



The Victorian 2009

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL



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List of Commissioners

Patron

HRH The duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM GBE

Her Majesty's Commissioners for The Government of Queen Victoria School

Professor B McGettrick - Chairman

Commissioners

The Lord Justice Clerk

The General Officer Commanding HQ 2 Division

Rear Admiral N E Rankin CB CBE JP

G Ingram Esq

Sheriff S Waldron

Brigadier P S Purves CBE

Major General A R Freer OBE

Group Captain M Urquhart

A J C Plumtree Esq

Rear Admiral R Lockwood CB

D J Crawley Esq

J Pitt-Brooke Esq CBE

Brigadier David Wilson

Solicitors to HM Commissioners

James Craig Esq MA LLB WS

Secretary and Treasurer to HM Commissioners

S B Dougan Esq



Editor: C Phipps DHT PS

Vision Statement

Ethos

Queen Victoria School embodies, demonstrates and promotes the following values:

- Integrity and honesty
- Respect and responsibility
- Justice and equality
- Compassion and empathy

Academic

The School strives to help each pupil realise his or her individual academic potential to the full at each stage of his or her school life.

Non-Academic

The School strives to provide a wide and diverse range of extra-curricular activities to develop the whole person.

Civic and Service Responsibility

Queen Victoria School is an asset to the Ministry of Defence, and through it to the personnel of the Armed Forces. It provides a Service benefit by offering stability and continuity of valued Scottish education to the children of serving military personnel who are Scottish or who have served in Scotland.

Pastoral

Queen Victoria School aims to ensure that at least one adult member of staff takes a continuous, proactive interest in the development of each pupil, meeting with him or her regularly and providing both structured and responsive discussion. Through its boarding house structures the School provides a valid and valuable alternative to the pupil's home environment during term times. Partnership with parents and carers is welcomed. The School encourages parents and carers to involve themselves actively in their children's learning and in the life of the School.



Colour Party.

From the Head

Well, what a year we've had!

I write my piece for *The Victorian* in March or April, so when I last wrote we were at the beginning of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Review into the future of both QVS and our sister school, The Duke of York's Royal Military Academy in Dover. We had a follow-up inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) due on April 17th and – although we didn't know it – a three-day Inspection from the Care Commission coming up in June. It was also, of course, our Centenary Year!

I am delighted to say that the School came through the **MoD Review** strongly, thanks in no small part to the huge amount of support volunteered by parents, pupils, Old Victorians and other friends of QVS. We are to be managed by Service Children's Education (SCE) rather than the Director of Education and Training Services (Army) – DETS(A) – but hope that this will prove to be largely an administrative change with little impact on the day-to-day life of the School. We still come under the umbrella of the Adjutant General's department. Although the MoD cannot commit to the whole new teaching facility for which we had been told to plan, a smaller building is being progressed, and the best news of all is that the MoD is still talking about the next 10 years and beyond, in terms of funding the School.

Our **HMIE report** was very good, allowing the School to be "signed off" after the previous full inspection and two follow-up visits. The **Care Commission report** was also very strong, a great testimony to the work of Graham Carroll, Deputy Head (Pastoral and Guidance), in particular, but also a result of the care and hard work put in by all who look after our pupils.

Earlier this year, 2009, we were inspected by the **Investors in People** (iIP) organisation as well, and I am pleased to say that the School has retained its accreditation as an iIP-certificated employer.

As if all that were not enough, we had the responsibility – and rewards – of celebrating **100 years of QVS** during 2008. There will I am sure be much coverage of the Centenary events elsewhere in this very special edition of *The Victorian*, and other writers will record the many and varied celebrations which took place. I was fortunate enough to be at all of the events – probably the only person who can

make that claim – and I will remember them for a long time to come. I hope that each one of you has happy and special memories of the QVS Centenary Year, whether it be of **Grand Day**, the **OV event** organised by the Development Office on the evening of Grand Day, the **Fun Day** in which we invited the local community to celebrate with us, the School's performances at the **Edinburgh Tattoo**, the wonderful **Centenary Church Parade and Service** in Dunblane Cathedral, the "glittering" **Centenary Ball** at Dunblane Hydro, the whole-**School quiz**, the School's "**Birthday Cake**", the joint reception with the Royal Caledonian Schools' Trust in **Edinburgh Castle**, the **Piping Competition**, the **Centenary Dinner** in School or the evening on board **HMY Britannia**.

A great deal of hard work went into the organisation of each of these events, and I am extremely grateful to everyone who was involved – far too many to name here, but they know who they are!

Grand Day 2008 was of course particularly special because of the Centenary, and as expected we had a great many Old Victorians return for the occasion. Seeing OVs marching and playing with the Band was moving in itself, but surely the occasion that brought a lump to most people's throats was the marching-off behind the Band of almost exactly 100 Old Victorians at the end of the afternoon. It was wonderful to see them, all looking tremendously proud and none of them having forgotten how to march, despite the fact that for many it was a good few years since they had been at QVS. Several younger OVs who talked to me later in the day said that they wished they had taken part in the march-off as well, rather than watching it from the enclosures! Bringing up the rear, unable (he thought) to keep pace with the marchers, and walking behind them with a supporting OV, was Fred Verlander, the oldest known living Old Victorian. His family brought him up to the School for the entire day and there are many photographs showing him smiling, reminiscing and waving. It was a memorable day for all who attended.

So too was **Sunday 28th September**, the anniversary day itself, when the sun shone for just long enough to allow the entire School to march down to the Cathedral behind the Pipes and Drums, take part in a commemorative service which drew a congregation that filled Dunblane Cathedral, and then return to School for "birthday cake"



Clockwise from top left: Cunningham House prefects; Haig House prefects; Wavell House prefects; Trenchard House prefects.

and the opening of the Cunningham House Centenary Garden, followed that evening by a quiz for every pupil. Unsurprisingly, especially given that the Centenary Ball (a hugely popular and much enjoyed event) had taken place on the Friday evening, we had a “lie-in” on Monday morning and lessons did not start until the afternoon!

Along with our Chaplain, the Rev John Silcox, the other mainstay of the Church Parade event was our **School Sergeant Major, Mr Dougie Duthie**. Mr Duthie retired in December 2008, and although we were all sorry to see him leave, we were delighted that he took with him a GOC’s Commendation for all his work at QVS.

Other staff who have moved on from QVS this year include Miss Gail Johnston, Geography teacher and recipient of a Certificate of Meritorious Service from HQ Air Cadets for her work with our own and other units’ Air Cadets; Mrs Marlyn Reid, secretary to the School Business Manager; Mr David Dent, Estates Manager; Mr Tom Dale, teacher of Physics; Miss Elizabeth Templeton, teacher of English and Deputy Housemistress in Wavell; Ms Catriona Matheson, House Parent in Trenchard; and, of course, our GAP-year Students and Foreign Language Assistant. We have been fortunate to appoint excellent successors in each case, all of whom are already making their marks in most positive ways.

Particular mention should be made of the unusual and most inspiring arrangements that have been taking place in the **Games and PE Department** this year. Mr Duncan McLay, Principal Teacher (PT) of PE and Games, and also an OV, has spent the academic year 08-09 on exchange with a teacher from Australia, Mr James Metzeling. Acting PT has been Ms Janette Scott, from within the QVS Department. We all knew that Duncan McLay was going to be a hard

act to follow, both as teacher/coach and as PT, but no-one I think could have anticipated the immense success with which both James Metzeling and Janette Scott have risen to the challenge. It has been an exciting, encouraging and happy year in the PE and Games Department, with some new ways of doing things, some very enjoyable innovations such as the Sports Dinner in March, and continuing success for the pupils in all areas. I believe that links between James’s school and ours will flourish as a result of the exchange and I am sure that both parties have gained from it.

So, are we a little disappointed now that the celebrations of 2008 are over? Not at all! Not only was it an exhausting, once-in-a-lifetime year of activity, but also we are still reaping the benefits of it. Planning for the future of the School has taken on a new confidence; memories of just how much QVS means to its former pupils and staff, parents and friends, have left lasting impressions on those of us currently charged with its care; and the tangible legacy of the Centenary lives on in the beautiful trees recently planted in the grounds as a result of one of the most generous donations to the Centenary Appeal Fund. Outdoor furniture is also being purchased, to allow pupils and staff to enjoy the (mostly!) good weather of the spring and summer months. And this summer the refurbishment of the School Theatre begins, also funded from the Centenary Appeal. The Appeal has merged with the School Development Office, itself a much valued product of the Centenary. You can read elsewhere in this edition of *The Victorian* about how the Development Office operates and how you can be a part of its work if you would like to be so.

At the end of my piece in last year’s “*Victorian*” I wrote that we should “look back on the past 100 years with gratitude, and to the next 100 with confidence”. The year which has just passed has given us every reason to do both.

Education at the Centenary: A Community of Care

A century of continuous service in education is an achievement by any standards. Queen Victoria School has been able to make its distinctive contribution to the families of those serving in the Armed Services and to Scottish Education for the last century with style and a high reputation. The vision of the school as set out in its Royal Warrant makes clear its position in Scottish society and its contribution to the families of those serving their country through engagement with the three Services.

Queen Victoria School has a timeless mission and a strong commitment to supporting and contributing to the development of families of those who serve their country. This mission requires a commitment and conviction to serve families, giving them peace of mind and the security of knowing there are committed, professional people who are looking after their children. This service to family life was an idea which may have been ahead of its time. It recognised the value of the context of the child, the importance of a deep relationship with a responsible adult that is necessary to educate children. The school provided that relationship, that stability, that sense of home and of happiness.

The Distinctive Nature of Education

The school has served Scottish society through education of a distinctive kind. The distinctiveness of education is not only in the selection of pupils, but in the way in which the school has developed a way of life that educates the whole person – body, mind and spirit. It is easy to speak of “the whole person” but sometimes more difficult to see this being addressed in practice. In Queen Victoria School there is the practical expression of how this is achieved.

It would be easy to see the essential qualities of the school as its location, or its military ethos, or its traditions as what makes it distinctive. A personal reflection is to think it is the relationships that it forms that lie at the heart of what is distinctive about the school. Education is always based on responsible and caring relationships. Queen Victoria School strives to offer this to those whose parents are serving Queen and country. It was that devotion to family and to a settled life that lay at the heart of its foundation.

In its day the setting of the school in its relatively rural or remote situation was an attempt to ensure that the outdoors would play a part in the education of the pupils. As the location has become more accessible so has education become ever more related to contemporary society. It is a location that encourages pupils to the outdoors, to benefit from the delights of the Perthshire hills and to enjoy all that they offer. Nowadays that seems like a romantic notion, but it was strong in the thinking of the founders of the school. It has also been significant in its development over the century.

The curriculum is modern and has allowed ease of mobility of students to and from other Scottish schools where this is necessary. The school facilitates ease of entry to and from the state schools of

Scotland. The pupils are generally speaking the products of state education in Scotland, and many will return to that system at the conclusion of their time in Queen Victoria School. It is not to be constrained by that, however. In these days of mobility and ease of international travel Queen Victoria Schools fits its students for a life in different countries and cultures. That is the nature of life at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Service Beyond the School

The international reputation of Queen Victoria School has been developed on the stages and arenas where the pipes and drums are heard and seen. This is by any standards impressive. One of the features of taking part in such music is how that, too, contributes to establishing links with others. The harmony of the music, the marching, the spectacle of the pipes and drums are all to do with being together and playing together. It is seeing the individual in the context of the community of the school. Ceremonial dress reinforces this sense of identity and unity of purpose.

Of course there are many more activities that go beyond the classroom. The importance of sport, and the contribution to local communities and events are all part of an education committed to service and a better society. These are opportunities which are now much more significant than a century ago when education was more centred on the individual and on some notions of learning only to improve the self.

Some Reflections for the Future

So how might we envisage Queen Victoria School in the years ahead? It may be folly to predict what it might look like. Nonetheless the Commissioners are committed to a school that will continue to build strong relationships for its students and their families. Without those relationships the pupils are lost.

Of course the world is a place of rapid change. Yet not all is change. Children still need to love and be loved. Their parents still need a reassurance of the care of their children. The pupils themselves still need a sense of identity and self-worth. There has never been a time when there was a greater need for a school devoted to serve the parents of the military. These are times when the country has engaged many of her men and women in the Armed Services in dangerous overseas missions. They deserve to know their children are growing up with confident relationships that will serve them well throughout their young lives.

As Chairman of H M Commissioners I know how deeply committed these men and women are to the future of Queen Victoria School. Its past has been a firm foundation and it has an illustrious future of service too. Few schools can claim such an honourable role in society, and few are as renowned in their country.

Professor B McGettrick, Chair of Commissioners



Catriona Matheson.

Catriona Matheson

At the end of the Easter Term this year the school bade farewell to Catriona Matheson, Housemistress of Trenchard after five years at the helm.

Catriona joined the school staff in April 2004 from Queen Ethelberger's School in Yorkshire and during her time with us has ensured that Trenchard, the reception house for our new Primary 7s and S1 pupils, continued to be a safe and happy environment for our boys and girls.

Throughout her time she has organised many events, trips, parties, discos not just for the House but for the school also. This was all done, without neglect of the basic routines and standards that the school requires.

Mr Metzeling

James Metzeling joined the school in August 2008 from Marist College, Ashgrove, Brisbane. He, his wife Nikki and daughter Shaienne embarked on an exchange with Duncan McLay from the PE Department.

Due to a mix up with work visas the Metzeling family really hit the ground running, arriving at the very start of term with little time to get organised before beginning teaching. Even with jet lag James had an immediate positive effect in the P.E. Department. With his easy going personality and willingness to learn a new curriculum and exam courses, he slotted into the role perfectly.

James has proven to be an excellent teacher, working with all ages and teaching a wide range of activities. He has been integral in teaching part of the Higher and Intermediate 2 courses and his volleyball knowledge has been greatly accepted.

At Marist James' speciality is cricket, coaching the 1st XI team. It was, therefore, a big leap to take on the coaching of the 1st XV rugby, no easy feat, however, he embraced the role and got the boys on side from the word go, reaching the 3rd round of the Bell Lawrie Scottish Cup.

Catriona also embraced the changes brought in by the statutory regulatory body, the Care Commission. She helped develop systems of record keeping that were going to be required in order for the school to meet the criteria set to meet the National Care Standards.

Recently Catriona bought a home in Orkney and its allure has finally drawn her to its shores on a permanent basis. The whole school wishes her every happiness in her new location and there are quite a few of the staff already booking a visit.

G Carroll DHT P&G

In addition to teaching and coaching James has brought many other attributes to the school; his baking of Damper and Lamingtons for Australia Day went down a storm in the staff-room. He has also been a valuable member of the Cunningham team; working in the house on a Tuesday night and very ably tutoring his S2 boys.

I hope James has enjoyed his year in Scotland as much as we have enjoyed having him. I personally have hugely appreciated all of his support and hard work; he has definitely made my year as Principal Teacher a great deal less stressful. I would like to wish James well in his new role as Principal Teacher of P.E at Marist, Nikki, Shaienne and the new arrival all the best for the future. It has been a pleasure and you will all be sadly missed.

"Haste ye back"

J Scott, Acting PT PE

The Norman Macleod MacNeil Trust Fund

Trust Fund Awards – 2009

Parents, Pupils and Old Victorians will be aware of the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, which was established in 1994 by Mr Jack MacNeil of Connecticut USA, in memory of his father Norman MacLeod MacNeil, a pupil at Queen Victoria School from December 1909 to July 1912.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is intended to attract interest from pupils keen to test their initiative, broaden their horizons and develop their skills in a variety of ways. The applications for grants have again supported a range of activities, including students commencing GAP year projects, helping those seeking professional qualifications in music, dance and the arts, as well as enterprising and adventurous pursuits.

Since the Fund was first created back in 1994, NMMTF has been able to help support more than 140 pupils covering an extremely wide range of activity. Some of these activities have been extremely close to home, whereas others have supported pupils travelling throughout the world. In this last year, the NMMTF provided grants totalling more than £6,000 to support the following pupils activities:

Fay Anderson	French Linguistics Support
Kirsty Laidlaw	French Linguistics Support
Euan Collins	Gap Year in Australia
Callum Fraser	Air Cadet Easter Camp, Cyprus
Samantha Leishman	Air Cadet Easter Camp, Cyprus
Lorna Reith	Air Cadet Easter Camp, Cyprus
Kayleigh Harrower	US Hockey Scholarship
Susan MacLeod	Art Portfolio Support
Simma Rai	Highland Dancing Teaching Exam
William Wemyss	Open Water Diving and Boat Handling Course

Best wishes also go to Luke Angus, Leona Clark, John Henderson, Kayleigh Laing, Kirsty Mallet, Daniel O'Neill and Hazel Stanfield who will be embarking on the Malawi Expedition in 2009.

We wish them all success in their chosen pursuits and I look forward to receiving reports on their various projects and activities.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to be used; why not give it some thought, and if you want to know more, you should contact a member of your House team or your tutor or drop into the QVS website (www.qvs.org.uk) for further details and an application form.

It would be useful to note when applying that the Trustees pay particular attention to the supporting details that are provided along with the application itself and this significantly helps the decision making process: the more detail that can be provided in support of the application, the better. The Trustees are also keen to ensure that any grants fit well and within the overall intent of the Fund, which is to support pupils that wish to advance their education, leadership and self-esteem and to help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills.

The annual deadline for submission of applications is the close of the calendar year (applications to be with Ms Susan Rutledge by 31st December latest). I would also suggest that if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and seek advice.

S Dougan, School Business Manager



Development Office

Making a Difference to QVS Pupils

The QVS Development Office has been up and running for one year, and what a year it's been. Sadly, we had to close the Centenary Appeal because we were unable to raise enough money to build a new School Hall, at least at present. However, as we went through the closure process, we were heartened to discover how many friends the School has, in Scotland and beyond, who whole-heartedly applaud the work of QVS and want to continue to support us. The money raised by the Appeal has already been put to good use making improvements around the School and we have been able to tick off some of the items on our "Wish List" (see www.qvs.org.uk). We've planted semi-mature native species trees at the front of school and a line of lime trees that will eventually form an avenue along the side of the playing field leading into a copse at the far end – this will provide shelter from the busy main road as well as an area for cross country running, quiet walks and a refuge for wildlife. We are busily installing benches and picnic tables throughout the grounds for use by pupils. Outdoor seating had been sadly lacking until now and with Development Office money, we've been able to make a visible and tangible difference to the pupils' daily lives. Our biggest project is the refurbishment of the existing theatre to provide more flexible space in similar vein to our plans for the new hall but on a reduced scale. Building work will start over the summer holidays and the new space should be ready by the end of the year. So, by the end of the year we will have spent all the funds raised by the Centenary Appeal and more but we will still have a long list of improvements we would like to make!

Why Fundraising Is Crucial At Qvs

The Ministry of Defence continues to fund the School at a generous level but the School Trust has always covered the 'extras' and calls upon the Trust for both individual and general welfare assistance are increasing. At the same time, the current economic situation is hitting our small Trust income so if we are to continue to meet our obligations we have to rely on the generosity of friends to secure long-term, viable funding to continue to make a difference to the children's lives.

Would You Like To Help Us Make A Difference?

Every gift we receive adds value to life at QVS. The Trust Funds are used both to pay the expenses of any child whose parents are in need and for everything from welfare transport through school outings and tutor group trips to new kitchens for the Boarding Houses and recreational equipment. Our aim is always to make QVS a truly secure and happy place for children whose parents are serving their country. Of course, by making a regular donation, or leaving us a gift in your will, you are helping us further by allowing us to plan ahead on a secure financial footing. If you would like to donate on-line please visit our website (www.qvs.org.uk and click "donate now"). Or use the form below and send us whatever you are able to today. Thank you.

Donation Form: Cut Out And Post To The Development Office

I/We wish to make a donation to support the vital work of QVS.

Title:

First Name(s):

Surname:

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:

E-mail:

Phone:

Using Gift Aid means that we are able to claim a further 28% on your donations, at no extra cost to you, providing you are a UK tax payer.

Please fill in below.

I/We declare that I am a/We are UK tax payer (s)

I/We wish to make my/our donations to QVS eligible for Gift Aid until I/We further notify you to the contrary.

Signature (s):

Date:

Reg. Charity No. SCO 13381

Regular Giving

I/We wish to set up a monthly standing order for

£2/£5/£20/ Other £ _____ monthly starting on ____/____/____

Account Number:

Bank Name:

Bank Address:

Sort Code:

Account Number:

Single Donation

I/We would like to donate £_____ in the following manner:

Cheque / Cash / CAF voucher (circle as appropriate).

Cheques made payable to "Queen Victoria School".

Planned Giving

I/We would like information about how to leave a gift to Queen Victoria School in my will.

We'd love to hear from you if you have any fundraising ideas or would like to hold an event to benefit QVS.

Catriona Yates, Development Officer, Queen Victoria School, Perth Road, Dunblane, FK15 0JY

Phone: 0131 310 2921 Fax: 0131 310 2921

E-mail: catriona.yates@qvs.org.uk

School's PA is honoured at a major national ceremony

Clare Rankin from Queen Victoria School this week won a major national award recognising the amazing work she does for her school, headteacher and community.

Clare was honoured at the third annual SecEd Headteacher's PA of the Year awards, held on Friday, November 21, at the prestigious Landmark Hotel in London.

The awards were set up by SecEd, an education newspaper that is sent to every secondary school in the UK, to help recognise and celebrate the often unbelievable work that these unsung heroes take on every day in schools up and down the country.

The PAs have to be nominated by their headteachers throughout the course of the year, and the finalists are chosen by an expert panel including experienced former headteacher Dr Colin Niven, and SecEd editor Pete Henshaw.



In total, 34 PAs made it to the grand finals, beating off competition from well over 100 entries.

Every PA was awarded with a certificate recognising them as a "PA of the Year". Six highly commended awards were also handed out, as well as a bronze, silver and gold award.

The 2008 awards were once again sponsored by the National Association of Headteachers and the DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families) International School Award, which is managed by the British Council.

Finalists at the ceremony came from all four corners of the UK, and each received an award from last year's champion Debbie Ferry, who is PA at George Green's School in east London.

Dougie Duthie



Dougie Duthie.

After 25 years as the SSM Dougie Duthie (late SG) retired from both the school and CCF. We will all miss him and wish both Dougie and his wife Helen all the best in their retirement.



Monitors.

Monitor and Prefects.

Senior Monitor

What Queen Victoria School will always give you, whether you felt it was home or just a school, is memories, and I certainly have enough to last me a life time. When I turned up at Trenchard seven long years ago I was a nervous, shy child who was afraid to try new things. Now I wonder how that was possible as I am a Senior Monitor who has achieved more than I ever expected to. I know that this would not be possible without the opportunities QVS provides.

As QVS moved into a new century we marked the occasion with a spectacular performance in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. As a dancer I felt privileged to take part in such a world famous event. Although the whole cast of the tattoo faced difficult challenges such as competing with the rain, however the standards of the pipers, drummers and dancers of QVS never dropped below excellent. It is an experience I will never forget and feel honoured to have represented my school in the tattoo. The school's Pipe Band and Dancers have continued to represent QVS throughout the year with the same professionalism evident in the tattoo. Since the start of the year my confidence has improved greatly as Senior Monitor. As I come into my seventh and final year I knew my position within the school would require me to be a leading figure. This has included leading the pupils on Parade Sundays, which at the start of the year was a daunting thought. To celebrate the Centenary, we as a school marched down to Dunblane Cathedral on a sunny Sunday morning for a special chapel service. Residents of Dunblane and parents lined the streets to see the special event which hasn't occurred for many years, I know that the pupils of QVS were honoured to take part in such a unique parade. As the year has progressed parades have become easier and easier and thankfully my voice has become louder and louder. The transition from pupil to Senior Monitor would not have been possible without the help and support of all my Monitors and Prefects. I am truly thankful for all that they have done this year.

Nearly every pupil gives up an extraordinary amount of their free time to represent QVS. One of the main areas where pupils represent the school is hockey and rugby. This year the hockey team has done amazingly well despite having a very young squad and I have had great fun being part of the team. Whether in practice or a game each player has been 100% committed and showed great determination. One behalf of the team I would like to say a huge thanks to Miss

Scott and Kayleigh Harrower for all they do for the hockey. The rugby team has also had a successful season under the leadership of Mr Metzeling and Euan Collins. Mr Metzeling, who in the short year he has been with us, has had a huge impact not just in rugby, but in sport in general at QVS. One of the highlights of the year for me was the Scotland Rugby Internationals which we were able to go watch. The school went to three games, New Zealand, Italy, and Ireland. Each was an exciting game especially when the cameraman pointed the camera in our direction and we appeared on the big screen. We are also very lucky to be going to Alton Towers. I would personally like to thank all the staff who organise and make the trip possible.

As a 6th year we decided to dedicate all our charity events to raising money for Help the Heroes. It felt appropriate considering the nature of QVS and I would like to thank all who have been involved in these events for their commitment to raising money for such a worthy cause. We raised the money through discos, tuck shops, candy canes, and crazy ties and tights day. Although it has been for a charity it was great fun and I hope it was enjoyed by all.

As I consider my future knowing I'm going to Edinburgh University, I am sincerely grateful to the school, staff, and my friends. QVS has given me the opportunity to experience things that I never thought possible. As a pupil at QVS I have grown as a person as I am confident, outgoing and enthusiastic in all I do. Without QVS I would not be the person I am today. I want to say a huge thanks to all the staff who have supported and guided me, not just this year but in all my years at the school. I really appreciated the support of Mrs Bellars and the other SMT members who entrusted the position of Senior Monitor to me. The support of Mrs MacDonald and both my tutors Mrs Adams and Miss Scott has helped me through the years and has kept me positive when times have been tough. The parents of QVS deserve a huge thanks for all the encouragement they show to the members of QVS. My biggest thanks are to my friends who have kept me smiling throughout the years and have encouraged me in all I do. I am very proud to call myself a Victorian and it will be a privilege to be an Old Victorian.

Kerrie Goodman, Senior Monitor



Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

A year – 365 days – I can't believe it!!

It is only when you look back at what has happened both personally and professionally do you get a sense of perspective. A beautiful baby girl who is now 8 months old! – 'old' boys returning with tales of achievement, adventure and new academic courses and new boys now settled into the Cunningham House family.

It is great to say that the family ethos in the House is growing from strength to strength and has begun to permeate through all the year groups. Yes like all families, individuals have their ups and downs, relationships/friendships are tested and forgiveness and understanding is always required, but fundamentally the boys are bringing and providing many skills and talents which can be used by everyone. One particular area to mention is the Peer support network, set up in the House where the old boys are helping the younger boys with preps and problems.

What's the House been doing? I hope the many pictures on these pages show the diverse activities and socials the boys have got up to over the last 12 months, but to mention a few. The highly successful Halloween disco – organised for the whole school, the opening of the Cunningham Centenary garden, the prefect bonding weekend for S5's, the date and dine night, the making of mothers day gifts, the S2's cooking for the Head – yes she survived! And the highly successful trip to Alton Towers.

I must thank the 'elder' members of the Cunningham family – my House team for their input as tutors, counsellors and wise heads to the boys and myself and for the organising of tutor trips out of school. I would also like to put on record my sincere thanks to Mr Metzeling who is departing our shores after a very successful teacher exchange. The whole House wish him luck in sunny Australia, next year, and in his new promoted job as head of faculty. He has worked closely with the boys and provided a reflective approach to what they do and with an understanding that if you treat people with respect then you will get the best out of them – a lesson for life.

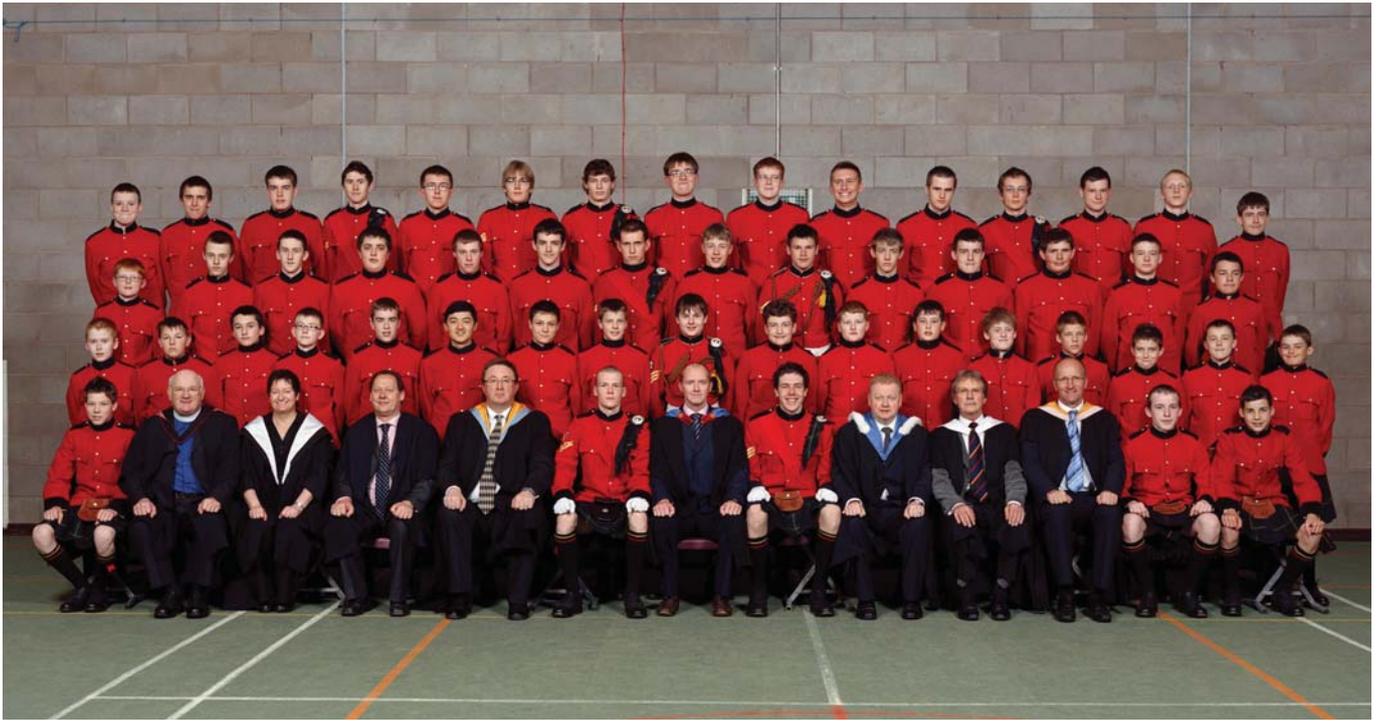
Our best wishes go to Mhairi, our House Matron, who is still away from work due to illness and our thoughts are with her. My personal thanks to Helen and Karen for stepping up to the mark and having worked tirelessly for the boys – thank you.

The House can look forward in 2009/10 to a number of major projects that will improve the facilities for us all. The development of the new library and study area – due to the very generous donation of a grandparent, the build of the new kitchen, which is being sponsored by the Old Victorians Committee and the redevelopment of the large junior common room.

As an old Chinese proverb states 'a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step' and looking back at last year the boys should be proud that they have already a few miles under their belts!

M Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster





Haig House.

Haig House

Haig House has had too many changes in the past couple of years. When I arrived in August, my main intention was to restore the boys' confidence in themselves, the Haig House team and the school. I also wanted to create a family atmosphere and give the boys some stability. I hope that we have achieved this, or have gone a long way to doing so.

When I arrived, I remember being very impressed with the openness and honesty of the Haig boys, and the genuine way in which we were welcomed into their lives. I think the first shock for the boys came when they realised that I had a wife and a ten month old son who were both very willing to be up in the House and get involved with them. The second shock came when we told them that we were expecting our second child in December. We've recently surprised them again with our announcement that we are getting an English Springer Spaniel puppy in July!

The boys had a number of surprises for me too. My wife and I decided to welcome as many boys into our flat as possible over the course of the year and we have been very pleased that the boys have been so keen to get involved in cooking, playing with Finn and Bea, and even sometimes offering to wash up! We have both really enjoyed cooking for each year group this term, from fajitas with S6 to curry with S5 and enchiladas with S2. Many boys have also created their own culinary masterpieces, from a full roast dinner to cupcakes and pancakes.

As well as demonstrating their talents in the kitchen, the Haig boys have worked very hard to contribute to life at QVS as a whole in a variety of different ways this year. We have many boys who have performed with the band and on the sports field as well as raising

money for charity and taking part in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and CCF events. I hope that all the boys realise the importance of taking part in extra-curricular activities throughout their school career and we will see as many, if not more of them taking on commitments next year.

In addition to the commitment of the boys, I have been very impressed with the efforts of the house team and would like to thank the whole team for the hours they put in with Haig. We welcomed Mr Beattie and Mr Coates back this year and I know that the boys are very glad that these long-standing members of the Haig community are back in post. Another established member of the house team has been instrumental in helping me to settle in and running the house before I arrived and I am very grateful to Mr Laing for all his help.

The overseas house assistants, Joe and George, and more recently, Kurt and Piran, have also played their part in creating both a jovial atmosphere and helping to make sure the boys stay on the straight and narrow. Haig also welcomed Mr King as Deputy Housemaster and I would like to thank him for all of his hard work this year. I would also like to thank Carmen and Cath for everything they have done this year, for always keeping the house running smoothly and for being a constant presence in the boys' lives (even if they don't like being told to empty the bucket or get their laundry in).

Finally, a big thank you to all the boys for making my first year at QVS and my first year as a housemaster extremely eventful and enjoyable. Good luck to everyone that is leaving and we hope that you will come back and see us soon.

C Harrison, Haig Housemaster





Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

By the time you read this, there will have been a new House Master in Trenchard House for a term. Mr Adams has joined QVS from Duke of York's Military School in Kent, so he is well used to the vagaries of an MOD School; if not yet to the particular vagaries of QVS.

We have had a good year in Trenchard, with a lively bunch of P7s and some new S1s joining in August. They soon settled and became part of the QVS family. The Rookies' Parade at the end of November was one of the best. The S1s, new and old, in the House settled well to their position and responsibilities. All the pupils, as ever, have been fun to work with and have certainly kept us all on our toes for the year.

This year saw a complete change of senior girls as all six left at the end of the last year. We were lucky to have such a committed and diligent group join us in August; all of them have taken a very active role in the House, ably led by Simma Rai and abetted by Rubina Lama. My thanks to you all for all your hard work.

The start of this academic year saw Mr King move to Haig as Deputy House Master, which meant we were able to welcome Mrs Downey (English) onto the House Team; and Mauritz Neugebauer joined for a year as German Language Assistant. At Christmas we said goodbye to Holly and Christian as they returned to Australia, making way for Maddie and Lachlan to join us for the year in January. As ever, the Overseas House Assistants make a tremendous contribution to the House, with all the activities they take and all the help they give to the pupils – especially when the pupils are new and there is a friendly face, not too much older, for them to talk to. As ever, all the staff have been fully committed to the House, working to help the new pupils

settle and to help everyone live happily in the House together. My thanks to you all.

Throughout the year there have been many of the regular activities with trips to the theatre for the pantomime and for musicals, several trips to Murrayfield, swimming, ice skating, bowling, laser questing and just the occasional trip just to go shopping. There seem to have been numerous trips to Jimmy Chung's in Stirling for Chinese buffets – you'd be amazed at just how much small children can eat when they set their minds to it! And the larger ones as well! And we have had parties in the House for the least possible reason and plenty of outdoor activities.

Some time ago I decided that the time had come for me to leave QVS and maybe get a 'proper job' – more regular hours and not so much on call time; but then again, no where near such a challenge! And decided that Easter, although apparently an odd time to move, rather than at the end of the academic year, would be a good time to go. Especially working in the junior house, it is essential that the HoM has a fair idea of the House and the School before the new pupils arrive. The thought of starting at the School on the Monday, with 45 new pupils and parents arriving two days later would be scary for all concerned. I was most appreciative of the send off I was given and will remember it for a long time to come. P7 pipers to pipe me in to the party in the House and an *all boy* team of six dancers – a real rarity nowadays! Thank you all for five very happy years in Trenchard and at QVS.

C Matheson, Trenchard Housemistress



Wavell House.

Wavell House

I am pleased to report that Wavell House staff have survived yet another year in the House more or less intact. How they have managed this I am not sure? With all the shenanigans involved with having 88 teenage girls in the House, I am always surprised they don't all head for the hills! However, they all stay and ensure that Wavell House is a lively and happy place for the girls to live in. They are owed a big vote of thanks from all the girls in the House.

In December, the house bid farewell to our 2008 Overseas House assistants Eloise and Lara. During their time in Wavell they both became very popular and well respected members of the House Team. As is the way of things, in January the House welcomed two new Overseas House assistants one of whom remains with us. We hope Melissa has a rewarding and happy year at QVS.

As the School year comes to its end, we have to say goodbye to yet another group of S6 girls: Ainsley (House Captain), Kerrie, Fay, Rebecca, Kayleigh, Kirsty, Victoria Marland, Victoria Monti, Mairi, Laura, and Kelly-Marie. I thank them for all of their varied contributions to the life of Wavell House over the past years. To all of the girls who are leaving this year, I send with you my earnest hope that you will have a happy and successful future.

I wish all girls returning in August 09 a happy summer holiday and I am sure that they will return full of beans for yet another school year.

I would like to conclude by thanking all the Admin and Estates Staff who contribute to the smooth running of Wavell House. My thanks also go to Wavell House staff for all of the personal support they have given to me during this past academic year.

E MacDonald, Wavell Housemistress

It has been yet another fun filled year in Wavell house with parties, food and plenty of vegging – especially the 6th years! Now as the year comes to an end it is time to reminisce over this years events.

When the year began we were all expecting a long and uneventful year only for the 5th years to surprise us with an entertaining 'chav and emo' night. I think it's fair to say that the whole house was shocked to find matron 'getting low' in her white tracksuit courtesy of Vicky Pollard and Mrs Adam's 'moshing' with Mairi in the dark end.

Being a house looking for excuses to hold events, Children In Need seemed like the perfect opportunity to donate money and have a girly pyjama party. With the 6th years cooking pizza and chips the whole house seemed to be enjoying themselves, the only complaint to be that there was no tomato ketchup, so to their rescue the 6th year girls snuck into the kitchen and 'borrowed' theirs.

Leading up to the end of term we had Wavell talent show to organise. Who would have thought anything would have been so stressful. But the 6th year girls powered through and everything was alright on the night. Phew! The girls came through with many different talents singing, dancing and majorettes. And, of course the boys didn't let us down by putting on dresses and prancing around the stage. Smooth guys. The 6th years closed the show as a year singing 'we go together' as we all jumped off the stage, exiting in style.

We next had a visit from Santa at our next Christmas party with Joe stuffing his suit with pillows to try and fool us. Sadly his Australian accent gave it away. The gap students organised a great night in with fun and games followed by Wavell's legendary sing for your supper with the 6th years singing their very own rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas.



It was shortly after this we had to say goodbye to the great gappies Eloise and Lara, two of the best yet. They helped a lot throughout the house, particularly with after prep sport; hockey, football, swimming, which all the girls enjoyed. They both became good friends to many of the girls in the house and are greatly missed.

As a thank you from Mrs MacDonald for our 'hard work'. She organised a pancake night and an S5 and S6 meal. To her disbelief both occasions ended with the seniors having a food fight. Some role models we are!

I would like just to take this time to thank all of the 6th year for making this year one to remember with stealing the juniors supper and DVD player – who knows what they done after prep, stuffing as much cake as we could into our mouth and seeing who could eat it the quickest – I think we scared Miss Scott for life. And the many other memories I will take with me.

Finally I would like to thank all the girls in the house for making this year so easy and fun for me to be house captain. The staff who help out weekly and make our time in the house enjoyable. Also the Gaps for being there even when is just a girly chat we need but also for all the hard work they put in, particularly with after prep activities. Also, matron and Mrs Gilletly for their constant support and help throughout the 6 years I have been in Wavell. We wouldn't survive without you. Lastly but not least a huge thank you to Mrs MacDonald for everything she has done over the years and particularly this year. She works so hard to make our time here enjoyable and has succeeded in doing so this year. Your efforts and support is much appreciated throughout the house. Good luck to everyone in the future especially the new house captain!

Ainsley Piggott



Malawi Expedition 2009

As some of you may know there are a group of students from both Queen Victoria School and Longridge Towers School embarking on an expedition to Malawi. The team consists of:

Queen Victoria School:

Miss Low (LinkTeacher)
 Luke Angus
 Jack Hendren
 Andrew McMillan
 Hazel Stanfield
 Kirsty Mallet
 Daniel Maillardet O'Neill
 Tegan Gallacher
 Kayleigh Laing
 Leona Clark

Longridge Towers School:

Mr Dodd (Link Teacher)
 Will Quan
 Will Martin

Our group of 14 will be spending 28 days in Malawi, 7 of those days will be spent trekking to a height of over 3000 meters on Mt Mulanje, where we will be camping rough on the mountain plateau and observing the wildlife in the forests.

After that phase has been completed we will all be spending 3 days in Malawi's best stocked National Park, where we will be taking a boat ride to see the hippos and crocodiles.

Then, after our thrilling safari we will spend 2 days at Cape Maclear, where we will snorkel and camp overnight on one of the islands.

Once we have rested and recuperated after our trekking and safari, it's time to travel to the north of Malawi for our community project. We will be involved in a project which aims to support an existing aid project. We will be helping to build or renovate existing facilities, teach English or play games with the local children.

We have been told that the people of Malawi are some of the friendliest people we will ever meet.

Recently we have taken part in a training weekend, it consisted of camping rough, learning how to budget for food, learning how to cook the food and some safety precautions we need to learn for Malawi. The whole team completed this in high spirits, even with Kayleigh not feeling very well. Jack kept the whole team going by reassuring us that it would only be "5 more minutes!" and with his persistence we all reached the campsite in plenty of time.

The group has been raising money for the trip by holding a "Social Café" every Tuesday, which has been a great success. We also participated in an abseil which we individually raised money for.

All of the group are very excited about our challenging expedition and are looking forward to learning more about Malawi.

Leona Clark and Tegan Gallacher



Bronze Girls.



Bronze Boys.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year's Boys Bronze practice expeditions took place in Glen Dochart and the Girls in Glen Artney in the shadow of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Croin. These wild remote locations are very popular with the pupils.

Bronze Girls

Leona Clark
Emma Pead
Alex Shields
Brogan Stacey
Nikita Gurung
Tegan Gallacher
Alex MacDonald
Rosa King
Kayleigh Laing
Stephanie Barron

Bronze Boys

Chris Pill
Tom Rainey
Daniel M O'Neil
James Fleming
Owen Hunter
Binod Gurung
James McNally
Jack Halliday
Izaak Brummit
Angus Mc Faulds
Josh Brown
Paul Hurlstone
Tom Wilson

The Bronze assessed expeditions took place in the local Ochil hills. Starting in Tillicultry the group backpacked up over Ben Cleuch 721m and down to the River Devon in upper Glen Devon. Next day up over Blairdenon Hill 631m then down the hills past the Sheriff Muir and back to school.



Chris Pill, Karl Moles and Ally Newbury.

There were Three Silver Assessed Expeditions, two boy groups on the Isle of Skye and one girl group in the Trossachs



Thumbs up from Megan Haliday, as she and Amie Williams complete their Silver Award. They were joined on the expedition by Rachel Christie and Emma Read.

Their expedition started beside Loch Katrine, went on past Loch Achray, Loch Venachar and Loch Voil and then finished by Loch Lubnaig.



James Burch, James McDonald, Steven Mallett, Niall Day completed their Gold Assessed Expedition in Lochaber. This is one of their camp sites in the remote valley by Loch Tregar in the shadow of the Gray Corries.

The boys came to this out of the way area to visit Corrou railway station, Britain's most remote station. This was part of their study of the area and investigation into who uses this area and for what purpose.



Sam Brown, Chris Sloan, Charlotte Worth, James Colins, Alison Harrower, Callum Halliday, Luke Masters, Stewart Day, Chloe Hendren, Stephanie King, Robin Stewart and Lauren Fretwell.



Jamie Irving, Ross Watson, Luke Angus, Chris Callum Fraser, Stephen Bell, Ryan Salter and Robert Williams.

Leader Award



Congratulations to, Miss Low, Miss McBlain, who both successfully completed the Basic Expedition Leaders Award. This is a national award which qualifies Caroline and Vicky to lead and supervise pupils on expeditions. This increases our available staff to support our pupils.

In addition Miss McBlain and Miss Low also successfully completed their Trail Cycle Leader Award which will allow pupils in future the option of a cycle expedition rather than the normal foot expedition.

Caroline and Vicky are pictured here on a rare sunny day at the foot of Ben Vorlich on a bronze training expedition.

Miss Johnston Moves On



Here is Miss Johnston finding shelter for lunch with a group of girls during their silver practise high in the chilly Cairngorms.

Over the past six years Gail has helped train and supervise groups of girls at all levels of the award. From the local Ochil's to Dartmoor and all over the Scottish Highlands Her help has been invaluable and I will miss her help and support.

Gail has moved school to take up the promoted position of Principal Teacher Geography. I am sure it will not be long before Gail is helping with the Award at her new school.

I wish Gail all the best in her new school and thank her for all the devotion she has given me, the pupils and the Award at Queen Victoria school.

Listed below are the pupils who started Duke of Edinburgh Award this year and are training to go on expeditions this summer.

Wavell

Rebecca Rew
Chanel Darling
Bethany Williams
Ashley Halliday
Lucy Calder
Rachel Stewart
Abbie McDougall
Tammi Salter
Leah Brummitt
Hannah Ashcroft
Natalie Brash
Tamara Tuckey
Rony McGown
Rachel Read
Holli Work
Danielle Cowan
Jemma Law
Kelly Reid
Emma Anderson

Haig

Kieran Shaw
Calum Bedwell
Garry Carr
Ben Irving
Jordan Angus
Corin Domanski
Ashwin Rai

Cunningham

Charlie Jones
William Lynch
Antony Tickel
Scott Calder
Darren Mackie
Sujay Lama
Veeransh Bohora
Craig Miller
Cameron Hunter
David Drew
Cory Furnace
Andrew King
Stephen Potter

Thank you!!! To all the staff who provide hobbies which allow our pupils to complete the other elements of their Award; Skill, Service, Physical Recreation and Residential Project.

T Shannon ML, Principal Teacher Outdoor Pursuits



Duke of Edinburgh Service – Volunteering for Banded Stray Dog Shelter

From September, three S5 girls: Rachel Christie, Ashley Lees and Hannah Shaw have been helping out every Wednesday afternoon at the stray dog shelter for the 'volunteering' element of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh. We walk the dogs, put them away in their kennels, wash and groom them. We have met some lovely dogs and would really love to have a dog in Wavell, so we keep trying to persuade our staff to adopt one! We give the dogs cool names as most of them

have been abandoned. At Christmas we held a tombola and a cake sale and raised about £70 which we spent on doggie goodies and toys. It was great to arrive at the kennels with an enormous bag of Christmas treats for them! We'd like to thank Anne Vines, the Kennel Keeper at Banded, for letting us become regulars there. We've met some very nice people from all walks of life over our year there and we hope we'll be allowed to carry on doing it next year.





Primary 7's First Year

Compiled by Ms Gail Edwards (Primary Teacher)

Piping at Queen Victoria School

When I first came to QVS I was asked if I wanted to do Piping, Highland Dancing or Drumming. I chose Piping.

I like piping and I hadn't done it before I came to the school. I really enjoy practising with my friends. You start learning by playing on the chanter before playing the actual bagpipes. I am nearly onto using the bagpipes.

At piping you start on learning from a book of piping. After a while you move onto playing the bagpipes and then you move onto learning the CCF tunes.

I hope to be in the school pipe band one day.

Kieran Smith

Dancing

When I first came to Queen Victoria School I tried piping, drumming and highland dancing, known as PDD.

I got chosen to be in highland dancing and I was so very happy.

My highland dancing allowed me to perform in the three Junior Minstrels events this past year. In the past Queen Victoria School highland dancers have travelled abroad and performed in Canada, Switzerland and Australia. You have a special ceremonial uniform; a kilt, red jacket and long socks. One day I got to wear a pair of special dancer's socks. You also have to wear your Glengarry.

It's great in Primary Seven as we have had the chance to do lots of other cool stuff.

Louise Hegarty

Junior Minstrels Performances

The Junior Minstrels are mostly made up from all the Primary 7's but sometimes a few of the older pupils come along to help.

Miss Edwards, Mr Breingan, Mrs MacDonald and two of our Overseas House assistants took us in a coach to the different places. I really enjoyed performing with the Junior Minstrels because we did all sorts of different things including, highland dancing, singing and reciting Scottish poetry.

I am a dancer and I really enjoyed doing the highland dancing in front of all of the lovely people who were watching and supporting us.

The Junior Minstrels have been a tradition at the school for many years. We have been to three different Church Halls to perform and entertain the senior citizens. Most of the Junior Minstrels have a favourite one but I don't because I loved every second of every one of the venues.

Everyone was so nice to us and very interested about what life is like for us at boarding school when we talked to them during refreshments after each performance.

Hannah Pill

Drumming at QVS

Drumming is amazing because you are learning a new skill and I can't wait until I am older because I might get into the school pipe band.

If you're in the pipe band you get to play in Tattoos, competitions and at special events. Queen Victoria School has even performed abroad and I might get to go abroad with them if I'm good enough.

I have drumming on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and you do band practice after school sometimes. You have to work very hard and spend time practising. I would never have done this at my other school and I really like being a drummer.

John Kane



Rookies Parade.



Harvest Festival.



Playing the Bagpipes

The school Pipe Band has been a tradition at Queen Victoria School for a very long time, nearly a hundred years!

When you first start here you get to try all the PDD choices, that is, highland dancing, drumming and piping.

First of all I started in the highland dancing but then I moved to piping.

I am very good playing the pipes already. I played for Miss Matheson at her leaving party. The new Housemaster, Mr Adams, heard me playing and said I was very good and said I could play at his wedding.

I am playing in the Rookies Parade next year. I really, really enjoy playing the pipes.

Ryan McDougall

Glasgow Science Centre Educational Visit

We did a project all about Earth and Space. As part of our class project all the Primary 7's went to the Glasgow Science Centre.

I had so much fun because we got to try lots of science type things. There were air drums and a machine that showed you what you would look like when you were older. Another exhibit let you pick your own Space Crew and play a space game.

In the IMAX cinema we saw the Space Station and because it was in 3D you thought you were in space.

We also went to the Planetarium and saw how the constellations are made up and where all the stars and planets are. It was an amazing day.

Alexandra Anderson

Life in P7

The Primary department is where we go to learn new things such as running at cross country on Monday and cross country competitions

In the school day we have breaks; you can go to the library and go on the computers or go down to the house and get a biscuit

Matron looks after us in the house and she makes sure that our school clothes are clean for each day

After school we do hobbies such as pottery, skiing and football

Rookies parade is when we turn into Victorians, and we get to march on with the pipe band

Yellow, green, red and blue are our school colours on our uniform and on the school flag

We do subjects like PDD, ICT, Environmental Studies, PE, Art and CDT

Everyone goes to a different group in p7, green is with Miss Low, blue is with Miss Edwards and red is with Mr King

Victorians have a special parade at the end of the school year called Grand Day

Never be chatty in class, always get your work done so you don't have too much prep!

P7 Green Group: Callum Hunter, Bradley Scott, Louise Hegarty, Phoebe Gallacher, Charlotte Worrall, Lauren Wilton, John Kane, Megan Hegarty, Ashley McBroom, Callum Fairgrieve and Ryan McDougall.



Declan Gallacher with a student in China.



Declan Gallacher taught children in China.

Morayshire Volunteer Returns from China

Declan Gallacher, of Grantown on Spey, has recently returned from a six month Lattitude Global Volunteering placement in China, and is already planning his next visit.

After completing his Higher Exams at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane, Declan Gallacher, 18, decided to take a break from studying, and chose to spend his year out teaching English in the Jiangsu Province of China, with not-for-profit organisation Lattitude Global Volunteering.

"I heard a talk about Lattitude at my school and was so impressed, I signed up almost immediately" says Declan. "It presented an opportunity to make a difference to another community and to immerse myself in the culture of the country before beginning my Chinese Mandarin and International Business course at Edinburgh University."

The primary principle of Lattitude projects is to make a positive difference to communities around the world, which Declan witnessed within the community of Suqian where he lived and taught during his placement.

"The work carried out by Lattitude volunteers is invaluable to the local communities" Declan continues. "My volunteer partner and I were only the second ever native English speakers to work at the school, and the students' enthusiasm to learn from us was overwhelming. The novelty of our presence also seemed to give the teachers greater confidence and brought the school some positive publicity."

In addition to teaching classes during school hours, Declan carried out individual English tutoring, which he hopes to continue during his summer holidays from university. "My placement has motivated me immensely" he says. "I am considering returning to China during my holidays to tutor people in English, which I hope will bring further benefit to members of the Suqian community."

Declan believes that his Lattitude placement not only brought benefit to the community but also helped to prepare him for his university course. "I fell in love with China during my stay and feel motivated to become fluent in the language. The joy I get from successfully speaking to someone in their own Mother Tongue is something that has led me to study a foreign language at University" he says. "I am already beginning to understand it".

But the eager student does have another, more personal, reason to return to China. He met his girlfriend there, who lives in Liuzhou in the Guangxi Province. "We plan to meet up in Hong Kong at the end of May" Declan says. "Overall, Lattitude has given me one of the greatest experiences of my life. I'd recommend it to anyone."

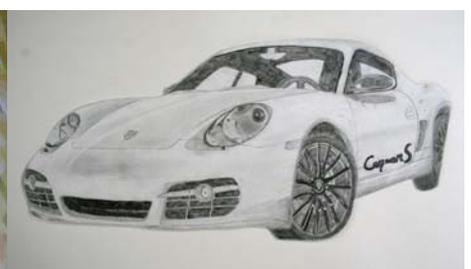
Lattitude Global Volunteering offers numerous placements, such as teaching, healthcare and community projects, in various countries around the world. To find out more details about the charity, and all upcoming events, visit www.lattitude.org.uk or call 0118 959 4914.



Anthony Worth S5.



Chloe Moore S4.



Connor McGuile S5.



1st XV Rugby.

Rugby

1STS

My perspective of Rugby at QVS are very similar to the famous story found in Samuel 1 of the bible. We all know the story of David and Goliath and how David conquered Goliath through skill and speed. Many could make comparisons here with the Rugby culture here at QVS. This is not to kid ourselves to thinking that we are world beaters or Spartans, but QVS students this season should be congratulated on their determination and willingness to get involved, often playing schools with much larger numbers and yet standing tall with a united front taking pride in the school badge and not letting their team mates down. With mixed results this season the boys should be proud of where they have come and how they have been willing to listen and learn.

Success is defined as “an event that accomplishes its intended purpose” or “a favorable or desired outcome.” I find this interesting and something I always try to remind myself of when I’m coaching, and that is nowhere in the definition is winning or losing mentioned. This should be well remembered as success can take form in so many different forms and to solely focus on winning and losing starts to lose sight of the fact that school Rugby is to be enjoyed with your mates. That being said lets not kid ourselves that winning is not fun , as sport does seem to be better when you’re winning, however, the team this year although not winning a huge amount of ways definitely achieved success. They have grown as a group performing well above their ability level, and have learnt how to play fast, exciting rugby. I think Babe Ruth’s words ring true and lend themselves well to this year’s 1st XV. He said: ‘The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club

won’t be worth a dime’ This years First XV did play together achieving more than success on the Rugby field, but also life long lessons as well as supporting charities (where they made 1200 pounds for shaving their head) and learning what it means to look out for someone other than yourself.

I would also like to congratulate Euan on his captaincy this year. He has made my job easier by taking an active role on the field and always knowing when to speak to the other members of the side. He is a true leader and also a brilliant player himself having been our number one player consistently tackling, making impressive attacking moves, and above all never giving up and being a fierce competitor.

I would also like to thank Mr Brian Raine for his wonderful, time and commitment to the team. His knowledge of Rugby is second to none and it is this true passion and commitment that has made this season so enjoyable for me on a personal level.

I would also like to thank Mr Ross, Mr Carroll, Mr King, Mr Eastham, Mr Raeburn, Mr Philson and Mr Gilhooley for coaching at the younger age groups. Without their commitment and support then the Rugby ethos at the school would never be as strong as it is here.

To conclude I will leave you with a few last words. George A Sheehan once said “Sport is where an entire life can be compressed into a few hours, where the emotions of a lifetime can be felt on an acre or two of ground, where a person can suffer and die and rise again on six miles of trails through a New York City park. Sport is a theatre where sinner can turn saint and a common man become an uncommon hero, where the past and the future can fuse with the present. Sport is singularly able to give us peak experiences where we feel



1st Year Rugby.

completely one with the world and transcend all conflicts as we finally become our own potential.”

And this can clearly be seen here at the school; where regardless of where students live they all enjoy one thing together: that being sport, hence showing the importance and significance it has on the lives of the QVS students. Sport is definitely a universal language and as such I would encourage all students at QVS to continue to get involved, play with pride, show some “ticker” when the going gets tuff and most importantly remember that “Sport is meant to be fun.”

J Metzeling

S3/S4

This season has been very eventful for the U16’s, with the team changing around nearly every week with people moving up to the 1stXV and new people coming into the squad. We have still managed more wins than losses. We have seen new talent emerging throughout the season and there’s always been competition for spots on the starting team.

Our highlight of the season was definitely the away win against Marr College which has to be one of the toughest matches anyone’s ever played as it tested our physical fitness and our ability to work as a team and come out on top.

It’s been a hard but enjoyable season which we could never have got through without the help of Mr Gilhooly, Mr Rayburn and Mr Marsdon. A big thanks to them on behalf of the team, and well done to all the players for a good season and good luck for next year.

Jordan Angus (captain)

S1

The season has gone very well and training has also been very well done. We have won most of our games that being nine wins, and had one draw, and six losses and it’s not that bad and we are improving lots. Our kicker’s have been doing very well this season and we have picked up some tips from a Scotland Development Officer that came in.

As a team we have learnt lots, some basics and some harder things but we will learnt a lot more things as we progressed, such things as tackling a lot stronger and faster, we have been through passing drills etc. The highlights of our season were when we defeated Jordan hill 21 – 0. We also beat Madras, we made a good start to the season by beating Lomond. We have had great coaches in Mr King, Mr Philson, Mr Metzeling and all the gap students that have helped.

We are looking forward to next season as we will be playing fifteen aside and having flankers and experiencing new coaches but in general a massive thanks to all the coaches and players that have participated.

Fraser McLoughlin (captain)

P7

Well what can I say? Most of the p7 boys had never played rugby before in their life. Some had been playing for at least 5 years, and that was hard for those boys that hadn’t played before. We have had an amazing season from coming here with no experience and never even picked up a ball for some of us.

I think we have lost 3 games, drawn 1 game and won 3 games so on the whole for our first season our coach Mr Ross and all the boys are very happy, and tired.

We have lots of good memories such as when Connor Kelly ran into Kieran and went flying. Also the last match we played was amazing, and we had so much fun. We also have some bad memories when we all argue with each other but in the end we are always happy.

Our last match was definitely one of the best we have ever played. Even though we lost 3 tries to nil we put in pure heart and soul into the game. The pitch itself was not on our side as there was no grass, just mud; however it was a good laugh. Next season we hope to play as well and if not better. On the whole we are very happy and proud to be the p7 rugby team.

Rhys Clark and Cathan Clark



Top to bottom; 2nd Year Rugby; 3rd Year Rugby; P7 Rugby.



1st Year Hockey.

2nd Year Hockey.

Hockey

1ST XI

This year I think everyone will agree started off as a challenge with the loss of several 1st XI players. We wasted no time, however, getting straight into training with almost an entire new squad. Lachlan's Friday running sessions, including his animal stretches to finish became a regular, along with full pyramids, despite whinging from the majority for partners. Nothing, however, could have prepared us for what Miss Scott had in mind: Wednesday fitness sessions with Mr Metzeling and the rugby boys. Although we'd never heard of malcoms, it only took a few weeks before we were leaving the boys trailing behind us. It was all too easy for the 5th year girls who mysteriously developed a need for work experience every Wednesday and eventually there were only a few brave girls left. It was a difficult season with so many young players but we still managed 4 wins, 6 draws and only 2 losses.

It's becoming quite a tradition each year to enjoy a winter walk. This season, everyone's spirits were high after waking up to snow covered playing fields but after only a few minutes and countless wet burns people started feeling the cold. We realised quickly that walking in the ice covered laighhills was not the best plan of action after Mr Metzeling was spotted falling flat out on the floor. I don't think anyone was safe.

Like every year, we had some grass fixtures, our favourite surface. Despite Miss Scott's efforts to train us in the swamp next to the astro we still found it difficult when it got to the game. Chunks of mud were flying everywhere and everyone felt at one with nature as at one point we all landed in the dirt. Ainsley took it to the extreme however when she stood up and failed to notice the slug attached to her hand. Gross.

We had our first ever hockey and rugby meal this year which was a huge success. Everyone really enjoyed it, in particular the girls, who spent a large part of the evening drooling over Ally Hogg, a guest for the evening. Before the event, both teams voted on their most improved player, and this year the 1st XI's chosen player was Kayleigh Laing. Well done it really was deserved. The evening concluded with a raffle, the prizes donated by Gerry McManus from Cardinal Sports, another guest and Pamela Scott, Director of Diagio. A lot of work went into the night so a big thanks to Miss Scott, Mr Metzeling and the catering staff for all of their hard work. The food was fantastic.

This year many members of staff have helped out with hockey. I would like to say a big thanks to Mr Metzeling you've really

contributed a lot to this years squad and we are really grateful you could be here. Thanks also goes to Mr Harrison, it's been short and sweet but all your help has really been appreciated. Although Mr Mclay couldn't be here I would like to mention and thank him for all of his help for the past seven years of QV. Finally I would like to thank Miss Scott. You've taught us everything we know and over the last seven years I think all the sixth years will agree you have become not just our coach but also a friend. It's been a really great seven years of hockey and I wish you and next year's squad all the best for next season.

Kayleigh Harrower, Captain 1st XI 2008/09

2nd XI

The 2nd XI have had great success this year, with 4 wins 3 Draws and a loss.

Everyone has been working hard to boost both their fitness levels and hockey skills which seems to have paid off with a greatly improved performance. We have seen lots of wins and draws and some great goals from Robyn Stewart, Ellis McFarlane and Lauren Fretwell.

Next season we hope to see some of the 2nd XI move up to the 1st XI, this will be stiff competition for places and positions so all of the girls will have to prove their commitment and determination at the beginning of the season.

Thanks to Miss Scott and Mr Harrison for their coaching and umpiring over the season and a special thanks to all of the team who have worked as hard as possible to produce some great results. Well done girls.

Samantha Maloney, 2nd XI Captain

S3

This season has been a very difficult but successful one nevertheless, for the S3 team. Effort and determination have been paramount throughout the year and the team has continued to improve in both skill work and tactics. With 8 wins 2 draws and 3 losses, the team has gained confidence and commitment.

I would like to say well done to all of the third year girls, both as a team and as individuals and thank them for their efforts.



I would also like to thank Miss Scott and Miss Low for coaching us and helping to develop throughout the year.

It has been a very enjoyable season and hopefully next season will be even more successful.

Rony McGown, S3 Captain

S2

We have to say this years S2 hockey season has been a real success. We have won 7 of our games, drawn a couple but there's not been many that we have lost. We think it's fair to say that everyone in the S2 girls' hockey team has put in a great deal of effort into all of our games; so well done to everybody this season. We all did really well to try to win all of our games. Although that wasn't successful we still gave it our best shot and we should be proud of what we have achieved.

S2 positions

Our strikers – Abbie McDougall, Emily Gurung and Lucy Calder.
Our midfielders- Eden Reid, Alice Quin, Shona Mcauslane, Lauren Millman, Kelsey Swan, Kelsie Hunter, Alisha McCaig, Alanna McFarlane and Tammi Salter.
Our defenders- Ashley Halliday, Megan Vevers, April Gray and Rachel Stewart.

The Goalie – Tamara Wilton – who we couldn't have got where we did with out her well done Tamara you did really well.

So we really hope we play as well next year as we have done this year or even better. It's a shame we might be losing some of our players from the S2 team but I hope were not losing Alice Quin; I don't quite think it would be the same with out her endless falls on the pitch. It just wouldn't be right!

We also hope there won't be as many accidents next year i.e. people falling over and only worrying about their underwear showing!!

Last but not least a big thank you to Miss Scott for putting up with us all year round and helping us achieve what we have today, we appreciate everything you have taught us!

Abbie McDougall and Ashley Halliday, Captains of S2

S1

From the start of our S1 hockey season we have greatly improved since P7. It has been a difficult season but everyone has tried as hard as they can.

We have lost quite a few but we are occasionally successful. All of our year has contributed towards hockey matches throughout the season.

Our goalie is Jennifer Harrower. We have several defenders such as, Kennedy Morrison, Derri Chamberlain, Heather Standfield, Ashleigh Houston, Chelsea Harris, Rebecca Johnson and Jennifer Sorbie. Our mid fielders are Caitlin Willis, Jasmin Worrall, Cara King, Patience Young, Rebecca Price, Morven Craib, Devon Cox. Our strikers are Bethany Stacey, Bethany Little, Leah Tytek and Megan Wood.

Everyone has played exceptionally well and hopefully the effort of this season will continue in S2.

Bethany Little and Bethany Stacey, Captains of S1



Athletics

Having started back earlier than normal the athletes had a little time to prepare for their first fixture. We took senior boys, junior boys and junior girls team up to Strathallan on what turned out to be a glorious afternoon in the sun. The Senior boys team soon realised that they were up against some stiff opposition and many of the team rose to the challenge. Scott Fretwell won the discus and Sean Dougal the Javelin. Euan Collins put in excellent performance over 400m with a time of 61 seconds. Kieran Mackie jumped 1.60cm at High Jump and was only just beaten to first place on count back.

The S3 boys team are very strong and proved to be too much for the Strathallan team.

David Gibb won the 100m and Shot Putt, Cameron Quin won the 400m and discus, Jamie Meiklejohn won the 800m and Javelin and Tom Rainey won the high jump. The relay team also came first by over 3 seconds.

The S3 girls team competed well against some very able opposition. Their determination and effort cannot be faulted. Notable

performances include Lauren Fretwell winning the Shot Putt, Amy Balfour coming second in both 800m and High Jump, Leona Clark coming second in the Javelin, Alana Smith second in Long Jump, Alex MacDonald second in the discus and finally Charlotte Worth second in the 100m.

The final results were

	Strahallan	QVS
Senior Boys	60	46
S3 Boys	46	58
S3 Girls	62	43

The second fixture was an all boys competition at Hutcheson's Grammar. We competed against St Columbas, St Aloysius, Lomond and of course the hosts Hutchy. We had an U14, U15 and U17 team, all of which were strong, particularly the U15 team. It was another hot day and the boys managed no less than 18 personal bests across all disciplines.

Notable 1st positions include:

	U17	U17	U15	U15	U14	U14
100m	S Dougal	J Reid	D Boylan	D Gibb	S Craig	
200m	E Christie	P Howell	B Aitken			
400m	E Collins					
800m						
1500m						
Relay	1st			1st		
Long Jump	P Howell			J Mieklejohn		
Triple Jump				B Aitken		
Shot Putt					A Christie	
Javelin	G Alexander			J Mieklejohn	A Christie	

17/5/2008 QVS v Hutchesons v Wellington v Douglas

We had a change of venue for this fixture this year. Usually held at Scotstoun the fixture this year was at Linwood. This unfortunately proved problematic as the coaches got lost on the way and we were 15 minutes late for the competition. However we ran off the buses onto the track and our hurdlers had a quick warm up and then competed. The girls overall came second to Hutchesons, with some very good individual performances on what was a cold, wet day. The boys came third overall, however the S3 team won their competition, beating Hutchesons once again. This is a great achievement as we only have 20 boys to choose from, whereas Hutchesons have up to 100 boys in a year group.

28/5/2008 Forth Valley Competition Grangemouth

The Forth Valley Schools Competition fell on the same day as the Intermediate 1 external exam, which meant we could not send our S3 Boys and Girls team, the former to defend their unbeaten title as Forth Valley Champions. However, we sent an S1 and S2 team, boys and girls. It was a horrible day for athletics, windy and wet but despite this the following athletes managed to pull through and win medals;

Eden Reid	Bronze	800m
Eden Reid	Bronze	Shot Putt
Allana Smith	Gold	Javelin
Luke Masters	Bronze	High Jump
Alex Christie	Gold	Javelin
Alex Christie	Silver	100m
S1 Boys	Bronze	4 x 100m

4/6/2008 QVS v Strathallan

This year our junior competition had to be held up at Strathallan due to the poor condition of our pitches. We took eight teams up; P7, S1, S2 and S3, boys and girls, roughly about 80 pupils. The S3 boys had already competed against Strathallan earlier in the year and were

feeling confident having beaten them quite convincingly the first time. It was the first outing for the P7s and all seemed to be very excited about the prospect of testing their ability against others. It was a beautiful afternoon and Strathallan is a wonderful venue for athletics, particularly when it is sunny.

12/6/2008 Sports Day

Sports' Day marks the end of the athletics season and it is a great opportunity for a lot of pupils to compete for their houses under less pressure, and alongside their peers. It also allows individuals to try different events and gain personal bests. The weather once again did us proud and many staff came down to help out and support the pupils. Ms Skeith and Mrs Hiddleston ran a stall selling strawberries and scones in aid of Breast Cancer which added an extra dimension to the afternoon. It turned out to be a wonderful day with all pupils competing well for the respective House.

The following are the results from the day

Junior Competition

1st	Ormond
2nd	Liddell
3rd	Bannerman

Intermediate Competition

1st	Bannerman
2nd	Liddell
3rd	Ormond

Senior Competition

1st	Bannerman
2nd	Ormond
3rd	Liddell

Overall Inter-House Results

Sports Competitions 2007/8

	Rugby			Hockey			Football			X/Country			Athletics					
	Jun	Int	Sen	Total	Jun	Int	Sen	Total	Jun	Int	Sen	Total	Jun	Int	Sen	Total	Total	
Bannerman	2	3	1	6	1	2	3	6	2	2	2	6	1	2	3	3	8	29
Liddell	1	1	3	5	2	3	1	6	1	3	3	7	2	1	2	2	5	26
Ormond	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	6	3	1	1	5	3	3	1	1	5	29



Clockwise from top left: 1st XV Football; S2 Football; S1 Football.

S2 Football QVS V Dunblane – Under 14s

On Monday QVS S2 team had its first game. They had never played together and were playing the league winners of the central league. This proved to be a very tough game for the team and it was a very close match all the way through with Oli Mitchell clearing it off the line twice until about half way through the first half. Calum Marshall hit a high ball up the field then Connor Dickson flicked it on for Owen Campbell who took a good first touch and put QVS 1-0 up and then five minutes later Dunblane equalised by a tap in.

The second half was also very good. Both teams had chances but no-one could finish in the last ten minutes. Dunblane controlled the game with their better fitness and had a lot of shots but Veeransh kept them out. The two managers and Jamie Riddock agreed to play five more minutes to separate the teams but no-one could find that goal so it ended 1-1 with the whole team playing well along with man of the match Oli Mitchell.

Connor Dickson



Wind Band.

Music

'To everything there is a season', and yet again we have arrived at the season to write our entry for the Victorian, and to think of all whose time a QVS is now at an end. Music is all about time and timing and as with all years we have gained new companions to share time with and had to say goodbye to others who have shared the last few years.

The time that was 2008 was a very busy one for all at QVS. We reached our hundredth year. We were a star act at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We still had time for our own concerts, lessons, minstrels outings, examinations, fun day and all the other activities that make being at QVS so special.

Our instrumental staff changed again, with Alan Brown, our drum kit tutor; leaving to do more studio and performance work. Alan's last contribution was to come along to the fun day and persuade as many as possible to play samba. All his students and those of us lucky enough to work with him during his ten plus years will miss him and the expertise he brought to his lessons. Joining us this year is a new singing tutor. Joanne Greer is a fantastic new asset, with wildly enthusiastic pupils attending lessons and putting on their first concert. This was a sharing for friends and a few staff, complete with seasonal mince pies. We heard a range of work from all year groups with super solos from Emma Anderson, Emma Read, Charlotte Worth, Kate Graham and many others. We were also joined by Hannah Rankin, who relieved me of the task of trying to teach our saxophone players. Hannah has just completed her fourth year at Strathclyde University and will be moving back home to start her performing and composing career. Hannah brought youth, enthusiasm, knowledge and teaching skills to her lessons and has raised the standard of saxophone playing across the full range of pupils.

While on the subject of saxophones, it was with a mixture of sadness and excitement for the future that we said goodbye to two super



young saxophonists; Chloe Swan and Steph Millar, and our own bass clarinetist James MacDonald. Teaching these three has been one of the high spots of my week for a number of years. The Japanese have a saying, 'time spent laughing is time spent with the Gods'. If this is true I spent a lot of hours in the company of these students and the Gods.

Our younger players continue to develop with the brass students in the care of Gavin Spowart, guitars with Gordon Bayley, flutes with Ruth Bamforth, drummers with our new percussion tutor Michael Bryans, piano and bassoon with Alastair Collins and the return of Ian Hood to teach clarsach. My thanks to all of our instrumental staff for their contribution to the school over the last year.

Our S and H grade students hope to continue the success of previous years and have already had the fun of performing for the visiting SQA examiner? I had a great day playing accompaniments, trying to calm nerves and listening to some super performances. We had our collection of Ks. Kayleigh got the day off to a great start playing some excellent drum kit, Kerrie Goodman, despite the examiner picking the wrong piece made some beautiful sounds on her flute. Kayleigh Harrower continued the family tradition with some excellent piano playing and Miss King, Rosa also gained a distinction pass in her ABRSAM flute exam, played well on both piano and flute. Emma Anderson and Victoria Marland had exceptional performances of works by Schumann giving me some real challenges with the piano



Dance Team.



parts. Our visiting examiner commented on the good range of styles and music she heard at QVS. Our pipe band drummers and pipers had their own visiting examiners who also seemed to enjoy our students work.

We were very fortunate to have a day of music workshops with the Royal Air Force College Band and invited pupils from a range of local schools. Together with our own students they formed and rehearsed as a fine youth wind band. This project will be repeated in October 2009. In the evening we took over 90 pupils to hear the full RAF concert band at the Mac Robert Arts Centre. We made up one third of the audience and played a starring role in the evening's entertainment. Our pupils were especially amused when the conductor introduced pipey as Pipe Major Ross Gordon!

As ever we have many plans for the new year; more work for our excellent P7s who performed exceptionally well throughout the year both in school, with 'Christmas around the World' and the Christmas concert, as well as in their journeys out of school as the 'Junior Minstrels'.

Music at QVS is about trying to organise, enable and find time for an ever increasing range of pupil talent and ability, every time you think you're about to make ends meet, somebody moves the ends!

D Breingan, PT Music

Principal Dancer

Beginning on the high of the Edinburgh Tattoo last summer, this year has definitely been a busy one. I think everyone would agree that the Tattoo was better than we all expected. What with the Friday Dominoes nights, the endless rainy performances (I don't think the team's dancing shoes ever really recovered!), the almost daily panics over lost swords – and who could forget our world class renditions of "I Vow to Thee" to pass the long journeys... It's most definitely an experience that won't be forgotten, and I know that we're all really proud of ourselves ...and our singing skills!

But, with this fresh in our memories, Mrs MacDonald wasn't going to let us away with an easy year, and was quick to "whip us into shape" for the endless list of engagements which followed. Firstly, we've taken part in several performances in the National Museum of Scotland, which are always really well received – even if the audience still look a little terrified when we tell them it's their turn to join in! Furthermore, I think a special mention is due to Leona for her brilliant piping at the museum – even when we decided to change the tunes without telling her!

We've also performed at many other engagements so far this year including numerous wonderful performances by our junior minstrels, a function in the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle, a display at Leuchars Air show, and of course, the Centenary Ball in the Dunblane Hydro. The latter offered Simma the chance to dance the Lilt – one of our less common performance pieces – whilst Kirsty and Fay showed off their choreography, both of which went down really well.

We are still practicing, however, for the upcoming engagements this summer. As they do every year, the younger dancers will take part in the Beating of the Retreat in Edinburgh Castle, and of course, all of the practices that it involves. We are also really looking forward to our annual performances in The Royal Highland Show and The Royal Highland Garden Party.

In addition to all of our public performances, we have also just taken our UKA exams – all the way up from Primary 7 to S6 – and I think it's fair to say that, as a team, we exceeded everyone's expectations with our results. More people than ever before achieved the mark of Distinction – the best grade possible – and our average mark was 92%, the highest it has been for many years. I have to say that everyone should be really proud of their individual performances – keep up the good work!

The sixth years would also like to say how much we appreciate everything that our wonderful Eileen MacDonald has done for us since Primary 7 – all of your support and "firm words" have helped us immeasurably! And finally, we wish the team the very best of luck for the future. Thank you for all of the laughs and for making our last year the best it could be – keep up the good work!

Kirsty Laidlaw







Pupils' Centenary Celebrations Quiz

Shortly after Mrs Bellars first took up her post at Queen Victoria School, this correspondent once inadvertently – even indiscreetly – let slip the fact that in a bygone age he used to produce quizzes as fund-raising events for various charities and other good causes (one such being the restoration to its former glory of the spire of St Mary's Church in the parish of Hemel Hempstead). Thus it came to pass that in September 2007, he was approached by the Head, who had not forgotten his indiscretion, and was asked whether he could see his way to creating the questions for another quiz – one that would be part of the School's one hundredth anniversary festivities a year later. Remembering Harold Wilson's observation that a week is a long time in politics, he airily agreed to take on the task of organising the Pupils' Centenary Celebrations Quiz – but almost straight away coerced our inestimable Librarian into his forces and immediately felt much better: the thing could be forgotten for a year AND he had doubled his resources.

Years slide by almost unnoticed and silently; this one did the same. Prompted by Mrs Sheerin a committee was eventually formed. Its patron was Mrs Bellars and its hard-working members were Mrs Sheerin herself, Stephen Bell, Susan MacLeod and Mr Laing. This writer brought up the rear. Gratefully acknowledging the Kitchen's helpfulness and culinary skills (Alistair and Elizabeth – many thanks), there were several "Working Lunches" at which were thrashed out the many and various items that require resolution: when, where, how many rounds, teams, seniors, juniors, whole school, fancy dress, prizes, who pays – the gamut was gone through.

On the night itself, all went smoothly, but without the great efforts and willing help of many, many people, it would have been a very bumpy ride indeed. Mr Silcox provided much technological support and took photographs; Mr Breingan made sure the microphone and speaker system functioned; Mr Penrose set up the computer and projector; Mrs Sheerin, Mrs Adams, Miss Scott, Mr Laing, Stephen Bell, Susan MacLeod all provided questions for various rounds; many members of staff including Miss Taylor, Mrs Johns, Mr Porter, Mr King, Mr Carroll, Miss Johnston helped "control the crowds"; Mrs Bellars, Mrs Sheerin, Stephen Bell and Susan MacLeod all marked the competing teams' answer sheets; and Miss McBlain produced the scores for the teams.

Of course, above all, the pupils themselves contributed fully to the success and enjoyment of the evening, with individuals and teams putting much effort into fancy dress – as well as trying to answer the questions correctly. Among the Juniors, April Gray took the prize for "best individual fancy dresser", while Victoria Marland did the same in the Seniors. Jake Bedwell, Joe Burns, Devon Cox, Lewis Crawford, Phoebe Gallacher and Emily Gurung comprised the brainiest team in the Junior Competition, with 57.5 points – winning by just one point from two second-placed teams. Fay Anderson, Chloe Hendren, Paul Hurlstone, Charlie Jones, Connor McGuile, Kirsty Mallet and Tamara Tuckey took the palm in the Seniors, with 69.25 points – again, just a point ahead of those in second place. It certainly seemed to this scribe that one and all enjoyed the occasion and there remain 99 years before the next quiz setter need start worrying about a new collection of questions.

J Coates





1st XV and 1st XI Awards Dinner

24th March 2009

The inaugural hockey and rugby dinner on the 24th March 2009 proved to be a great success, with staff and students donning their finest for an evening of awards, speeches and entertainment.

The 1st XV rugby and the 1st XI hockey players have given up a great deal of their own free time for training and fixtures this season, and the idea behind the formal gathering was to celebrate their success and thank players for their time and effort.

The evening "kicked off" with staff gathering for drinks in the Colours Room with introductions to our guests for the evening. Alistair Hogg of Edinburgh Gunners and Scotland fame had kindly agreed to give a speech and present our awards for the past season. Gerry McManus, the Managing Director of Cardinal Sports was also present to draw the winning names in the raffle. Thanks go to both for their contributions.

All players then gathered in the Theatre, which had been splendidly decorated by Theresa and her team. After the guests, pupils, and staff were welcomed Mr Raeburn was asked to recite the Selkirk Grace, beginning the meal. A fantastic meal was served and thanks go to Alistair and his catering staff, never have I seen so many clean plates.

Mr Metzeling had worked extremely hard putting together video and photographic footage of some of the fixtures and training sessions. This was shown to all and was a great success, a real tribute to the hard work of the players throughout the season.

Speeches by Mr Metzeling and Alistair followed the short movie, with the awards ceremony soon after. Half-Colours, Full-Colours, Players' player of the year and Coaches' player of the year were presented, with a special award, the Scott/Metzeling trophy (kindly made by Mr Laing), given to Kayleigh Harrower in anticipation of her hockey scholarship at an American University next year.

Kayleigh and Euan Collins both gave an amusing account of their season as Captains of the 1st XI and 1st XV respectively; remembering specific events of the season, most of which revolved around Mr Metzeling's fitness sessions! This was a daunting experience, and both should be congratulated on their excellent speeches.

Then came the moment everyone was waiting for – the raffle. Thanks go to Gerry at Cardinal Sports and Pamela Scott, Global Supply Director of Diagio, for their contributions. There were many great prizes given away, including a top of the range hockey stick (won by Hannah Ashcroft), several signed rugby balls, vouchers for the SRU store and the occasional bottle of Johnnie Walker for the staff.

The evening was rounded off with a vote of thanks from Mrs Bellars, a few closing words and another excellent PowerPoint with some clips from the season past.

All in all the evening was a great success with thanks going to the rugby and hockey coaches for all of their hard work during the season, medical staff for their continued attendance on a Saturday morning, Mr Warner for making sure the pitches are prepared for fixtures, catering staff for their fantastic work on the night and throughout the season and last but not least; Mr Metzeling for his help in organising the evening and keeping me sane in the run up.

Half-Colours in Hockey

Charlotte Worth
Alison Harrower
Kara Chamberlain
Kayleigh Laing
Amie Williams

Half-Colours in Rugby

Tom Rainey
David Gibb
Alexander Meek
Euan Burt
Cameron Dumbreck
Blair Aitken
Angus McFaulds
Jack Hendren
Jamie Meiklejohn
Thomas Wilson
Grant Alexander

Full Colours in Hockey

Kayleigh Harrower
Ainsley Piggott
Kerrie Goodman
Mairi Cox

Full Colours in Rugby

Euan Collins
Alexander Stevenson
Ewan Christie
Josh McCallum
William Wemyss

2008/9 Players' Player of the year for Hockey

Kayleigh Laing

2008/9 Players' Player of the Year for Rugby

Angus McFaulds

2008/9 Player of the Year for Hockey

Kayleigh Harrower

2008/9 Player of the Year for Rugby

Euan Collins

J. Scott, Acting P.T. P.E.



Stop Press: The school was awarded the BRONZE award in May this year!

Eco Friendly

Eco Committee

Staff:

Yvonne Cockburn, The Eastham family, Vicky Low, Theresa Rae, Tom Shannon, Martin Stephen, Christine Sheerin, Catriona and Sterling Yates.

Pupils:

P7	Kieran Smith
S1	Christopher Bell, Devon Cox, Rebecca Johnson, Stuart Stockman, Jasmin Worrall
S2	Alisha McCaig, Tamara Wilton
S3	Mairi Archibald, Andrew King, Jemma Law, Ashwin Rai, Rachel Read, Allana Smith
S4	Tegan Gallacher, Nikita Gurung
S6	Victoria Marland

The Eco committee was set up to look at ways of making QVS a greener place. We meet about once a month at 08.00hrs (yes really!!!) in the library, so that shows how keen we are!! We each take a turn in Chairing and producing agendas and minutes. Most of us have specific responsibilities such as the website, the notice-board, the newsletter, links with the USA and Poland, recycling – including printer toners, mobile phones, spectacles, etc.,

fund-raising, buying plants, vegetables and trees for the Centenary Garden and carrying out energy audits to work out our carbon footprint. The pupils on the committee made a presentation, using power-point, to the whole school and have run a cake sale and disco to raise money. We are hoping to have a 'Green Day' with a 'Battle of the bands' out in the school grounds in the summer. We have lots of good ideas! We registered as an Eco School and are working towards our first award – the Bronze – with our ultimate aim to get a green flag flying in front of the school! We are also in the 'Generation Green' scheme which awards 'leaves' for all the 'green' actions we do at QVS.

For more info: all our minutes are published on the school website under 'Eco school' and everyone can access the link from the website to 'Generation Green' as parents can help us get more 'leaves' too! We are currently setting up a wiki so we can share ideas with other schools around the world.

Our many thanks to the Catering Staff for all their help and advice.

C Sheerin, Librarian

Tree Planting







Geography Field Trip

1330 hours – We packed the mini bus and headed off for a quick stop at Tesco. As we came out of Tesco we noticed a problem...the bus had gone! A call from Miss Johnstone told us the bus was broken, she had to return to school quickly and we had to walk all the way back to school! Not a great start!

1450 hours – Take two – The mini bus was re-packed. We headed off towards the Yorkshire Dales.

After a long and tiring bus journey we were greeted at Malham Tarn Field centre by a lovely group of gentlemen from 'Sauf London', who were also on a field course (slightly scary).

An average day on our field trip included breakfast – a massive fry up to fill us up for the day, - morning classes with Kate our tutor, followed by a day out experiencing the limestone landscape features first hand. From digging soil over a 1m depth with nothing but shovels, looking at soil profiles and learning about soil forming factors, to standing knee deep in rovers measuring the wetted perimeter, velocity and examining bed load size to compare changes at different stages downstream – we did it all! Whilst in the field we also discovered that fashion wellies and the phrase 'medium – moderate' on them, is no guarantee that your feet will stay warm and dry in a raging river! Ellis learnt this the hard way.

The weather over the next week was anything but spectacular. The mist was down, it was wet and extremely cold! The low visibility scared Charlotte so much that for 'health and safety' reasons Kate our tutor insisted our entire class wear high visibility vests. The sight!! This did ensure no one was lost....only our dignity.

On our biosphere day we had to dig a large vertical oil pit, to enable us to examine easily the different soil profiles and think about the factors that had caused this. We did this along a transect down a

slope to compare the differences. This was challenging for our class as we consisted of five girls and could not dig to the standard of Kate's 'A-level rugby boys'. Becky's muscles didn't quite measure up in this task; Alana however really pumped the guns whilst digging showing us all up!

We had classes in the evening where we would continue work from the day's excursion. Processing the data that we had collected and reinforcing the learning objectives from the day. After such a tiring day even showering was a chore! And for most, the thought of applying make-up for dinner seemed distant and unlikely. Becky and Kayleigh however had no problem putting on the slap each night hoping to make an impression on the 'talent' from the other schools.

As a treat at the end of the week we had a trip out to the Ingleborough Show Caves to look at the dripstone features inside. We were able to look at the caves as the first Victorian explorers would when cave exploration was considered a very risky and brave past-time by candle light! It was a little scary especially when Kayleigh was asked to blow the candle out and we were engulfed in darkness.

The trip was definitely worthwhile as we were able to learn how limestone features were formed by seeing them first hand. We were also able to gather a lot of information, learning also how to process this and show our findings on paper. It was really useful in relation to our coursework as there was such a variety of things to learn at Malham, we covered many topics. We all left with a greater understanding of a lot of the work we had covered in the classroom with Miss Johnstone. We would now like to thank Miss Johnston and Miss Law for giving us the opportunity to go on such a worthwhile trip. We are sad to see Miss Johnston go at Christmas; it's been a great start to our higher geography year, thanks and good luck.

Kayleigh Harrower and Becky Austin



I Saw It – I Was There

On 9th November 2009, it will be 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. In this article Miss Blackwood recalls her visit to Berlin at this time. This article was used as a school assembly in Cornwall School, Dortmund a few days after 12th November 1989.

1961

Were you born then? No?

The Wall was built in Berlin.

It kept people from escaping to freedom in the West.

Were these houses really the border between East and West?

Were people really shot trying to jump from their house windows into the freedom of what was West Berlin?

Unbelievable, isn't it? You couldn't leave your house in Bernauer Strabe without leaving your country too.

1973

Were you born then? No?

My first visit abroad. Berlin. I was there. To work in West Berlin.

A beautiful city. So much colour. People everywhere.

A magical city. A special atmosphere. So much to see.

The Brandenburg Gate. Checkpoint Charlie. Olympic Stadium.

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis Kirche. The East.

The East? The East? It was 1973. I was there.

A bombed-out church – my first memory.

Why are there so few cars? Huge wide roads, but so few have money to buy cars. Queues in shops.

Alexanderplatz – everything brand new – supermarket – TV tower – a huge clock showing times all over the world – what use is that when people are not free to travel there?

In a back street – drab – no paint on the windows. A little child tried to sell us the weeds she thought were flowers. That's not what flowers look like. Don't you know?

1979

Were you born then? Berlin, 1979. I was there. You were too young to know.

West Berlin – brighter, richer, more colours than before.

East Berlin – that same bombed-out church. What 34 years after the War?

Lots of cars – made of fibreglass. Don't crash one. You wouldn't stand a chance.

Queues, more queues – to buy motor spares. Oh, how I laughed. We have the cars – but not the spare parts to repair them.

1984

Too young to remember. But I was there. Berlin. 1984.

Mum and Dad, this is West Berlin. More colourful. More cheerful.

East Berlin. Why won't they do something with that bombed-out church? But look, they're rebuilding the Cathedral at last. Soldiers everywhere – East German, Russian. All so young and so stern. Don't they know how to laugh? Maybe they have nothing to laugh about.



Alexanderplatz – the centre of East Berlin. Yes, we can have lunch in that café. Look, bananas. No, don't take one, Mum. They don't see bananas very often here. Watch them putting them in their bags to take home. They are almost grabbing at them.

West Berlin – the WALL – covered in slogans, painted, decorated, but menacing, a barrier. Crosses for people shot trying to escape to the West. Set free – by death.

It's very sad. I won't go back.

1989

You're old enough. You must remember. You must take note.

You have to remember.

It has finally happened. Years of lack of food, freedom to travel, freedom to choose who to vote for. The life they were living was too oppressive. Many leave. They leave their families, their houses, their jobs, their homeland. It must be bad.

Berlin 1989 – November 9th – It's finally happened. Barriers are beginning to crumble. I have to see. I want to be there. No flights? Not possible? Please try again. One seat left on Monday morning 7am to go back to Dortmund? Yes, please. Now just get me to Berlin. You've found a flight? Great. From Frankfurt? Fine. I'll get there.

Frankfurt Airport 10.30 – departure lounge – so many fellow passengers – and cameras – photos and films to record history. To say "I was there".

Tegel Airport – Berlin, 12.20. Straight off the plane I notice the people. People everywhere. Smiling, happy. Waiting at the airport bank. East Germans – patiently standing. A welcome gift from the West Germans – DM100. Not much? That's 1,000 East German Marks – more than one month's salary in the East, but worth so little in the West.

The bus into West Berlin – packed. East Germans at every bus stop. What, they say, you can't get on the bus at the middle doors? Oh, well, here's my passport. East German. Thanks for letting us travel free. Everything is so dear here.

Look, they say, look at all the shops, the colours. Look – a fruit shop. East Germans packed into it and outside it. They've never seen such fruit before. Two men on the bus – enjoying an apple.

City centre. There's hardly room to move on the pavements. People wandering up and down, looking everywhere, at everything. In a daze. Can this really be happening? Woolworth is opening, and it's Sunday. People are pressing against the shop doors and windows. The glass almost caves in. Take your time, they're told, everyone will get a chance to come in. Cassette recorders, walkmans, that's what they want. Then watches, clocks. Hundreds of people trying to get into Woolworths.

Long queues at the Kaiser Wilhelm church. A supermarket chain is giving away coffee and chocolate to the East Germans. Show your passport. There's plenty for everyone. Free plastic bags were thrown. They caught them by the fistful. Appreciating this small gift.

Take the underground. Checkpoint Charlie. What, no maps left? I'm not surprised. On the platform. People standing six deep – all the way along. A train comes. How does everyone get on? So crushed inside, but who cares? Everyone is smiling, saying “welcome, glad you're here, so good to see you”.

Checkpoint Charlie – crammed with people. Clapping, cheering – more visitors. Beaming smiles. Have some champagne. Enjoy yourselves here. Border guards – also smiling. And look, they're East German. East German guards – smiling – happy – relaxed. No guns in sight. The Checkpoint open, the barrier raised. A bunch of flowers seems to hold it open. More people coming through – on foot, on bikes, in cars – made of fibreglass.

Walk along the wall. People climbing on top – sitting, proud they have conquered the Berlin Wall. I saw them. I was there. Playing a saxophone, balanced on the Wall. Hammering, hammering. A Child – forcing a hole in the Wall. It's their future. The Wall must come down. Hole in the Wall. You can see through. No guns on either side. Smiling people everywhere. No one can believe it.

Walk along the Wall. Potsdamer Platz. The Wall cuts the Square in half – but wait, why are so many people here? The Wall. It no longer divides the Square. It's been removed here. People are pouring through. Welcome. More cheers, more applause.

Everyone wants to see. The viewing platform – overcrowded. People on its supports. Get down from there, the police plead. It's dangerous. But no one moves. They have to see. To say they were there. A building site with scaffolding, full of people looking at where the Wall once was, taking photos, watching.

The Police call out greetings. A white car is coming. It's a Wartburg. More cheers. It chugs its way across the border to see the West for the first time.

Brandenburg Gate. Border guards – East German – standing on top of the Wall. Walking up and down – as if posing for people to take photos. Photos? The World press is there – German, American, French, Australian – couldn't find the BBC. Bright camera lights, satellite dishes, ready to send live pictures all over the world, waiting for something to happen.

Something has happened, though. So many things have happened in the last few days in East Germany. A gateway to freedom has been found. Remember that. People from East Germany have achieved so many dreams in such a short time. Thanks for the visit. Come again. It's been great to see you. We'll be back again on Tuesday, but for now we're going home. I heard someone say it – smiling, happy face. I know he said it 'cos I WAS THERE.

And do you know what? I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

E Blackwood

What's Happening In ... Modern Languages?

German-language play

On Tuesday 28th October 2008, the Onatti Theatre Company from Warwick performed the German-language play *Nichts zum Anziehen* (Nothing to wear). The actors, Katharina and Thorsten, were native German speakers, playing two love-struck German teenagers, Jessica and Stefan, getting ready for their all-important first date.

All pupils studying German from S2 upwards attended the play in the school theatre and the school hosted friends from Bannockburn, Balfron and Stirling High Schools.

Although the play was entirely in German, the audience was not expected to sit back, arms folded, thinking they were not going to understand – the play was a highly visual, hilarious comedy, and, by picking out words, watching the actions, gestures and sentiment, pupils of all stages had no problem understanding what was going on.

Refreshments were provided by the school and the actors did not need to rush off afterwards, but stayed behind to answer questions.

The response from pupils was very positive, so watch out for another performance in the future!

Multilingual debate

On Wednesday 25th February 2009, senior pupils in S5 and S6, studying French and German at Higher and Advanced Higher,

attended a multilingual debate, organised by the Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies of Heriot Watt University.

The motion debated was: “This house believes that we should seek to preserve language diversity rather than to promote one lingua franca.”

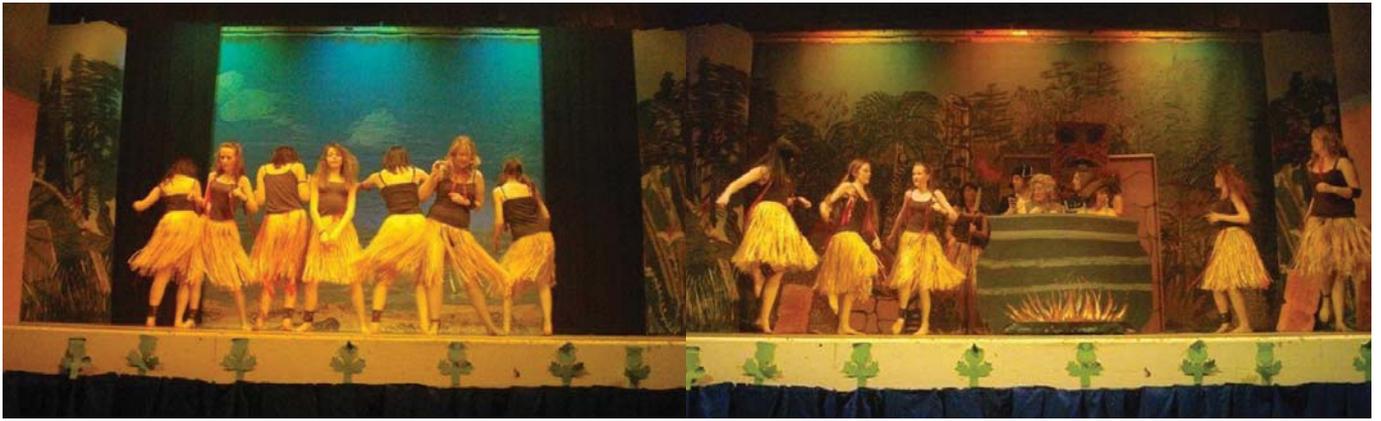
The welcome was given, in Italian, by the Principal of the University, Professor Anton Muscatelli, and the keynote speakers were Wolfgang Mössner, German Consul-General, speaking for the motion, and Ken Symon, former Business Editor, Sunday Herald, speaking against the motion.

The speeches were delivered in English, German, French, Spanish and, for the first time this year, Arabic and Chinese. These languages were interpreted simultaneously into English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Greek and BSL (British Sign Language).

The debate is organised annually by the university, to allow fourth year Interpreting and Translating students to hone their simultaneous interpreting skills in a real debate, attended by schools from all over the country, stretching from Ullapool to Hampshire!

The debate also allowed QVS pupils to see the value of a range of languages, both European and non-European, in real use and also to see the value of languages post-school, in the real world.

G Buchanan, PT Modern Languages



Drama Report

Another year has gone and the QVS Drama Group has had another very busy set of performances. Our first performance was with the St Blane's Drama Group in the pantomime 'Robinson Crusoe'. Many long months were spent practising for the performance and we were constantly reminded about how much work we still had to do by the continuous, out-of-tune pantomime songs in the back of the school mini bus.

This year the group consisted of: Leah Brummitt (S3), Amy Balfour (S3), Rebecca Rew (S3), Mairi Archibald (S3), Alex Shields (S3), Bethany Williams (S3), Allana Macfarlane (S2), and me, Hannah Shaw (S5).

The S2s and 3s danced very impressive routines, choreographed by Leah and Rebecca. The finale routine received a huge round of applause every night and many people in the audience said it looked professional so a huge well done to the girls who put in all the effort.

Our next performance was an entry to compete in the SCADA competition in Fintry. Leah Brummitt, who opened the show as a famous TV talent show host, certainly got the crowd laughing with her bad jokes and cheesy smiles.

The main character, Tich Oldfield, was played by Lauren Wilton (P7). Her excellent impressions of Elvis and James Bond were some of the most memorable moments of the production. Her 'schoolboy crush' on Pamela, played by Allana Macfarlane, was very well acted and near the end and her realistic tears got a great reaction of sympathy from the crowd as the school bully Barrell, played by Rebecca Rew, led Pamela away.

Jammy Chivers was the 'tedious teacher from Oxford' and Stephen Bell (S5) was the only person for the role of this character. During the performance for the school, he surprised the audience by coming on in my place in a red dress and blue wig as Miss Feckless. His high pitched Russian accent was one of my favourite moments and he is to be congratulated on learning the lines in such a short amount of time.

The other character to receive a good reception from the audience was Bimbo the Ape. After many adjustments of the costume, Connor Mackenzie (S6) came on to dance with Lauren and then to steal a banana, attack Pamela and finally chase Lauren around the stage to many laughs from the crowd.

Other actors included Amy Balfour and Mairi Archibald, Bethany Williams and Tamara Wilton.

Another person who deserves a mention is Gary Carr who was a tremendous help backstage with the lighting and sound.

The last person to thank in all of this is Mr Kirk, without whom none of this would have been possible. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and turning a bunch of hyper-active kids into competing actors.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the drama group and am eagerly anticipating the future performances with QVS Drama Group.

Hannah Shaw, S5, Drama Group Secretary



Anthony Worth S5.



Susan MacLeod S5.



Connor McGuile S5.



Tegan Galagher S4.

Creative Writing

Cherry Simile

A cherry is like a clown's bright red nose,
 A cherry is like a red traffic light,
 A cherry is like a red paint blob,
 A cherry is like a little red baby apple,
 A cherry is like a little red eraser,
 A cherry is like a red marble,
 A cherry is like the planet mars,
 A cherry is like a red grape that has just been polished.

Megan Hegarty

Rainbow Simile

The rainbow is like a painting in the sky,
 The rainbow is like a dream,
 The rainbow is like a big water slide,
 The rainbow is like a smile,
 The rainbow is like a story,
 The rainbow is like skittles,
 The rainbow is like a colourful snake,
 The rainbow is like a science experiment,
 The rainbow is like a roof to stop the rain.

Charlotte Worrall

Star Metaphor

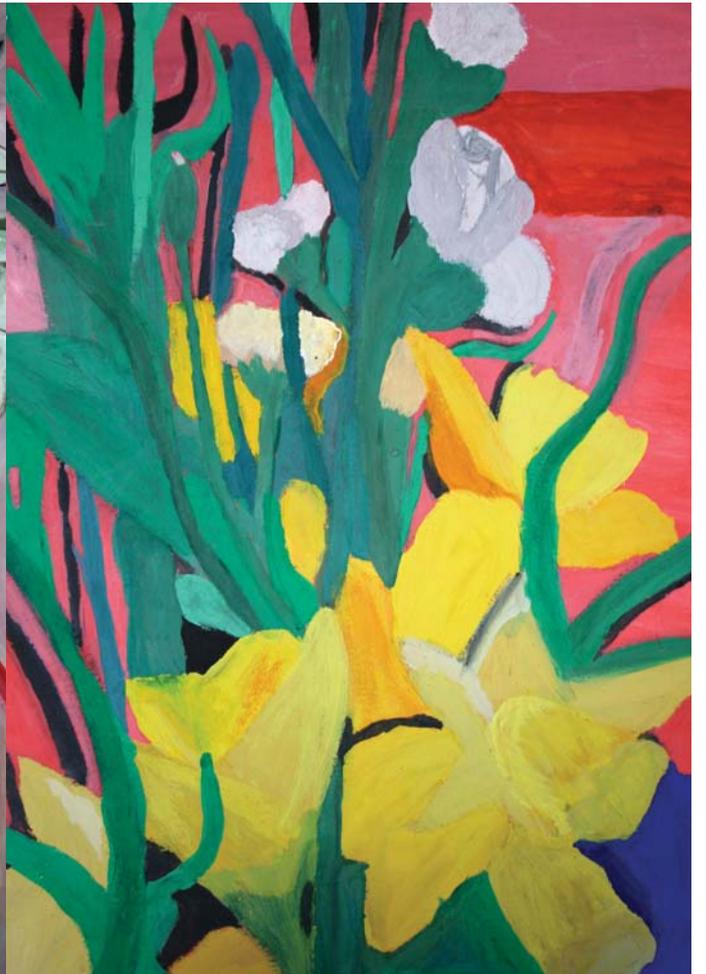
The star is a ball of everlasting fire,
 The star is a far away sun,
 The star is a beautiful diamond in the sky,
 The star is a silver button on a black shirt,
 The star is silver paint on a black background,
 The star is a ball of helium,
 The star is a compass in the sky,
 The star is a pound coin in a black hat,
 The star is a smile in the night.

Lauren Wilton

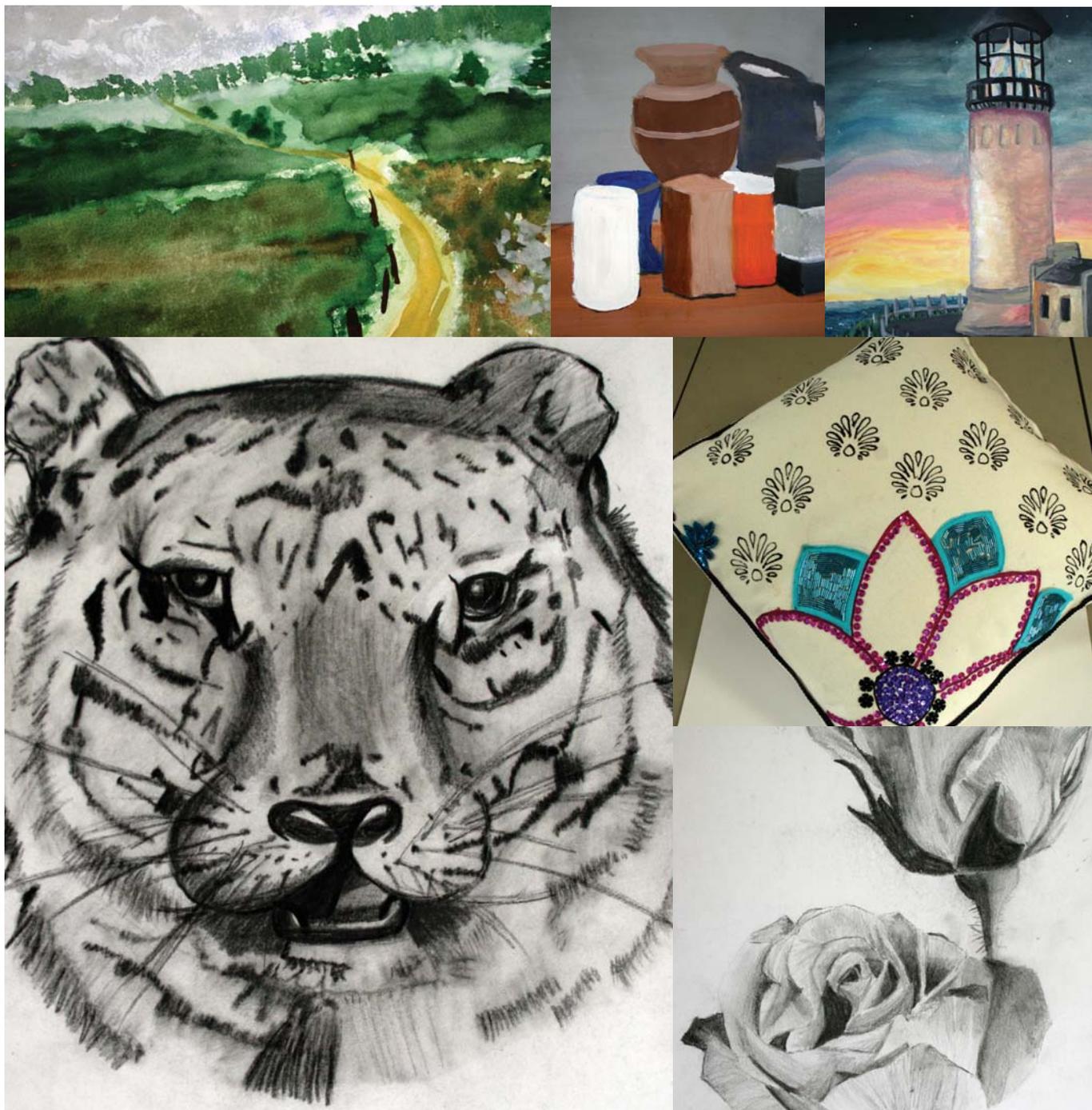
Winter

Winter is like a bit of magic from the sky,
 Winter is like a cold blanket,
 Winter is like a white world,
 Winter is like old age falling to the ground,
 Winter is like a piece of white paper,
 Winter is like a planet,
 Winter is like a fog,
 Winter is like sugar and salt,
 Winter is like milk on the floor.

Ashley McBroom



Clockwise from top left: Tegan Gallagher S4; Leona Clark S4; Susan Mcleod S5; Nikita Gurung.



Clockwise from top left: Anthony Worth S5; Alexandra Macdonald S4; Emma Peed S4; Chloe Moore S4; Connor McGuile S5; Ashley Lees S5.



Left to right: Luke Masters; Cory Furnace; Rachel Read; Calum Bedwell.



Pipe Major

We began this year with the final performances in the Edinburgh Tattoo. Everyone worked really hard and it definitely showed as our performance was considered one of the best in the show. The band was at the best standard it has been in my seven years at QV and so the standard was set high for my final year. Even though we lost many senior pipers, the band managed to keep up its good reputation this year, with many strong younger pipers, playing at various venues including the Dunblane Hydro, Leuchars air show, Stirling Castle and Craigiehall Barracks in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh was definitely the highlight of everyone's year. We returned to school three weeks before term started and began practising at Redford Barracks for the opening night. We were among world class acts such as the Norwegian guard and the New Zealand Lochiel dancers and still succeeded in impressing not only the audience but also other performers in the tattoo. Our set was loved by all and countless bands were asking for our tunes. It took a lot of hard work and practice to get the show together, even in the torrential rain, we rehearsed. When I say 'we' of course, I mean the band, the dancers in true prancer style were tucked up in warm in their beds while we were out in full uniform during the downpour! We didn't mind too much though we knew we had 40 Domino's pizzas waiting for us when we returned to school. Another highlight was the trip to Edinburgh Zoo!

I don't know if we were more excited to see the penguin parade or the Norwegian guard taking the penguin salute. Because the shows were in the evening we had a lot of free time during the day. All it took was someone to set up a Wii in the common room however and our days were planned. Vegging sessions became a regular, I've never played Mario kart so much in my life! The tattoo was definitely a success and was enjoyed by all.

The band is looking forward this summer to its third Basel tattoo. While I am sadly unable to attend I am sure the performances will go well and everyone will have fun. It has gone down well in all of its previous years.

Old Victorian's Parade this year was quite nerve racking as so many pipers from last year came up to watch morning music. We decided to play the Edinburgh set but soon regretted it after we had to hold Zoe back from trying to march on with us! We had quite a small band due to various injuries in the band, Harry, but the day was still a success. It also gave the new S2 members of the band a chance to play with the seniors for the first time on parade.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be Queen Victoria School's pipe major in it's 100th year, and I wish the band and the school all the best in the century to come.

Pipe Major Kayleigh Harrower





Army

Field Day

Field day 18th June 2008 at RM Condor Arbroath, Home of 45 Royal Marine Commandos. Fifty-eight cadets took part in the field day on a Round Robin of Training Packages involving:

1. The Climbing Wall.
2. The DCCT.
3. Live firing with the Cadet GP rifle on the 25Mtr range.
4. Weapon handling tests.
5. Section Attacks.

The cadets had a good day at RM Condor. The climbing wall was very popular as they had competitions between each other to see who could get up the wall the fastest. Most of the boys were beaten by the girls especially by Alison Harrower.

The shooting was run by the ever present shooting instructor Captain Kilmartin which went well and was a good opportunity for the recruits who had just passed their weapon tests to do some live firing which they enjoyed.

The DCCT was very popular as they were shooting at moving targets on a video screen which to most of the Cadets was just like playing their X Box back home or in their rooms at School. Again they were holding inter section competitions to see who had the best shots. There was no overall winner.

This was Mr Duthie the School Sergeant Major's last field day and you could tell this as all he did all day was play golf with another old CCF member Mr Borking. All joking aside I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the Cadets and Members of staff of the Army Section to thank Mr Duthie for all the help and hard work that he has provided for the CCF.

Summer Camp

This year Summer Camp was held at Barry Buddon Training Area Dundee. A total of Nine Cadets took part. The reason the numbers were low was that the School was doing the Edinburgh tattoo this year and the Cadets did not want to give up all their holidays. Anyway the Cadets who took part had a good time. The first two days were spent at Ballater to carry out Adventure Training which included Kayaking, Longboating, Hill walking and Abseiling. This was the first time a lot of the Cadets had done some of these activities and they found out that they were not as easy as they thought they would be especially the Abseiling, ask Daniel O'Neil! After the events of the day the Cadets were allowed to walk into Ballater town where they found the chip shop did deep fried Mars bars which they enjoyed. After adventure training it was back to Barry Buddon to do some real soldiering where again we were attached to other schools to boost up the sections. The cadets worked well with the other school cadets at Barry Buddon. The first day was ranges where they fired the CadetGP

rifle and were introduced to the LSW Light Support Weapon. Then they were off to the Obstacle course where a few of them had a dip in some of the water obstacles. They had a good laugh at each other. The water obstacles proved to be a big hit as the weather was very hot and it helped cool them down. The next day they were showing equipment from other units which included the Artillery, Mortars, Medical corps and how to use Explosives to make different mines. The final days were out in the field doing Section attacks and an overnight ambush and staying out in the field the Cadets thoroughly enjoyed camping out and cooking their own food from the ration packs.

Overall the whole week went well and the staff from both 21 and 24 Cadet Training Teams were very happy with the attitude and behaviour of the Cadets from QVS.

I would like on behalf of the Cadets that were at camp to thank once again Mrs Hiddleston for giving up her own time to come along and act as the female cover and also Mr Silcox for giving up his time to come along.

Trip to Edinburgh

On the 3rd December I decided to take the junior NCOs from the Army section to the Winter Gardens in Edinburgh to do ice skating. A good time was had by all especially Sam Maloney who was on the ice more times than her ice skates. After that we all went for a McDonalds to round off the evening. On behalf of the Cadets who were there I would like to thank Mrs Hiddleston and Miss Skeith for their help on the evening.

Look forward

Looking ahead for the forthcoming year for the Cadets we have Summer Camp at Barry Buddon. After Grand day this year we have 30 Cadets going so this should prove more interesting.

In February we have Ski Camp to look forward too.

Summer Camp 2010 will be held at Benbecula. This will be a combined Cadet Force Camp so I hope we will have a big turn out for that one.

Thank you's

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff in the Army Section to thank all the Cadets for all the hard work they have put in in the last year, I would like to congratulate Rea McGown on coming first on her Military skills course, I would also like to thank Ewan Christie for all the hard work he has done for the rest of the Cadets.

P Hiddleston





QVS Shooting Team – Bisley

The team, captained by CWO James MacDonald, consisted of eight other cadets: Sgt Finlay Archibald, Cpl Victoria Marland, L/S Luke Angus, L/Cpl Stephen Bell, Cdt Connor McGuile, Cdt Callum Halliday, Cdt Alex Macdonald, and Cdt Emma Anderson. We attended Bisley between the dates 13th July to the 19th July where we took part in competitions such as the Ashburton, The Wellington (300 yards), The Iveagh (500 yards) and the Victoria Tankard (600 yards). We also entered a four man team into Cadet Falling Plates.

Despite the very hot weather (a very big contrast to rainy Scotland!) the whole team managed to shoot very well, with all of us making a huge improvement in our high scores and a few of us such as Connor McGuile and Finlay Archibald managing to secure a place in the top 100. Our time spent in the butts marking targets also proved to be a great opportunity for making friends with the other competitors taking part in the competition such as the Irish cadets.

While we attended Bisley we were accommodated in Brunswick training camp Pirbright, along with other schools such as Dollar. In 1963 and 1964, Mr Duthie the Schools Sergeant Major attended the same camp to do his basic training with the army.

After the days shooting in competitions and practising we relaxed by socialising in the Bisley pavilion, and celebrating James' 18th with chocolate cake and music. The whole team also tried their hand in air

pistol shooting, shooting with sniper rifles at 300 yards, and clay pigeon shooting. With Callum and Emma proving to be expert clay pigeon shooters in the making!

After our days of competition shooting, on our last day in Bisley we took a day trip to London and saw sights such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, St James' Park (where Callum made friends with the pigeons!) and also the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

Although we never managed to receive anything in the prize-giving, the week in Bisley was a great experience. The whole team thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are very much looking forward to hopefully going again next year.

Throughout the week we were assisted by staff including Captain Kilmartin, Naval Lieutenant Borking, and Army Lieutenant Brown (who eventually trained us to complete tasks quickly!!).

A big thank you from the team to all of the staff for their help during the week and an extra thank you is also due to Captain Kilmartin for his hard work and patience with the team leading up to and during the competition as without him none of this would have ever been possible.

Victoria Marland, Shooting Captain





Contingent Commanders Report

I took over from Lt Col Silcox at the start of this session and am looking forward to continuing John's good work maintaining Queen Victoria School Combined Cadet Force as one of the best in the country. With our dedicated staff and excellent pupils I am confident this will be achieved. We currently have 142 cadets and 8 staff in our CCF. This year has seen many changes in Contingent Staff. Lt Col Silcox retired from the CCF, WO1 Duthie retired from the school and Fl Off Johnson has moved on to a new school. Two other staff, Cpt Garden Army Section and FL LT Sheerin RAF Section, also left the CCF earlier in the year.

After 25 years in Queen Victoria School Combined Cadet Force and the last 15 years as Contingent Commander, Lt Col John Silcox TD has retired from the CCF. John's dedication and enthusiasm will be missed by all the cadets and CCF staff. Fortunately John is still working in the school and is able to give me valuable guidance and advice.

After 25 years as the CCF SSI WO1 Dougie Duthie (late SG) retired from both the school and CCF. We will all miss Dougie who was an integral part of the QVS CCF. We wish Dougie and his wife Helen all the best in their retirement.

After 6 years in the RAF Section Fl Off Gail Johnston has moved down south to take up a promoted post at her new school. We wish Gail the best of luck as Principal Teacher Geography. I am sure she will soon be helping with the cadets at her new school and we will probably meet up at one of the RAF camps in the future.

A special thanks to House Assistant Lachlan Chilwell who helped out the Army Section and the shooting team during his year at QV. Lachlan returned to Australia at Christmas. I am sure Lachlan had a bonzer time here at QV.

QVS CCF STAFF

Contingent Commander: Cdr Tom Shannon RD RNR.
 Senior School Instructor: WO1 David Stacey MBE.
 Officer Commanding Royal Naval Section: Sub Lt Caroline McBlain RNR.
 Royal Naval Section: Sub Lt Vicky Low RNR.
 Officer Commanding Army Section: Capt Paddy Hiddleston.
 Army Section: Lt Bob Wright.
 Army Section: Capt Bill Kilmartin Shooting Officer.
 Officer Commanding Royal Airforce Section: Flt Lt David Gilhooly.

We are recruiting now! Two positions in the RAF Section available

Easter Break 2009 ACTIVITIES

CCF CADETS

Royal Navy

Sports Course: Sujay Lama, Cameron Hunter, David Drew. Adventure Training: Leah Brummitt, Rebecca Rew.

Royal Air Force

Cyprus Camp: Samantha Leishman, Lorna Reith, Callum Frazer.

CCF STAFF

Royal Navy

Sub Lt Caroline McBlain: Trail Cycle Leader Training /Assessment.
 Sub Lt Vicky Low: Trail Cycle Leader Training /Assessment.

Congratulations to both Caroline and Vicky who passed the Trail Cycle Leader Assessment.

CCF SKI Team

The British Army Ski Championships were held in Aviemore this year. Queen Victoria School Combined Cadet Force was represented for the first time in the cadet competition held on Saturday. Team Captain Owen Hunter RAF Section, Robert Williams and Amie Williams Army Section and Cameron Hunter RN Section

Last years leavers

From last years leavers James Burch Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the RN Section is now studying at Aberdeen University and has joined the Aberdeen University Royal Naval Unit AURNU. Steven Mallet Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the RN Section, from the RAF Section and from the Army Section are all studying in Glasgow and have all joined the Glasgow and Strathclyde University Officer Training Corps G&SOTC where they are all involved with Pipes and Drums. James McDonald Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the RAF Section is going to university this year and is joining the University Air Squadron UAS

CCF Future Highlights

Next session we have our Biannual Inspection on Wednesday 30th September. Group Captain John Lawlor BA BArch RAF Chief of Staff Air Cadets will be the Inspecting Officer.

In February 2010 we are returning to Bavaria for another ski camp.

In July 2010 the contingent is planning a joint services camp to Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.



Tom Shannon and the Head.

RAF Section FI Off Gail Johnston being awarded the certificate of meritorious service for her commitment to Adventure Training in the CCF.

Tom Shannon RNR, pictured with Mrs Bellars, receiving a Cadet Force Clasp which he has earned for long and meritorious service to the Cadet Force.

After 6 years in the RAF Section FI Off Gail Johnston has moved down south to take up a promoted post at Worksoop College. We wish Gail the best of luck as Principal Teacher of Geography. I'm sure she will soon be helping with the cadets at her new school and we will probably meet up at one of the RAF camps in the future.



Rea McGown – Top Student, Officer Insight Course Army



Work Experience Visit to 1 CS BN REME

During a recent telephone call with my son, Cameron, he asked if it would be possible to 'take him on' for a week's work experience as he had expressed an interest in joining the Corps, I was more than happy to oblige.

Having sought permission and indeed full support from the Battalion, the admin pieces of the jigsaw were put together and having given Cameron a tentative 'thumbs up' the one interested party had now grown to five to include; Tom Rainey, Jamie Meiklejohn, Joshua Brown and James Fleming.

Day one essentially consisted of picking the boys up from school in Dunblane, getting them to Catterick and into accommodation. Before I could even establish some admin points for the journey and ensure the boys had all the correct kit, there was a request of 'can we stop at a McDonalds on the way? Having arrived safely in Catterick the boys received a safety brief and sampled the delights of 'pay as you dine' which was given an all round thumbs up.

Day two was spent with the Rec Mechs and Fwd A Pl of 4 Close Support Coy, under the watchful eye of Sgt Lewis and Cpl Sheen. In the morning there was an introduction to some of the equipment used by REME tradesmen including Warrior 512 and CRARRV. In the afternoon the boys deployed onto the training area with Cpl Sheen and his crew to carry out various recovery tasks. It was a chilly October day and the lads were introduced to a key component of the Foden recovery vehicle...the BV! Yes, the lads worked hard, in particular on the first job of winching a 432 from a bog and they never even lost a shackle pin! Then it was back to camp for some well earned food and the night was finished off with a game of ten pin bowling.

Day three began with a tour around the remainder of the battalion where the boys were shown various equipment including DROPS,

CVRT, Sultan, finishing off with a tour of the Armoury. After that it was on to the Infantry Training Centre, hosted by WO2 (CSM) Falconer, Scots Div Trg Coy, to watch recruits being put through their paces on the bayonet lane. The group then moved to Marne Barracks and had a go at clay pigeon shooting and produced some very respectable scores, after some lunch it was time for a visit to Richmond swimming pool for a sports afternoon.

Day four began in the gym under the wing of Ssgt Thompson who put the lads through their paces with a personal fitness test (PFT) consisting of two minutes of press ups followed by two minutes of sit ups and then a mile and a half run, there was fair amount of banter prior to the test, but all the press ups and sit ups were completed, it all got a bit quieter. Cameron's old dad was there proving he wasn't just around to make up the numbers! As we moved outside the gym to carry out the run, the horizontal hailstones were not exactly conducive to a good time! However, all completed the test commendably with Jamie Meiklejohn completing the run in a very respectable nine minutes and five seconds.

After the PFT the boys spent the rest of the day in the Metalsmith Section where they were given a brief on the equipment and capabilities of the section by Cpl Gibson and Lcpl O'Grady, followed by some arc and gas welding. The rest of the afternoon was spent with the boys constructing two brass decorative roses, of which the ownership is still being debated at school!

Day five consisted of packing up, clearing out of the accommodation before the journey back to Dunblane. The mission was to give an informative and enjoyable insight in to life in the Army and in particular REME, the feedback we will see one or two of them in the ranks in the not too distant future.

J Quinn



QVS Merchandise And Gifts

Price List

School Tie (1) £8.00
 School Sweatshirt * (2) £15.00
 *Available in Blue or Green. Sizes: XXL,XL,L,M,S,XS in Navy – XL,L,M in Green - Please check for availability

‘Remembering the Past – Looking to the Future’ – (3)
 Published in 2008 by Dr Tom May PHD,
 to celebrate the School’s Centenary. £19.95

School Stable Belt (4) £9.95
 QVS Dunoon China Mugs * (5) £3.50
 *Purchase a box of 6 for discount price of £18.00
 School Plaque (6) £19.50

Other Items Available (7):
 QVS Calculator £2.50
 QVS Pen (Blue) £2.50

QVS Pen (Red) £2.00
 QVS Bookmark £1.00
 QVS Pencil Case £3.00

Boy Card (8) 5 for £2.00
 QVS Postcards (8) 5 for £1.00

Victorian Magazine 2009 £7.50
 Victorian back issues also available £3.00

Please note prices do not include Postage and Packaging

All Items are subject to availability and can be purchased from HRBP Office, Queen Victoria School on 0131 310 2967 or via email at Bruce.Gauld@qvs.org.uk

All profits from merchandise sales are used for the benefit of QVS Pupils

The Centenary...and beyond...

A warm welcome from the new faces of the Old Victorian's Association! As the school approaches its 13th year of girls being in attendance, it seemed appropriate that it was about time there were some 'old girls' on the OVA committee. Victoria (Secretary) and I (President) were two of the first forty-one girls who started in August of 1996 as 3rd and 5th year students respectively.

2008 was a busy year for both the school and the OVA with several events taking place throughout the year, including Grand day, the Military tattoo, and the centenary ball and parade weekend. I was pleased to see many of you there, and would personally like to extend a huge thank-you to everyone who attended and supported any of the events. Other events included, Victoria and I giving a talk to the S5 and S6 pupils on gap years, university life and careers in The Royal air Force and within the NHS sector. At this years OVA weekend, Captain Richard Givens who took the salute on Parade Sunday, also spoke to the senior pupils about his experiences after QVS at university and within the army. This is something that we and the students both felt was beneficial, and we hope to continue this with other Old Victorians who may wish to share their 'life after QVS' wisdom.

The OVA committee are in the process of dabbling with the idea of moving OVA weekend from its usual slot of the 2nd weekend in March to later in the year and potentially tie it in with Remembrance weekend. Any thoughts you have on the matter would be greatly appreciated as it is our goal to try to accommodate as many Old Victorians as possible. Grand Day 2009 will also be the official 100th Grand Day of QVS, so do come along, bring your families, and be a part of the day.

Finally, we would like to wish the students who are raising funds and planning their trip to Malawi the best of luck. The OVA will be proud to donate the equivalent raised in sponsorship money up to a value of £1000.

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying 2009 and I look forward to see many of you throughout the year.

With best wishes,

Laura Donald, OVA President

Class of 1968

A bubbly group from the sparkling vintage of 1968, reunited at the Centenary and on familiar turf after 40 years. Now respectable and respected after honourable and diverse careers – including RAF officers, soldiers, IT specialists, teachers, publisher, librarian, police officer, Boeing 747 pilots, world-class electrical engineer and consultant neuropsychologist. It's time to reminisce and reflect on by-gone days in that place which had a big impact on all their lives. In the line-up and easily recognised after 40 years are (front) Duncan McInnes, Gordon Slater, (back) John Sharp, Roc McDougall, Stuart Leitch, Bill McKerron, Hamish Grigor, John Moore, Michael Long and Jack Lee. Missing but well-remembered are Jeffrey Wood, John Willmot, Graham Fox, Colin Lannen and David Fingland. The next reunion is planned for Grand Day 2010, to celebrate being 60 years old, blessed with good health and, so-far, sound of mind.



Class of 1968.



Old Victorians Association

www.oldvictorians.org
Email: webmaster@oldvictoria.org

President: Laura Donald (4521)
Secretary: Victoria Harris (4534)
Treasurer: Denis Owens (2643)
Events Organiser: Iain McKellan



‘In Good Company’ Waterloo Company – Op Telci 12, Iraq

Major Callum Lane and Capt Richard Givens, both Old Victorians and Officers in The Highlanders, recently returned from a six month operational tour of Iraq. Both served in Waterloo Company, helping mentor the Iraqi Army (IA) in planning and operating in Basra, ultimately providing protection for the people of Basra. Operation Telic (British Operational name for British troops in Iraq) is now in its sixth year. The British presence and role in Iraq has transformed since we entered in 2003 and Op Telic 12 marked a serious change in the British Army's focus. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have been successful since the British Army made the transition to its mentoring phase and there has been a marked decline in militia and criminal activity in Basra. This has allowed the British Army to start withdrawing troops from Iraq due to the success of the ISF. Callum and Richard played their part in the transition of power to the Iraqi Security Forces as they were intimately involved in monitoring and mentoring the Iraqi Army. They both formed part of the British Army's Military Transition Teams (MiTTs) who live with, work and advise the IA on a daily basis.

Callum attended Queen Victoria in the 1980s and in his final year, 1988, he was the Senior Monitor. Having graduated from university Callum commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The Queens Own Highlanders. Callum's final year at QVS was Richard's first. Richard attended the school till 1997. A keen sportsman Richard represented the school and district at rugby at all ages levels. He left and went on to read Business Studies at Napier University. Richard joined the Army in 2003, and commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. After two years service he served as a Platoon Commander in Al Amarah, Maysan Province Iraq. This is Richard's second tour of Iraq, but his first of Basra.

Both men serve with The 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS), based in Fallingbommel Germany. Callum originally commissioned into the QO HLDRS but in 1994 they amalgamated with the Gordon Highlanders, to become the 1st Bn The Highlanders. Richard commissioned into The Highlanders in

2003 and it was not until the Army reviewed the manning of the British Army that The Highlanders became the 4th Bn of the Royal Regiment of Scotland (RRS). Both men have served with 4 SCOTS in Germany for the last year and form part of the Regiment's armoured element.

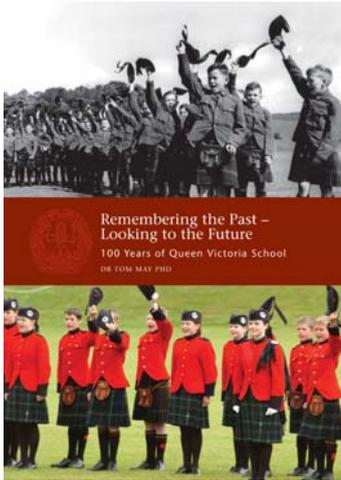
Richard returned to the Battalion after spending eighteen months training infantry recruits at the Infantry's Training Centre in Catterick. He was posted back to 4 SCOTS where he assumed the position of Company Second-in-Command, to Callum who was the Company Commander.

Waterloo Company is an amalgamation between two separate Companies from different Regiments, 4 SCOTS and the SCOTS DG, Scotland's Cavalry.

They were formed to perform in the role of an Iraqi Army Military Transition Team (MiTT) after a short period of training on new military vehicles, new weapon systems and practicing skills they deployed to help the Iraqi Army.

The role was interesting but at times intensely frustrating. However, both worked hard to improve the Iraqi Army and the Waterloo Company's name was reputed as one of the best in 7 Armoured Brigade. The success of 7 Armoured Brigade's tour has led to the reduction of British forces in Basra, and since Callum and Richard returned from Op Telic 12 in December 2008 it has been announced that the next tour will be the last before US Forces take over control of Basra and the south of Iraq. Richard said, "Mentoring and training the Iraqi Officers was rewarding and I am confident that they have improved in the short period we have been embedded. Tasks included mentoring their operational planning, briefing and enabling operations with advice".

Richards Givens OVA



Remembering The Past – Looking to the Future

100 years of Queen Victoria School Book review

Recording the story of a famous Scottish Boarding School's first hundred years is a formidable undertaking. Tom May has produced a cleverly balanced account in a book studded with facts as hard as an iron fist yet softened with a velvet glove of human recollections about Queen Victoria School.

How surprising to learn that the original idea for such a school was linked to a paucity of Scottish recruits for the bands of Scottish regiments. The death of Queen Victoria galvanized the military and the public into action to raise funds for a school to be both a memorial to the late Queen, and a national monument to the Scottish sailors and soldiers who died in the South African War. The money was raised, and the school was built a mile north of the city of Dunblane, opened by King Edward VII in 1908; Queen Victoria School had life breathed into it when the first boys arrived in 1909.

For its first 50 years, life at the school had a marked emphasis on the military, and readers of this book might easily conclude that the boys were not so much boarders in a conventional educational establishment but were like soldiers in a bugle regulated barracks. Further reading gently suggests that education is not exclusive to classroom learning and that the trade skills acquired along with the discipline expected were reflected in a self confidence and a standard of behaviour that would be universally welcomed today. The corporal punishment was no different to that in other schools of the day, but on the rare occasion of an expulsion there was nothing conventional about the method employed at Queen Victoria School. Scarcely credible, yet perfectly true, since it was recalled by former pupils present at the time: the school drive was lined with boys as the

expelled pupil walked the 100 yards out of the school gate to a premature civilian life. The dramatic effect was heightened by the beat of a drum covered in black cloth. It seems as if only the tumbrel and guillotine were missing. Happily, that practice was discontinued in 1943, while corporal punishment was abolished in 1968 and boxing in 1980.

The next 50 years saw two hugely important changes in the running of the school. The first was the replacement of Army teachers by civilians, which changed the company based system to a civilian school house system. Second was the introduction of girls in 1996. Out went the Company Commanders and the Company Sergeant Majors and in came the housemasters, housemistresses, housematrons and housekeepers. Some uniformed staff were required for drill, piping and drumming, so retaining some of the military features that characterise the school.

This beautifully presented book contains many interesting photographs which illustrate the variety of pupils' activities as well as recording some of the royal and other distinguished visitors over the years. Certainly, the book has remembered the past and will undoubtedly evoke memories for pupils and staff and their families, and for those who have visited this very Scottish school. In looking to the future, there is hope that Queen Victoria School will continue and develop for another hundred years. Whoever writes the history of those years will do no better than beginning the task by reading what has been written by Tom May.

J Quinn



Queen Victoria School Staff.

Staff List

Senior Management Team:

Head W A Bellars MA(Hons) DipEd MA(Ed Man) PGCE
Senior Deputy Head C Philson BA(Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head (P & G) G D M Carroll BA DCE PGCG
Deputy Head (PS) C A Phipps BA(Hons) PGCE PGCG
School Business Manager S B Dougan

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Cunningham M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
Haig C J Harrison BA(Hons)
Trenchard S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE
Wavell E M MacDonald MUKA Cert PP in BE

Principal Teachers:

G J Beattie MA Med PGCE PGC in SFL PGD in SFL
D V Breingan DRSAM DipEd
G T Buchanan MA(Hons) ALCM
D Garden BSc(Hons) MPhil DipEd
D Gilhooly BA(Hons) DipEd
T King BEd(Hons) PGCE PGCG ATQ Primary DRSAM PGRNCM
A M Kirk MA(Hons) DipEdTech PGCE
J S Laing DipTechEdn
J S Lawrence BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE
D McLay BEd(Hons) (Exchange Sabbatical)
J F Scott BEd(Hons) (Acting PT)
D Shaw BSc(Hons) PGCE
A Thomson MA PGCE
R C Wright BA PGCE

Teaching Staff:

J Adams MA(Hons) PGCE
E Blackwood BEd
D M Boyce BSc(Hons) PGDE
J E Coates BA(Hons) MLitt DipEd PGCE
A M Downey BA(Hons) PGDE
M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
L G Edwards CertEd Cert PP in BE
C J Harrison BA(Hons)
S C B Johns DipEd
V M B Low BEd(Hons)
C McBlain BSc DipEd
J M W Metzeling BEd (Exchange Teacher)
A V Phillips BSc(Hons) PGDE
J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE
S K Ronald BSc PGCE
T McP Shannon DipTechEdn HND EngMech RD
J R Silcox BD CertPS Cert PP in BE DipPhilEd CF TD
(School Chaplain)
C-A Taylor BSc(Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGCE in SFL
L N Thornton Dip Art & Design PGCE
M G Walker MA(Hons) PGCE

Uniformed Staff:

School Sergeant Major D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)
Pipe Major G R Ross Diploma in Piping (late Gordon Highlanders)

Drum Major H W G Tomkins Cert PP in BE
(late Gordon Highlanders)
Highland Dancing Instructor E M MacDonald MUKA Cert PP in BE

Visiting Music Teachers:

G Baillie J Greer
J Bamforth I Hood
M Bryans H Rankine
A Collins G Spowart

School Librarian:

C Sheerin BA(Hons) DipLib MCLIP

House Matrons:

Cunningham M Chalmers
Haig C R Tomkins
Trenchard H A Devlin
Wavell D E Henderson

Housekeepers:

C E Cullen H L Galletly
H M Heslop K McVey
C O'Neill

Medical Centre Staff:

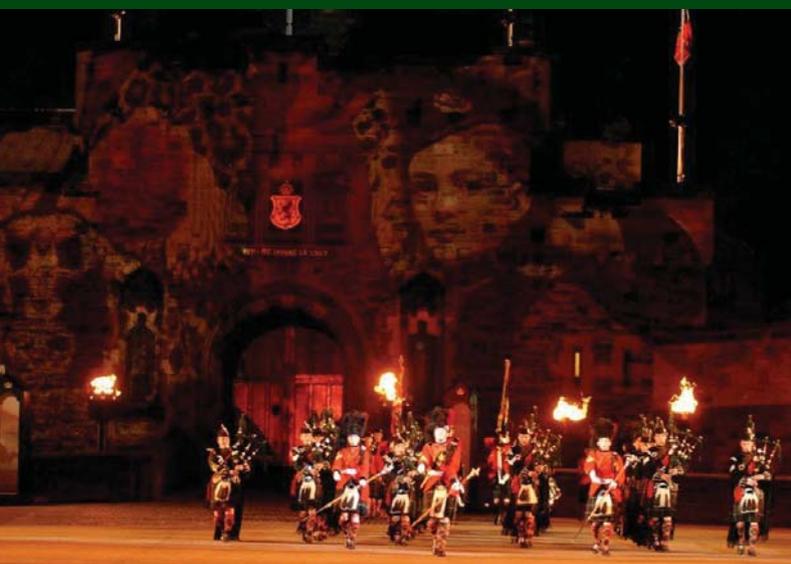
Sister M A Skeith RGN
Nurse C A Burgin RGN
Auxiliary V J Hiddleston

Development Officer:

C E Yates MA(Hons) MLitt

Business Support Staff:

HR Business Partner & Assistant Business Manager
S J Rutledge Chartered MCIPD
Estates Manager A McGregor
Finance & Administration Manager K Lawrie BA(Hons)
Deputy Estates Manager R S Allan
Deputy Finance & Administration Manager I M Mair MAAT
ICT Manager N A Penrose
ICT Information Officer M A Stephen
Head's Personal Assistant C P Rankin
Senior Deputy Head's Personal Assistant A Morea
Deputy Heads' Personal Assistant L M Craig
School Business Manager's Personal Assistant A MacFarlane
Business Support Officer A B Gauld BA(Hons)
HR Officer C C McArthur
Accounts & Administration Officer M Symon
Purchasing & Administration Officer E Bisson
Estates Administrative Support Officer T Laird
Administrative Support & Reprographics Assistant Y Cockburn
Laboratory Technician (3) D P Carrington-Porter HNC MIScT
Storekeeper (Clothing) M-A Fleming
Storekeeper (Accommodation Stores) M Roy
Storekeeper W Stockman
Storekeeper (PE Dept) P A Warner
Leading Hand R G MacDougall
General Hand A MacDonald
General Hand G R McConnell
General Hand B Kaney
Civilian Security Officer (4) F B M Wernicki
Civilian Security Officer (5) R Hiddleston
Civilian Security Officer (5) R Davies
Civilian Security Officer (5) G P MacGuire
Civilian Security Officer (5) P Ralston



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