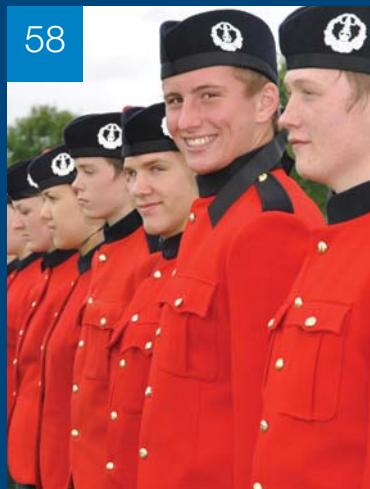




The Victorian 2010

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL





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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

As I write this piece, it is late April. Because of the long winter that we have had, with snow lying uninterrupted for several weeks at a time and persistently sub-zero temperatures, the buds, shoots and leaves on the trees around our lovely grounds are only just beginning to develop. As a dog-walker, I am very aware of the changes that take place so quickly around this time of year, and it is always about now that I am reminded of why I so much enjoy working with young people. Seeing the buds, and how quickly and unstoppably they develop, fills me with a sense of their immense POTENTIAL – which is exactly what attracts me to working with children and young adults.

Barring a major disaster, the buds we see now will go on to shoot and sprout and grow and develop and mature: there will be no stopping them. And so it is with our young people.

That “unstoppable” quality to their development should remind us all of how important it is to do everything we can for the pupils at QVS: they are going to grow up whether we like it or not, and our responsibility is to try to ensure that they do so in the best possible ways.

For better or for worse, my background in literature makes me see metaphors in many places, and makes me inclined to try to work them through. So the multitude of shoots makes me think of the thousands of pupils working their way through the school system at the moment; the fact that some trees are further developed than others reminds me of the children of different ages in the one school; and last season’s leaves, still on the ground, gradually mulching into the soil, suggest to me those who have left the School but still influence its development.

It’s not just Old Victorians who contribute to the continuing growth of the School, of course, but this year has seen a particularly notable set of donations promised to QVS by the Old Victorians’ Association (OVA). Amongst other ventures that the OVA has promised to support financially this summer are a much-needed sports equipment store; the development of a small kitchen for pupils’ use in Trenchard House; more outdoor furniture for the pupils to enjoy around the grounds; and an annual contribution to the Welfare Fund which helps the School to support those families who find it difficult to meet the Parental Contribution requirement. The current OVA committee has worked

hard to try to bring the Association into a format that its members will appreciate and enjoy. As they go their separate ways, I thank them for what they have done and would reiterate the School’s appreciation of the contributions – of all sorts – that OVs make when they are positive about the School. It has been a pleasure to welcome OVs of various ages throughout this year, some returning after many years away.

2010 also brings our Chapel centenary, the Chapel itself having been built – like the rest of the original School buildings – through the donations of those who believed that a stable, fully boarding education was important for the children of Armed Forces personnel.

When the School itself celebrated its Centenary back in 2008 we looked back on the past with gratitude and to the future with confidence. So it is also with the Chapel, which is in some ways the very heart of the School. Over one hundred years it has been a place of collective worship, of quiet reflection, of special celebration, for generations of pupils and of staff. Former pupils as well as staff have used the Chapel for special occasions in their lives – weddings, baptisms and funerals. It is where the School’s old Colours are laid up – four pairs nowadays – and still brings every pupil together with the Senior Staff of the School on six mornings out of every seven during term times.

A Chapel is of course not just a building – beautiful although it may be and invested with the special aura of a place used over many years for activities and reflections which touch the innermost parts of our being. A large part of the success of the Chapel at any time comes from the role played by the Chaplain. We have been fortunate indeed to have benefited over almost 26 years from the quiet devotion, commitment, determination and faith of our current Chaplain, the Reverend John Silcox. A man of considerable learning, which he wears with quiet modesty, and with a background in the Territorial Army as well as in teaching, John has not only led the worship of the School and taught classes in RME (Religious and Moral Education) and Higher Philosophy, he has been a source of advice, comfort and support for pupils, staff and parents in ways that have not drawn attention to themselves but are none the less valued for that. More is written about John, who retires at the end of August 2010, elsewhere in this edition of *The Victorian*.



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

A contribution such as John's, made over many years and immensely valuable, enriches the soil in which the School has its roots, and contributes to its strength for years to come.

It is not just our pupils who grow and develop over the years, I'm pleased to say: staff, too, go on learning long after their own pupil days are over. QVS is happy to encourage and to support that, and so it is with admiration that I record both the Malawi Expedition of Summer 2009, led by Miss Vicky Low from the Primary Department, and the achievement after three years of very hard work and study, by Mr David Gilhooly, Principal Teacher of Art, of the Scottish Qualification for Headship. The latter is a demanding course of study and practical work, with a fall-out rate during the course which can be over 50%. It is not for the faint-hearted! It is of particular note that Mr Gilhooly achieved his SQH without the support of working within a Local Authority, and I am sure that you all join with me in congratulating him on his success.

The pupils, too, have enjoyed another year of striving, achieving – and sometimes failing and learning how to come back stronger and try again. Both our traditional small size as a School and this winter's remarkable quantities of snowfall (in enduringly low temperatures) have conspired against a full and satisfying season of rugby and hockey, but the return of Mr Duncan McLay from his year-long exchange in Australia has done much to boost the spirits of the PE and Games Department.

Academically, Standard Grade results last summer were outstandingly good, and the Higher results reasonable although rather disappointing. We have been focusing on protecting teaching time for exam candidates this year and hope that that will have helped as they work for 2010's diet of public examinations. A considerable number of pupils have been offered university and

college places once again this year.

An exhibition of pieces created by exam candidates in the Technology Department was a welcome innovation late last academic year, and it was wonderful to see the quality of the items that had been made, and to appreciate the thought and care that had gone into them.

The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers continue to delight audiences at home and abroad, taking part in Tattoos in Switzerland and in Holland this year, as well as dancing as part of a larger contingent at Murrayfield before the Calcutta Cup match.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) has had a busy year including camps in the summer and Easter holidays and its Biennial Review, the outcome of which was deservedly excellent. This year we also have a number of pupils completing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards – a tremendous achievement for school-age pupils and due in no small part to the enthusiasm of Mr Tom Shannon who runs Outdoor Education here.

The highlight of the year for many of us however has been the refurbishment of the Theatre. After six months of "darkness" the Theatre was reopened in all its splendour in January 2010. The retractable tiered seating, the semi-sprung floor, the new radiators and blinds, the flexible stage space and the first-rate audio-visual equipment make this an immensely valuable addition to the School's provision for its pupils. All of this was made possible by the donations of those who believe that QVS is worth supporting practically as well as in spirit. THANK YOU to all of you who helped us towards our goal. I hope that as many of you as possible will have a chance to experience the transformed Theatre, in 2010 and for many years to come.

W Bellars, Head

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

Trust Fund Awards – 2010

The NMMTF was set up by Jack Mainwaring MacNeil, in memory of his father Norman MacLeod MacNeil [1898-1952], boy drummer pupil at Queen Victoria School from December 1909, leaving in July 1912. The purpose of the Trust is to develop the qualities of leadership, self-confidence and self-esteem in selected pupils of the School by the payment of grants to enable them to participate in such physically demanding or cultural activities as decided by the Trustees.

Norman, the youngest son of Sergeant Major James MacNeil of the Cameron Highlanders, joined QVS as a pupil in 1909. Departing for Canada in 1912, at the age of 14, he worked in various logging mills before responding to the 1914 WWI call up, joining the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, located in Vancouver. At the young age of 17 he was on the front lines seeing action at Vimy and the Somme.

In 1927, after the War, he returned to Canada, then married and had children. Returning with his family to Vancouver in 1931, he purchased a small piece of waterfront property on which the family home was erected. During the latter part of WWII he joined the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers whose purpose was to help protect the West Coast of British Columbia against any potential attack.

Norman was an excellent amateur photographer and he had 11 pictures published in a May 1948 National Geographic article of the sailing ship PAMIR. He gained public recognition in 1938 when the Post Office Department used one of his prints for the 50-cent postage stamp. He also enjoyed reading and writing poetry for local papers.

In this last year, the NMMTF provided grants totalling more than £1,600 to support the following pupils' activities:

Iona Baird	Gap Year, Australia
Kate Graham	Highland Dancing Teaching Exam
Jamie Irving	Highland Dancing Teaching Exam
Samantha Maloney	Highland Dancing Teaching Exam
Robert Williams	Drum tutor, Gap Year, Australia
Amie Williams	Highland Dancing Teaching Exam

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

Remember, The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to be used – give it some thought and if you want to know more speak to a

Extracts from Pupils' reports on activities supported by a NMMTF Award

This camp has given me more experience in leadership and more confidence in meeting new people... I appreciate all the help The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund has given me.
Samantha Leishman

The expedition has been the best experience I've ever had and I am so happy I was given the opportunity to go.
Hazel Stanfield

This expedition has been truly eye opening and life changing for me. It has given me more confidence in coping with strange situations and I would like to thank the Trustees for granting me the funds so I was able to go on such a trip.
Luke Angus

I'm so glad I was able to go to the camp as I thoroughly enjoyed it. It wouldn't have been possible, though, without the help from the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund so they have a big thank you from me.
Lorna Reith



member of your House Team or check out 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 provided along with the application. This significantly helps the decision-making process and the more detail provided in support of the application, the better. The Trustees are also keen to ensure that any grants fit well within the overall purpose of the Fund, which is to support pupils who wish to advance their education, leadership and self-esteem, help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills.

The annual deadline for submission of applications is the close of the calendar year. If you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and to seek advice.

S Rutledge, QVS HRBP/Assistant Business Manager



Dorothy Henderson

It is always sad to have to say goodbye to a popular and hard-working colleague, but how much harder it is in your case, when you have built up such a close and caring relationship with the staff and – above all – the girls in Wavell House over more than 9 years.

Your kindness, your care and concern and your flexibility have all been much appreciated by the Housemistress, the girls and all of us who have become aware of your key role in Wavell. You are one of the few people in this world who exemplifies the ideal of “going the extra mile” – sometimes putting your work before your personal needs.

Young people will always respond well to those who they realise want what is best for them – and you are one of those. Many thanks, and all good wishes for a long, happy and restful retirement.

D is for attention to Detail
 O is for Organisation and Order
 R is for Reliability
 O is for doing Over and above what is strictly necessary
 T is for good Temper
 H is for sense of Humour
 Y is for knowing when to say, “Yes” (and knowing when to say “no”!)

The Head

Ode to Dorothy

We met our good friend Dorothy in 1982,
 She arrived from Perth to QVS,
 And wondered “What shall I do?”
 With busy husband Tony and toddler Fraser in tow,
 She soon fitted in with the rest of us mums,
 And was always on the go!!

As the years passed by, and our “weans” went to school,
 She decided she’d better not shirk –
 So she took up gainful employment,
 or in other words “went out to work!”

She looked after Tony in more ways than one,
 And also his well-being, and that of their son.
 She typed and filed and answered his phone,
 By being his secretary, he was never alone.

The times they did change, and instead of the forms,
 She moved from the office and into the dorms.
 Initially the boys’ houses and then to the girls’
 Life was so busy – she really did birl!!

As you see from the photos, we all loved to dine,
 For birthdays etc., – enjoying fine wine.
 The QVS canteen was also a venue,
 With dancing a-plenty, and fun on the menu!!

As people retired, she stepped up the ladder,
 From Housemaid to Matron – much happier not sadder.
 Every Tuesday she phoned us – dead on seven-thirty!
 To tell us the damage if blouses were torn or dirty.

She will always be welcome to stores for a netter!
 The fact that she can’t drive her pram doesn’t matter!
 She never did manage to drive with due care:
 Every Tuesday like clockwork – she bashed Mary Ann’s chair!

We will miss her so much as a colleague and friend.
 And hopefully in retirement, our friendship will extend
 To visits to Callander for a wee cup of tea
 And talk of the “old times” when we worked at QV.

We wish our good friend Good Luck and Good Health,
 And hope that the lottery may bring her some wealth!!!

Penned with lots of love from your good friends in Stores.

Margaret, Mary Ann and Sandy

Eileen Blackwood



I am sure that no one would ever describe Miss Blackwood as "retiring", but it's true... Miss Blackwood is retiring early from teaching after fifteen years at Queen Victoria School and a career spanning thirty-four years.

Miss Blackwood's career as a teacher started in the mid-70s at Lochend Secondary School in Easterhouse, in Glasgow.

From there, after four years, she made a big career leap to teach in Germany in Arnsberg, Hohne

and, as Head of Modern Languages, at Cornwall School in Dortmund.

After four years as Director of Modern Languages at Soham Village College in Cambridgeshire, Miss Blackwood came to QV and must have liked it, because she has stayed here since 1995!

She has led a very sporty life: tennis, squash, badminton, netball, cycling and walking are among the sports she has played throughout her career. Miss Blackwood is a known dog-lover and Isla can look forward to more of her time in the future. She is also a long-standing member of Rosenethe Singers and in the past has sung in King's College, Cambridge as a member of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society.

In recent years, Miss Blackwood has worked tremendously hard at getting the school together to send Christmas parcels to troops in Afghanistan and to raise money for *Help for Heroes*.

I personally have had great pleasure in working closely with Miss Blackwood over the past three years following my appointment as Principal Teacher of Modern Languages: Miss Blackwood has proven herself to be an extremely professional, enthusiastic and committed teacher. She demands the highest standards of herself in terms of professionalism, but also demands similarly high standards of her pupils in terms of learning, attitude and behaviour. She has a great enthusiasm for modern languages.

I will miss working with Miss Blackwood on a day-to-day basis. During my first year at QV, she kept a watchful eye on me as I settled into the complex routines of the school. Every day, she would come to my classroom at the end of school and ask me how my day had gone. She would listen attentively, then proffer some suggestions, frequently beginning with, "You might like to think about..." or "At QV, usually we..." and I would accept her advice gladly, in the knowledge I had got something wrong (again!) and this was Miss Blackwood gently guiding me.

This guidance, ever-patient, has continued since: now when I confidently make suggestions, Miss Blackwood accepts them warmly and comes back to my classroom the next day to say, "Do you think it is a good idea to ...?" or "What were you thinking when you ...?"

It remains to be seen whether I will be able to function without Miss Blackwood's ever-seeing eye looking over my shoulder!

Along with the entire school and colleagues past and present, I wish Miss Blackwood a long, healthy and happy retirement. She has certainly earned it!

Ad multos annos!

G Buchanan, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages

John Silcox As I Knew and Know Him

A very good School Chaplain! A fine school master! A most loyal friend! These are but pallid plaudits compared with my enormous appreciation for all John did when I was at QVS all those years ago. I vividly remember the first time I met him: we were interviewing candidates for appointment as school chaplain. Four were interviewed first – all in shirts and a few colourful ties. John came in wearing a dog collar – that impressed me; and I could not possibly say I was over-influenced by the fact we were in need of someone to run rifle shooting!

Nevertheless, in his secondary role as Master i/c shooting, he did so much for boys, culminating in their taking part at Bisley. Yet another contribution was his work within the CCF, first in charge of the Army Section, then later as Contingent Commander. He was an excellent officer and colleague at so many CCF camps in the UK and abroad.

His work as School Chaplain was totally dedicated. He taught and encouraged Religious Education across the school. He never forced

religion on the boys, but their respect for him was high. I will always remember his Wavell talks on Sunday mornings, particularly as to the derivation of denim trousers being called Jeans! He charmingly encouraged me to take Chapel once a week and preach once a term! As Chaplain, his pastoral care was everywhere, not just to the boys, but to their parents, the staff and their families. I remember how well he set up arrangements for boys and parents when war overseas occurred.

John never stinted himself. He was loyal, dedicated and humane. A role model for boys and staff. A kind host, a good family man, with the best behaved German Shepherd dogs that ever padded the earth. John, I will always be grateful to you. You were and are a gentlemanly man of the cloth.

Julian Hankinson, Former Headteacher

John Silcox



John Silcox came to Queen Victoria School in September 1984 as Chaplain from his position as Minister at Blantyre Old Parish Church. His early education was at Dalry High School in Ayrshire and, thereafter, Glasgow University.

Although he is a man of many parts, as I will try to illustrate, his main role has been as Chaplain and teacher of Religious Studies. In the former he has overseen the development of the QV Chapel both for morning

assemblies and Sunday services in order to ensure that there is a very good combination of the traditional and the modern. His early familiarity with IT, aligned to his own ability in this respect, has ensured that assemblies and Chapel services are always fresh, interesting and able to engage pupils of all ages, staff and parents. John's ability to address the younger pupils, with the use of appropriate props, followed by a short sermon showed just how much preparation and research was involved in this one area of his professional life at QVS. He is, certainly, one of the most interesting Chaplains I have encountered in my career and it is a testament to his skill that he was able to capture not only my wife's attention and imagination but also all of the Inspecting Officers who attended Parade Services in my time, none more so than Captain Walker, who was Captain of the submarine base at Faslane, when John's address was based on Walker RN, his grandfather. It was always interesting to hear what new angle John had found for his address for the Remembrance Service all of which, for what is never an easy sermon, were memorable.

John's classroom teaching was always well organised with workbooks and differentiated material and, again, in a subject for which pupils do not always see a clear rationale and there are no exams for which to aim, he tried to make it as interesting as possible. John's academic ability has never been in question, illustrated by his willingness to do a Diploma in Philosophy and introduce this subject as an additional Higher. An eclectic mixture of students was attracted to this new subject and his teaching of it, but in 2002 one of his pupils, Emma King, won the Philosophy prize for the best Advanced Higher in Scotland.

John's Post Graduate Certificate in Education was in Pastoral Studies and he used this to very good effect as a House Tutor in Wavell House, which at that stage was P6/P7 boys and, thereafter, for a lengthy spell in Haig. His friendliness, reliability, close attention to the task in hand and dedication to the pupils have always been evident in this area of his professional life at QVS and it was no surprise that John was one of the first at QVS and within the Scottish Council of Independent Schools successfully to complete the Roehampton University's Certificate of Professional Practice in Boarding Education in 2002.

One of the other areas that has played a major part of John's life is the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). His interest started prior to arriving at QVS with him taking a Territorial Army Commission in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1979. At QVS he started assisting with the CCF, in 1987 took over the Army section and became

Contingent Commander in 1994. Allied to this has been his management of the shooting range which again he has run professionally throughout his period at QVS. His own skill in this area – John represented Scotland at the European German championships in 1990, was Scotland's Team Manager in Northern Ireland in 1991 and won the Alexandra Trophy at Bisley in 1992 – ensured that the pupils had nothing but the very best of personal tuition. John's work on the CCF front, until he handed over the baton in 2008, was immense. My mind shudders when I think back to all the paperwork and organisation that were necessary just to have a CCF Field Day or an Inspecting Officer's visit. HMIE inspections almost – almost – pale into insignificance by comparison! In recognition for his work in the CCF, John was awarded the Commander in Chief's (Land) Certificate for Meritorious Service in the 2008 New Year's Honours list.

Despite all of the above, John carried out, in addition, what many would see as a thankless task but people such as myself and many others, including hundreds of children saw as a most essential and important role – running the stationery store. Again his sheer professionalism, attention to detail and excellent organisation ensured that this not only ran well but, as teachers would testify, nothing was too much trouble and, if it was to be found, John would source whatever was required. This area of the school has been a most important pit stop and somewhere where the pupils could meet and chat with the Chaplain in the most informal of situations but walk away satisfied and feeling valued.

It is also a great testament to John's Chaplaincy and the role that the School Chapel plays in the lives of pupils and staff that he has conducted so many christenings and weddings of both Old Victorians and members of staff's children. There have been many happy occasions. It is also a very sad fact of life that he has been involved in a number of funerals both at QVS and in other Churches. His compassion, essential humanity and caring approach have always been evident in the latter, none more so than the funeral of Jamie Graham.

Those who have attended Sunday Chapel over the years or who have been in the school well before term starts will know that John also has a very able assistant: his wife, Lynda. The old cliché holds true and from the start they have been a solid partnership in the life of the school with Lynda also helping Sister Jean Wharton to run the Scripture Union class. Our thanks are due to Lynda for all her work on behalf of the school and in looking after John so well that he has been able to carry out all of his roles so well to the benefit of all the Victorians, staff and their respective families who have had the privilege to know John in the last thirty-six years. Inevitably John will be replaced but he will be a very hard act to follow and I am certain that there will be none to follow who will be able to do the wide range of jobs carried out so efficiently and successfully by John. He is the archetype of a breed of boarding school master for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration and which, I hope, is not a dying breed because, therein, lies the reason why such schools are still so sought after and why those such as John Silcox will be remembered, respected and admired long after he has retired.

I am sure I speak for all Old Victorians, their families and staff when I wish John and Lynda a very long and happy retirement.

Brian Raine, Former Headmaster

John Silcox

In 2008 John was awarded the Commander-in-Chief (Land)'s Certificate of Meritorious Conduct. What follows is an extract from what I wrote about him at that time.

Lieutenant Colonel John Silcox has served his fellow countrymen, and young people in particular, throughout a career encompassing military, pastoral and academic training and practice. A compassionate, learned and articulate man, he is also down-to-earth, enthusiastic and entirely committed to the well-being – physical, emotional and spiritual – of those with and for whom he works.

A Church of Scotland Minister by profession, John Silcox was commissioned into the Territorial Army in 1979 and was Regimental Chaplain to the 32nd Signal Regiment. Appointed to Queen Victoria School, Dunblane (a Ministry of Defence Boarding School for the children of Service personnel who are Scottish or who have served in Scotland) in 1984, John continued with his Territorial Army duties for a further ten years. He is an accomplished marksman, having represented Scotland and the Territorial Army, and was a Range Officer at the most recent Commonwealth Games. John has also coached pupil shots from Queen Victoria School who went on to represent Scotland against other Commonwealth countries, and until the time of the Dunblane tragedy sent an annual School shooting team to Bisley during the School's summer holidays.

On leaving the Territorial Army in 1994 with the rank of Chaplain Forces Class 3, John became Officer Commanding the Army Section of Queen Victoria School's tri-service Combined Cadet Force, in the rank of Major. He took over as CCF Contingent Commander in August 2004, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his time at the School, John has organised annual spring and summer camps throughout the United Kingdom and in Germany. His Germany-based Adventurous Training camps have become a School fixture, involving rock-climbing, abseiling and skiing amongst other pursuits. Hundreds of Queen Victoria School pupils have passed through his ranks, attending weekly training sessions as well as numerous weekend and

holiday expeditions and camps. His organisational ability and attention to detail are second to none. What motivates him, however, is developing real self-confidence in individual pupils, helping them to take on leadership roles and functions, however unlikely any candidate may seem in his or her day-to-day school life.

John has also fulfilled and exceeded his teaching, administrative and pastoral duties within the School at large. He leads the School in worship on six mornings of every week during term times. He is an advisor and support to staff in all roles within this special community, often attending to those in need of any kind in a totally unobtrusive way. His experience of the military life and his philosophical inquiry (a final paper during one of his courses of study took as its subject *The Nature of Human Aggression*) have given him particular insights into the lives of the families who send their children to the School. The Combined Cadet Force is only compulsory for pupils for two years, and in their final three years at the School they can choose whether or not to continue with it. It is a tribute to the commitment of John and his loyal, appreciative staff that very many choose to do so.

John has ensured that both pupils and staff within the Combined Cadet Force, and within the School as a whole, realise their responsibility to others, whether within the Queen Victoria School community or more widely. Under his benign and resilient guidance, staff and pupils alike have contributed to Combined CCF activities such as the annual Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle, an event which was strongly dependent on Queen Victoria School input in its early years. In less high profile but equally important ways, too, his charges have made efforts to improve the lives of those around them, and continue to do so today. Many pupils have been influenced by John's attention to and care for them. He is a fine example to adults and young people alike, a most valuable asset to community and country.

Wendy Bellars, Current Head



Staff.

David Gilhooly SQH 2007 – 2010



David Gilhooly our Principal Teacher of Art and design has this year graduated from Strathclyde University successfully completing the Scottish Qualification for Headship along with a Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership and Management. David was presented with his Standard for Headship by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning at a

ceremony in the Crown Plaza Hotel, in Glasgow, on Saturday 24th April.

"The National Continuing Professional Development framework in Scotland rewards professionalism, strengthens leadership and builds on excellence in schools. The Scottish Qualification for Headship is seen as crucial to the Scottish Government in preparing teachers for the key role of school leadership."

The Cabinet Secretary Michael Russell, MSP went on to state that "Strong inspirational leaders provide the basis of the success we seek throughout our schools. Through encouraging collegiate working, self reflection and sharing of best practice they improve pupil behaviour, staff morale, the creativity of the learning environment and enable a strong partnership with parents and the wider school community."

At a presentation made by the Head at the start of the summer term David paid tribute to his colleagues who had supported him throughout his time on the course. He stated that without their help, the support of his family and in particular support from his wife Kate, it would not have been possible to successfully meet the stringent requirements of the course. With the introduction this year of a new Continual Personal Development process for QVS teachers, David was keen to highlight the opportunities that our school provides for its entire staff.

W Bellars



Staff BBQ.



Movember

In November of 2009 many men were seen to be sporting newly grown moustaches...but why?

The month formerly known as November has been taken over and is now also known as *Movember*. *Movember* is a moustache-growing charity event which is held during November each year to raise funds for and awareness of prostate cancer. *Movember* started in Melbourne, Australia, in 2003 and was originally a challenge to “bring back the moustache!” The event progressed into a fundraising event which has proved beneficial in the work of The Prostate Cancer Charity.

The organisation aims to change attitudes held by men towards their own health; the moustache (also known as a ‘Mo’) is able to generate publicity for the cause, like a walking advertisement. Consequently awareness of men’s health issues has been enhanced, and the campaign has spread to other countries apart from Australia, such as New Zealand, USA, Canada, Spain, Ireland and of course Great Britain.

Each year Mo Bros (those sporting the Mo’s) and Mo Sistas (supporters of *Movember*) help generate publicity and money for an extremely worthwhile cause, whilst having fun at the same time. The Mo Bros start *Movember* (1st November) clean shaven and then have the rest of the month to grow and perfect their moustaches. Through their Mo each participant is encouraged to raise awareness and funds for *Movember*’s men’s health partner – The Prostate Cancer Charity. The experience that is *Movember* has continued to mature and grow, in participants and funds raised. In the first year only 30 Mo Bros took part but in 2008 more than 173,000 Mo Bros and Sistas worldwide got involved with the cause.

Last *Movember* many of the male staff at Queen Victoria School got involved with this worthwhile moustache-growing campaign – keenly supported by their female colleagues. They ditched their razors in an attempt to raise some cash and much needed awareness in matters concerning men’s health. We began the month seeing some staff members initially shave off their original moustaches, some after very long periods of time, e.g. Mr Coates and Mr Hiddleston (Paddy). It was easy to distinguish those with the ability to grow a good Mo, and those who just didn’t seem to be able to grow much facial hair. The event was not without scandal, with rumours circulating about shenanigans concerning foul play! Gossip spread that certain members of staff had started to grow their Mo’s before the allotted time span, which of course led to the strict rules being reiterated!

Here at school an added incentive for being involved in the campaign was the opportunity to be crowned ‘Champion Mo Grower’! The winners were Mr Laing and Mr O'Reilly (who was doing a placement as a student teacher of History and Modern Studies). In total those brave members of staff who joined in the competition raised just over £1000 and donated that magnificent sum of money to the Perth and Kinross Group of Prostate Cancer Support Scotland. Let’s see if this sum can be increased in 2010!

Iona Bellingham-Baird and Mr Coates

Careers Scotland

Careers Scotland is part of Skills Development Scotland. As a national organisation operating throughout Scotland, Careers Scotland delivers high quality career guidance and employability services to people of all ages. How can we help you here in school?

You might feel overwhelmed by the number of choices open to you. Every prospectus bulges with courses; newspapers advertise pages of jobs; there are numerous websites devoted to job hunting – where do you start?

That's where your Careers Adviser from Careers Scotland can help. Your Careers Adviser is Elaine Downs and she is in school on a regular basis throughout the year. Elaine can help you by:

- Advising which school subjects are most important and how subject choices can affect the range of career options open to you
- Helping you to assess your strengths and weaknesses and then provide guidance on the most suitable career options
- Helping you with your career decision if you are not sure what to do
- Providing information on possible careers, including training available and qualifications required for entry
- Providing information on college and university courses including course requirements and career progression



There are also useful resources which you can access yourself.

- The Careers Scotland website, www.careers-scotland.org.uk, has lots of information on different occupations, training options and routes into employment. There is also information on Higher and Further Education with links to university and college websites as well as information on finance, taking a gap year and voluntary work. There is also a section aimed at parents.
- In the School Library there is a whole section dedicated to careers with useful information from professional bodies/employers as well as books on topics such as writing your CV, preparing covering letters and finding gap year opportunities.

Elaine will have a 1:1 interview with you when you are in 5th and 6th years. If you would like to speak to her at any other time you can contact Mrs Sheerin or Ms Edwards to arrange an appointment. You will also see Elaine throughout your time in school during class sessions on topics such as subject choice and options on leaving school.

What you do when you leave school is up to you; no one will make the decision for you. Identifying your skills and interests as you progress through school and using the resources and help available to you will assist you in making the choice which is right for you.

Elaine Downs, Careers Advisor

Greta Weir



Let me introduce myself. Based in Perthshire, and working in schools throughout North and Central Scotland, I work for ISCO (Independent Schools Careers Organisation) which is part of the Inspiring Futures Foundation. I particularly enjoy my involvement in supporting QVS pupils from S4 onwards in their Career and Higher/Further Education planning. We usually begin with the Futurewise Profiling session in S4

when all pupils take a series of assessments which measure a range of different aptitudes and interests. This identifies strengths and preferences for pupils, and in their individual follow up interviews, future options (such as S5 subject choices, college or university courses and careers) are considered in the context of their profile.

In S5/6 I offer a drop-in clinic for pupils who have any questions about university/college options in particular and in S6 I lead an all-day 'hands-on' session for all pupils on Applications, Interview Skills and the entry process to Higher/Further Education. Some pupils are even brave enough to tackle a mock interview with me in front of their peers! I also attend events such as Parents meetings by request.

QVS pupils additionally receive regular support from Skills Development Scotland which complements what we do. Therefore, by the time they leave school, pupils should be well prepared for their next steps in life!

Greta Weir, Regional Director, ISCO
Greta.weir@isco.org.uk
www.myfuturewise.org.uk
www.inspiringfutures.org.uk

Senior Monitor

As my time at Queen Victoria School draws to a close, the opportunity to pen this article gave me cause to reflect on my progression at the school; from a rather nervous, insecure pre-teen, who quite frankly, and without fail, finished last at Primary School Sports Days, to Prefect, Senior Monitor, long standing member of the Hockey First XI, and willing participant in the myriad of sporting and outdoor activities available at the school. Without doubt, if there is one thing I learnt early in my life at the school it is never to let an opportunity pass; the incredible amount of sporting and extracurricular activities on offer is so vast, everyone is given that once in a lifetime opportunity. From working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, in my opinion one of the most rewarding challenges anyone can face, and only made possible by the hard work and humour of Mr Shannon, Bavarian CCF Ski Camps, Germany CCF camps not to mention the ever popular end of term trips to Alton Towers, I have relished the activities provided by the school, and implore the younger pupils to continue to support them.

The pace of life at the school never diminishes, and following on from our ceremonial successes last year, including memorable performances at the Edinburgh Tattoo, the Pipe Band and the Highland Dancers have again risen to the challenge of maintaining their expected high standards, whilst assimilating and training the newer drummers, pipers and dancers. Quite how Mr Ross, Mr Tomkins and Mrs McDonald manage to turn out their respective performers' year on year is testimony to their skill and reserves of patience. The flurry of Parade Sundays at the start of the term allowed the band to fine tune its performance, and also gave me the opportunity to fully display my vocal range, as I led the school out as Parade Commander for the first time. With my brother Robbie simultaneously making his debut as Drum Major, it was a very proud moment for the Williams Clan and I am sure there were a few tears of pride as my parents watched from the sidelines. A busy ceremonial year has seen performances at Murrayfield at the Scotland vs. England game and many parade Sundays.

Highland Dancing has been a major part of my life at QVS, and under the tutelage of Mrs MacDonald, I have enjoyed performances at Tattoos in Edinburgh and Basel, as well as ceremonies such as Holyrood Garden Parties, opening of the Scottish Parliament, Beating the Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and many private and school functions, not to mention a television appearance on the 'Level Up' show with Jamie Irvine. In my seven year Highland Dancing Journey Kate Graham, Samantha Maloney and Jamie Irving have been ever present and I have experienced so much with them. Having progressed through the grades, we are all looking forward to sitting our teaching exams in June.

For a school of Queen Victoria's size, it always amazes those outwith the school that we manage to field competitive teams in so many different school sports. Whilst this is down in no small part to the willingness of the pupils to get down and dirty on the school playing fields, (what else would they be doing on a cold wet Saturday morning in January), it is the drive, energy and commitment of the school staff that continually enthuse the pupils in their chosen (sometimes) sport, and for that they are owed a huge debt of gratitude. From my own perspective, the First XI hockey team have had a very successful season, largely due to Mr Harrison's motivation and coaching methods, Rea McGown's leadership on the field and the team's continuing enthusiasm and growing skill, as we often out-passed teams with greater physical attributes. The Rugby First XV has also had a



Monitors.

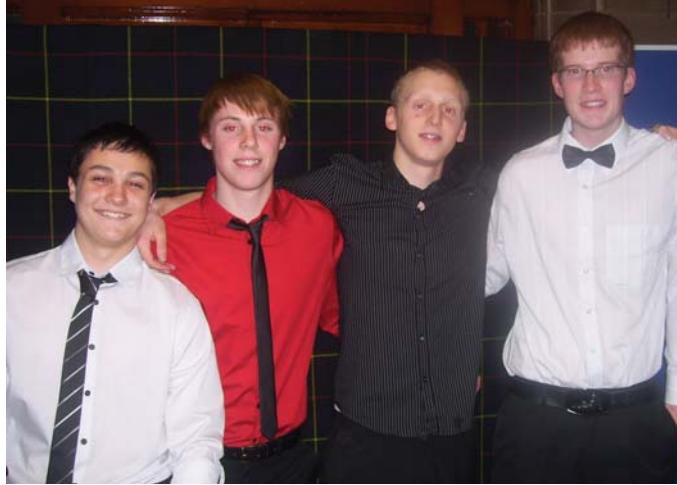
successful season and Mr McLay and Josh McCallum must be congratulated for their hard work and enthusiasm in keeping the 1st XV motivated during a tough season, which culminated in a hard fought 7-6 win against Lomond. There is no better sight on a cold winter's morning than to see the Rugby and Hockey pitches full to capacity as pupils from P7 to S6 pit their wits against the larger private schools.

The aim of this year's S6 charity drive was to vary our charities so we could "give something to everyone", and has included donations to Breast Cancer and Jeans for Genes. This was achieved by non school uniform days and discos, where a tuck shop was also on offer. All events throughout the year have been a great success, and although it never takes too much persuasion for the Wavell girls to get dressed up and host a party, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and participation.

As I came into my final year as Senior Monitor I was aware the position came with huge responsibility, not only as co-ordinator of the S6 Prefects and Monitors, but also as the interface between SMT, Teachers and Pupils, and most importantly as a role model for the younger pupils. It is a difficult role to fill, but the transition was made easier with the ongoing help of my fellow Prefect and Monitors and the support of Mrs McDonald, Miss Phillips and Mrs Adams who were always there for me, no matter the time of day or night. I should also mention the sage advice willingly provided by a number of illustrious previous SM as they provided a flow of advice via text message. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs Bellars and the SM Team for having the confidence in my ability to carry out the role, and giving me the opportunity to enhance further my confidence and leadership credentials.

The end of any relationship is difficult, whether you have spent years together or just a few months and saying goodbye is never easy in any walk of life. But say goodbye we must, and as S6 move into our last few weeks at the school I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the whole year, to thank the teachers, SMT, catering and sick bay staff, matrons and estates staff for unstinting pastoral, academic, sporting, social support they have provided us with over the last seven years. From those first tearful days spent in Trenchard under Mr Carroll's always sympathetic care, to the unbelievable job the respective House Masters do in keeping upwards of 90 teenagers in check under one roof, we may not always have shown it, but your tireless efforts are appreciated, and have undoubtedly helped forge us into the confident young adults we have become today. I am extremely proud to call myself a Victorian, am already looking forward to becoming an Old Victorian, and I fervently hope the school continues to progress, whilst maintaining the values and principles that have been evident throughout the years. I wish you all the best for the future, and if I may, give a special thank you to a recurring personality throughout this article, Mrs McDonald, my Dance Teacher, mentor and surrogate mother for the last seven years. I will miss you all.

Amie Williams





Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

Ask any of the boys and they will tell you the ‘unofficial’ motto of Cunningham is “self-discipline is the only discipline”. My definition of self-discipline is the training and control of oneself and one’s conduct, for personal improvement. I tell the boys also the beauty of a school and more so a boarding school like Queen Victoria is that they are able to develop their self-discipline in a safe, secure and forgiving community. I am a great believer that an individual must have this discipline to progress in life, but it is a journey and for many of the boys, young and old, it takes time to develop, along with constant practice. The boys are realising this and it is pleasing to see that so many are striving to achieve this goal.

The year has been jam-packed with events and the boys have stepped forward to make them all a success. The ‘Pink Day’ for breast cancer research was particularly successful, raising the profile with the boys. Antony Tickel won the regional finals of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year competition: well done. Congratulations must also go to the four boys who successfully completed the Child Minding course – I believe they have now found it extremely profitable in the holidays! The S2 Muffin Mania night was a lip-smacking success. The sponsored walk, by the whole House, was not only fun but raised a large amount of money for charity and the Kilgraston Ball and Barbecue were some of the highlights of last year.

The boys have also had many extra opportunities of socials and activities – not just because of their enthusiasm, but also thanks to a team of House Tutors who are willing to give up many hours for them. The list of Tutor outings, this year, is a small indication of this: gold tournaments, go-karting, football stadium visits, camping expeditions, cinema trips, Frankie & Bennie nights (I’m going to take out shares!), bowling, Indian & Mexican meals, ice-skating, to mention a few. May I take this opportunity to say how grateful I am that I have an excellent, understanding and flexible team who not only work for the boys, but also look after me – thank you. An extra mention must go to Mr Shannon, who was this year’s Father Christmas; he took it so seriously he even grew a white beard!

In January we said goodbye amid appreciation to our Overseas Assistants, Matt and Tom, but welcomed Hugo and Matt from Australia. It is a very steep learning curve for them, due to age and culture, but they are fantastic assets to have and the Cunningham boys appreciate everything they do – especially the sport.

Finally I come to the senior boys in the House, especially the prefects and to a couple of the boys who are leaving this summer. I wish them not only luck, but success for the future and may they use wisely the values, skills and opportunities they have learnt in their future lives.

Mr Eastham, Housemaster







Haig House.

Haig House

This year we have seen a few changes and new additions to Haig House. The arrival of Mr Porter as the new Deputy Housemaster has gone down well with the boys, especially the seniors, as he has given us new privileges such as Domino's nights. We also can't forget Poppy, another addition to the Haig family. She has been a bundle of fun!

As well as this, the boys have enjoyed many outings this year. The main one was the paintballing trip. This was great fun as we were able to hit each other for hours on end and because the House Captain ended up shooting in bare feet after losing his shoes in the mud. We would all like to thank Mr Wright for organising everything.

Finally, I would like to say well done to the boys who have achieved so much this year, from DofE to Tae Kwon-do. We would also like to thank the staff and the S5 boys for all their help this year.

Jamie Irving & Stephen Bell

My second year in Haig has been both exciting and action-packed. First, I would like to thank Mr King for all the hard work and time he gave to the House during his 18 month stay and wish him a speedy recovery after his knee operation.

Mr Porter joined Haig as my new Deputy Housemaster after the Christmas break. His presence has already had an impact on the boys. Parents and staff alike have commented that not only does the House have a better feel but also that the boys' work is getting better and standards of behaviour are improving. My House team and I are really enjoying working with Mr Porter to make Haig as good as it can be.

Although we have gained such a valuable new member of the team we are losing another key member of staff. After many years of

service as the School Chaplain Mr Silcox is retiring, I will miss his natural ability as a listener and adviser to the boys but wish him well in his retirement.

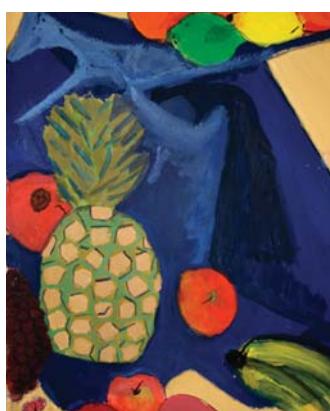
I would also like to say good bye to all of Haig's leavers, particularly my Captain and Vice Captain. Jamie Irving and Stephen Bell have carried out their duties efficiently and with good humour. They are universally liked and have successfully involved the whole House in many different activities, such as the popular paintballing trip organised by Mr Wright.

In addition to this outing, Haig boys have also enjoyed a swimming trip, Mr Porter's Domino's nights and Tutor trips to Chinese restaurants, Laser Quest and the cinema. Other extra-curricular activities that Haig boys have taken part in have included 1st XV rugby, 1st XI football, Tae Kwon-do and shooting. As well as doing well at sports, Haig boys have also participated on DofE expeditions, CCF field days and the school's ski trip.

The pipe band and dancers have included many Haig boys among their numbers and I was pleased that Haig dancers represented the school at Murrayfield and Haig band members performed well during the tour to Holland. I was also pleased that S5 Haig boys had the confidence to try out some hip hop moves at the Haig/Trenchard team-building evening organised with the Monument Dance Centre.

S5 boys have also been responsible for organising the Haig hoodies and the majority of this year group have been very good at carrying out their House Prefect duties. I am looking forward to welcoming back a strong S6 group next year and I am certain that choosing the new House Captain will be a difficult task!

Mr Harrison, Housemaster



Artwork from left to right: Danielle Cowan S4; Rachel Reed S4; Rebecca Rew S4; Lucy McNair S1.



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

As I write this article it is hard to think that I have now been Housemaster of Trenchard House for one year. I would like to think that much has changed in the House since I joined the school, both in terms of internal appearance and in general ethos. I hope that the changes have been positive, but realise that there is still much to be achieved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff in the school, but more specifically staff in the House, parents and pupils for making my wife and me (and Obi) feel so welcome into the community of QVS. It has been the most enjoyable year in my working career, since starting in boarding school education ten years ago.

The children in Trenchard House are certainly the making of it – positive, caring, humorous, friendly, well behaved and fun – it's a great place to work and live.

Throughout the year, as usual, there has been a plethora of trips and activities for the House, with the annual pantomime and trips to the cinema, ice-skating and swimming at Dundee and Perth, shopping in Stirling, talent shows, discos and parties. Tutor group outings have included bowling, Jimmy Chueng's Chinese Buffet, Laser Quest and many more. The primary pupils have been on a number of trips, learning about the history of Scotland, especially with regards to the local area. They are just about to head out to Ardgour for a week of adventurous activities, which, if I remember the response from last year, will be an amazing experience for all of the pupils going. The Scotland rugby matches have been popular, with trips to three Autumn Internationals and the one home Six Nations Cup match. So yes, we saw Scotland just win against Australia and scrape a draw against the 2003 world champions – England. (Written complaints to Trenchard House, please).

I would like to thank all of the Tutors for their ongoing support with House activities. Without their efforts, none of these activities would ever take place – thank you.

Slowly but surely, the House is becoming more homely, with the introduction of soft furnishings, new flat screen TVs, a House library

and plenty of board games and outdoor games, not to mention the well used Wii, with which the whole House appear to have great fun, especially at the weekends. This term has seen the arrival of the new kitchen and interior furnishings in the middle common room, which I know has been greatly appreciated by all the pupils and staff and I thank the 'general hands' for fitting the kitchen at such short notice. I know Matron can't wait to unleash her culinary skills on the new range cooker! The children have been keen to get their hands dirty and show off their knowledge of gardening, with the introduction of the veggie patch at the rear of the House. I look forward to helping them harvest their hard work and preparing tasty Sunday lunches with them next term.

Christmas saw our usual swap over of House Assistants from Down Under. We said a sad farewell to Lochy and Maddie, who both proved to be popular with the children and staff, certainly providing excellent pastoral care for all of your sons and daughters. In January we said hello to Greg and Liz. They both soon established themselves well in the House with the help and support provided by Maria, the language assistant, who started back in August 2009. All are proving to be very effective and positive with the children and we are indeed very fortunate, having a total of three House Assistants in Trenchard. We have experienced some changes in House staff this year, with the sad loss of Mr Porter at the end of the Autumn Term, he being promoted to Deputy Housemaster in Haig House. Miss Low is now Assistant Housemistress in Trenchard and has made an excellent start in her new promoted role. Mr King joined us in January from Haig House but has unfortunately been off school since mid February. He has had his knee rebuilt and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Mrs Rankin, the Head's Personal Assistant, is currently covering for Mr King and has proved to be a great success in the House.

As ever, I am indebted to the House staff and Tutors, who work so hard to help the pupils settle into the school and to keep them safe and well looked after. Special thanks go to Ms Edwards for guiding me through my first term and showing me the ropes throughout this last year. Mrs Devlin (Matron) and Mrs Cullen (House keeper),



continue to work amazingly to keep the House clean and pupils well cared for twenty-four hours a day.

Clare Riddick has been our House Captain this year and we all wish her the best of luck as she leaves at the end of the Summer Term. She will be sadly missed by the pupils, who looked up to her with great respect. My final thanks go out to the four S5 girls – Cerys, Charlie, Alex and Kayleigh, who have all made a positive contribution to the House. I look forward to working with the girls next year.

The pupils continue to represent Trenchard House and the school immaculately, whether it's on an educational visit, sports fixture, Highland Dancing or in the band. They always have this uncanny ability to fulfil their potential. Their attitude and commitment is second to none. They should all feel very proud of their achievements this year and I wish them all the best of luck for next year.

Mr Adams, Housemaster

P7 report:

When we first came to Trenchard House, most pupils struggled with homesickness, but because of the support from other pupils and the teachers, about a week later we were all getting used to it and making new friends. We got up at seven to get ready for school and went to bed at eight forty-five, lights out at nine. We all like the weekends, especially since we got to sleep in until seven thirty on Saturdays and eight thirty on a Sunday. The best thing about Trenchard House is that everybody is friendly. We have been on quite a few House trips and we have enjoyed them all. The trip we enjoyed most was ice-skating. We have all enjoyed our first year of school at Trenchard and we hope next year will be just as good.

Rachel and Cameron

S1 Report:

All the S1 girls have thoroughly enjoyed this successful year here in Trenchard House. With all the activities such as ice-skating, bowling, cinema and the Pinocchio Pantomime, we've had great fun! We are going to miss Trenchard House next year. We have seen much

improvement in the House since we first arrived nearly two years ago. These include the whole House getting painted, all three common rooms refurbished and the addition of a brand new kitchen in the middle common room. Mr Adams has been really good to have as a Housemaster and overall it has been a really amazing year for all of us here in Trenchard House.

Navino and Lisa

S2 report:

This year has been a good year for the six S2s in Trenchard, as we were given a lot of responsibilities. These were to help the younger pupils in the House settle in, put them on beds, to make supper every night for everyone and just to help out in general. We have enjoyed being able to interact with the younger years on various House trips. Also it isn't just the younger ones we got to know, but we also had a chance to grow very close to the six seniors in the House. All in all, we are happy with our choice of staying on in Trenchard for the extra year because we have been involved with the new developments and been part of the new and improved House. We have really enjoyed our time in Trenchard and we will miss it greatly.

Chelsea, Kirsty, Jennifer and Heather

S5 report:

Living in Trenchard House has been a positive experience. Our first experience of Trenchard was an enjoyable one, helping out with the summer activities day followed by a BBQ during the first weekend back at school in August 2009. Our appreciation for the House has "boomed". From aunties to outings, our Trenchard adventure has taken us on a rollercoaster of a ride. It has been great fun, but has, at times, been demanding. We have enjoyed being the 'big sisters' and have found it especially fulfilling when helping or offering advice to the younger pupils. We all hope that we have been good role models to the rest of the House and it has given us the chance to be more responsible and provided us with plenty of 'life experiences' for the future and we can't wait to do it again next year!

Cerys, Charlie, Alex and Kayleigh



Wavell House.

Wavell House

We have reached the end of yet another school year (where does time go?) and Miss Phipps is chasing me for Wavell's *Victorian* article, so here goes.

A major challenge for Wavell House between Christmas and Easter was how to manage with just ten showers and nine toilets as the main washrooms on all three floors underwent a total refurbishment. The girls responded magnificently to these spartan conditions and have been rewarded with marvellous new facilities

In October, Mrs Adams stood down as Deputy Housemistress. She is a very hard act to follow. However, Mrs L MacLeod agreed to take on the challenge and has made a great start in the role.

As in past years, we have said farewell and welcome to our overseas House Assistants. In December, Melissa returned home to Oz. We wish her well in her future endeavours. In January, we welcomed Alice and Bridget. They've settled in well and we hope they'll enjoy their time with us.

At the start of the Easter holidays, we said farewell to Mrs Henderson, the much-respected Matron of Wavell House. She takes with her the best wishes of all the staff and girls for the future as she moves into retirement. Ms Sword, who we hope will survive and enjoy her new post, has succeeded Mrs Henderson as Wavell Matron. At the end of the Summer Term, we will also say farewell to Miss Blackwood, who was one of the original girls' tutors when girls were first admitted to QV. We wish her a relaxing and happy retirement. We are indebted to Mrs Howie and Mrs Walker for returning to the maelstrom of Wavell House as Tutors during the past year; we will be sorry to see them leave (again) at the end of term.

At this time of the school year, we say goodbye to the girls who are leaving the House. We thank them all for their many and varied contributions to the life of Wavell House over the years. As they move on to pastures new we wish them all a happy and secure future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Admin and Estates staff of the school for all their efforts during the year on behalf of the pupils and staff of Wavell House.

It never ceases to amaze me how much the girls of Wavell House owe to the unstinting hard work and dedication of the staff of the House team. I am sure that the girls are aware that things don't just happen and appreciate all that is done for them.

I too must add my thanks to the ladies of the House team for their continuing help and support they have given to me.

All that is left for me to say to all House staff and Wavell girls is, I hope you all have a brilliant summer holiday and see you in August.

Mrs MacDonald, Housemistress

This year in Wavell has been fantastic. There has been a great deal of work put in by both staff and pupils to make this year so enjoyable. The Wavell bathrooms were given a well deserved revamp and are now looking lovely and pink. Although it has been nice having new bathrooms the process to get them was not enjoyable; the House was chaos throughout the process as no girl was able to get upstairs, so all books needed for the day had to be brought down in the morning. This meant that some girls had to take two trips in the morning to bring their books down stairs leaving them wherever they could. Another big problem the building work brought was that we only had 6 showers for over 80 girls. We did however deal with all these problems very well and managed to get through it.

This year we have had a lot of practical jokes, with the senior common room deciding they were going to order a fake chippy. Many of the juniors came to place their orders; we told them we would take their money once the order had arrived. It wasn't until a while later, we 'made' the chippy orders, and we did this by wrapping up various supper items in newspaper and writing respective orders on them.



Unfortunately, the duty staff members found out about our cunning plan and were not best pleased; neither were the juniors who got handed their fake order. We then proceeded to play the famous beef the biscuit game to see who would try and take the bait. I think it would be safe to say that one of the highlights in Wavell this year has been the addition of Yazoo, and is definitely something we all look forward too.

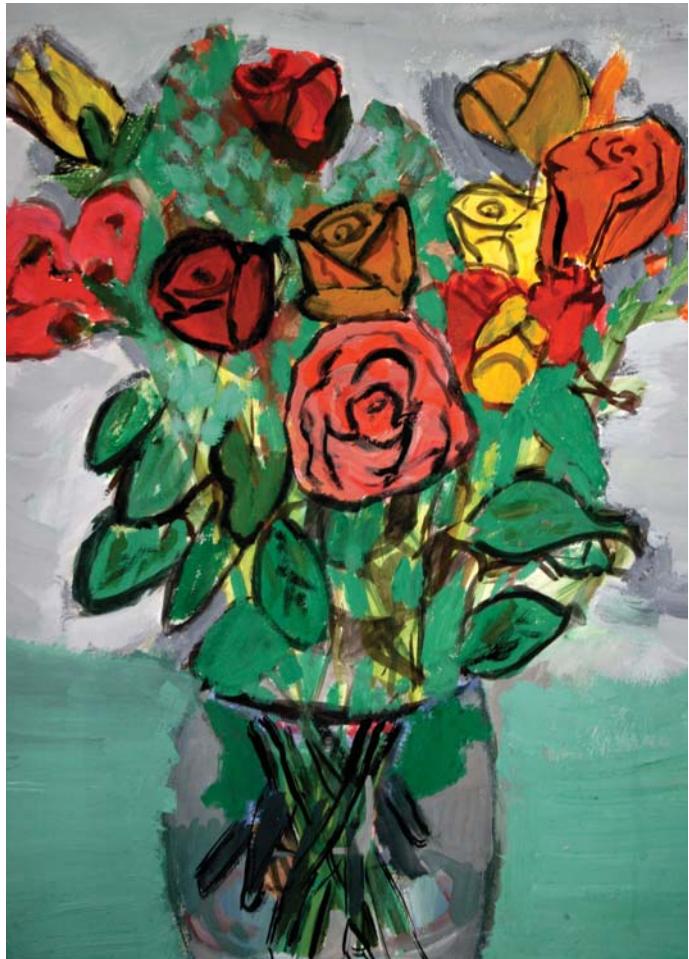
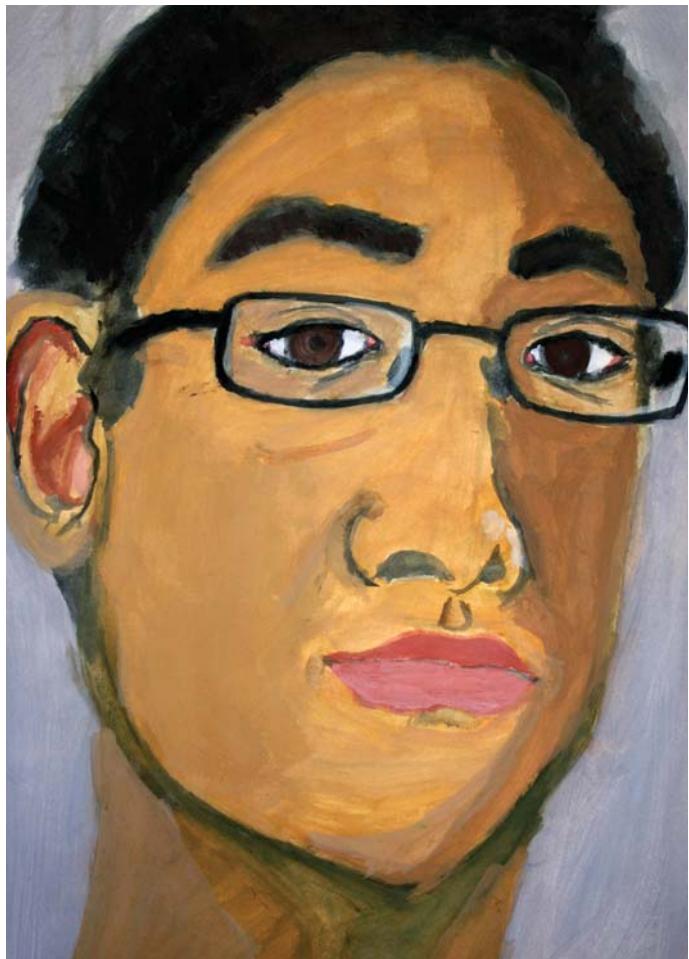
We have had a few excellent and as always well organised events this year, ranging from the great Cops and Robbers Party to the annual Wavell Christmas Party. The Cops and Robbers Party held on 9th September 2009 (999), the theme was chosen by the S6 girls but the clever date has to be credited to Mrs Adams. Throughout the night we took mug shots and pictures of people next to the crime scene and played some classic games. Of course we had to finish the party with a dance off as it is a Wavell tradition. All in all the night was a huge success. Mrs MacLeod successfully survived her first Wavell Christmas party. She put in a great deal of effort into making

sure it ran as smoothly as possible and with the help of the sixth year girls this was most definitely the case. We played all the usual games, as well as the famous 'Sing for your Supper' many of the Tutor groups took inspiration from the sixth year who wrote our own rap and song in fifth year, and followed suit which provided a variety of songs to listen to.

All in all I have really enjoyed my year being Head of House in Wavell, although it hasn't been without stress and late night wake ups, I wouldn't have had it any other way. Good luck to next year's S6 team it's a lot of hard work but well worth it, and of course I have to give a big thank you to Kara and Ellis the two deputies without whom my job would have been a lot harder. Not forgetting all the S6 girls who've helped and made this year in Wavell so fantastic, good luck for the future; I'll miss you all.

Megan Halliday





Clockwise from top left: Corey Furnace S4; Ashwin Rai S4; Ben Irving S4; Fashion Design Anastasia Lynch S5.



1st XV Rugby.

Rugby

1st XV

It's been a tough, long season for all of our teams this year. With limited numbers to choose from and less as the season went on due to injury, we sometimes struggled to get even fifteen players on the pitch, let alone our strongest side. We then had the long lay off between December and March after which gaining momentum again proved difficult.

Success can be measured by games won or lost; this is what is known as knowledge of results. However a far more meaningful way of determining how successful we were (this season in particular) is to look at how we actually performed in the games and what qualities were developed over the season. This is known as knowledge of performance.

I felt the teamwork and camaraderie that was exhibited by so many were commendable. This not only maintained the spirit in the team, despite playing some hard opposition, but developed confidence in the younger players, which allowed them to flourish. In the past I have seen senior players berate individuals for making mistakes. However, this season those individuals were nurtured and their confidence was built up through timely positive encouragement.

Another quality that so many of the players demonstrated was commitment. Each week the teams trained with enthusiasm and commitment, often in harsh, cold conditions. We have to do this because what we lack in size and strength we try to make up for in time spent on the practice field. Very seldom did I hear complaints in these conditions. Likewise, the majority of rugby players get up early on a Saturday morning, put on their kilts and then travel, normally for over an hour to represent the school, all without complaint. I firmly believe that we can only run teams at Queen Victoria School with that commitment from all involved.

The most prominent qualities that can be seen in the matches and at training are perseverance and determination. Time and time again, throughout this season, our teams knew that winning the game was out of reach. However despite this, they continued to tackle, they supported runs, some pushed themselves to their physical fitness ceiling, regardless of how high or low that ceiling was, all the time knowing that what they were doing would ultimately result in a loss. For me these are the most impressive attributes of the players we have had in our rugby teams this season.

All of what has been accomplished over the years would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of all the coaches we have at the school. I would like to thank Mr Adams, Mr Gilhooley, Mr Carroll, Mr Philson, Mr Ross and Mr Eastham for their selflessness and commitment that has been displayed tirelessly over the year and for some over many years. They have sacrificed their own time in order to develop skills, understanding and teamwork of all of the players at Queen Victoria School. They make a huge contribution to furthering the players' education in qualities that will stay with them and serve them well in life.

A big thank you goes to Josh MacCallum, the 1st XV Captain, who has led by example in each game and by his dedication to training. He has been instrumental in maintaining the team's spirit and will be greatly missed next year. Thank you also to Cameron Dumbreck for his leadership of the forwards and the support he gave to Josh over the season.

Good luck to all the players who are leaving at the end of the year. Hopefully you will continue your association with rugby in some shape or form. For those coming back, we have a lot to do over the next few months to prepare ourselves physically and mentally so that we can continue to develop as a team.

D McLay



Clockwise from top left: 1st Year Rugby; 2nd Year Rugby; P7 Rugby; 3rd Year Rugby.

S2 Rugby XV

Captaincy this year has been a real privilege; I don't think I could have asked for a better team. Every weekend they have turned up for matches no matter how tired they were yet they still gave it their best. Some of the players have the ability to go far; it's just a case of trying to get the most out of every training session. We have had lots of games where we have played amazingly well and been unlucky. Others have been lost because the other teams were just too good. Some of the games were of very high quality. This season we've seen fantastic offloading skills.

I have also noticed a very big improvement in some of the smaller players in our squad because they have risked themselves in tackle situations to allow improvement. Daniel Sloan and Connor Bannister

have really impressed me this season. Daniel has the most amazing ability to be able to play in any position Mr Carroll requested and has also showed himself to be a very impressive tackler. Connor has been able to put himself in control of the team when he needs to, which is not easy. The forwards have been the most committed pack I have ever worked with and Mr Carroll has done a good job putting us together. After losing Fraser McLoughlin, the team had lost its shape and found it hard to adapt but we played some really good rugby. My favourite match was against St Columbus School where both teams played exceptionally good rugby and they edged us out by one point ending the game at 12 points to 11!

Jake Bedwell and Jason Feeney



1st XI Football.



Senior Football.



1st XI Hockey.



2nd XI Hockey.

Hockey

Looking back to this time last year I realise that our doubts over losing many of our star players were totally unjustified. They could have been the strongest individuals, but there is no question over the fact that this year's squad played better together as part of a team. Despite the fact that we were such a fit and enthusiastic side, we have to admit we were so relieved to find out that the dreaded Wednesday fitness sessions, which the infamous Mr Metzling had conjured up, where to be discontinued. What a coincidence that people soon lost interest in work experience...We've had plenty of laughs, many I will never forget – like the winter walks and the new fad of busting a move or two in JUST DANCE...Regardless of this we have always known when it was time to switch on and "get psyched", ready for the game ahead. This attitude secured us 5 wins and 3 draws.

Settling into our new roles within the team, we quickly saw that everyone developed their own little styles and quirks. There are many things by which I will remember people, so I would like to take this opportunity suitably to embarrass each and every one of them now:

- Typical footballer, our No.1, her catalogue of injuries will never be outdone.
- What's that, No.2? You've learnt a new trick? Oh wait, no.... Your still using the back stick.
- Who likes short shorts springs to mind, when No.3 flashes her behind.
- No.4 bruises just like a peach, but her defence is one you can't breach.
- No.6 covers the entire midfield, so dedicated she even prefers the floor... (I'm sure the opposition gets off worse though, we've heard that vicious roar...)
- The drama queen wears No.7 on her shirt, one day her temper will get her hurt.
- From mid to high player and even on post, it's No.9 who likes a good boast.

- No.11's habit is one I can't stand, I don't get it? Why do you play with one hand?
- No.14 was absent for quite a while, away at the dentist to fix her smile.
- It's No.17 who hugs the post, from defender to striker, she now scores the most.
- No.20's defending is pretty aggressive but once on the ball she's very possessive.
- We all feel sorry for No.26, isn't it time you got those knees fixed?
- Nat Brash, you haven't had much game time, but keep your head up, you're doing just fine.
- Our vice captain plays No.10, she's always been ready to step up and fill in. Despite the magical disappearance of her beloved shoes, she'll keep her head up, even if we lose.

Miss Scott, it's a wonder you can see through your layers to shout at the "splendid" or "ghastly" players. Mr Harrison, well, what can we say? You've kept us on our toes and improved our play. Your sense of humour is unable to be ignored but, seriously, sir? What is with that white board? Of course the 6th year girls are not to be forgotten, seven years' commitment was not for nothing. The 2nd XI will be lost without you, but good luck in the future in any sport you do. And from me, at No.5, I'm so proud to say I've captained this side. To make this a little bit cheesy, I've decided to add...that I will miss each and every one of you due to our good times and bad.

Finally I'd just like to say thank you on behalf of the whole team, to both Miss Scott and Mr Harrison for putting up with the moans and groans and of course that awful chant of ours. I hope next season will be just as happy as this one has been.
GOOD LUCK, GIRLS!

Rea McGown, Captain, Season 09/10



S1 Hockey

What a year we have had! We have played so many more matches than we did in P7. The games are getting much tougher; however, we have all worked together as a team far more. Our results have been mixed; with 4 wins, 2 draws, 4 losses and several cancelled matches due to the weather conditions.

Everyone has been working really hard in training and with so many S1 girls we really had to fight for our place on the team. All S1 girls got some pitch time and it shows how determined we all are to play for the school.

We would like to thank Miss Scott and Rea McGown for coaching us throughout the season, giving us valuable information which enabled us to improve, and also having the patience to cope with 24 S1 girls! We are all looking forward to next season and what it may bring.

Navino Gurung and Robina Ferguson

S2 Hockey

The S2 hockey team have not had the most successful season, despite some unforgettable goals from out Captain Bethany Little and Bethany Stacey. The success that we did have we owe to some good goal-keeping from Jen Harrower and to Mr Harrison for helping us as much as he possibly could.

We would also like to thank Miss Scott as well as Rea McGown and Hazel Stanfield who gave up their time every Thursday to help improve our fitness and our overall skills.

Hopefully we will get more games next year as this year the weather hampered the fixture list greatly. We are looking forward to next year

and hope to make great improvement with regards to our overall game play.

Morven Craib, S2

S3 Hockey

This season has been very successful for the S3 hockey team and we have all thoroughly enjoyed playing for the School this year. With more wins than losses and some great play from several players we have made great progress this year.

There are some memorable games to note, particularly our match against Hutchieson's Grammar school where the underfoot conditions were very wet. Unfortunately Kelsie Hunter was the first casualty of the day, taking a nose dive and sliding at least 3 metres through a puddle! However, the conditions did not affect the score, with us coming away with an 11-0 win.

Our greatest achievement of the season was reaching the semi-finals of the Midland's Cup, with many players raising their game and playing to the very best of their ability.

A special mention goes to Emily Gurung who along with myself were invited to attend Midland's U15 trials. We would like to thank Miss Scott for giving up her time to coach us and umpire our matches. We are sad that this season has come to an end, however, are all looking forward to and feeling positive about next season's challenges.

Eden Reid



Hockey and Rugby Awards Dinner 2010

Once again the 1st XI Hockey and 1st XV Rugby teams proved that they scrub up pretty well as they joined the school's coaching staff and special guests: international rugby star, Ally Hogg; and Scotland and Great Britain hockey player, Louise Carroll, as we gathered in the newly refurbished theatre for the 2nd Annual Hockey and Rugby Awards Dinner.

The night was a great success with speeches from both of our guests, and of course Miss Scott and Mr McLay. These speeches, along with the fantastic slideshow of photos and video footage which Mr McLay had created on his trusty Apple laptop, offered up quite a lot of laughs as we looked back over the season.

Congratulations to everyone who received both half colours and full colours, which were presented by our guests, and to those who were

lucky enough to win a prize from the raffle, which was kindly donated to us by Gerry McMannus from Cardinal Sports.

A huge thank you is due to Miss Scott who organised the event. I can safely say that everyone appreciated all her hard work. I would also like to express our gratitude to all the ESS Catering Staff for preparing such a lovely meal for us all.

On behalf of all the pupils I would like to thank the entire Sports Department, especially Mr McLay, Miss Scott, Mr Adams and Mr Harrison, for their time and dedication to our respective sports and for allowing us the opportunity to improve and play.

Rea McGown, 1st XI Hockey Captain, Season 09/10



Clockwise from top left: S1 Hockey; S2 Hockey; P7 Hockey; S3 Hockey.

Sports Day – 16th June 2009

It was torrential rain on the 15th of June and again on the 17th of June; however the sun truly shone on QVS on the 16th of June – thank goodness as it was our main event of the athletics calendar.

Ormond, Liddell and Bannerman were set to fight it out for the title of Sports Day Champions 2009. Things were slightly different this year as there was far more than solely sports day up for grabs. The Inter-house competition had been closely fought throughout the year with everything resting on sports day.

The day kicked off with the hurdles events, 75m for the juniors, 80m for the Intermediates and 100m for the seniors. The Junior boys' event was won by Stuart Stockman in a time of 14.36 seconds, just outside the sports day record. Continuing on from the hurdles were the 200, 800, 300/400, 1500 and 100m events on the track. The field events on the day were shot-putt, discus, long-jump and high-jump; with triple-jump being contended the previous evening. Unfortunately the javelin throwing event had to be cancelled due to the horrendous weather previously.

	BANNERMAN	LIDDELL	ORMOND	WINNERS
JUNIOR	165	164	166	ORMOND
INTERMEDIATE	146	171	192	ORMOND
SENIOR	130	128	86	BANNERMAN

This made the overall winners of Sports day Ormond, who won the Junior girls, Intermediate girls, Intermediate boys and tied the senior girls categories. Congratulations to all Ormond Team Captains.

J Scott

Inter-house Competition

Through-out the academic year pupils from Ormond, Bannerman and Liddell have been competing keenly in the Inter-house competition. This year the scoring for the events changed with 30 points given for 1st position, 2nd place gained 20 points and 10 points given to 3rd place. Pupils were able to track their team's progress with the new sports board in Central Hall. This was updated regularly showing the progress of the 3 teams.

The competition kicked off early in the year with the Junior and Intermediate rugby competitions taking place. This was keenly contested with many excellent performances. Following this pupils were involved in football, hockey, badminton, cross-country and of course athletics.

There were notable performances from several QVS pupils.

Rachel Read broke the Intermediate girls 300m record in a time of 53.62 seconds. Amy Balfour equalled the Intermediate girls' high-jump record with a jump of 1.35m. Eden Reid broke the Intermediate girls Long-Jump record with a jump of 4.10m. Allana Smith broke the Intermediate girls' discus record with a throw of 19.87m. Jordan Rae broke the Junior boys 100m record with a time of 13.32 seconds. Bethany Stacey broke the Junior girls 300m record in a time of 54.54 seconds.

The intermediate girls from Ormond smashed the previous 4 x 100m relay record in a time of 53.91 seconds.

Both pupils and staff enjoyed the day immensely, not only because of the high standard of competition, but for the fantastic strawberry teas put on by the Medical staff and helpers.

The overall results for sports day are outlined below:-

The senior boys and girls cross-country event was hotly contested with of winning the overall event.

In the final weeks before the end of term the points were extremely close with the score board showing the following.

Ormond	355
Liddell	340
Bannerman	325

With sports day weighted as double points, the entire competition depended on one afternoon. Every point counted as all 3 teams battled it out on the athletics track. Eventually Ormond came out on top winning sports day and therefore the entire competition. Bannerman leapfrogged Liddell to snatch second place.

The final points tally was:-

1st Place	Ormond	415
2nd Place	Bannerman	365
3rd Place	Liddell	360

Congratulations to all competitors throughout the entire year and well done to all of the team captains for their organisation and commitment.









Athletics

QVS V Strathallan, 3rd June 2009

The annual home match between QVS and Strathallan was graced, yet again, with glorious weather. This certainly seemed to spur the athletes on; with many great performances from all age groups. The match was for the P7, S1 and S2 year groups, competing against pupils of similar ages from Strathallan.

The competition got underway in spectacular fashion with the Primary 7 boys 200m. Callum Fairgreive was narrowly pipped at the post by J Henderson of Strathallan. The difference in time was only 0.03seconds. Other noticeable performances in the sprints were Caitlin Willis who came first in the S1 Girls 200m with a time of 31.8 seconds, Callum Fairgreive who won the P7 boys 100m in 14.4 seconds, Eden Reid who won the S2 Girls 100m in a time of 14.8 seconds and Robbie Leckie who came 2nd in the 100m and 200m.

In the longer distance events Bethany Stacey and Bethany Little, Scott Calder, Connor Bannister and Christopher Bell all finished in the 2.50s for the 800m. Connor Dickson narrowly missed out on his P.B. with a time of 2'46.8 seconds. A special mention must go to Bradley Scott from P7 who competed in both the 800m and the 1500m, winning the 800m in a time of 2'49.7 and gaining 2nd place in the

1500m with a time of 5'44.2. A great effort; well done Bradley. Also in the 1500m Will Lynch smashed his P.B. coming 2nd with a time of 5'33.9 seconds and Darryn Moore won the S1 boys 1500m in a time of 5'52.4.

In the field events Eden Reid took first place in the S2 Girls long-jump with a huge jump of 4.25 metres, Chris Bell won the S1 Boys Long-jump with a jump of 3.60m and Jordan Rae won the S1 boys high-jump, clearing a height of 1.35m. Other notable performances in the field events are Lewis Cox clearing 1.35 in the S2 boys high-jump to finish 2nd and Cameron Carr jumping 4.47m in the S2 boys long-jump also finishing 2nd.

Although the overall results did not reflect the closeness of many of the races, Strathallan proved a little too strong in some of the age groups. The table below shows the overall scoring. Well done to all participants, an excellent level of determination and commitment was shown by all. Well done in particular to the S2 Girls who did manage to overcome our opposition.

J Scott

	P7 Boys	P7 Girls	S1 Boys	S1 Girls	S2 Boys	S2 Girls
QVS	40	31	47	42	65	53
Strathallan	63	71	55	61	37	49





Badminton

On the 30th March 2010 Queen Victoria School held its first ever annual Junior Badminton tournament. It brought together pupils from P7, S1 and S2 to compete in a knockout style tournament. There will be a Senior Badminton tournament later in the year and I hope it will prove to be as successful as the Juniors.

I would like to thank all the pupils who entered their names into the main draw and participated in this year's event. All pupils played with a tremendous sporting attitude and with great enthusiasm. I'd like to thank the S5 and S6 pupils who volunteered to help referee each of the matches and who richly deserved their chocolate Easter eggs for providing such great support to the tournament.

In addition, I would like to thank Mr McLay for his assistance and support in making this such a successful event.

Congratulations to Jason Feeney who became the first ever QVS Junior Badminton champion and very well done to all of the prize winners.

QVS Junior Champion	Jason Feeney
Runner-up	Jake Bedwell
3rd Place	Christopher Bell

S Ronald

Youth Club

Youth Club is for S1's but not every S1 can go as there is only a limited amount for the mini bus. Mr Porter (the ICT teacher) drives us. The Youth Club is in Dunblane so it's not far from the school. When you enter the Youth Club you have to pay your £1.00 at the counter then write your name and number/school and then you can pretty much do anything. Things you can do there are things such as play pool, play PS3/PS2, watch TV, play the computer, play ping

pong or just chill out with your mates. You might also want to bring extra money for the tuck shop as there is a tuck shop where you can buy sweets and drinks. Youth Club is normally on a Tuesday at 8pm.

April Shiel and Phoebe Gallacher

Peer Support

The peer support scheme has been around for three years. It is a very successful scheme and I believe this year we have made it even stronger with the addition of the private e-mail service so that pupils could submit problems anonymously. Peer support aims to try and solve any issues that a pupil comes to us with. By doing this we are trying to make the school a better place for everyone. At the beginning of the year everyone on peer support had a training

afternoon so that we could deal with difficult situations in the correct way and we could do so at the time of the incident. We welcome anyone in the senior part of the school to join this scheme as long as they are confident and want to help their peers.

Rachel Christie and Megan Halliday



Pipe Band.

Pipe Band

The Pipeband started off the academic year after participating in the Basel Tattoo. This went extremely well with most of the younger members gaining experience of a Tattoo atmosphere for the first time, which will benefit them greatly in the future.

The front rank of the Pipeband has put in a tremendous effort this year for which they should be congratulated. The “fantastic four” have been to a variety of events representing the school, such as when we collaborated with the RAF orchestra in Stirling University. Highland Cathedral went down really well with the audience (most of them QV students!) and the RAF band were very pleasant to us also.

The band this year has been a younger group with many of the members from the years below S3. The younger years have also played a huge part in supporting the band this year; we couldn’t have done it without them.

Being Pipe Major this year has been an amazing experience. I have learnt many things while being in the band for the past four years, such as becoming a better leader and hopefully a better person.

I feel extremely privileged to have been Pipe Major this year and even more luckier that I get to continue in the role next year.

Leona Clark





Wind Band.



Dance Team.

Music

As another generation of young musicians arrives at Queen Victoria School so we inevitably have to bid farewell to the young adults heading out into the big wide world outside the QV gates. 2009-2010 saw the last two thirds of our clarinet trio leaving: Vicky Marland and Hannah Shaw. Vicky to go to University in Aberdeen (where the third member of the trio James MacDonald is already at university) and Hannah to complete her Advanced Highers at Hermitage. They will all be very much missed, with Hannah's sympathetic playing and musical skills and Victoria's super playing talents, on both bagpipes and clarinet an impossible combination to replace. James was one of my favorite and yet most challenging pupils: I spent many hours trying to explain how the little dots on the page related to the sounds and actions required on the clarinet and bass clarinet. Often after hours of trying Vicky, Hannah and I would be a little startled when James would just smile and say, "don't worry I'll just improvise." I'm not sure this works in a Mozart trio! We also lost the flute talents of last year's Senior Monitor, Kerrie Goodman.

The 2009 SQA groups continued our tradition of success. The Standard Grade pupils continued the run of 100% credit passes and the Higher candidates all passed, with an excellent A band for Emma Anderson sitting in S4!

"The RAF Are Coming!" Once again we were, thanks to the hard work and kindness of Wing Commander Beaton, at the centre of workshops and a concert by one of the Royal Air Force Military Bands. This year we had the band of the RAF Regiment visiting. QVS pupils had a day of workshops, including all of the primary pupils having a try-out on a range of woodwind and brass instruments. This wonderful October event was complete when I took over a third of the school to watch the RAF band playing at the MacRobert Centre, with our own Leona Clark, Dale Boyland and Harry Fairgrieve providing the bagpipes for this sell-out concert.

For the first time some of our pupils took part in the Stirling Schools' Orchestra Concert. Our two 'cello players, Tamara Wilton and Amy Balfour, with Allana MacFarlane on bassoon attended a number of rehearsals and then had a great time performing with students from all over the shire in the Albert Hall in Stirling.

All of our primary pupils are working on their taster two terms on wind band instruments, with some excellent progress by all and a few real stars developing. Our visiting instructors continue their excellent work with this year's team made up of Ian Hood teaching clarsach, Alastair Collins teaching piano and bassoon, Ruth Bamforth flute, Michael Bryant drum kit and tuned percussion, Gordon Bayley guitar, Heather McIntosh saxophone and clarinet, Joanne Greer singing, Elspeth MacKay violin and 'cello, and Gavin Spowart and Karen Romanuk

brass instruments. Once again an enormous thanks for the hard work and dedication of these instructors who enable QVS to have one of the highest rates of instrumental instruction of any secondary school.

A special thanks to Jo Greer who has organised two performance events for singers and friends and is also now taking a choir. Special praise is due to Ashwin Rai, the only senior boy to join the choir. Who knows what Glee Club might do for this group?

We have had a number of pupils completing external performance exams over the year, with Rosa King and Allana MacFarlane both scoring highly. Two of our junior flute pupils, Elle Gemmell and Bishnumaya Gurung, took part in a performance at Dunblane Cathedral, and played a trio for flutes and piano arranged by Ruth Bamforth. They enjoyed themselves immensely, playing very well and demolishing two large slices of chocolate cake before returning to school.

Christmas saw our carol concert, with some excellent work from the wind band, including many young players performing for the first time. One undoubtedly highlight was Emma Read and Alex Shields performing "Santa Baby". No Santa could possibly ignore their invitation to 'spend a little time with them'!

A big thanks to the girls who came down to the Victoria Hall the next morning to entertain some of the village. The "Wavell" Christmas carol was much admired.

March saw the arrival of the visiting SQA examiners. This was a year with even less time available to prepare than usual and as a result was a little stressful for all involved. There were some excellent performances, with Andrew King on drum kit getting the day off to a great start. Our 6th year pupils Emma Read, Kate Graham, Charlotte Worth and Rea McGown provided me with my annual challenging accompaniments. Emma Read singing some beautiful Faure, Kate and Charlie singing a range of contrasting material and Rea playing some beautiful Wagner on her baritone before making the examiner and me laugh at her very musical and witty performance of Strauss's Pizzicato Polka. Despite a day of tears and terror (the pupils), and tantrums (me), I think that all of our young adults should be very proud of their bravery in the face of the dreaded examiners!

Another year closes. Thanks to all the visiting tutors, parents, pupils and support staff who help make music at QVS a rather interesting and wonderful experience.

D Breingan





December 2009 saw the completion of 6 months of major refurbishment to the old School Theatre. The initial plan had been to secure sufficient funds that would build a new purpose built facility. Fundraising efforts started back in 2003, but after an initial flourish of donor success it became clear to the Centenary Appeal Committee and the Commissioners that the general financial climate would make it impossible to raise sufficient funds for a new standalone building and alternative plans would need to be crafted. The result was an adventurous change to the existing School theatre which has

provided multi-purpose space for music, dance, performing arts, as well as a great space for general presentations and meetings. The transformation has been nothing short of amazing and our thanks needs to go to all those staff, pupils, donors and fundraisers that have been part of providing what is a vibrant 'new' space in Queen Victoria School.

S Dougan



Malawi Expedition

During the summer holiday the school joined with Longridge Towers School to spend a month long expedition to a small country in Africa called Malawi. We first signed up for the expedition three years ago and we spent the three years raising money to go. So when we finally arrived at school on the night before we took off for Africa, we couldn't believe that three years had passed.

The expedition was split into four phases: the trek, the Safari, the R and R, and the project. We arrived in Malawi at our base camp, Mabuya camp, in the capital, Lilongwe, and spent the first three days looking round the city and waiting for our bags to be sent from Addis Ababa. After four days we arrived in Mulanje in the south of Malawi next to the highest peak in central Africa. Unfortunately, two members of the group were not able to do the trek due to injuries, so spent five days in the town of Mulanje with Miss Low, while the rest of the team headed up the mountain.

Mt Mulanje

On the first morning of the climb we met with our mountain guide Wonderford Mambo he told us that it would probably take six to seven days to climb the mountain and also spoke to us about porters, the Malawian men who are paid to carry the heaviest things up the mountain. Then it was time to head off. We met our four porters, sorted our bags and started the very steep climb up to the first hut. There were two huts before our climb to the peak. On the day we went to the peak we got up very early about 4:30am so we could beat the clouds. The climb was challenging but once we were at the top everyone felt amazing. We all realised how much we had achieved. 3002m high on the peak Sapitwa meaning "don't go there" in Malawian. The weather however did not dampen our spirits and after spending about an hour at the peak we headed back down to the hut where we all went off to our tents and had a good night's sleep.

We managed to climb the whole mountain from one end to the other in five days. Our guide was very impressed. Once we got down we discovered the hotel that the three were staying behind in had hot showers! We can safely say we all slept soundly that night.

Mulanje

While most of the team were on the mountain, Miss Low, Kayleigh and Hazel spent time getting to know some of the local people and stayed in many of the local hotels and campsites. They met a young African man called Juma who helped us organise transport to our next location. He also took us on a tour of the tea plantation and set them up with a guide to take them on a short walk to a very beautiful waterfall near the bottom of the mountain.

Liwonde National Park

When the team arrived after successfully completing the trek in five days we headed up to Liwonde National Park for our safari. When we arrived in Liwonde it was a very hot and sunny day, so after we had

put up our tents, we spent the rest of the day relaxing next to the pool, and were able to see some animals within five minutes of being there! We witnessed a baboon stealing one of our baguettes and Dan being chased by a warthog. The next day we headed off on our first safari. We got to see many animals; such as antelopes, elephants, deer, monkeys, baboons, and waterbuck. We also went on a boat safari where we were able to see some crocodiles, elephants and hippos.

Cape Maclear

For the third phase we went further north to Cape Maclear, we stayed in a nice hotel with its own beach on the lake. It was a good time for the relaxing stage because we were rested for the final phase. During our time here we went out for two birthday meals and also did some snorkeling and kayaking. We took a boat out to a tiny island in the lake where we went snorkeling and had a BBQ with some local people. The kayaking was good fun as we got a chance to laugh at some of the team struggling to steer the kayak.

Mzuzu

The final phase of the expedition was the project which was in a little village outside the city Mzuzu. While we were there we stayed at a primary school where they gave us a classroom to cook and keep our bags in and a place to put up our tents. The headmaster, Baxter, was a very nice man who came to talk to us every night and made sure we had everything we needed and more. While we were there we were working for the Chesney Trust, which is a trust set up by a Scottish woman, Janet Chesney, who wants to build a boarding school for girls. We did three different activities throughout the week: the first was to finish painting a Maize Mill that a previous group had started, the second was brick making which consisted of a lot of running around in mud, and the last was tree clearing. The hardest was the tree clearing. We were given machetes and slashers that we used to cut down all the small trees and clear all the grass. This was the first time during the trip that our motivation was down because it was very hard working in the heat and most of us were suffering from blisters from the tools. Most of the group was upset and homesick during this time but looking back it showed us how determined we all were to keep going and make a difference to the local land. At the end of the week the primary school put on a show of dancing and poems for us and we played their football team. That day made all the work we did seem worthwhile.

The expedition has been the best experience we've ever had and we are delighted that we were given the opportunity to go. We now fully appreciate their way of living and how hard it is for them; especially the women who work all the time. We have met some amazing people we never thought we would meet and done some things we never thought we would have the chance to do. We hope we will have another opportunity to help people in Africa again.

Hazel Stanfield and Kayleigh Laing





Photos from top left to bottom right: team challenge; the boys, the welly brigade, team challenge; the girls, river study, Talacre sand dunes and Talacre again.

Geography Field Trip

Friday 30th October. We set out on our drive to Colomendy in North Wales. Six hours later we arrived at the field centre and met our tutor Helen, who did not speak Welsh! Luckily we had made it just in time for tea, which was followed by some caving where we were able to learn the differences between natural and man made cave systems. We examined the physical features; stalactites, stalagmites and pillars as we squeezed ourselves through the cave network.

Saturday 31st October. Although it was Halloween, the welly crew headed to Talacre beach, where we did a sand dune study. After the hard days work we treated ourselves to ice cream and chips in the local tourist town before returning to the centre to process all the data we had collected.

Sunday 1st November. After a stormy night, we grabbed our wellies and waterproofs as we prepared to study the River Allyn. We investigated several aspects of the river throughout the day and thankfully the weather cleared up. We all ended up fairly wet, but not as wet as Angus who toppled into the water, holding himself up with just one arm!

At night we had a chance to relax after processing all the river data and completing the project work. We spent the last night stuffing our faces with popcorn while watching “Kung Fu Panda”.

Monday 2nd November. Before we all clambered back onto the mini bus to school, we participated in team challenges and the leap of faith. We split into traditional teams of girls vs boys, which fuelled some laughs and very inventive and original ideas of how to complete the tasks. The leap of faith was entertaining to watch and challenging to do. Everyone helped and encouraged one another throughout the activities.

We all left with a greater understanding of the Higher and Advanced Higher course. We learned much more than we could have in the classroom alone as we got to see first hand the changes in the landscape. We would now like to thank both Miss Phillips and Mr B for giving us the opportunity to go on such a worthwhile trip and hope that they enjoyed it as much as we did, and are glad that Miss Phillips has survived her first year at QVS.

Vanessa Campbell



Visit of Derby School – 20 June

The Head of Derby School in Germany, now closed, visited QVS on 20th June to hand over a plaque that the children there made as a gesture of support and solidarity at the time of the Dunblane shootings. Since then they have also made a plaque to explain why they are giving the original one to us for the Cunningham Centenary Garden. The Head, her husband and two other colleagues arrived around 1130 for coffee with Mrs Bellars, Mr Eastham and family and Mrs Sheerin. They were then introduced to Andrew King, Holli Work, Alisha McCaig and Alex Kenning who took them to the garden for a short ceremony handing over the plaques.



Artwork from left to right: Connor Kelly; Rhys Clark 2; Jasmine Worrall P7B; Megan Mcoll S1.



Primary 7

It seems hard to believe that by the time you read this P7s will soon be moving up to S1. It's amazing how quickly the year has gone and it certainly has been a busy one, filled with curricular trips linked to our Environmental Studies projects, money week and for some learning new subjects; such as piping, highland dancing, drumming, drill, French and PSE.

In the first term, we saw the P7s getting to grips with QVS life and realising that there are quite a few things to remember on a day to day basis, like finishing prep on time, packing school bags with everything for the day and getting used to moving between classrooms! I think this is where most realised how much their Mums did for them! It has been a delight to watch the P7s develop into an enthusiastic and well liked year group and become true 'Victorians'.

Away from the classroom, P7 learnt a lot about their local heroes, William Wallace and Robert Bruce. They enjoyed visits to Stirling Castle, Wallace Monument, Dunfermline Abbey and Bannockburn Heritage Centre. P7B even created a life sized image of William Wallace; I wonder if he could be placed outside Wallace Monument? Before the Christmas holidays, P7 were busy learning their lines for the Christmas play; 'Christmas around the world'. Costumes and masks were created and Mrs MacDonald was on hand to help our dancers perform some themed dance moves for each of the countries.

After a very long Christmas break, we came back ready to blast off into our space project. P7 showed a great interest in space and the solar system and enjoyed visits to Dynamic Earth and Glasgow Science Centre. We even had our own star lab and space show in our brand new theatre.

Just before the February break we celebrated Robert Burns 250th anniversary by reciting poems in the theatre. Our dancers, Sophie, Bethan, PK, Rachel and Cameron introduced the celebrations alongside Ciaren who played on the pipes. We toasted Robert Burns with a glass of irn bru and a tea cake; not just any tea cake but a Marks and Spencer's tea cake!

After the February break, we wished Mr King good luck for his knee operation. We hope he makes a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him in August. We welcomed Mrs Cassells into the Primary Department and hope that she has enjoyed her short time with us.

On the 8th March, P7 embarked on their money week which is inline with the Financial Education capabilities for 'A Curriculum for Excellence'. In order to promote the week on a larger scale, I liaised with some of the secondary staff that teach the P7s, so that in Art, PSE, Music, ICT and French, money related activities could be carried out as well as in Maths, Language and Environmental Studies. P7 Money week has been a great success and I was delighted with their enthusiasm towards each subject activity. At the end of the week, the P7's planned a party to celebrate. We invited guests and went shopping to Tesco's for our treats. The party was a great success and we all had a brilliant time!

After the Easter holidays we will have returned to a very busy summer term packed with final national testing, science project outdoors in the QVS grounds, the P7 activity week to Ardgour, a visit to Museum on the Mound Money in Edinburgh and a P7 end of year trip to Loudon castle. I hope your son or daughter has told you all about these visits!

A big thank you must go out to Matron and Mrs Cullen for coming with us on all of our trips and for bringing some delicious sandwiches! Our gap students, Greg and Liz enjoyed joining us on the visits too and learning a bit more about Scotland.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has contributed and worked hard with the Primary Department.

It has been a fantastic year P7, well done! Good luck in S1 and don't forget about us in the Primary Department!

V Low, Acting Principal Teacher, Primary

Money Week – RBS Report

On Thursday 4th March Sandra from RBS came in (Royal Bank of Scotland) because we are having a Money week! When she came in she talked to us about bank accounts and credit cards.

Then after she talked to us, we got to ask her lots of questions about fraud and things like that. After break we went on the computers at www.rbsmoneysense.co.uk. On there we watched a little video called Joe's dilemma. The dilemma was he had got £100 for his birthday and he didn't know whether to buy an mp3 player or to open a bank account. We also played games on the website too.

I learnt quite a few things, I learnt all of the different cards we can use and how to take money out of them. My favourite bit was when we got to do the games.

Bethan Drummond

On Thursday the 4th of March a lady called Sandra from the RBS goes round schools in Scotland came to QVS. She talked about money.

We went onto the computers and went on Joe's Dilemma, how to use, an atm, how to write a cheque and how to find a fraud card. In Joes dilemma we sent an email about whether he should buy an ipod straight away or keep the money in his room or open a bank account.

My favourite thing was when we went on the computers, as we had to go on to the ATM where you had to take out £20 and get a receipt.

I learnt that the store card is an expensive deal and you should always watch out for them.

Callum



P7 Activity Week 2009

In P7 we went on an activity week to Ardgour, near Fort William with Miss Low and Ms Edwards.

All packed up with numerous bags and groovy wellies, we set off after chapel. It took us about four hours to get there but we did stop at the Green Welly shop and we also had to catch a short ferry across the water. When we arrived at Ardgour, we all had to unload the trailer that had the luggage in. We then got escorted to our rooms. We were staying in a large house and all of the dorms were on the same floor.

Once we had unpacked, we went downstairs into the lounge to meet the leaders, find out what we would be doing for the week, which groups we were in and where everything was. Each day some of us had to help with the duties, like clearing the tables and getting supper ready. For the rest of the afternoon we got to relax in the lounge and play outside in the large garden. Although, most of us got attacked by the local midges!

For breakfast and dinner we ate our meals in the dining room, we sat at different tables and took it in turns to serve our table! At dinner, we got three courses...yum yum! At breakfast we would make up our packed lunch for the day.

In the morning we all got woken up by a voice box which a member of staff would talk through so we could get up and prepare for the rest of the day.

On the first day we got split into our groups. Throughout the week, there was a pirate theme, the group names were Daggers, Anchors, Buccaneers and Cutlasses. All week we did activities such as orienteering, high ropes, kayaking, climbing and abseiling, archery, ropes course and zip wire.

We all did different things each day until night time, when we all enjoyed singing, dancing to songs and games with the staff. Each activity gave us a chance to earn points for our team.

On Thursday, our last day, we had a pirate adventure day where we earned more points for our teams. There were lots of different problem solving activities. At the end of the day the points were added up, although the team with the lowest score would have to walk the plank, which was a tub full of sausages and custard!

On Friday we got our things packed up quickly ready to make our way back to school. We had a fantastic week. A big thank you to Miss Low for organising our trip and taking part in all of the activities! We hope Miss Edwards had a good time too!

We are sure that next year's P7 will have an amazing time but make sure you pack a midge net!

Hannah Pill and Robina Ferguson



Green Group Work

My first day here I felt nervous
You got put into your rooms

Friday is pizza
In school we have awsome gappies
Running is very long here
Swimming is super in free time
The trips here are really fun

You get to go to tescos and first shop on the weekend
Earn lots of merits and stamps
Ardgour is in the future
Rookies parade was hard

And my room mates are awesome
Trenchards got talent was really good

Queen Victoria School is great to be at
Victroy is ours in hockey (we wish!)
Special supper is delicious

I love it here at QVS
Nice people are all around you.

P7

Bethan Drummond

My first night in my room was scary
You got put into your classes on Thursday

Friday is pizza day
It is fun with the gappies
Rookies parade was fun
Soon we went out on lots of trips
Trenchards got talent was great

You feel sad to start but after a while you settle into the routine

Everyone enjoyed Pinocchio in Glasgow
At trenchards got talent Cameron won
Racing in the swimming pool for games is brilliant

Art was cool when we made money for money week
Tranchard went bowling and ice skating before a parade

QVs went christmas shopping in Stirling
Visits to the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle
Saturdays we play hockey matches.

Eilidh Firth

My first day at QVS
You will love it

Friends are here
ICT is cool
Running around like mad
Swimming is a hobby
Try your best in P.D.D

You will have tutors that take you out on trips
Every day there is a routine
Are you prepared for the day ahead?
Reading is fun on the cushions in Miss Low's room

Amazing days out in P7 to Dynamic Earth and Glasgow Science Centre

Trying your hardest at everything

QVs is the best ever
Visit us some time
School rules!

Emily Ferguson

My first impressions were great!
Yet I missed home

First we were put into classes
Introduced to our teachers
Rooms were comfy
Suddenly all the boys meet
The next day was rugby

YES! What a win by QVS
Everybody was settled in
A fun tutor trip
Ready.... Scotland V Australia rugby match

After a while Trenchard was decorated
Tasty lunches and special suppers

QVs is great
Very good time at school
See how good school is!

Stuart Millman

Red Group Work – Space Limericks

A martian came from the scary space
While eating his yummy shoe lace
When he got to the moon
A man in a cartoon
He watched it while pulling a face.

Abigail Thomas

There once was a Martian called Zed,
Who lived in my back garden shed
But when I got there
The shed it was bare
And Zed lay on the floor dead.

Chloe Balfour

There once was an alien called Splot,
He went to the sun which is hot
He tried shouting his mum
But she didn't come
So just randomly died on the spot.

Kiera Smith

I met a small green man from mars
Who liked putting rocks into jars
I never knew why
But he'd always cry
When he launched them up into the stars

Lachlan Bark

I was staring at the stars one night
When I startled and got such a fright
For when I got up
I thought I saw a pup
But it turned out to be a kite!

Mairi Lawson

There once was an alien called Zed
His colour was a very dark red
He moved to Mars
He took all his cars
But he went and forgot his own bed.

Rebecca Leslie

Space Limericks

There once was a very small star
Who drove a little blue car
It hissed and it buzzed
And it zinged and it fuzzed
When he parked it in a very tall jar!

Sam Stockman

There once was Martian called Blob
Who tripped up and started to sob
He saw an Earth sweet
Then he sat on a seat
And met his best friend called Bob.

Sophie Tytek

There once was a very hot star
Who played golf and kept getting par
One certain day
His ball flew away
So he chased it with his golf car.

Prateeksha Khawas

Blue Group Work

Newspaper

At QVS we can do quite a lot of fun hobbies like; Golf, Skiing, Drama, Model Making, Needlecraft and many more. My favourite one is doing the newspaper.

I really like writing for the newspaper because I get to write stories. I got to write a story in the 2nd Edition of the Queens View. Miss Maria Hardt runs the newspaper and every Tuesday night, at 5.00pm, I make my way to the library and just type up a story.

The subjects vary from week to week, but my best story was about a debate about First Shop versus Tesco. I really liked that one because I spent all my week's holiday on it and I really enjoyed asking people questions.

I hope the newspaper continues for a long time even when Miss Hardt leaves.

Charlie Sclater

PDD

The best thing about being at Queen Victoria is the piping. Piping is so amazing. The first thing you do is you learn the scale on the chanter then you move on to harder tunes like Auld Lang Syne, the Cork Hill and so many others.

When Pipie, the person in charge of piping, thinks you're good enough he moves you on to the actual bagpipes. On the bagpipes you have to learn to blow them up and keep the noise of the bagpipes flowing. After that you need to play the tunes that you have learnt on the chanter and play them on the bagpipes. You also have to practise on the chanter otherwise you will never get anywhere.

If you are good enough then you can go onto CCF and band music. The tune that I really want to play is the school tune that is played on the parade sundays and Scotland the brave.

I really hope that I am in the band some day. I would love to be pipe major but I have to practice for ages and with no interference or mucking about!

Kyle Rowe

Hockey

I love playing hockey and being on the team. I think it is a great opportunity to go out and play other schools at hockey, have fun and hopefully win a game! There is a lot of training involved, so you have to work hard if you want to get in the team. In P7 we train in the sports hall with Miss Low. From S1 upwards you play on the astro with Miss Scott and Mr Harrison.

Shona Colville

Trumpet Lessons

One of my favourite things about the school is my trumpet lessons. I do it every Wednesday. I do it with Abi, Stuart and Charlotte. Our teacher is called Karen. She lets us call her by her first name.

This is the first time I have ever played the trumpet and I think it's brilliant. Callum and Leon play the trombone but Matt, one of the gappies, teaches them.

The notes I have learned are C,D,E,F and G. I have also learnt 'Hot cross buns' and a 'Quarters worth'. There's one more but it's too hard to pronounce! I am definitely going to keep playing the trumpet.

Jared Leckie

Highland Dancing

The Highland dancing is taught by Mrs MacDonald who is also the Housemistress of the girls House at QVS called Wavell House.

The dance I like the best is the Highland Fling because it has lots of steps to learn and you need to put a lot of energy into the dance. I have also learnt a lot of other dances including the Strathspey and the Sword dance.

I really like Highland Dancing because a lot of my friends are dancers and it is great fun learning new steps.

On the 23rd March all of the P7 dancers are doing their bronze exam. Good luck everyone!

Shannon Hutchinson

IT Scholarship

It has been an interesting year. Last year I got quite a shock as Mr Lawrence told me that I had been chosen by the school to be given an IT scholarship. I was surprised and amazed at first and it took a while to sink in that no one was pulling my leg. I was told that I would help with Mr Lawrence and the two IT administrators Mr Penrose and Mr Stephen with IT based jobs and projects in the school.

This scholarship has really given me an amazing chance to get to learn about the side of IT that you don't get taught in the classroom. I have been shown and given a more in depth lesson on different topics of IT; in particular networking. Over the past year, I would say I have taken more of an interest in the hardware side of IT, rather than the software. Mr Penrose is an expert in networking, and I have, through his tutoring, learnt about an OSI 7 Layer model (I won't bore you with technical jargon explaining it, it's just very important), and networking in general.

Mr Stephen has taught me over the year about more of the nifty little tricks you can do when working with a PC. He showed me and taught me how to repair PC's with many different faults such as, a faulty operating system to a broken CPU fan. Mr Stephen and I then set up, for the camera club, a set of 4 PC's and a printer. This would enable the camera club to update to using digital cameras.

Mr Lawrence being my mentor has guided me through this year. He has taught me, this year about, HTML which is basically web page



creation, and shown me how the code behind it works and, as I discovered at the start of the year attention to detail is critical as on the school website I managed to turn the sports fixture page blue by missing out two letters 'T' & 'R'. Throughout the year I have been reporting back to him with all that I have done, as throughout the year many teachers and pupils have latched onto the fact that I became reasonably good at fixing laptops and PCs.

The year has been brilliant, and I have thoroughly enjoyed it, and look forward to another year next year. Obviously my exams take priority, but I will be looking to do as much as possible as I am considering pursuing this line of work when I'm older.

Charlie Jones

Bright Solitude

Back thousands of years!!
In a small, but powerful city,
Lived a little boy,
Thoughtful and witty.

Though he was young, he was
so very old!!
But, as he sat and watched
he watched the city unfold.

Month...
Year...
Century...
Millenium...

There he sits strong and bold,
next to a statue – and a woman
of Gold!!

“Welcome”
For her, this is new.
But for him, this is old.

There he will remain!!
His halo, lighting the city.
Forever known as the
Angel of Rome.

Will Lynch



Drama

The refurbishment of the school theatre meant that a whole school performance of "A Christmas Carol" could not take place at the appropriate time of year. However, S1K, with the assistance of their student teacher, Miss Dryden, endeavoured to stage their performance in the chapel, and it worked well. The pulpit, in reality so benevolently filled by Mr Silcox, was the vantage point for the beastly Scrooge, played by Elle, who filled the role with vim and gusto – something she could really get her teeth into. All, all performed well and brought an enthusiasm to the venture that was wondrous to behold. Once seen, who could forget Sarah Sweeney's Cratchit, Bishnu's Mrs Fred Scrooge, Rhy's chain-clanking Marley or Joseline's heart-rending Tiny Tim? No – once seen, never to be forgotten! Some people still wake up in the quiet hours of the morning, scream forming on lips...

The Drama Group this year was composed of the veteran actors Leah Brummitt, Rebecca Rew, Tamara Wilton, Bethany Williams, Alanna Macfarlane, Amy Balfour and Stephen Bell, supplemented

by Alisha McCaig, Ashwin Rai and Stephanie Barron. Gary and Cameron Carr formed the lighting and sound experts, and Kelsey Swan was the Stage Manager (the real one, not the one in the script). The script was homegrown again (it saves royalty fees and tonnes of paperwork), "Out of Time" an "eco-play" I volunteered to write for a local group in a moment of madness. A better title might have been "Out of Luck" for – yet again – we got as far as the first round in the Scottish Community Drama Association competition... and no further. Many thanks to all who supported the venture, including Mrs Downey. Quite apart from all the seemingly endless forms that have to be filled in these days, our adventures into the community theatres of darkest Stirlingshire could not now take place without an adult female ("disclosed", of course) accompanying us, and for that we owe Mrs Downey much thanks.

A Kirk



Clockwise from left: April Shiel S1B; Ashleigh Houston S2Q; Bishnumia Gurung S1V; Kieran Smith S1A; Garath Williams S1B.

Eco School Notes

Although the original Eco Committee did really well last year – especially achieving a Bronze Award, we decided this year to change the structure and create more hands-on action Eco Groups to fit in better with the school day, by running them during ‘hobbies’ time. The Eco hobby is currently being run by Miss Phillips on Mondays after school and by Mr Eastham on Thursdays, but pupils are welcome to help out at other times. Mr Coates has also joined us, bringing his considerable expertise and an excellent contact (his wife!). The pupils from the Eco hobby produced an A5 leaflet which gave hints and tips on how to have a greener Christmas. The leaflet was issued at the music concert on the last night of term. Some pupils and staff took part in the RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch in January. They used a recording sheet to count the birds they saw for in the school grounds. Members of staff were also encouraged to take part and Miss Phillips collated all the information.

www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch



Nikita, Tegan, Alex and Macaulay take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch:

One of our eco priorities this year is recycling combined with fundraising. Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who have donated spectacles which we pass on to Vision Aid. For more information, please visit www.vao.org.uk. Mrs Cockburn helped raise money for CHAS (The Children's Hospice Association Scotland) by recycling the printer cartridges used by staff at QVS. At home, families can send them direct to CHAS Recycling Appeal, FREEPOST NAT 22771, Falkirk, FK2 9BR. www.chas.org.uk The other scheme we are involved with, through our school chef Elizabeth Rae, is the collection of plastic bottle tops to raise money for wheelchairs for the Special Needs Unit at Alloa Academy. Thanks also to all who have donated used postage stamps which we use to fund-raise for the Guide Dogs

for the Blind charity. Please continue to pass on prescription spectacles, used postage stamps and plastic bottle tops (to the School Library). www.guidedogs.org.uk



Cerys, Charlotte, Nikita and Emma with Gavin Thomson the Training DO at Vision Express. When we were talking to Laura Young, the Store Manager at Vision Express, we discovered that one of our Old Victorians, Simon Reid, used to work in that very shop, making lenses!

This year four S5 girls (Cerys Docherty, Tasie Lynch, Emma Pead and Charlotte Worth) volunteered to combine their Duke of Edinburgh voluntary service with conservation and eco charity work. They spent two terms on bumblebee conservation projects at Argaty Red Kite Farm on Wednesday afternoons. This service was arranged by Miss Phillips and her fiancé Mr McDonnell who is the Wildlife Ranger at the farm. He arranged for the girls to maintain the bumblebee wildlife patch and for them to construct and paint bird boxes. They got a chance to see the donkeys, pigs and sheep and are hoping to be able to go back at lambing time to help feed the newborns. Many thanks to Mike McDonnell who has been inspiring, as well as good fun, during this project and for all his help – especially making sure that the red kites always flew out as we were driving up to the farm! We would like to pass on our warmest wishes for his marriage to Miss Phillips this July and we wish them a very happy future life together. For more information about this great place to visit: www.argatyredkites.co.uk and for bumblebees: www.bumblebeeconservation.org.uk



Emma Pead, Tasie Lynch and their two new BBFs!

In January the S5 ‘bumblebee’ girls: were joined by Nikita Gurung and they volunteered to work at the Good Green Fun charity shop in



Stirling. Good Green Fun recycles children's toys, clothes, prams and other items and keeps a total of the waste they recycle that would otherwise be sent to landfill. The girls sorted childrens' clothes and washed toys so they were fit for sale. Thanks to the committed and friendly staff: Lucie Southern, Anna Vermas and Donna Bow, for making this such a great experience. www.goodgreenfun.co.uk



Emma and Nikita wash toys.



Cerys and Charlotte sort the clothes.

As we go to press, we are getting out into the Cunningham Centenary Garden again and doing some planting, especially vegetables that pupils can harvest in August and use in Mr Eastham's popular cooking-for-Mrs Bellars evenings. We also received a donation of a free hedge tree pack from Woodland Trust which arrived in school in March amid all the snow! More information about this scheme can be found on www.woodlandtrust.org.uk.



Despite the weather, Mr Coates gets stuck in!

Kelsey Swan was judged by the eco pupils to have created the best eco website and was awarded an eco friendly 'Lush' package. Well done Kelsey!

Iona, Tegan and Nikita organised a very successful 'Green Day' on Friday 23 April where pupils could dress up in anything green for £1. The money raised is to go towards various eco recycling projects.



Fairtrade Fortnight

As part of the Standard Grade Geography Course, pupils study international trade. This year, the 22nd February – 7th March was Fairtrade Fortnight, so Miss Phillips and her S4 Geography class decided to get involved and to help raise awareness of Fairtrade, at the same time as increasing their own knowledge and understanding.

At the start of the fortnight, the pupils held an assembly in chapel to explain what Fairtrade was all about. They decided to focus on the work of the Fairtrade Foundation and the help they give to tea and cocoa bean growers. The assembly was followed by a tea and coffee morning for staff. Attendance was good and with the help of the catering staff and a tasty cake donation from Mr Brengan, everyone seemed to enjoy their morning break.

In the second half of the fortnight, a Fairtrade chocolate sale took place in Central Hall, thanks to a donation from the Malawi group.

The sale gave pupils the chance to taste for themselves what Fairtrade products are like and to pick up an entry form to the 'Tea Quiz'.

By the end of the fortnight, Fairtrade fever was clearly spreading as Mrs Adams and S6 held a disco for all pupils. They added all of the proceeds from the disco to the Fairtrade fortnight funds. Thank you!

This brought the total amount raised to £471.95, which the Geography class decided to donate to the 'Disasters Emergency Committee', which provides help to areas such as Haiti after the recent earthquake. There was also chance for the pupils to enjoy a reward evening for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

A Phillips



Clockwise from top left: Chanel Darling S4; Callum Bedwell S4; Danielle Cowan S4; Robina Ferguson S1; Bishnumaya Gurung S1; Rhona Wilson S1; Luke Masters S4; Charlotte Worrall S1.



Clockwise from top left: HRBP Office, Susan, Bruce & Chris; Estate Dept, Alastair, Neil, Tracy, Ali, George, Benny & Rab; Stores, Mary Ann, Sandy & Margaret; Mr S Dougan and Mrs A MacFarlane; PAs, Linda, Clare & Alison; Admin Office, Kenny, Evelyn, Margaret, Yvonne & Iain.

The Business Support Team

You may wonder what “The Business Support Team” actually provides to QVS and I do hope that the next few paragraphs provide some helpful enlightenment. The Team is led by Stephen Dougan, School Business Manager and some of you will have had some contact with the Admin Office or the PAs Clare, Alison, Ann and Linda but the remainder of us may not be so well known.

HRBP responsibilities include HR support, HMC charitable funds, Development Office, insurance, iIP. Bruce is better known amongst the Business Support Team for his pancake making skills (ages since you made any Bruce!)

Estates play a vital role in the smooth running of the School Estate including Grand Day which is the main event in the School calendar.

The Theatre refurbishment, funded by charitable donations, required significant input from the Estate Team.

Admin provide finance, administrative mail and reprographic support to the School and many parents pay a visit to the Office to settle school bills. Iain also covers absence in the House Teams.

The four PAs provide direct support to the Senior Management Team and are involved in most aspects of school life. Alison and Clare are also members of House Teams in addition to the day job. (How do you do it girls?)

S Rutledge, HRBP & Assistant Business Manager





Kieran Shaw, Calum Bedwell, Ben Irving, Jordan Angus, Craig Millar, Anthony Tickel and Cory Furnace.



Rebecca Rew, Leah Brummitt, Hannah Ashcroft, Tamara , Holli Work, Kelly Reid, Emma Anderson, Emma Law, Channel Darling and Alex Shields.



Andrew King, Charles Jones, David Drew, Danny Cowan, Lucy Calder, Ashley Halliday, Rachel Stewart and Bethany Williams.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year's Bronze practice expeditions took place in Glen Artney in the shadow of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Croin. These wild remote locations are very popular with the pupils. The weather was mixed but generally good. There was a dusting of snow for a short time on the boys expedition.

The Bronze assessed expeditions took place in the local Ochil hills. Starting in Tillicoultry 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.

The Girls Silver Practice Expeditions

The girls joined forces and had a joint Gold and Silver training Expedition in the area south of Loch Etive. The photograph on the right shows the group on top of Bheinn Mhor 997m. As you can see from the photographs the weather was dry and sunny and all the girls had a great time, even the midges were not to bad. A base camp was set up in Coire Na Caime in an idyllic setting I must thank Mrs MacFarlane one of our pupil's parents for kindly volunteering to be the female staff cover for the expedition. Mrs MacFarlane's help was invaluable.

Boys Gold Assessed Expedition

The boys Gold group decided to walk from Dalwhinnie in the East to Fort William in the West across Rannoch Moor, a demanding route in

good weather, unfortunately the group experienced one of the wettest periods of the summer which made their route a real challenge.

Here are some comments from the Gold Boys;

"At last we have finally achieved our aim of completing Gold Duke of Edinburgh. It has been four years since we started our quest to achieve this aim. The Duke of Edinburgh should not be undertaken by those who are not willing to try hard to achieve. It is very much a team effort but the rewards are endless. Duke of Edinburgh builds friendship but also leaves you with lasting memories."

"After many days of constant rain and poor weather, accompanied by Callum's constant moaning, we reached Fort William. It was as if our bodies could sense the warmth of the mini-bus and stomachs could taste the Big Mac in McDonalds. These delights were more indulged by the many challenges we had faced over the last four days."

"After many years we finally set out on our final trek. This turned out to be a hard but eventful trip, which took us from Dalwhinnie to Fort William. Our aim as a group was to visit Corrour Railway Station the highest and most remote train station in Britain. Although it was constant rain it was nothing compared to our practice which saw us conquer all four season in one hour! While walking up into the hill with socks on our hands to keep them warm shows how prepared the gold and silver group really were..."



The girls Silver practice expeditions: Amie Williams, Megan Halliday, Charlie Worth, Alex McDonald, Cerys Docherty, Chloe Moore, Alison Harrower, Brogan Stacey, Emma Pead, Rachel Christie, Leona Clark, Stephanie Barron, Samantha Leishman, Hazel Stanfield, Kayleigh Laing and Nakita Gurung.



The boys Gold expedition.

Listed below are the 27 pupils who started Duke of Edinburgh Award this year and are training to go on expeditions this summer.

New Pupils Starting The Bronze Award 2009

Kelsie Hunter	Wavell
Alanna MacFarlane	Wavell
Emily Gurung	Wavell
April Gray	Wavell
Megan Vevers	Wavell
Lauren Millman	Wavell
Tamara Wilton	Wavell
Laura Conaghan	Wavell

Veeranch Bohra	Cunningham
William Lynch	Cunningham
Connor Dickson	Cunningham
Calum Marshall	Cunningham
Scott Calder	Cunningham
Joe Burns	Cunningham
Finn Bark	Cunningham
Cameron Carr	Cunningham
Ashley Watson	Cunningham
Lewis Cox	Cunningham
Jamie Riddock	Cunningham

Alex Kenning	Haig
Robbie Leckie	Haig
Cory McGown	Haig
Gary Fleming	Haig
Ashley Price	Haig
Garry Carr	Haig
Oliver Mitchel	Haig
Jordan Clark	Haig

This coming summer Queen Victoria School in partnership with Dunblane High School have organised a Basic Expedition Leadership Award course (BELA). This will give staff at both schools the opportunity to gain a national qualification which can be used to train and lead Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions.

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

T Shannon ML, Principal Teacher Outdoor Pursuits





Contingent Commander's Report

As Contingent Commander I have an overall view of cadet activities. The amount of time, commitment and effort the cadets devote to the CCF is considerable. For example Sergeant Robbie Williams (Army Section) took advantage of many of the opportunities available over the summer. After Grand Day, Robbie was off to the CCF summer camp at Barry Buddon, for 10 days. A few days later he was off to Basel in Switzerland to take part in the Basel Tattoo. He then managed to two weeks at home before he was off again on his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition in Lochaber. Robbie's commitment, like many of the cadets, pays off with experiences and opportunities which develop self reliance, confidence, and leadership which better prepare them for later life. The CCF provides a fantastic wide spectrum of activities. This is what was available last summer;

QVS Combined Cadet Force Summer Break Activities 2009



CCF Army Camp Barry Buddon 27 – 4 June/July 2009

Cadets 26

Army Section: Natalie Brash, Joshua Brown, James Collins, Steven Craig, James Fleming, David Gibb, Ben Irving, Jemma Law, Alistair Newbury, Cameron Quin, Tom Rainey, Allana Smith, Robert Williams and Amie Williams.

Recruits: Finn Bark, Garry Fleming, Emily Gurung, Ashley Halliday,

Shona McAusline, Abbie McDougall, Cory McGown, Alice Quin, Jamie Riddock, Kelsey Swan and Megan Vevers.

RAF Section: Jamie Irving.

Staff 5: Capt Hiddleston, SSI Stacey, Flt Lt Gilhooly, Sub Lt McBlain and Cdr Shannon.



CCF RN Camp in HMS Bristol 11 – 20 July 2009

Cadets 2

RN Section: Kelly Reid and Tamara Kirkwood-Wright.

Bisley 12 – 18 July 2009

Cadets 10

RN Section: Stephen Bell.

Army Section: Rea McGowan.

RAF Section: Victoria Marland, Alex MacDonald, Emma Anderson, Mhari Archibald, Connor McGuile, Ross Watson, Ashwin Rai and Calum Halliday.

Staff 2: Capt Killmartin and Mr Mair.



CCF RAF Camp RAF Leaming 18 – 25 July 2009

Cadets 5

RAF Section: Rachel Read, Stephanie Barron, Holli Work, Owen Hunter and Christopher Pill.

Staff 1: Flt Lt Gilhooly.



CCF Cadets and Staff on Malawi Expedition 28 June – 28 July 2009

Cadets 7

RN Section: Jack Hendren and Luke Angus.

Army Section: Daniel O'Neil, Kayleigh Laing and Leoa Clark.

RAF Section: Hazel Stanfield and Tegan Gallacher

Staff 1: Sub Lt Low

CCF Cadets and Staff on Basel Tattoo 12 – 27 July 2009

Cadets 18

RN Section: Amy Balfour, Callum Bedwell, Charles Jones, Sujay Lama, Claire Riddock and Kieran Shaw.

Army Section: Jordan Angus, Tom Rainey, Robert Williams and Tom Wilson.

RAF Section: Harry Fairgrieve, Susan McLeod and Alex Shields.

Recruits: Cameron Carr, Lewis Cox, Ben Curren, Oliver Mitchell and Cory McGown

Staff 1: SSI Stacey.

CCF Cadets and Staff on Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold

Expedition 19 – 23 August 2009

Cadets 5

RN Section: Stephen Bell.

Army Section: Robert Williams.

RAF Section: Ross Watson, Jamie Irving and Callum Fraser.

Staff 1: Cdr Shannon.

Biennial Inspection

The Highlight of last year was our Biennial Inspection which took place on Wednesday 23rd September. The Reviewing Officer was Group Captain John Lawlor COS Air Cadets. This was my first Biennial Inspection as Contingent Commander and I am happy to report the Inspection was a great success. Group Captain Lawlor had a busy, enjoyable day and left both impressed by our cadets and pleased with the overall performance of our CCF.

This was the programme;



Sergeant Owen Hunter impressing Group Captain Lawlor with his smart turnout and RAF knowledge.

Ser	Time	Event	Location	Remarks	Dress
1	1100hrs	Arrival of Rev Officer	Main entrance	Met by HM and CC	No 1
2	1105hrs	Coffee with Mrs Bellars (private meeting)	HM's office		No 1
3	1105hrs	Coffee for all visitors with CCF Staff	Conference room	Catering	No 1
4	1130hrs	Corps with Ps and Ds March Off	Nason Ave.	SSM, P and D	No 1
5	1145hrs	CC calls to collect Rev Officer to move to parade and march past	Main Square	Parade Commander CSM D (TBC RN)	No 1
6	1200hrs	Move to	Play hall	Senior Cadets	No 1
7	1210hrs	CCF dancing display	Play hall	Mrs MacDonald	No 1
8	1230hrs	Lunch – Background power point of Photos	Play hall	Rev Offr and visitors joined by SMT and all CCF Staff	No 1
9	1330hrs	RN – Rev Offr visit RN	Boat Shed	OC RN	Working
10	1340hrs	RN – Rev Offr visit Pool	Pool	OC RN	Working
11	1350hrs	RN – RN command tasks	Mcmillan Hall	OC RN	Working
12	1400hrs	RAF –Display 1	CCF Hut	OC RAF	Working
13	1410hrs	RAF – Display 2	Around	OC RAF	Working
14	1420hrs	RAF – Display 3	Around	OC RAF	Working
15	1430hrs	Army – Section Attack	Outside	OC Army	Working
16	1445hrs	Army – Command Tasks	Outside	OC Army	Working
17	1500hrs	Army – Orienteering	Outside	OC Army	Working
18	1515hrs	Army – Skill at Arms – recruits	Can room	21CTT	Working
19	1530hrs	CCF Shooting team	Indoor range	Cpt Killmartin	Working
20	1545hrs	Tea with Staff Officers and CCF Officers	CCF Hut	Catering	Working
21	1620hrs	Short Address, all Cadets	Games hall	All Staff	Working
22	1630hrs	Inspecting Officer departs	Calls into HM's Office	All Staff	Working



Jamie Riddock, Connor Bannister, Calum Marshall, Connor Dickson, Finn Bark, Scott Calder, Brogan Stacey, Rachel Stewart, Lauren Millman, Alanna MacFarlane, Dion Robb, Rebecca Rew, Jason Feeney, Calum McLean, Fraser McLoughlin, Michael Bell, Christopher Bell, Darryn Moore, Caitlin Willis, Jasmin Worrall, Ashleigh Houston, Bethany Stacey, Cara King and Morven Craib.

Ski Camp 2010

Everyone had a great time in the Bavarian Alps. The weather and snow conditions were perfect allowing us to ski every day. We used three resorts over the six ski days

We left QV at 1700 on Friday 12th February on the coach and arrived in Oberstdorf 28 hours later on Saturday the 13th. Although the coach journey was long it passed quickly. Our accommodation in Oberstdorf was the local youth hostel, which was superb. The facilities were ideal, the food was plentiful and excellent and the staff could not have been more helpful and friendly.

As for the skiing we started the week with beginners and non skiers. By the end of the week everyone made substantial improvements in their personal skiing. All cadets gained Snowsport Ski Awards ranging from Level 2 to Level 6.

Evening entertainment included table tennis, pool and of course bingo. Fraser McLoughlin was the bingo champion.

Captain and Mrs Hiddleston did a sterling job at base camp looking after medical needs and transport.

To provide our cadets with the wide variety of opportunities I have a small team of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scene. Meet the CCF staff;

QVS CCF Staff



In closing I would wish to express my thanks to all my Officers and Cadets of whom I am exceedingly proud.

I must also place on record my continuing indebtedness to all the service personnel who provide guidance and support;

Lt Cdr Gordon King RN (PELO) and CPO Derick Norden Scotland Area Instructor Royal Navy, the Cadet Branch at 51 Bde together with the Commanding Officer and Staff of 21 Cadet Training Team and Flt Lt Brian McCran RAF

Cdr T Shannon RD RNR CCF, Contingent Commander



The Group Captain had a go on the indoor range.



Practical Leadership task in action.







Navy

This academic year we held our biennial inspection, which was a very successful day for the Navy. We set up 3 different activities: a personal leadership task; a lesson given on the role of the Navy and a lesson given on sailing. Since Miss McBlain has now taken over the Navy Section we have seen the introduction of mountain biking into the summer term activities. This has given the Navy Section programme more variety. In previous years we have gone sailing in the summer term and have seen many of our cadets gaining level one or two sailing badges.

The Navy Section offer many different camps and courses for all cadets from Able Seamen to Coxswain. We have had many different cadets going on courses with the most popular proving to be the sports course and the sailing course. All cadets who attended the various courses have highly recommended them and said how great the experience was. The greatest opportunity was the overnight stay which some cadets had the opportunity to do in Faslane. Andrew King was one of our Cadets who took part in this and he has given us some details about what they did during the stay at Faslane:

"During the school year, some of the Navy pupils were selected to participate in a course being run in the Royal Naval Base Faslane. We were warmly welcomed by Chief Nordon and we were shown to our accommodation. We stayed in the newly built en-suite accommodation buildings on the south side of the campus. We were all presented with a key card that would allow us into our individual rooms. We had a while to unpack all our belongings and make it back down the minibus where we re-joined the Chief.

After being given strict rules on the security of Faslane, Chief then briefed us on some of his own guidelines – the punishment for all of which were press ups – including the very serious warning that we were to call him 'Chief' and he was not to once hear the word 'Sir' muttered near his ears. We were given a brief time to eat our lunch before we were ushered off towards Faslane's dry ski slope. One training session and a lot of bruises later we were all happily skiing from the top.

Before long we were taken off the slopes and hurried on to our next activity which was to be held in one of the large halls in the sportsdrome. We were then introduced to the game Swedish long ball, but in the fully scheduled 2 day stay we didn't have much time to stay on one activity. We were then taken down to the jetty and give a tour of one of the minesweepers that were docked there and then headed away for Navy-issue dinner in the Mess Hall. With much to talk about, we were intending to stay up late, but much to all our disappointment "Chief" made it very clear that there were strict times by which we were to be showered and asleep and he would personally be coming round and checking that we were.

The next day we were awoken with another Navy-issue meal with the promise we would be joining the Marines that day. Breakfast was quickly shovelled down necks and we were away to the Marine's building. After a short presentation on what the duty of the Marines was and whereabouts in the world they were serving, we were taken into a separate room and were shown some of the weapons that made up the Marine's arsenal. A Marine explained a little about each gun and why they might use it and then allowed us to feel the weight and look down their sights. Included was a long range sniper rifle that everyone took shots with to look across the loch. Then we were rushed down to the Marine's separate jetty and bunched onto two of their fast boats. The boats were equipped with very advanced looking dials and meters, but what we all noticed first were the two large engines positioned at the back. We sped across the loch engaging in dog fighting manoeuvres that brought smiles to all our faces.

As our final day was coming to an end, we were taken up to the training building where we were all allowed taking part in some of the advanced simulators that the Navy use to train its seamen. After several near misses and crashes, we quickly moved on to the simulated shooting range for our final activity of the day. After being given what looked like very real rifles, everybody was exited and we all took turns to take part using them in the pre-programmed real life situations. Finally though, we all retreated to the minibus with all our belongings and some pre-made packed lunches ready for the trip to the school.



We have been very fortunate this year. The Marines came to the school to take two CCF sessions: one being armed combat. This proved to be a very successful lesson which all the cadets thoroughly enjoyed, all learning how to protect themselves from danger. The second session was a physical training one; all cadets were given the option to drop out whenever they needed to but few actually did so.

We then had 3 different problem solving tasks in each task the Marines would ask a different person to take charge. These tasks built on our teamwork skills as well as our leadership skills.

Coxswain Megan Halliday



CCF Dance team danced a hornpipe for the Guests over lunch.



The Royal Marines sort out the Navy Section.





Curryoke



Old Victorians Association 2009 – 2010

Another year has flown by and once again whilst putting together this article we are reflecting on all that has happened. It has been very quiet for the OVA; there was a much smaller turnout at Grand Day than the previous year which was to be expected after all of the Centenary celebrations. We then held a BBQ over the summer which was thoroughly enjoyed by those that could make it, and finally we had the OVA Weekend on the 13/14th March.

For the Old Victorian's Weekend, the attendance for the AGM was quite poor however, the turnout for the evening get together in both the Dunblane Hotel and later in Stirling more than made up for it. Even with the low numbers we were able to make some decisions about the future of the OVA. We have decided to change the date of the OVA Weekend to the Battle of Britain Parade weekend in September (date TBC), to hopefully allow more OVs to attend and also to ease the pressure on the School. The March weekend is proving to be an exceptionally busy period for the School with the weekend regularly clashing with band and sport engagements as well as the Calcutta Cup match with unsurprisingly holds more appeal than the AGM! Therefore this year we will hold a second OVA Weekend with an EGM on the Saturday to vote in new committee members and deal with the fallout from the AGM. More information will follow on the OVA website.

We were also able to assign the vast majority of the large fund raised by you for the Centenary Appeal to various project around the School. The Centenary Appeal was originally set up to fund a new theatre/music hall however as costs started to spiral out of control the school opted to refurbish the current theatre instead – have a look next time you are at the school and I'm sure you'll be impressed. The OVA held on to the money that had been raised and opted to support multiple smaller projects around the school based on a wish list that had been created. These include donating money to the Malawi Expedition; setting aside funding for the Centenary Garden, as well as pledging £1000 per year to help fund a pupil's education.

In order to allow us to continue to raise funds for the school we require your support and one of the simplest ways of doing this is to join our 200 Club, via the website www.oldvictorians.org. It's an annual draw at the AGM with the first prize of £200 and will only cost you £12 per year!

We are going through an uncertain period at this time and are looking for some new faces to assist with the running of the committee, so please contact us at oldvictorians@hotmail.com or c/o the School if you're interested

On a more sombre note we have to report the death of our Ex-OVA President Lt Col.(Rtd) Ronald Smith and of our oldest OV Fred Verlander. All obituary notices we receive are put onto the OVA website, however here are the ones for both Ron and Fred:

Lt Col.(Rtd) Smith

Ron – a Dukie – joined QVS in 1943 and was winner of the Primus Medal in 1947 and was also Senior Monitor. He left in 1951 and then took the Civil Service entrance exam subsequently passing the War Office selection Board to enter RMA Sandhurst. He was commissioned in to the Royal Artillery attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Speaking of his time at QV he said: "I think the school gave me a tremendous boost. I'd learned through the promotion system in

the School, up to Senior Monitor, so I experienced command at an early age. Working my way through the school helped me considerably. I was lucky, for there was a change in the academic system, and the beginning of thinking about careers for pupils rather than simply the expectation that boys would join the Army."

It is not overstating it to say that in his later years Ron lived for the school. His service over many years on behalf of the Association was second to none leading us forward as President for many years. He stood down from the committee in 2005 but his interest in the school and in its former pupils never faded and he was held in the highest regard by OVs young and old.

To Ron's family we would like to apologise for this not being in last year's magazine and hope that you will be able to make it up to the school in the near future when we hope to plant a tree in the Centenary Garden to commemorate all that he did for the OVA and the school.

Mr Verlander (1095)

Fred, who was our oldest OV passed away on the 1st July 2009. Fred was born in Tottenham London on 28th July 1915. He was the son of a Cameron Highlander and was educated at QVS.

He began his military service in 1929 with the Royal Signals in a career that included five pre-war years as a wireless operator at the British Embassy in Peking and war service in France & India.

Fred married Doris in March 1939 and in 1940 he was transferred to the Army Physical Training Corps and reached the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1 within a year.

He later took the army boxing team to Denmark this was the start of nine successful years as chief coach of the army boxing team, handling such big boxing names as Jack Gardner, Joe Erskine, Henry Cooper and many more. In 1955 his army boxing team was represented in all ten weights at the amateur boxing association semi-finals and finals at Wembley. It was through the army boxing that he began his boxing commentating on both the BBC and ITV and was fortunate enough to cover the Empire Games in Cardiff in 1958 and the Tokyo Olympics in Japan in 1964.

He retired from Army service in 1955 and joined Electrolux in Luton, as their Social Secretary. Some 12 years later he joined Marconi Instruments in St Albans as their Social Secretary. He retired from work in 1980 and eventually moved from Welwyn Garden City to Tewkesbury and then to finish his long and full life with his youngest son Neil and partner Gigi in Hanley Swan.

Fred is survived by his five sons Donald, Graham and Richard who live in Australia, Robert (Bob) and Neil who live here in England. He has 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, who will all miss him greatly.

The full obituary – 'A Life To Remember' was passed on to us from his family and can be found on the website.

All that's left for us to do now is welcome those pupils who are leaving the school this year into the folds of the Old Victorian's Association...we look forward to meeting you in September.

Vicki Harris

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 Brengan DRSAM DipEd
G T Buchanan MA(Hons) ALCM
D Garden BSc(Hons) MPhil DipEd
D Gilhooley BA(Hons) SQH PGDSLM DIP Ed
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)
J F Scott BEd(Hons)
D Shaw BSc(Hons) PGCE
A Thomson MA PGCE
R C Wright BA PGCE

Teaching Staff:

S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE
E Blackwood BEd
J E Coates BA(Hons) MLitt DipEd PGCE
D J Davey BS (Hons) 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)
L MacLeod BA(Hons) PGDE
C McBlain BSc DipEd
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 PGC in SFL
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	E Mackie

K Romaniuk

B McMillan

A Collins

G Spowart

H McIntosh

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
Wavell M C Sword

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:

Margaret A Gardner

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 ABICSc
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 (5) R Hiddleston
Civilian Security Officer (5) R Davies
Civilian Security Officer (5) G P MacGuire
Civilian Security Officer (5) P Ralston
Civilian Security Officer (5) Jim McGuinness



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