person time to get in touch with university students in our desired fields and sought their advice and personal insights. It's very interesting to see how those students have had to adapt to learning through Covid-19 too, and to hear about both the positive and negative impacts it's had on their studies.

The group would agree what to put on the agenda at least a week before, ensuring we don't have a gap in our timetable. Whether that was a presentation someone has created on a topic that interests them, or an idea for a debate or ethical dilemma that someone raised. They were enjoyable to everyone as these interests are shared across the whole group and everyone was really involved and keen to participate.

While initially working in the health and science group, it was pleasing to see the number of veterinary pupils grow and form a new society, that now has separate meetings addressing the different veterinary requirements for applying. This was, I think, an insight into how eventually other career paths could form their own societies to support and help inform decisions to give everyone the best chance they can have.

We went back to Zoom calls after Christmas and it was very refreshing to see everyone again and catch up after we have worked through our goals for the session. We created an Instagram page for our society to advertise what we do to the other years and to anybody who's interested.

It was our intention over the school year to open the society up to younger year groups as we will be well placed to share our knowledge with them of the various stages on applying to university. The society has given all of us involved a reassurance that we each have a team working hard for us. Every bit of knowledge, or work put into our society is like a book. What individually could fill a bookshelf, when combined, forms a library, one we will pass on to the next year group so they don't have to start again from scratch. This is the best we can do to give future university health and science students as much help as we can.

Rebecca Hamilton, F5



Library Click-and-Collect

During lockdown, one of the things we missed most about school was the ability to take books out of the library. When school started again, the library managed to open a click and collect service, which provided pupils with library books in a Covid friendly way. I have had experience on both sides of the library service: I have taken out several books using the click and collect service and I have also volunteered to help distribute the books and do other tasks in the library. This means I see on a regular basis how instrumental the library is within the school community. Dozens of pupils volunteer every week to keep the library running and many pupils withdraw and return books every day. Ms Lloyd-Wiggins, one of the school librarians said, "The Click-and-Collect service means that our senior students and staff are able to safely borrow physical library books, and we are so grateful for all of our volunteers helping this to be possible. It's wonderful to be able to offer access to these books again." The library has also provided boxes of books for pupils in L1-L3, which are regularly refreshed to ensure that there is always something new to read. It is amazing to see how the library has adapted to deal with the challenges of coronavirus and our thanks go out to Ms Lloyd-Wiggins, Mrs Hutton and the team of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure we can all continue to use the library's services.

Isla Hutchison



Pitch-Perfect Success for HSD Musicians

High School of Dundee musicians enjoyed success in the Dundee Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year Competition, hitting the right notes to win all the prizes up for grabs!

The competition (which is open to all pupils being educated in Dundee and Monifieth) sees young musicians perform a programme no longer than ten minutes in a bid to be recognised as the young vocalist or instrumentalist of the year. The competition attracts musicians from across the region, and this year, the four winner and runner-up prizes were won by pupils from our school community.

Courtesy of a performance of three songs by Fauré, Schumann and Vivaldi, Toluwani Idowu (F6) retained the Young Vocalist of the Year prize which she'd also lifted last year. Also mirroring last year's results, the runner-up prize was awarded to Megan Cant (F5), who performed songs by Vaughan Williams, Ivor Novello, and a song from Fiddler on the Roof.

Fraser Smith (F5) was declared Young Instrumentalist of the Year after impressing the judges with his performance of the three-movement 'Dance Sequence' by Gareth Wood. Jason Pan (F6) was placed as runner-up, after performing songs by Mozart and Rachmaninov.

Isla Hutchison





Modern Studies Meets MSP

Graeme Dey had a virtual meeting with the Form 3 Modern Studies class to discuss his work as a member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) for the Angus South Constituency. It was a constructive and informative experience where we learned in depth what being an MSP was all about and about how his and other MSPs jobs have dramatically changed since the Covid-19 pandemic. We also gained more knowledge on his role as Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans as well as a greater understanding of a multitude of issues including but not limited to, Scottish Independence, parliamentary committees and the Scottish campaign for nuclear disarmament. Jed Bircham agreed it was "an interesting and informative event". It was a tremendous learning experience for the Form 3 Modern Studies class, who will remember this as a highlight of Form 3 Modern Studies.

Ruby McIntee, F3



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Writing

Burgess Writing Competition

HSD has won an unprecedented 4 awards in the City of Dundee Burgess Writing Competition this year. Maya McColgan was the overall winner! This is a superb achievement! We were also delighted for Imogen Kemlo who was placed third and Olivia McGill and Sarah Campbell both received honourable mentions. We are fortunate indeed to have writers of such quality and creativity in school. Well done to them all and a big thank you to all their English teachers for their support and encouragement.



2020: A year to be thankful

On New Year's Eve 2019, we all looked forward to what 2020 would bring us. For me, it was school events, trips with friends and family gatherings. For others, it may have been overseas holidays, exams or weddings. However, on January 9th, 2020, The WHO announced a mysterious Coronavirus in Wuhan, China. By January 31st, there were already nearly 10,000 cases across the world and The WHO announced a global health emergency. Since then, the entire year has been dominated by Covid-19. The virus, that knows no borders, has wreaked havoc on 188 countries and been responsible for nearly 1.5 million deaths. A figure which continues to rise rapidly. Covid-19 caused the entire world to lockdown.

It ended our hopes and ambitions for the year. It has affected our economy and education. It has battered people's physical and mental wellbeing, restricted travel and kept families apart. 2020 certainly hasn't been the year that we got what we wanted. Yet, this unforgiving and raging virus has brought with it good things too for in 2020 community spirit was reignited, we began singing with our neighbours and we gave our planet a reprieve as pollution lowered. Now with the joyous news of effective vaccines galloping to our rescue we can finally see an end to this godforsaken virus.

So, as 2021 rapidly approaches, we can ask ourselves; has 2020 been the worst year ever, when none of us got what we wanted? Or, has it been the one year that has got us to stop asking for more and instead reflect and be thankful for what

we already have?

Because of Covid-19, 96% of the world has been in lockdown. A whopping 1.56 million people, in the UK alone, have lost their jobs. Countless others have seen their incomes drop significantly. World economies are struggling. According to the IMF, global economies will sink to a level not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Disturbingly, a report by SKY News states that the number of homeless and people in poverty have tripled. What's more, the travel restrictions imposed by lockdown resulted in many travel, airline and rail companies being thwarted by the pandemic. Shockingly, statistics show that the U.S Travel Association had a mind blowing 4.6 million job losses in the month of May alone.

Coronavirus sent the world into a complete stand still and trapped everyone behind their front door. Schools across the world closed too. Consequently, children would have to be educated online if they had access to the technology and we stopped seeing our friends and teachers. For me, online learning just wasn't the same as being at school. In fact, it was awful. Taking tests at home with a book in front of you seemed pointless. Furthermore, online classes lacked the atmosphere, fun and interaction that you get at school. I lost motivation. This year has truly been a testing time for us all. Feelings of stress, anxiety, loneliness and grief are synonymous with Covid. For me, I was angry because I missed seeing my family. I missed having fun with my friends. I missed getting the best tuna panini, from my favourite cafe. I even missed going to school.

Strangely, good things have emerged from the dreaded

coronavirus. During lockdown, skies were bluer, fewer cars were on the roads, so there was less pollution - and accidents. People started to exercise and enjoy the outdoors; many reporting that they felt healthier and even slept better. Even I started to walk, a lot, during lockdown and like others, I dreamt a lot more too. Interestingly, there were fewer reports of heart attacks and strokes. Amazingly, coronavirus brought with it an increase in community spirit; people working together to help the elderly, vulnerable and lonely. A good example of this is my nana being offered three dinners on Easter Sunday- all from different families in her street.

So, we can all blame coronavirus for 2020 being the year that ruined all our hopes and wishes. Covid has delivered death and devastation throughout the whole world. Yet, it has also brought communities together and made us appreciate all the things that we normally took for granted. "Lockdown" may rightly deserve its title as Collins' Word of the Year; it certainly gave us all time to reflect. Even though I wasn't at school, lockdown for me was a time of learning. I now know that my friends and family mean everything to me; I couldn't survive without Netflix; I miss my nana more than ever and I definitely took school for granted. At the start of 2020, we all wished for what we wanted of the year ahead. But now, maybe we are just grateful for everything that we already have?

Maya McColgan, F3

First Place Burgess Writing Competition

Growing up with Covid

You'd think being off school would be fun; doing classes from your house; you don't even really have to get ready.

It's not.

Well at least I didn't think so.

It's the summer before school starts and I haven't seen my friends in almost a year. 340 days to be precise. My family are driving me mad: they keep making me go on walks, once lockdown is over the walks will be over too. I'm trying to keep myself entertained, colouring in, tidying my room, lying outside in my garden, things like that, but frankly I am bored. I manage to do them for a while, but nothing seems to keep me fully occupied. The only thing I look forward to is bedtime, which I never thought would happen.

School just wasn't the same, I realised I only really liked school if I was with my friends and actually in class, not stuck at home looking at my teacher through a screen, I felt like I could have smashed my iPad right then and there, in an online class. My room had so many distractions through the classes: my bed looked cozy and comfy - I wanted to crawl back in it but I didn't; the window, the cars outside my window; my biggest distraction, my phone, even though I didn't look at it, I knew it was there and had an itching feeling just wanting to grab it and check my notifications. But then I zoned back in, and that was just one class.

When we found out, I was sitting with my family. The 6 o'clock news came on. I usually zone out around that time as the news is pretty boring to me. 'Breaking News.' I was actually going to listen this time, 'the vaccine for coronavirus has worked, and now we are Covid free!'

I froze. I thought I was dreaming. I blinked several times, but it was still there right in front of me, 'UK COVID FREE' I dropped my fork and knife. Surprisingly, it didn't break the plate. We were all shocked; our phones started pinging loudly, and there were many shouts of joy.

Now that everything is back to normal again, it's weird. I spent 340 days learning a new 'normal' and now I am shifting back to our original normal, where I can go and see my friends out of school and have sleepovers and go into other peoples' houses. I can even go back to school, which I never thought would excite me. The news was overwhelming to say the least; yes, we all adapted to this new lifestyle: wearing masks whilst in shops; most things such as concerts and shows being cancelled; and many, many people dying. But even as I realised we have been through a lot in one year I also knew we have all stuck by the rules and stuck together as communities, nations, countries, continents and as a world.

Even though this was a bad time in life, it was also a learning experience. I learnt that I liked structure in my day: going to school, moving to different classrooms and then going home, doing homework and getting my things ready for the next day. I

also learnt that my friends are special to me and that even simple things like Zoom quizzes can help me get through my week. On Monday I am looking forward to my quiz on a Friday. I also learned that if you look at an iPad for hours a day, every week, you start to have dreams of you smashing that iPad, so you don't have to look at it anymore. I can become distracted so easily by things in my room, which I didn't really understand before.

I hope that myself and everyone else in this world can use this period of time in their life taken up by Covid to grow and become a better person. During the time at home I took care of myself and grew into myself a bit more. I feel I became more confident because I had the time to work on myself and help myself. But I also helped others - my family and possibly even my friends.

I learned that by helping others you can also be helping yourself. If someone just needs to call you to reconnect with you, that can also help you even if you didn't know you needed it.

I have decided to take my new knowledge and grow even more, learn even more and work towards new things. If something like this was to come along again, I feel I would be prepared and could help others who were uncertain of what was to come next.

Imogen Kemloe, F3

Third Place Burgess Writing Competition

Everything had changed

Sick relief, pure sick relief, a most contradictory feeling. I was sitting alone in a room, no one to talk to, just like I had been the past 6 months. I was so relieved to finally be free from the four walls surrounding my bedroom. Finally! No more awkwardly silent walks with my parents along the exact same route every day. I hopefully won't still be getting hundreds of emails each day from teachers setting online lessons then immediately cancelling them over and over again to the point where I want to throw my phone across the room. I mean they say things will go back to normal. I could not stop thinking about how little time I was going to have, suddenly I was going from 10 hours a day of nothing to do to 3 hours of homework, it's sickening to think about, about how in lockdown I had 3 hours of work and lots of time for other things but with school and commutes it's a mountain of stress that's going to take time to get used to again.

I immediately ran downstairs as soon as I heard the news, I yelled it to my parents screaming with joy. Sadly, the only thing they said to me was "Really? How do you know. I don't believe you" It took showing them a news article on the BBC for them to finally believe me (as that's the only website they trust). Swiftly we started making plans with family members for Christmas which was only a few days away. No matter how many secret family feuds there are we still knew that we had to spend Christmas together.

Suddenly I got a text, and another, and another, it was my friends all wanting to meet up and go all the places that we couldn't go when we were trapped inside. I couldn't wait to see all the bad dye jobs, cheap cropped clothing, even in the middle of winter, and makeup that everyone seemed to suddenly get amazing at over lockdown. I would finally be able to laugh with my friends again and I couldn't wait.

When I go back to school for the first time I'm surrounded by people, it's overwhelming to see so many people at once especially people who aren't wearing face masks. I guess that's what not seeing anyone for 7 months does, changes you, and what you like, and what you don't like, and what you will like. I can't deal with the changes it's done to everyone else too, not the big things but the small things that I guess people don't notice. Everyone seems to have acne where the tip of their mask goes, damaged hair from messed up dye jobs, a fashion sense based on tik tok, either no tan or a very bad fake tan, it's all just a bit much to handle.

It took so long for this to finally be over, they said a few months, then by the summer, then definitely by Christmas, then when it was finally announced to be over the May after it all started it all seemed surreal to hear. But now that we have heard, it's all we can hear every day as I step into school everyone's all covid this covid that, writing about it in class, watching videos about it at home, it's overwhelming. It wasn't even staggered. It was just suddenly done. We don't know why. It seems fake the way they seemed to just finish it.

As the first day of school went on I couldn't believe all that was the same, my friends were different, and my teachers were different (one even got a perm) but the building and the classrooms and the work were all exactly the same as before. It was trippy to think that I was so different but nothing else was. I had a new timetable because it was a completely new year, but all my classes were in similar classrooms, I didn't have to wear a mask though and I didn't have to worry about sanitising everything every five minutes. It was such a relief to see that things could finally get back to normal.

We kept getting writing and doing the same thing in every class, how did Covid affect you, let's do some active reflection on coronavirus, what's the history of virus's like this and even maths to do with toilet paper. I was just so sick of constantly hearing about it over and over again.

Everything looked and seemed the same but everything had changed.

Olivia McGill, F3

Worthy Mention Burgess Writing Competition

Dear Covid

Covid is over. Its over. Finally over. And there is so much joy in me that it hurts for a split second.

But then it dawns on me. That second of happiness was great but life moves on. How? We can't go back to normal. My friends haven't talked or met in two years, we're strangers. School is a jungle of anxiety and people next to each other! I think I'm now officially a germaphobe and all of the hand sanitiser must have got to my brain because test scores and exams have gone way down. Ever since lockdown I haven't been able to keep track of anything, one moment I'll be halfway through a story then forget what I'm saying and change the subject. Like when you go into a room then forget what you went in there for. Online learning made me want to throw my iPad at a wall. (Obviously I didn't) but even if I did no one would've noticed. My house is now just closed doors to every room. If my family ever talks it's just arguments about the WiFi. Which by the way before lockdown I thought that I needed the WiFi, but pre lockdown I knew nothing of the precious value of a good connection, toilet paper, flour and outside.

What even is outside? I honestly can't remember.

So in theory Covid is over but it's very clear that people are still trying to stay away. At school desks are always sticky from virus wipes and masks are still scattered around being walked over on the road without a care in the world. The "new normal" is a bunch of rubbish. All I ever wanted was the old normal back. I just want to forget about all of this and wake up one morning rush out of the house to go to normal school with a piece of toast made out of ready made packet bread because I'm now also sick of home made bread. But obviously that can never happen.

I wrote this letter to Covid during lockdown whilst half-ish listening to my teacher on Teams.

Dear Covid,

You have stolen lives, time, families and toilet paper.

I have eaten so much banana bread that my stomach can't take it anymore so please just give me a break. I've had it lucky so I shouldn't be complaining about my petty things that I want back but this has affected me dearly.

- *I want to go to a restaurant*
- *I want to see my friends*
- *I want to be somewhere else*

After lockdown I got all my wishes, but they didn't play out the way I hoped. At the restaurant I was so paranoid about staying away from people I couldn't enjoy my meal. When I saw my friends again we had all changed and it was nothing like before. I did leave the house, but I was scared that people weren't wearing masks.

I feel so stupid that I ever thought it would be normal again. I know that I'm probably being pessimistic and I'm not usually a pessimistic person. I'm actually usually the opposite but being so optimistic about the future was what let me down in the end last time. Anyway, I've lost track again back to the list.

- *I want a pretzel (not sure why. But I'll take pretty much any food that is not home made)*
- *I want to see my cousins for Christmas*
- *I want to be off my iPad for two seconds*

So please stop tormenting people who already are in a bad position, but I would be so grateful if my small list of stupid wishes were granted.

I have no complaints about the pretzel that was really good. I did see my cousins for Christmas but not all of us were there and we stayed 2 meters away. And I did go off my iPad and went to real school. Before covid school was terrifying enough but then with the added stress of germs it turned into a horror movie. So I should've been more careful with what I wished for.

But the hardest part of lockdown was when we thought that 2020 was the curse and it would all be over after that but what we didn't realise was that humanity was the curse. We were irresponsible. Throughout our entire lockdown people were partying, refusing to wear a mask, gathering with people, going to the shops and hugging. We did get through it in the end but, if we go on like this with the other issues in this world, we will crash and burn because we don't have two years for every issue like global warming, other wars and other diseases. So we have to remember the stupid small struggles but also the whole overview, not of Covid, but of how we managed covid and use it to help us in the future.

Sarah Campbell, F3

Worthy Mention Burgess Writing Competition

Reflecting on Lockdown Learning

When we were told we were not going back to school, I knew that life would be very different and there would be positives and negatives.

During lockdown, I have really enjoyed French because of the cooking homework we were set. I made a crêpe and a grilled sandwich called a croque monsieur. I have missed playing rugby and P.E., as well as interactive science.

The activities that I carried during lockdown were baking muffins, biscuits and scones. As well as that I played tennis with my dad, went on walks with my mum and played with my brothers. Although I loved all of those, I missed Rugby Eagles and playing in the playground with all my friends.

Lockdown has given me a very different learning environment because between lessons I can go and get a cup of tea and catch up with my family. I also was able to turn on a heater when I was cold, but I have missed asking questions to a person face to face and not a computer. I have also missed sitting in an actual classroom with my friends.

I have a better friendship with other boys I didn't know before. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to see all my friends as they don't all go to the hub. The hub was good as it gave me time with my friends that some people didn't have.

I am looking forward to seeing all my friends and being able to chat to them. I am also looking forward to being able to play rugby again and get back to normal.

In conclusion, although technology has helped me with my lessons there is nothing better than being in the classroom.

Arthur Rutherford



Setting the Scene The Mountain Road

The sun was setting over the rugged hills as I walked up the road. The weaving road wound its way through the hills like a snake. The sun started to set, making the heather glow in the warm light. Peacefully the clouds floated overhead like cotton wool. It was a quiet calm place, but somehow it seemed too quiet and too calm. There was not a soul to be seen, not even a bird. Why was it so deserted? The place seemed empty. Looking around, I couldn't see anything. No birds, no sheep, no people, not even an insect!

When I reached the top of the hill, I looked down to see the beautiful sunset shining over the lake. Slowly the light faded from the sky and the sun disappeared. It was cold at the top of the hill and dark as well. Suddenly I heard a noise coming from behind! I turned around sharply, but there was nothing there. How strange!

I made my way down the winding road in the dark. At some point I must have taken a wrong turning, because I felt myself squelching through piles of mud. There was definitely no mud on my way up the hill. It was so dark I couldn't see a thing. Feeling the ground with my hands, I felt wet muddy grass. How could I be so stupid as to come down the road in the dark?

This had started out as a quiet peaceful walk. It was still quiet, but it certainly didn't feel peaceful anymore. The darkness was ominous and frightening. Then it happened. The place suddenly lit up, not with sunlight, but with a torch or a lamp. I saw that I was in the middle of nowhere, far from the road that led down to the bottom of the hill. I was surrounded by heather, mud and grass. Then I heard it, the same noise as last time, a loud rustling noise. As pale as a ghost, I slowly turned around and couldn't believe what I was seeing!

Amelie Alessi

Emotions

She was Frightened

Grabbing my arm, Aqua shied away. Her eyebrows curved in towards her nose, giving her the look of a whining puppy. One hand was covering her face and she whispered under her breath, "Save me." She shivered as a cold breath of air blew down her spine. She glanced terrifyingly up to the wall, saw the spider, and started running away.

She was Unhappy

A small tear dripped out of the corner of Aqua's eye. Her feet were turned in and her head was in her hands. She bit her lip to hold her misery in. The loud bustle of the playground washed around her. She just wished that she wasn't alone.

She was excited

Aqua jumped up and down screaming for pleasure and shaking her hands vigorously in the air. She danced around and grinned from ear to ear. Her cheeks blushed with pleasure and her nose was tickling. Her new puppy lay quietly on the kitchen floor. She swooped him into her arms and smiled.

She was nervous

Her toes wiggled in her shoes as Aqua clambered into her car. The thoughts that made themselves into her head were doubtful, but also happy ones. Her voice was squeaky as it entered into the open, and her hands were clasped together on her knees. Her eyebrows raised as she spoke about what her new school would be like, and she asked a lot of questions. She bit her tongue, as she often did, but this time she bit harder as she was a little bit scared at what her new school would bring.

Isabella Lowrie

My Monster

It floated across the alley, slowly making its way across. The thing was like a ghost, but it closely resembled a human. The creature was a mixture of grey and black. Pitch-black hollowed out eyes were staring in the distance, but most of the time it would be staring at the sky, because it had no neck. Expressionless and eerie, its toothless, wide black mouth was breathing out cold air that made it sound like a scuba-diver underwater. You couldn't even see its nose, toes or fingers, as they all looked like black dust. As the creature floated slowly down the street, its few strands of hair fluttered. It sent shivers down your spine if you came close to it. You would think this creature was very unusual, but in this world it was normal.

Adi Bhushan



My Monster

The first thing I noticed was the monster's walk: slowly dragging its thick, bulky hind legs behind. It grunted and snorted several times, as if the sheer weight of its body was enough for it to break sweat. Da-dum, da-dum, da-dum. It was coming closer! Every pace it made, its face became clearer and still I did not move. Its lips looked like two slugs tied together, oozing slime-like saliva and above this lay a nose that could have belonged to a bull. I could feel the feverishly hot breath steaming up against my cheek, metres away. Da-dum, da-dum, da-dum. I did not move. His bulky frame now completely blocked out the moonlight. The only source of light was the campfire and the monsters bulging, watering eyes. These shone in a haunting inhuman way. It was as if I had walked into the reflection of the galaxy. Da-dum, Da-dum, da-dum. We were face to face. I could now make out every wrinkle, every blister and slime covered patch of skin. It was only now that I actually saw his hands. Like every inch of his body these were covered with slime. With fists as big as watermelons and arms tall as myself and as thick as the nearby tree trunks this thing drew himself to it's full height. I held my breath. It grinned. The slugs took on the shape of a half moon, revealing the monster's gruesome teeth stretching as long as my finger and covered with yellow filth. It then exhaled almost blowing me away.

"Hi my name is Jerry and I will be your monster for today. Nice to meet you!"

Antonia Schweikert



Library Winter Writing Competition

Ms S M Lloyd-Wiggins

We asked all interested students L4 and upwards to write a story or poem, no more than 500 words for Junior pupils or 1000 words for Senior pupils, with the theme of Winter. This was an entirely optional and fun activity.

There were four age categories: L4-5, L6-7, F1-3, and F4-6. Each age group had a gold winner and a silver winner (and some had joint winners because it was so hard to choose). The gold winners received a £15 book voucher and the silver winners received a £10 book voucher, and the winning works have been placed on the Library's Firefly pages.

"We were blown away by the response! Every person who entered the competition received personalised feedback on their writing over Teams"

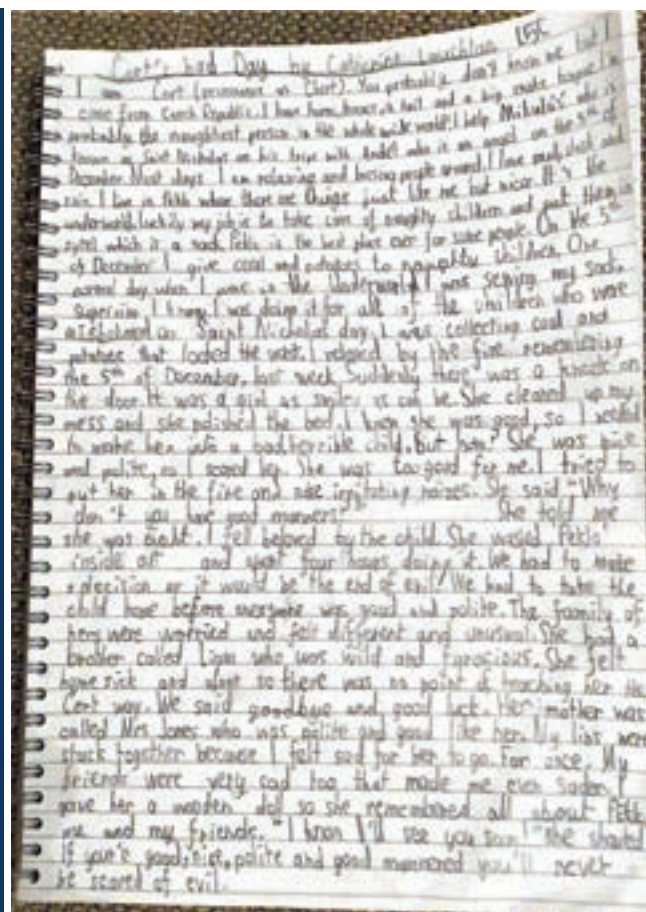
Winners:

Junior categories

Gold winner: Catherine Lauchlan, L5
Gold winner: Antonia Schweikert, L7
Silver winner: Luc Granier, L4
Silver winner: Esmée Freeman, L6
Silver winner: George Bickerton, L7

Senior categories

Gold winner: Emily Baptie, Tale of a Snowflake
Gold winner: Nhat Nguyen, Step Forward!
Gold winner: Malavikha Sudershan, It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas
Silver winner: Caris Hamilton, A Snapshot in Time
Silver winner: Victory Asekomah, Crisp Winter Nights





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Spotlight on Sport

High School of Dundee runner has smashed a 42-year-old school record!

Laurence Petty, F6, recently crossed the finish line for his school days, but not before he'd also raced his way to a brand new HSD record for the 800m!

The 17-year-old recorded a time of 1m57.8s at Grangemouth at the end of May, beating the previous mark of 2m00.3s which had been set by Callum Henderson back in 1979.

Laurence said, "My first reaction was that I was pleased with the performance, as it was my first race since the start of the pandemic. However, after cooling down and speaking to my Dad after the race we both realised what the performance meant, in terms of breaking the record, so that was a very pleasant surprise!

"It's very much an honour to break such a long-standing record. It has been a goal of mine since joining the School; I knew it would be a challenge but that, with hard work, I had a chance of getting it. It's nice to leave a mark on my time at school with this record as well.

"Speaking to some Former Pupils who knew the previous holder makes it even more humbling."

Laurence, who is one of the Heads of School, also runs with Hawkhill Harriers and holds the club's U15 Boys 800m record. Before the Coronavirus pandemic, he had been invited to train with the Scottish Athletics team and, through his participation for Hawkhill in the UK U20 league this summer, he hoped to gain selection to line up for his country in competitive action.

He says that his involvement in the School's High Performance Sport programme has played a huge part in his development.

"I've been involved in the programme since F4," he says. "As a result, I've been able to work with a physio and sports psychologist and gain access to specialist individual development programmes.

"Engaging with the sports psychologist, I have developed techniques to cope with the pressure and expectations of high-level sports, which has helped me enormously, to mature as an athlete and to take the next steps of competing on a more UK national level.

"The programme has provided me with the time and support to pursue my academic goals as well as my sporting ones. I believe this has helped in allowing me to continually train whilst going through the process of securing a place to study Medicine next year.

"And the psychology work has also better equipped me to face the challenges and stresses that life outside of running undoubtedly brings too."

The School's Head of PE and Games, Ewan Jack, said, "I'm delighted for Laurence. Breaking our long-standing 800m record is a fantastic achievement and a just reward for his hard work and dedication.

"Our High Performance Sports Programme was devised to support pupils in reaching their sporting potential while also achieving their academic aspirations. Laurence has done just that and it is hugely rewarding for us to see him thrive and develop - we look forward to following Laurence's progress over the summer and beyond."



HSD Record Breaker



Super League

This year, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, our hockey and rugby teams haven't been able to compete against other schools so the PE staff created hockey and rugby Super Leagues. Each League had four teams that played against each other. The hockey teams were Dalnacraig Devils, Dundee Dandelions, Pillar Pythons and Trinity Tigers while the rugby teams were Springboks, Lions, Scotland and Kangaroos. Eventual hockey winners were the Dalnacraig Devils while rugby was won by the Springboks. The best player and the most improved player were chosen from each League. All L6 and L7 pupils who participated enjoyed the competition and had lots of fun.

Emily Patterson, L7

Charity Sports Matches

On Thursday 8th October during our games period, Forms 5 and 6 took part in a boys versus girls hockey and rugby match in support of the Carolina House Trust. The Sixth Form match took place on the water-based pitch at Dalnacraig with the Fifth Form hockey match being played alongside on the sand based pitch. In both matches the rugby boys came out on top, unfortunately the weather wasn't in our favour but the rain failed to dampen the spirits. Going into the match the girls' skill and experience was predicted to be a key advantage however, the rugby boys' strength and speed proved superior. The hockey match consisted of two 10 minute halves followed by a game of touch rugby in which the teams were mixed to create more fun. The game also lasted 20 minutes. Both matches were very evenly balanced with results reflecting this. Across both events a great atmosphere was generated by teachers and pupils for this fantastic cause. As a result of the afternoon we were delighted to have raised a total of £200 for the Carolina House Trust.

The day was filled with great competition and a fantastic atmosphere.

Sophie Mason, F

Get Active Challenge

The HSD Get Active Challenge consisted of pupils, staff, FP's and parents competing against each other in House groups to clock up the most physical activity and win the coveted title of HSD's Get Active Movement Challenge Champions! This award went to Lindores House (whoohoo!) who started off in 3rd place, but steadily climbed up the ladder to end the challenge with - their signature colour - gold! The competition, launched by Head of PE, Mr Jack, saw almost 300 participants joining in from across the globe. Two pupils, Malachy Keough (F6) and Bella Porter (F4) even ran marathons, with fellow classmates joining them at intervals in their routes. This leader board was also accompanied by weekly Taskmaster Challenges set by the House Captains, PE teachers and the 1st XI Hockey team. It was a hugely successful strategy in encouraging the school community to try and incorporate some exercise into their day, be it through a weights session in the garage or even a family game of Just Dance, whilst enhancing both physical and mental health.

"Earlier in the challenge I managed a hilly 18 mile run. That went well so that really inspired me to try a marathon, and for the last day of the challenge I wanted to push myself" said Malachy Keough (F6)

Malavikha Sudarshan, F6
House Vice-Captain of Lindores



PE & Sports Week

Over the last year, the nursery children have enjoyed their weekly PE sessions with Miss Geatons. Through this they have developed their coordination, balance and gross motor skills.

The nursery boys and girls had a great time taking part in various activities and challenges for our Sports Week! We practised throwing rockets, obstacle courses, skipping and, of course, our Sports Day. We also had some lovely healthy eating activities where the children were able to try different kinds of fruit and vegetables.



Senior School Sports Day

In a busier contrast to last year's lockdown online sports day, two gloriously sunny days at our Mayfield Sports Centre provided an opportunity for pupils across the School to compete in live sports. Being spread over two days allowed Covid regulations to be followed so pupils and teachers could be kept safe. Unfortunately, this meant parents and Former Pupil spectators couldn't attend, which was a worry at first, but the support from the impressive turnout of pupil competitors waiting for their own races meant cheering and morale boosting support was just as strong as ever. Sports Day has always been an important date in the HSD calendar as it ties in the whole school in one event after exams are over. It brings together hundreds of pupils to compete in an athletics focused day, giving important recognition to those with talents outside of the traditional sports like hockey and rugby.

The days were made more memorable and joyous by the performances from the Brass Ensemble and Woodwind who played favourites, really uplifting the nervous atmosphere before races. There was also the wonderful appearance of an ice cream van which had busy queues as people cooled down from their races in the hot weather.

On the F1-3 Sports Day, F2 pupil John Donald managed to match the 1992 F2 high jump school record of 1.56m and on the F4-6 Sports, F6 Laurence Petty broke his own 800m school record of 1.59.81 mins down to 1.57.84 mins, both records accomplished this year.

School Houses heaved against each other in the tug o'wars, tough lengthy fights meant Airlie won the F1-3 contest and Lindores the F4-6. Sprinters pushed themselves in the 400m relay race House Competitions with Wallace triumphing in both the F1-3 and F4-6 age brackets.

Fun Sports Day mini-races saw hundreds of pupils across the School up against each other, with everyone happy to take part as they raced against their friends. Clumsy falls in three-legged races created tangled piles and sack races turned into laughing heaps.

The School's Pipe Band played classics in a powerful performance that opened each day's awards ceremony. The accumulation of F1 event points saw Jack Lawson and Eilidh Hearn win the boys' and girls' age group trophies as they had won the most points each in total. In F2 these were won by John Donald and Erin Lee who both competed and won a range of sporting events and by Christopher Scott and Sophia Donald in F3. In the F4-6 girls category, it was F5 Emily Reid who won the Senior Years Sports Day, followed by F6 Anna Daglish and F4 Hannah Mackland in a tight 2nd place draw. For the boys, the name at the top of the leader-board was F6 Laurence Petty, followed by F5 Matthew Joss in 2nd and Scottish Javelin competitor Liam Brown, F.

Lindores House won the overall Sports Day House Competition with a combined total of 194 points, closely followed by Wallace (190), Aystree (176) and Airlie (149).

The success in this year's Sports Day has made everyone very excited for next year when a full HSD Sports Day experience can return. With thanks to all of the coaches and teachers who worked hard to run events, ensure that music was there and to make sure everybody was safe as well as the pupils who helped out, played and competed!

Rebecca Hamilton, F5















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Out and About



Cairnie Farm Visit L4





Nethy Dundee F1 Outdoor Experience Days

Nethy Dundee was a chance for registration groups to meet in an outdoor, healthy environment.

On the first day, we spent time at Mayfield enjoying a series of team building activities, making us work together. There were problems, physical challenges and speed games, followed by a cycling obstacle course, where everyone tried a new skill, due to staff being so encouraging.

The following day, we were lucky enough to travel to Tentsmuir, to go mountain biking. Terrain there was perfect for every level of cyclist, and we enjoyed some crepes in the park afterwards to cool off.

After asking people in the registration group, I can safely conclude that we all gained something from the two days, whether it was feeling safer in a new environment, simply having fun or feeling like they benefited from the activities. We would like to do something like this more often!

Mr C. Allan



Blown Away Day at St Andrews F1







Outdoor Learning - Back Together Again



As the second National lockdown's restrictions eased, pupils in F1 – F3 were able to come back to school at the school's sports hub in Mayfield part time which maximised social distancing abilities as the main school campus was occupied in these last few weeks by exam-sitting students. Here's an account from an F2 pupil who reflects on the experience.

As lockdown came to an end, we were invited to go to Mayfield for two days for the last two weeks of the Easter term. On these days we took part in two academic classes (Maths and English) and two PE sessions over the week. When our year group arrived there was an exciting buzz as for most of us it had been the first time we had seen our friends in 3 months. Our first activity to take part in was PE, for this our year group was split up into separate groups alphabetically. In those groups we took part in engaging and fun activities that the PE teachers had previously set up. In the afternoon we did an English exercise where we created a short story while also

chatting with our friends. During the lunches and breaks of the day we were given time to catch-up with everyone we knew and check in on how they were doing. On the second day people were starting to get used to being around people that weren't a part of their household! The following week was the last of school so having these days created a lovely finish to the Easter term. By this week people started to know what to expect so the English and PE classes passed quickly as giving a fun sociable time in the lesson made it very enjoyable. The next day was the final day of Mayfield learning as after Easter we were going to be continuing school as we had before Christmas. In the morning we did a Maths scavenger hunt which finished off the lockdown period in an exciting way. The day also gave pupils a perfect way to see friends before we went on holiday.

Caris Hamilton, F2

Form 1 Action on the Arts Day 2021 – Mayfield 27th May

Mayfield was buzzing with creative activity as pupils in F1 and F2 took part in workshops and performances celebrating a collaboration between the Drama, English, Art and Music departments.

Pupils took part in sessions on drama, drumming, mask making, learned dance routines choreographed by Kenny Christie and watched demonstrations of Brazilian Capoeira and Samba by Miriele Schumacher and a group from Kirkcaldy, as well as learning some Portuguese.

"I really enjoyed the Action on the Arts Day. I felt like everyone had something to do in the performance, which was good. Even though my House didn't win any challenges I still think we did really well, and it was a great day.

Holly Martin, F1

During the day we were able to work together in our Houses where we had to be patient and listen to others. We were able to make creative masks in our House colour and learn stage fighting that went throughout a drama piece. We learnt how to play drums on a bucket and learnt a really fun dance. Overall it was a great day I think everyone enjoyed.

Mariella Rodger, F1

Action on the Arts Day was an exciting and enthralling day with lots of activities to do. The Drama was one of my favourite activities with me being the banner man for Abram. Another one of my favourite subjects was dance, which was quite satisfying to see it all complete with all the moves being synchronised across the entire group. Drumming was also fun, with quite an exciting beat in four different parts. It was probably one of my favourite days in the entire school year in 2020-2021.

Matthew Jamieson, F1

Action on the Arts day was especially fun for me. I got to take part in workshops which are focused on subjects that I don't necessarily enjoy so much but thanks to all the wonderful teachers they made it a smashing experience. I particularly enjoyed the dancing as I thought it would be like Scottish Country but no, it was very enjoyable to do, especially when I had to leapfrog over Leon. I also enjoyed the acting as I loved the scene where we had to fight one another.

Marwan Muqit, F1

The ice cream van was a big hit, and was probably one of my highlights! The sweet stall was also an amazing idea that I'm sure raised lots of money for the charity, "The Teapot Trust."

Emma Frullani, F1





CCF – Collective Efforts

Online learning has shown that pupils and teachers have to be able to adapt to learning from home. The same applies to co-curricular. As a CCF we have been able to adapt by continuing our activities and modifying them so that we can keep the same structure we would usually do. At times we've had to be resilient with microphone problems and video issues but with patience we have been able to keep going with cadets in these uncertain times. In my platoon we have been doing strategic planning which has been very enjoyable as it involves working together as a team to help solve problems which occur during natural disasters, such as a hurricane hitting the British Virgin Islands for example. I've found this to be great as it provides a chance for everyone in the platoon to get to know each other and work together even though we're not in the same room.

Angus Neville, F6



CCF

With the arrival of Coronavirus in March 2020 it transpired to be a very different year for DHSCCF. The much anticipated CCF Summer Camp 2020 to Crowborough camp in Kent was cancelled and it was not until school returned for Autumn Term that the Cadets had a chance to be a unit again. To be Covid compliant, however, meant a new structure of 2 platoons, meeting in a socially distanced manner on alternating weeks. Although it was not possible to carry out the weekly muster parade the CCF, under the leadership of Col McAdam, Capt Higgins, Capt Rodger and Sgt Panayotou (CCT 51 Brigade, North Detachment) were not deterred and a series of training packages were implemented. Voice Procedure training for radio operatives was carried out as well as strategic planning exercises in the form of a rescue from the Virgin Islands. The sixth year CCF members also took part in an inspiring Advanced Leadership Course, based on Shackleton's experiences on the Endurance, which gave insights into effective leadership skills.

Lockdown in the Spring Term resulted in the CCF moving wholly online and the system of 2 Platoons on alternating weeks continued in the form of online lessons and exercises building on the work carried out in the Autumn Term.

Anthony Milnes, F5



Duke of Edinburgh

Covid guidelines meant that the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions could not go ahead in the usual format. But despite this, in September, 95 F4-6 pupils took part in 'Dofe with a Difference' by walking around Dundee to complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Pupils got a chance to experience our local area, with scenic routes extending to the West End, Broughty Ferry, Newport and Tayport. Two weekends were filled with 20km trips, with each member making lunch for the group on a given day. Luck was on the pupils' side as the sun beamed on Dundee. It was a great chance to develop teamwork, and a learning curve for adapting to new situations. Pupils' got to see parts of our local city that are often taken for granted. Determination was present throughout the whole trip, especially when crossing the Tay Road Bridge!

Victoria Scott, F5





L6 Willowgate





L7 Willowgate

This year L7 couldn't go to Opal coast, so instead we went to Willowgate. It was three days full of fun activities including Stand-Up Paddleboarding, kayaking, archery, bushcraft and more. One activity was team-building which was run as a competition. The boys of Group 1 were very pleased to win! On the last day the weather was horrible and the outdoor changing tent blew over, landed in the lake and sank! Leaders had to wear diving gear to rescue it. Willowgate was so much fun, but I think we all agree that outdoor changing due to Covid is not.

By Ayanah Adam, L7





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End of Year Celebrations

Leavers' Ball

To ensure that we complied with government guidance in relation to education or community events, the Ball was held at Mayfield Sports Centre with catering outdoors and dancing in the Sports Hall. It was so lovely to see everyone finally able to come together for an evening of ceilidh dancing in their fancy frocks and troos.





Leavers' BBQ

A huge thank you to our Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs for putting on a great Leavers' BBQ at Mayfield. Toluwni and Fraser performed a couple of Grease numbers (with Mr Tonner on keyboard) to entertain the crowd and then everyone joined in for a rendition of Summer Nights.

It was great to see our brand new Alumni chatting away to staff and Former Pupils and we are keen to stay connected to all our leavers and hear of their ongoing successes and life events long after they say goodbye to the pillars.



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IMG_0614.MOV





Form 6 Prize-Giving ceremony

To comply with government guidelines and due to capacity within Trinity Hall, the Prize Giving ceremony this year was for Form 6 pupils. Form 4/5 Prize Winners received their prizes separately in a special Assembly. Professor Iain Gillespie, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee, was our (virtual) Guest Speaker.

At the close of the formal ceremony, our Form 6 pupils left Trinity Hall and were piped into the playground by our Pipe Band to a round of applause from parents who joined in the celebrations from the marquees. Parents were also treated to music from our Brass and Woodwind Ensembles.

Another wonderful sunny day and a fitting send off for our Form 6 Leavers.





Leavers' Day

What an amazing day to celebrate our Leavers. The sun shone as we captured many of the Form 6 on the Pillars for a quick photo before they moved around the campus to say farewell to teachers and staff.





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News

Form 6 Prizegiving

Prize List 2021

Form 1

Tom Durrheim Prize for Burns Recitation in Forms 1 - 3

Eilidh Hearn

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

Lucie Johnston

Form 2

Tie for International Recognition (Singing)

Nathan Ogston

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

John Donald

Maggie Stewart Memorial Salver for All-Round Sporting Ability in Form 2 Girls

Erin Lee

Form 3

Chris Rea Prize for Games in Form 3 (Boys)

Carter Franklin

Chris Rea Prize for Games in Form 3 (Girls)

Sophia Donald

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

Daniel Higgins

Intermediate Chess Club Trophy and Prize
Beckingham Trophy and Chess Club Prize

Ramit Kanodia

Form 4

Academic Merit Prize

Jessica Chen

Academic Merit Prize

Madeline Fraser

Academic Merit Prize

Parisa Hossain-Ibrahim

Academic Merit Prize

Maishah Mason

Academic Merit Prize

Zamin Okhai

Academic Merit Prize

Alix Saddler

Academic Merit Prize

Zara Taylor

Jane Ray Prize for Home Economics

Isla Watson

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

Helen Olver

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux of Form 4 (joint)

Isla Hutchinson

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux of Form 4 (joint)

Archie Macdonad

Form 5

Academic Merit Prize

Jenny Bonnyman

Academic Merit Prize

Rose Ryan

Tie for International Recognition (Sailing)

Tom Mitchell

Tie for International Recognition (Brass Band)

Hamish Petrie

Prize for Higher Spanish

Eve Campbell

Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Higher Music

Megan Cant

James Stevenson Memorial Prize for Higher French

Giulia Cotroneo

Prize for Higher Computing Science

Anthony Hingston

Prize for Higher Physical Education

Claire Joss

Prize for Higher Classical Studies

Sawyer McInnes

Baker Trade of Dundee Prize

Emily Robertson

London Angus Association Trophy and GH
Phillip Prize for Public Speaking in Forms 4 - 6

Victoria Scott

Rotary Young Musician of the Year

Fraser Smith

Collins Prize for Higher Latin

Angela Sun

Armitstead Trust Prize for Higher Modern Studies

Lucy Timney

Academic Merit Prize

Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Higher Physics

Sophie Elder

Academic Merit Prize

Prize for Higher Mandarin

Kaixi Liu

Academic Merit Prize

Robert Biggar Prize for Higher Geography

Colette Wiewiorka

Academic Merit Prize

Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy and Book

Prize for Higher Chemistry

Prize for Higher Philosophy

Anisha Azad

Academic Merit Prize

Spankie Quaich for Higher Engineering Science

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

Ross Mauritzen

Academic Merit Prize

Prize for Higher Environmental Science

Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher History (joint)

Fiona Sharp

Glenday Award for Higher Biology

Prize for Higher Economics

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

Caroline S Low Prize for Proxime Accessit of Form 5

Sneha Sripada

Dennis J Paterson Trophy and Prize for the Best Speaker in the Inter House Debates
Isabella Hunter Award for Higher Art
Prize for Higher Drama
E M Stewart Prize for Higher English
Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher History (joint)
Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5
Ksenia Kapelyukh

Form 6

Form 6 Leaver Award

Finlay Acford

Form 6 Leaver Award

Skye Adamson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Aisha Ahmed

Form 6 Leaver Award

Niamh Anderson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Zak Boyd

Form 6 Leaver Award

Blythe Brown

Form 6 Leaver Award

Sandy Buchan

Form 6 Leaver Award

Sara Cameron

Form 6 Leaver Award

Innes Chalmers

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ikechukwu Charles-Ibe

Form 6 Leaver Award

Fergus Clark

Form 6 Leaver Award

Alex Colquitt

Form 6 Leaver Award

Laura Connolly

Form 6 Leaver Award

Isabelle Connolly Brown

Form 6 Leaver Award

Matthew Curnyn

Form 6 Leaver Award

Phillippa de Vos

Form 6 Leaver Award

Samuel Delaney-Hargreaves

Form 6 Leaver Award

Brook Edmiston

Form 6 Leaver Award

Oliver Farquharson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Hamish Findlay

Form 6 Leaver Award

Aidan Fullerton

Form 6 Leaver Award

Faheema Gani

Form 6 Leaver Award

Archie Gilmour

Form 6 Leaver Award

Shona Graham

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ben Haggart

Form 6 Leaver Award

Rory Harrower

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ewan Henderson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Jamie Hutcheon

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ruby Hutton

Form 6 Leaver Award

Christina Kennedy

Form 6 Leaver Award

Roudah Khan

Form 6 Leaver Award

Reave Kilcullen

Form 6 Leaver Award

Mohammad Kouli

Form 6 Leaver Award

Nicholas Leslie Melville

Form 6 Leaver Award

Andrew Lothian

Form 6 Leaver Award

Conan Lyall

Form 6 Leaver Award

Finlay MacDonald

Form 6 Leaver Award

Katie MacDougall

Form 6 Leaver Award

Poppie MacKenzie

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ailsa Mackie

Form 6 Leaver Award

Katie Macpherson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Katie Martin

Form 6 Leaver Award

Sebastian Nagy

Form 6 Leaver Award

Magnus Oswald

Form 6 Leaver Award

Jason Pan

Form 6 Leaver Award

Matthew Rainey

Form 6 Leaver Award

William Ramsay

Form 6 Leaver Award

Archie Rawson

Form 6 Leaver Award

Stanley Reeves

Form 6 Leaver Award

Max Renfrew-Louca

Form 6 Leaver Award

Jenny Shang

Form 6 Leaver Award

Jessica Slingsby

Form 6 Leaver Award

Dougray Smith

Form 6 Leaver Award

Inez Spence

Form 6 Leaver Award

Ella Stanford

Form 6 Leaver Award

Theo Strachan

Form 6 Leaver Award

Rohan Tauro

Form 6 Leaver Award

Catrina Taylor

Form 6 Leaver Award

Katie Tonks

Form 6 Leaver Award

Olivia Wadland

Form 6 Leaver Award

Maisie Webster

Form 6 Leaver Award

Samuel Wiggins

Form 6 Leaver Award

Jack Williams

Form 6 Leaver Award
Nairn Wilson

Form 6 Leaver Award
Kasym Zaidi

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Darrell Barovbe

Form 6 Leaver Award
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (History)
Jasmine Darroch

Form 6 Leaver Award
Caird Prize for Higher Business Management
Form 6 Leaver Award
Alice Dunstan

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

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Form 6 Leaver Award
Anna Kerr

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Form 6 Leaver Award
Robyn Landsburgh

Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Outstanding Performance in Physical Education (Girls)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Sophie Mason

Sir John Leng Prize for Dux in History
Form 6 Leaver Award
Lewis McLennan

P Gordon Grant Trophy for Contribution to School Sport (joint)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Angus Neville

Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in German
Form 6 Leaver Award
Maisie Ross

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Form 6 Leaver Award
Malavikha Sudarshan

Prize for Dux in Physical Education
Form 6 Leaver Award
Callum Todd

Dr John M Morgan Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Form 6 Leaver Award
Finlay Yorke

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Form 6 Leaver Award
George Youssef

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
Prize for Dux in Latin
Form 6 Leaver Award

Anna Dalglish

Bain Prize for Outstanding Service to School
Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography (joint)
Form 6 Leaver Award

Georgia Douglas

Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama
Dott Prize for Dux in Music
Form 6 Leaver Award
Fraser Houston

Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Outstanding Performance in Physical Education (Boys)
P Gordon Grant Trophy for Contribution to School Sport (joint)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Malachy Keough

W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics
Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies
Form 6 Leaver Award

David Logan

Block Prize for Creative Writing in Forms 4 - 6
William Laird Prize for Scottish Studies (Geography)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Anthony Milnes

J Torrington Bell Prize for Dux in Art
Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography (joint)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Melissa Mitchell

Prize for Dux in Classical Studies
Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English
Form 6 Leaver Award

Gabrielle Thompson

Tie for International Recognition (Debating)
Cambridge Gavel for Contribution to Debating
Form 6 Leaver Award
Dominic Westwood

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

W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computing Science
Prize for Dux in Mandarin
Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics (joint)
Form 6 Leaver Award
Steven Chen

William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics
Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics (joint)
Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics
Form 6 Leaver Award
Ethan McColgan

Tie for International Recognition (Athletics)
Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport (joint)
Frank Young Prize for Excellence in Natural Science
Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology
T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry
Form 6 Leaver Award

Laurence Petty

The Rorie Trophy for Inter House Debating
Airlie

Inter House Shield for Champion House
tba

Rector's Prize for Deputy Head of School
Christina Kennedy

Rector's Prize for Deputy Head of School
Angus Neville

Erskine Prize for Head of School
Laurence Petty

Lowson Prize for Head of School
Callum Todd

Vannet Prize for Proxime Accessit (joint)
Steven Chen

Vannet Prize for Proxime Accessit (joint)
David Logan

Harris Gold Medal and David Gray Book Prize for Dux of School
Ethan McColgan

Farewell to ...

Linda Mooney



Linda began teaching at the High School of Dundee in 1986, having previously taught in Elrick Primary, Westhill for five years. Her first three years at the School were spent in L3. Subsequently, Linda had many happy years in L1 before moving to L4. She then came back to L1 and L2, finishing her career teaching L5.

During her time here, Linda has met many inspirational people and made lifelong friendships. For the past few years she has been teaching children of children she has taught, but felt it was time to go before the grandchildren start appearing.

Linda has thoroughly enjoyed stage managing the impressive Junior School Musicals and some of the Senior School Productions. For the past twenty years, she has also organised the Junior School Public Speaking Competition, more affectionately known as "The Poetry Competition". The standard has always impressed Linda greatly.

Linda says she will miss the staff greatly, and the children even more, but will not miss getting up at 6:00am!

Working as a volunteer in the Oxfam Book Shop will give Linda a focus; she loves reading and writing poems and stories. She is also looking forward to seeing more of her sons and brother, walking her dog, writing more stories about 'Ozzie the Mighty Pupstar Detective', and meeting retired friends for coffee!

Linda Smith



After just over 23 years at the High School of Dundee Linda retired at Easter. A highly experienced teacher, Linda has taught at all levels of the Junior School and was a much-loved member of staff for generations of Dundee High pupils. For Linda working at HSD was much more than a job. Both her daughters Fiona and Rhona are very successful FPs and Linda herself will long be remembered as the life and soul of many a L7 Paris Trip amongst countless other activities and experiences

that are part of the Junior Years. Linda hopes to be able to spend lots of time with her grandchildren and to continue the creation of her dream garden which she started during lockdown last year.

Debbie Sager



Debbie joined the School as a Junior Years' teacher in 2012 having previously taught for many years in Yorkshire. Working in L5 to begin with, she then moved to teaching L6 pupils in 2017.

Spending nearly 10 years teaching many fantastic young people is something Debbie will cherish as she moves on from HSD. She also thoroughly enjoyed teaching History to L5 and L6 as well as the school trips to Dalguise, Bannockburn and Edinburgh Castle. Debbie also spent time helping with the costumes for the school musicals. Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin and Seussical all spring to mind as her personal favourites.

Debbie leaves the school to begin her retirement and will be relocating back to Yorkshire to be closer to her friends and family, particularly her two daughters who live in Liverpool and London. She intends to spend her retirement landscape and portrait painting, dressmaking, walking her labradoodle Teddy and visiting her two daughters. She also hopes to be able to travel further afield once Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Patricia Maxwell



Patricia joined HSD as Head of Learning Skills in 2000 from Glenwood School, Glenrothes and has developed and led the Learning Skills department in the Junior and Senior Years.

Patricia has worked tirelessly to identify and support children with their learning to help them to achieve personal success - a real advocate for our young people, she is tireless in her enthusiasm to get young people switched on to active revision and that enthusiasm is infectious.

Mnemonics queen! – Patricia even featured in the key textbook on Dyslexia by Gavin Reid, by sharing her knowledge on this as a useful learning strategy.

Patricia is kind-hearted and supportive. She is very active in Yoga and wellness and has shared that knowledge with staff and pupils.

She also loved taking part in the staff pantos – this year a starring role as an Ugly Sister. Another arrow to her bow is that she is a superb baker – and has baked wedding cakes for a few members of staff.

We all know Patricia will have a super active retirement with Stewart with her cycling, yoga, travel, and her running which she took up during lockdown! And more importantly is the time she will have to share with her grandchildren.

Clare Laird-Portch



Clare returned to her alma mater in 2011, as Head of Business Education. Over the next ten years she successfully developed the department and more than doubled pupil uptake of Business and Economics; ultimately

leading to the exciting expansion of the department in the coming year.

'Mrs L-P' loved teaching and supporting her pupils but gained even more satisfaction in the wide range of extra-curriculum activities she ran or supported. Enterprise days, social enterprise companies, Futures Breakfast, Girls' Choir, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and athletics are all cherished examples. There were also many great trips including the London Career Insights as well as fantastic skiing in both France and Austria.

It has been a busy ten years, but Clare and her boys have thoroughly enjoyed making the most of their time at HSD. They leave to start a new adventure at Strathallan School, where Clare will be Head of Business and Careers.

Phil Taylor



Phil joined us in 2008 as a Chemistry Teacher and for last 3 ½ years he has been Head of Chemistry. Always keen to showcase the Department he encouraged families visiting the school for a tour to pop in and see his class in action, handing the prospective

pupil a couple of test tubes to make their very own chemical reactions. Phil was very involved with outdoor education and Duke of Edinburgh activities at the school and enjoyed cycling to work whenever he got the opportunity. Phil has moved on with his wife Catherine to Gresham's School in Norfolk where he will be their Head of Chemistry.

Catherine Taylor



Catherine joined us in 2002 and has taught at many levels of our Junior Years. She made a significant impact across generations of our children. Both Catherine and her sons Matthew and Adam share fond memories of the school and over the years Catherine has been involved in so many aspects of school life including overseas expeditions and trips, Science clubs, musicals through to Duke of Edinburgh and Young Speakers. Catherine has worked with all ages from Nursery right through to F5 with the support of many superb colleagues along the way. She plans to keep busy planning and developing a brand new garden and spending time on her new gravel bike. Best wishes as she moves to Norfolk with her husband Phil.

Phil Moon



Phil joined us at the start of 2018 from the High School of Glasgow where he taught Maths for 20 years. He came to us with a wealth of experience in the Maths classroom but also outwith, he has coached rugby, chess, bridge, athletics and latterly indoor rowing. During his career, he was a highly committed advocate of the rigorous approach to teaching Mathematics, and this translated into many years developing the subject at the SQA. He worked his way through years as a marker and developer to his appointment as Principal Assessor of Advanced Higher Mathematics, a post he held until 2016.

Phil has always enjoyed teaching advanced level Maths to very able students and prepared them for Oxbridge STEP assessments. The success of our Maths applicants this year has in great part been down to the demanding yet supportive environment that he has created for the most able. Phil is retiring to allow him to spend more time with his family in the coming years.

Nursery Farewells ...

Hannah Geissler

Hannah joined our nursery team in November 2017 as a part time Support Worker. She quickly became a firm favourite with the children and continued in her role with us until November 2020. We wish her all the very best as she moves on to a practitioner role in another nursery.

Chelsea Stott

Chelsea was one of the first members of staff we appointed in our new nursery in August 2014. She worked with us as a full time Early Years Practitioner until the birth of her first son, Luca, in 2015. She returned from maternity leave to a part time role and continued this until the birth of her second son, Louis, in 2020. She has been a well loved member of staff, known to many of our children and families over the years and we wish her all the best as she moves on to work with her husband in their new business venture.

Stephen Russell

It was with a heavy heart that we bid Stephen farewell after 11 years here at HSD.

Right from the first day he made himself part of the whole school team, supporting members of the janitorial and facilities team. Stephen's kindness and devotion to the school was demonstrated on so many levels, and alongside this his commitment to vital charities locally and worldwide. Many were inspired to follow his lead and get involved in the drive to help others and make a real difference.

Stephen regularly helped and participated in the Dundee Cyclathon, supporting the High School teams of both staff and pupils and getting on his bike in support of the annual Rotary International initiative too.

His work directly supporting the vital work of the building of schools in Romania has been inspirational and important in highlighting how we are all part of a global community.

Our very best wishes go with Stephen and we wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

Jim Pearson

Jim began working for the School in April 2014 and worked as one of our Janitors. Throughout his time here, Jim has been a very friendly face in both our Bonar and Margaret Harris buildings, as well as the Royal Exchange Building, which housed our Junior Years' pupils during the Covid-19 pandemic.



He has been an integral part of the janitorial team and has readily been on hand to help with the set-up of events as well as the wide range of tasks the team deal with throughout the year.

Leaving the School in July this year, Jim has taken up a position working for SSE. We wish him all the best with his next endeavour.

Alan Paterson

After three years at the High School, Alan decided that the time was right for him to step away from his role as Payroll Administrator in May. During his time here, Alan has been essential to the smooth running of Payroll and all related matters.

He is looking forward to spending more time with his family, particularly his granddaughter Sophie, and getting out and about in his ice-cream van. We wish Alan and his wife, Grace, all the best for the future!

Christine O-Ready

Joining the School as HR Manager in March 2007, Christine has worked alongside three Rectors and three Bursars during her tenure, providing support to each through various different challenges.

Christine has accomplished a huge amount throughout her time here and has implemented a whole host of improvements to the HR Department. She has also taken the time to care for and provide support to staff members during difficult times, often due to health issues or personal circumstances.

Most recently, Christine became one of the key figures during the pandemic, ensuring that the School utilised the government's furlough scheme. Additionally, Christine volunteered her time to the School's Social Committee, Charities Committee and Wellbeing Committee.

After 14 years working for the High School, Christine left in April 2021 in order to pursue starting her own business and to also have a better work-life balance. We wish her all the best on her new journey!

Paula Salmond

Paula joined the School's HR Department in August 2017 and her input and role have been hugely important in supporting process improvements. Paula was particularly involved in the move to electronic documentation, which has been a vital change, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Additionally, Paula has supported the many contractual updates, changes, addendums as well as advising staff on various HR matters. She has also put a lot of work into sorting through staff folders and documentation, which has been vital over the lockdown periods. Throughout the course of the pandemic, it has shown how important the role of HR plays in the workings of any business and so we wish Paula the very best for the next step in her career as she takes on her new role as HR Officer at Dundee Repertory Theatre.

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