



The Victorian 2014

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL



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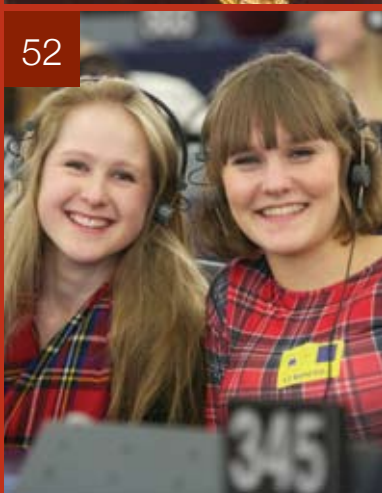
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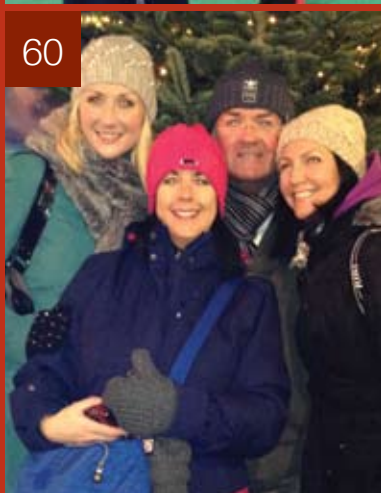
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Vision Statement

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.

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Colour Party.

From the Head – Grand Day 2014

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of all ages, and thank you for being with us for our Grand Day Prizegiving and Parade.

The American comedy writer James Thurber – of whom some of you may have heard – used to write very amusingly about his own family. He had a great-aunt, who was of considerable age when electricity was introduced to households in their area of the United States. She struggled to understand what electricity was, and remained convinced for the rest of her life that if you didn't put a plug into the socket on the wall, the electricity would drip out of it and pose a real danger to the residents of the house, especially if the socket were left empty overnight. Similarly, the grandmother of one of our front desk staff here at QVS struggled to understand how modern forms of energy work. When told that a power-cut was affecting the home of one of her sons and his family, she lamented the fact that they had no heating, no oven and no hob to use; "But they'll be all right," she said. "After all, they've got the microwave."

We tend to associate such stories with the elderly. However ... QVS, along with a large swathe of Central Scotland, suffered a power cut just before Christmas, at 0719 hours one Thursday. Once we had fed the school cereal and juice for breakfast – by torchlight – I had time to ask the Housemasters how their pupils were getting on. "They're fine," said Mr Lear. "Most of them are on their phones or iPads. But they keep asking me what's happened to the wifi!" Similarly in Trenchard: Mr Bush said that most of the pupils were very happily playing games on their iPads – but in a moral tale reminiscent of the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, he added, "Except for those who forgot to plug them in to recharge last night!"

Ah, the iPads – what wonderful learning aids they are proving to be – in all sorts of ways!

You maybe remember being asked to take part in a survey, back in

October last year. We asked you what was most important to you about QVS; what if anything you would like us to stop doing; and what if anything you'd like to see us do, which we don't do already. Thank you for your responses, which were significant in quantity, thoughtful, helpful and in some cases usefully detailed. We asked parents, staff and pupils to respond to the same questions. All three groups gave helpful and insightful responses – and the triangulation of having three sets of respondents was useful too.

So what **do** we value about QVS? There was a welcome consistency of response across all three groups. "Security, Stability and Support" would sum up very well what is most important to us all. Underneath those broad headings there are specifics, such as "a good education" – by far the most popular response from the pupils; the amazing and diverse opportunities offered to pupils by the School; our Ceremonial traditions, Grand Day, the Parades and Chapel; Piping, Drumming and Dancing; sports; the Combined Cadet Force; the Duke of Edinburgh Award; the Library; School trips and socials. And there's more – but for now, let me look at what we've been up to in these areas over the past year.

Education: what we do is about helping the pupils to learn, and to apply their knowledge, every day. It's not just about exam passes and what they go on to do when they leave. Having said that, however, it's not just the Scottish Government which is interested in what it calls "positive and sustained" destinations for school leavers. We have a tremendously impressive range of "next step destinations" for this year's leavers. They have already done extremely well, and I congratulate them all on that. I also wish them every success in life beyond the School.

One of our S6 is going on to a full GAP year in Australia, appointed against considerable competition. Two of our leavers are going on to Forth Valley College and others, we hope, to other Colleges. And a



Cunningham House prefects.



Haig House prefects.

stunning eight out of our 26 S6 leavers already have unconditional offers to university, including three to St Andrews. Of the seventeen applicants holding conditional offers through UCAS – the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service – all have very reasonable conditions to meet, and again they are from very reputable universities. Thanks are due to Miss Phipps and Mrs Adams, for all the work they do in the Careers department, and of course to all who have taught and otherwise supported these young people as they make their post-QVS choices – including you, their families.

Within School, Mr Shaw has been leading on a great deal of work to drive up academic standards even further. The introduction of monthly Academic Rewards, funded by the Commissioners, has been a growing success this year, adding to the more general reward schemes offered by Head's Commendation letters and the whole-school reward programme which is being constantly refined by the Behaviour Management Group.

Teachers have been hard at work getting to grips with the new courses at National 4 and National 5, including the internal assessments for National 4 and the recent exams for National 5. Next year sees the revised Higher courses coming on line; these are busy and challenging academic times. Mr Wright devised and introduced a new prep scheme for S4s and S5s this year, which drew some admiring comments in the pupils' responses to the survey I referred to earlier. Five Principal Teachers undertook the National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership this year – including Mr Wright – and we look forward to hearing the outcomes of that; three more staff will be beginning the course in the coming year.

But probably the most talked-about – and perhaps most controversial – of the innovations on the academic front this year has been – yes – the iPads. We know that they are not the answer to everything; in fact they're not the only answer to anything. But we do believe that their potential to enhance learning is considerable, and that overcoming the problems that any such initiative encounters will be well worthwhile, as pupils and teachers access ways of learning that have previously been unavailable to them. It seems a long time ago that we began the roll-out of iPads, to Primary 7, to the Seniors, and then – in January this year – to the rest of the School. This, of course, did not please everyone. When the survey was completed, in October last year, one pupil wrote, "Well I want an Ipad now not in two months."

The pupils, of course, don't see iPads as solely an aid to learning. I can almost hear parents groaning, "No, of course they don't." But interestingly it wasn't the ability to play games that pupils commented on in the survey. "IPads [are] better for our work," they wrote – amongst many specific examples of why that was the case, "and to contact our parents." The use of Skype and Face Time was specifically mentioned. There are always unexpected developments, with any innovation, of course – and I don't think anyone was prepared for the moment when a House tutor called in on a pupil one evening, to be told, "My mother wants to ask you about something, sir" and have the pupil thrust the iPad at him, whereon was said pupil's mother, in real time, saying, "Hello, Mr X; I'm sorry my hair's wet, I'm just out of the shower." Perhaps we need to build something about that into our iPad protocols.

Keeping in contact with their parents came through in the survey as tremendously important to pupils, as did the support that they feel they get from QVS when they are apart from their families. "We all have one thing in common," one wrote. "You're surrounded by people in the same situation," wrote another. A third said that QVS provided "support for the children of military personnel ... supporting them with ... issues such as deployment." This was something parents valued, too: "QVS gives my children not just an excellent education," one said, "but ... cares for them holistically and therefore appreciate[s] the unique challenges they face having a parent in the Forces."

Having a parent in the Forces is – if you'll pardon the expression in the circumstances – a two-edged sword. Yes, it is a burden – but it is also a source of immense pride, strength and resilience. Many of our pupils thrive on taking part in the CCF, carrying the Colours, playing in the Pipes and Drums, or dancing – because it enables them to share in their parents' profession. They wear their uniforms with pride; their drill and turnout are excellent; and they perform outstandingly well.

This year, the Pipes and Drums took part in the second Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Championships. They had been moved up a class from last year, and were competing against a good number of other groups. It was an exciting, if nerve-wracking, day, and I'm delighted to say that they won their class. Later in the term the Highland Dance exams took place, and once again QVS attracted an impressive "haul" of medals and trophies. Thanks are due to

Mr Ross, our Pipe Major; Mr Clark, our Drum Major; Mrs Drever, our Highland Dance Instructor; and to Mr Bowes who covered for Mr Ross during the year, and Miss Stinson who is covering for Mrs Drever while she is on maternity leave.

As well as the immensely enjoyable Christmas Concert which the P, D & D department staged for a second time in December, the Band took part in the first ever Winter Tattoo in Basel and Zurich, and fulfilled a number of other public engagements. On an individual level, we were delighted when Matthew Asbridge became the first ever QVS pupil to achieve a place in the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland; and Lucy McNair – also in S5 – was chosen against competition from several other schools to be Drum Major leading the combined bands of eleven well-known schools' cadet forces, at Holyrood Palace in front of HRH the Earl of Wessex. "Petite" is not a bad word to describe Lucy – but she certainly made everyone stand up and listen on the parade square, and reputedly is the first female ever to take on the exalted position!

The CCF enjoyed its Biennial Inspection last autumn, which went very well; and our shooting team goes from strength to strength under Lt Scott Harrison, one of our Stores staff. Bisley beckons once again this summer, and we are sending a team that has already enjoyed considerable success this academic year in local and regional competitions.

I think that Shooting is to sport as the Library is to play-time activities: it gives those quieter, more solitary and introspective pupils the chance to focus on, and grow from, an activity quite different from – and no less valuable than – the louder, more physically aggressive team games which may not be their *forte*.

The Library was also mentioned in our survey as a strength – and once again this year Mrs Sheerin has organised the Kids' Lit Quiz Team, World Book Day and other events to promote the very valuable skills that books can develop, and the fun that we can have through them. And yes, we have books available on loan via the iPads!

Teamwork was another quality much valued by the survey respondents – and of course we develop that in all sorts of ways here at QVS, but the games field deserves special mention – as indeed it did in our survey responses. Team games of all sorts are both popular, and valued by pupils, parents and staff. Both the U16s and the U18s reached the regional finals of their respective "Plate" competitions in rugby this year, and the U16s won their national semi-final, before sadly being defeated – despite a great second half – in the final at Murrayfield.

Getting out of QVS for an organised event is a very valuable learning experience; it is important for our pupils to develop their confidence outside the School as well as on the campus. So I'm delighted that the PE Department ran another very successful Ski Trip to Courmayeur in Italy last February; that Mr Buchanan and his helpers organised a trip to Berlin in early December; that there will be another Paris trip this October; that four pupils and two staff will be going to Gallipoli next May; and that the CCF are running a visit to Normandy in the early summer of next year. Year-group trips – whether they are the P7 residential week in Ardgour, or the annual outdoor activities day in May – are also appreciated by pupils and parents; as are House activities, Tutor Group events, and CCF camp and exercises. Many thanks to the staff who put these together; they are all part of the QVS experience.

Continuing the theme of overseas travel, Morven Craib of S6 was selected from many applicants in the Perthshire area to take part in

the Rotary Euroscola programme in February. Morven visited Strasbourg for a week, working with young people from different European countries, learning about the European parliament and taking part in activities as if she were an MEP! We are sure that that has helped her immensely in her Advanced Higher French, and was one of the reasons that she was offered **three** unconditional places from different universities – one of which, I'm pleased to say, had always been her first choice.

Tom King, our Deputy Senior Monitor, is – sadly for us – not with us today, but for the best of possible reasons. He has been offered work for a month or more in China, playing his pipes and acting as part of a team promoting non-alcoholic whisky! Tom came to the attention of a company executive through playing at Burns Suppers – just one of the many commitments that our pupils undertake for the local community.

Tom has been a stalwart of the MAD – Make A Difference – Group, about which I talked this time last year. The MAD group are chartered by the Interact section of Rotary International and get involved in charity work of many different kinds. This year, the MAD group have been busy again – not least in developing a group of younger, like-minded pupils, who rejoice in the title ROTAKIDS. ROTAKIDS have recently also earned their charter from the Interact group and – as they told us in a presentation at Chapel recently, "You've heard of the MAD group; well, we're even Madder!"

It is good to know that we – both the School and our pupils – are part of the wider community. But there is no doubt that, to our pupils, the unique arrangement that we offer here is amongst the most highly valued aspects of the School. "It provides a set place for pupils to stay when their families are constantly moving around," one pupil wrote. Another said, "You don't need to keep on moving school and you can have a steady education ... you don't have to keep on making new friends and saying bye to the friends you already have." Yet another wrote about "our close connection with staff" and another, "if you are stuck ... they will help you with your problem."

The pastoral dimension is, for us, equal in importance with the academic. That is in the nature of a boarding school and is particularly important for us, given our brief of providing stability and continuity for Armed Forces families. You will all join with me, then, I am sure, in thanking everyone who contributes to the pastoral life of the School – and actually, that's pretty much everybody who works at QVS, as well as the pupils, which in itself is a remarkable thing to be able to say – and in particular Mr Adams, Miss Phipps, the Housemasters and Housemistress, and everyone who supports in the Houses and behind the scenes.

We've had a few changes of staff this year – saying good-bye to Mrs Fleming in Stores in December. She and her family had lived at QVS for 36 years! It was, indeed, the end of an era when she retired. Ms Susan Rutledge, our HR Business Partner, left in December too, after many years of very valuable service to the School; and our Estates Manager, Mr Alastair McGregor, left us then too, although the leave that he had – sadly – accumulated through an extended period of ill-health meant that he left the MoD only in March. Mr McGregor was a remarkably calm, committed and enthusiastic member of the QVS staff and in his all-too-short time with us did much to improve the environment of the School.

Capt Isobel Aitchison was "loaned" to us to help with our Health and Safety work, which as you can imagine is a major task in a boarding school. She was both popular and effective, and we shall miss her; she has left the Army to take up a civilian post elsewhere.



Top to bottom: Trenchard House prefects; Wavell House prefects.

Since Grand Day last year we have welcomed Mark Brailey to the General Hands team; Kirsten Rodger to the Social Subjects department, where she will be Principal Teacher next year; Christine Milne to be Principal Teacher of Mathematics; John Robinson as Estates Manager; Tracy Carr to Stores; and Ronnie McKinnon to the post of HR Business Partner. Also working with us is Dr Jenni Barr, our Educational Psychologist, who is – as is each of our new arrivals – a very welcome member of the team.

This summer we say farewell to Johanna Messerschmidt, our Foreign Language Assistant, and wish her well as she returns to Germany to take up her place at university. We also, sadly, mark the retirement of Mr Andy Thomson, Principal Teacher of Social Subjects. Mr Thomson has been at QVS for ten years and made himself well known to pupils and colleagues alike with his sometimes unusual teaching methods

(I particularly remember the rotating penguins toy!); his enthusiasm for basketball and his penchant for bringing back Italian chocolate from his holidays there! Most of all, however, we shall miss his ability to take into his class some of the pupils who might be struggling in other areas, and help them to believe that they do have a subject in which they can succeed. Andy and his wife are retiring to their home in Italy, where we wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Before I finish, I would like to give some particular thanks. Thank you to Her Majesty's Commissioners, some of whom are sitting behind me here on stage; being a Commissioner must seem a thankless task at times, but the passion, commitment and – sometimes – ferocity with which these ladies and gentlemen defend and promote the best interests of the School have to be witnessed to be believed.



Top to bottom: Monitors; Monitors – 6th year prefects.

Thank you to all the staff, as I said earlier, each one of whom contributes to the secure, stable and supportive environment that we are continuously creating for our pupils.

Thank you to you, the parents and wider families of our pupils, for your interest in, and support of, the School; particularly thank you to those who serve on the Parents' Liaison Group.

And most of all – thank you to the pupils, for making this School what it is. Particular thanks, of course, to the prefects and monitors, and to our other leavers: they have been here longest, and have had the most time to influence the School and its development. They have done so in very positive ways. Every year, it seems, we say we have had the good fortune to have an outstanding team of prefects and monitors – and so it is once again. All credit to this year's team, not just for doing well in their own right, but for building so successfully on the progress of those who have filled those roles before them. Especial thanks to Caitlin Willis, our Senior Monitor, and to Tom King, the Deputy Senior Monitor. They have worked particularly well together, sharing responsibilities and organisation in a most mature and effective way. Both of them have been entirely devoted to the

interests of the School, and could quite easily walk straight into management posts tomorrow!

So that's about it for another year – apart from this afternoon's important and special events, of course – and tomorrow's UK Armed Forces Day in which our pipes, drums and dancers are participating. I'll finish with two comments about the School which have been made this year. One is from a letter sent by the family of an Old Victorian – a former pupil, that is; the family visited the School after an absence of many years. "What shines through," they wrote, "is the love for the School by everyone involved. From the minute we arrived till we departed we were made to almost feel part of it all and that gave us so much joy and pleasure."

The other is from a pupil responding to the survey. After writing about iPads – of course! – and the importance of being able to contact your parents, and the range of opportunities here, he or she wrote, "They are also very very kind here – a very loving place here!"

That does it for me! Thank you for listening, and I wish you all a very happy and restful summer.

Notes From The Chairman: The Way Forward

It gives me great pleasure to bring to you a number of announcements which are probably the most exciting to have taken place since QVS opened in 1908.

I will begin by providing some background detail.

In the week before Grand Day some of you may have seen the Head walking the school grounds with two people who were in fact from Historic Scotland. Over the next few weeks you are going to see a lot more visitors like that.

But let me go back a bit. Sometimes events and people just happen to line up in the right order. I took over as Chairman in November of 2012 after six years on the Board. Throughout that six year period I had heard how year on year we were oversubscribed with applications from good candidates. During that time I also had many conversations with the Head and SLT past and present on what the school was all about and where it should be heading.

But as I said sometimes things come together. In 2012 Major General Nick Eeles whom you all know became GOC Scotland and it very quickly became apparent that he and I were having similar thoughts. Then in very early 2013 we had a visit from the Adjutant General, General Gerry Berragan. This was one of those wonderful occasions when the pupils excelled themselves with enthusiasm for all that QVS tries to achieve. They took General Berragan on a tour of the school and made an indelible and very favourable impression. At the end of his visit I was left in no doubt that if we were going to make changes, now was the time to do it and most importantly he would support us.

Shortly after that the Board met and agreed to set up what we call the 'Way Forward' Sub Committee. WFSC for short. The WFSC consisted of four Commissioners. General Eeles, Colin Ross, Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood and Group Captain Jim Leggat. Colonel Clive Knightley and I had de facto membership as required. The terms of reference I drew up required the WFSC to look at all aspects of QVS, to look over the horizon, to say what if, to be radical and to produce the first draft of their report in six months time. The WFSC obviously could not do all of this on its own and I must here acknowledge the tremendous help they were given by the SLT, all of whom gave unstintingly of their time when required.

The draft duly appeared in November 2013 and Commissioners took it away to consider. In early 2014 we met three times, twice on Saturday mornings, in order to have the finished report ready for a meeting with the Adjutant General on the 2nd May. At that meeting AG pronounced himself well satisfied with what was proposed, authorised the necessary budgetary amendments and said 'Proceed'.

Which brings us back to Wendy's meeting with Historic Scotland, Colin's meetings with Stirling Planners and so on.



Commissioner Alan Plumtree

So after all that what are we going to do?

The Proposals

Essentially we are aiming to make QVS the school of first choice for all Services families, to offer their children an education as good as they will get anywhere else with the level of pastoral care that we currently do so well in a safe and secure environment.

To do that will mean that the school roll over the next 3 – 5 years will go up from 275 approximately to 360 with the final target being 480 in the 2020s, if all goes to plan. At the same time the number of teachers will increase to keep class sizes broadly similar to the current ratio. There is a great deal of educational research which may demonstrate that a school of this sort of increased size is able to perform better, to offer greater diversity of courses and to achieve higher academic success, than can be achieved with the current size of school roll.

For that to be possible the first requirement is a new teaching block. Work will start on that early in 2015. The old one will then be demolished.

To accommodate the increase in numbers one of the existing boarding houses will be demolished and two new ones will be built.

The accommodation in the main building will then be upgraded to modern standards, and other major changes will follow.

All of this is going to present an enormous challenge to QVS staff not least of all ensuring that the quality of teaching and pastoral care that is currently the accepted norm here is maintained through all of this change. As 2014 moves in to 2015 that will be an evolving subject for all of us to be involved with and share responsibility for.

As I said at the beginning this is perhaps the most exciting development since the school's foundation and Her Majesty's Commissioners look forward with enthusiasm to work commencing.

Alan Plumtree, Chairman Of Her Majesty's Commissioners

A Commissioner – Education Beyond Dunblane

I imagine as HM Commissioners come in and go out of Queen Victoria School they are seen as rather strange, even haunting figures who have other lives that nobody knows about. They are little known and simply figures of mystery. With this in mind I have been asked if I would say something of that “other life”- either adding to the mystery or dispelling it. I hope this will not appear dull or tedious, or some form of self-aggrandisement.

So, who am I? Well, I am not a mobile cv, and so I shall not offer my cv as the starting point. I am a husband, father, and grandfather. I have spent my professional career in education, having taught Geography in St Aloysius' College, Glasgow; by stages I became Principal of St Andrew's College, Glasgow; the first Dean of the Faculty of Education in Glasgow University; and until recently I was Dean of Education at Liverpool Hope University; and now Professor of Christian Education there.

My interests in the work of Queen Victoria School are in its educational place in Scottish society and the personal good that it offers to each student. I am aware that all education resides in the individual, and a good school touches the inner core of each student who is part of that community. Of course the school works for the common good in providing a service for the Forces of the UK; and in doing so offers that personal good for each student and for each family.

I have had the opportunity in my professional work to serve places outside of the general run of Scottish education. I am Chairman of the International Board of Regents of Bethlehem University in Palestine. That is a place with challenges and difficulties. The University is a Christian University and it serves a largely Moslem society in Bethlehem. (Around 96% of the population of Bethlehem is Moslem). The role of a Christian university in relation to Moslem students is unequivocally to enable them in being better Moslems. So I chair that Board and visit The Holy Land regularly. I seek funding for the schools of the area and do what I can to serve those in greatest need in that area.

(Hence the photograph of meeting Pope Francis to discuss how as poor people we can best serve the poor in The Holy Land.)

Within this work in Bethlehem the guiding forces are not different from how I see education in Dunblane and throughout the world. It has to be inspired by the values of justice, hope and love. It is through the appropriate application of these that we shall find peace. This will not come through the walls being built, or the military action, or resolutions in the UN, but through the harmonious living of the local people.

As part of that interest in seeing education as the most potent force for justice and peace in the world, I have worked in other contrasting places. In Liverpool Hope University we have developed a close



relationship with St Xavier's University, Mumbai. Seeking to support the education of teachers in the slums of Mumbai is a noble and rewarding endeavour. It forces us to think why there is indeed so much injustice in the world, and what we can do to share the wealth of ideas, of hope and of love in this world. It is not only a matter of material poverty. The greatest poverty I witness in this world is the poverty of hope.

One sees that need for shared wealth in the communities of the first nations of northern Manitoba, Canada. There the Dakota Indians live lives in close harmony with the sub-Arctic environment. They hunt for their food and live very mobile lives. When first working with them it seemed counter-intuitive to go in the winter in temperatures of below minus 40C. Now that does feel as cold as Dunblane in January, and certainly a contrast to Mumbai and Jerusalem! Of course in such conditions it is possible to travel over the flat frozen lakes, and really get into the communities. In summer on the marshy, mushy terrain with no roads it is very difficult to travel. These nomadic groups can certainly teach us a great deal in how we should be respectful of the fragile environment.

Beyond the formal world of education, until recently I have served on the Scottish Social Services Council as someone from another profession. That opened my eyes to another fragility, that of the tensions and pressures in some parts of society which are often hidden. It is revealing to see that in our society if we are to achieve real social change we need to have combined strategies, joined-up thinking, in education, social care, and health. None of these services on their own will transform society in ways that we would wish.

For much of my professional work I have been engaged in the education of teachers. That is very rewarding work. Teachers create history, and inspire generations yet to be born. Educating teachers for the uncertainties of an unknown world is challenging and rewarding. As I reflect on this and on some of these wider experiences I am left with the conviction that we need to keep in the forefront of our lives the absolute significance of Justice, Hope and Love as the guiding beacons of whatever we do. Nothing much else matters.

As a Commissioner I hope that some of these values can be brought to bear on how the school advances and makes its own special contribution to a better world. Those who are influenced by the community of Queen Victoria School have been powerful forces for good in the world. May that continue in the years ahead.

Prof. Bart McGettrick



From the Senior Deputy Head

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that our SQA results for academic year 2012/13 showed improvements at Standard Grades, Intermediates and Highers. The percentage of our S4 students who gained five or more Standard Grades improved and the percentage of our S5 students who gained three or more Highers increased significantly. Students who managed to achieve five Highers by the end of S5 were Christopher Bell, Michael Bell, Ryan Hutcheon, Cara King, Thomas King (he achieved 6 Highers!), Heather Stanfield and Leah Tytek. With small year groups, one person can make a big difference to school statistics so although we are hopeful of further improvements this year, there are no guarantees.

You are probably aware that Scottish education has changed a lot with the introduction of the 'The Curriculum for Excellence'. This year, that has meant that our S4 students have been the first to sit their exams at National 4 and National 5 level. National 4 broadly equates to Standard Grade General and Intermediate 1, whilst National 5 equates to Standard Grade Credit and Intermediate 2. There will no longer be any exams at Standard Grade or Intermediates; S4-S6 students will all sit Nationals then Highers and then Advanced Highers if appropriate. The Higher awards have not escaped change and so our S5/6 students will be studying for the 'new' Highers in the forthcoming academic session.

One totally new initiative this year has been a new prep model for our S4 and S5 students. Mr Wright, our PT Business, researched and consulted on how best to run prep for our senior students. Instead of using their rooms for prep, students have been going to the teaching block and choosing whether to work in a silent zone, a collaboration zone or an ICT zone. We feel this better meets the needs of individual learners. In addition to this, subject-specific classes have been running, staffed by the tutor tutors each night. When on duty in the senior houses, teaching staff now spend some of the time working on academic work with their classes – a very useful development, I'm sure you'll agree. The senior leadership team 'police' the zones to make sure that students are on task.

Another new initiative this session has been monthly academic

rewards. Thanks to the Commissioners of the school, we managed to gain funding to award ten vouchers of £10 each on a monthly basis – the awards could only be given for an exceptional piece of work. Lots of the teaching staff nominating members of their classes and we've managed to reward almost ninety different students for their achievements during class time and prep. I'm delighted that this has further raised the profile of academic achievement within the school and I know that our Behaviour Management Group is looking at further ways we can reward our students in the future. Of course, the best reward for hard work is performing well in exams and these new awards don't take away from our push for good results; they add to it.

We've just finished a week of activities based on the Commonwealth Games. All students in P7-S3 had the opportunity to work on this theme in all of their classes. It was very much led by Mr McLay, PT of PE and Games. Fittingly, for a celebration of sport, he ran an excellent sports day, when pupils spent the morning competing in Netball, Hockey and Touch Rugby before taking part in the more traditional sports day events in the afternoon. I bet the students slept well that night! In classes, loads of activities took place. Mr Laing and his classes produced some Commonwealth flags, which were placed around the the running track on sports day – there was a flag for every country in the Commonwealth, which fitted our 300m track almost perfectly. The Primary department and the PE department did lots of research into a variety of Commonwealth countries and presented their findings at a special Commonwealth games assembly at the end of the week. The week was rounded off with an outdoor barbecue lunch for the entire school and what a wonderful and happy event this turned out to be. Started off by some senior students, almost the entire school got up and started dancing to a variety of classic tunes – it was a sight to behold and put a smile on every face.

I'll end on that note – by the time you read this, we'll all be back at school – I hope you had a great summer and I'm sure I'll speak to many of you throughout the year.

Donald Shaw, Senior and Academic Deputy Head

From the Senior Monitor

It's so strange to think that seven years have passed by so fast. Throughout these years we have witnessed firsthand how the school year on year provides excellence in all aspects of its curricular and extra-curricular activities. It is clear to anyone who visits QV – as we have seen from taking tours – that although, yes, first and foremost QVS is here for education; it is also here to help build pupils who can one day go out into the world as confident, mature, well mannered and hard working individuals.

As Senior Monitor and Deputy Senior Monitor this year we knew that the job would be whatever we made of it and we are grateful to Mrs Bellars for believing in us to be capable of carrying out the jobs. With the hard work of all the S6's this year our jobs have been made easier, and for that we would like to say a big thank you. But in particular to the Monitors and Prefects who have worked so well as a team, going above and beyond time and time again. The biggest thank you however, has to go to Mrs Adams who has worked tirelessly making our jobs as enjoyable as possible, always making us laugh and for going out of her way to help the S6's in so many ways. We honestly can't explain how grateful we are.

Both being members of the Navy Section of CCF we have seen how the extra-curricular activities such as this and DofE can help to develop aspects of pupils' characters that will serve them well in so many endeavours in all walks of life. Although from personal experience, we may not always be grateful for activities such as DofE at the time – putting out a fire is no mean feat – in retrospective, they are always good for a laugh in the common room. Thank you to all the staff who make doing these things possible, but in particular, thank you to Miss McBlain for all her hard work in the Navy Section and organising so much for us in the weeks to come.

Sports are a key part of every Victorians school life-not always by choice! The boys brave the rugby pitches in the winter, whilst the girls battle against the elements on the astro- we've been told it's "character building". But in all seriousness, a huge well done to the "handpicked" 1st XV, who this year won the Regional plate and the Under 16s who, not to be outdone, then went on to come second in the National Plate Final. In the summer months, the fields fill up as athletics takes over and the real competitiveness begins. Thank you for the continuing help and support of all the PE staff. And Mrs Scott-Laing, I'm sorry for being so rubbish at hockey for the whole six years!

The hard work of all of the house staff cannot go unmentioned. From the early hours of 7.00am. Wake up all the way to "lights out" at 11.00pm, they are there. In all of the houses their on-going work and commitment is what keeps us all in order and we are grateful. Thank you also to the matrons, kitchen staff, maintenance staff and everyone else who looks after us and especially to Mrs Sheerin, who after so many years of commitment to the school will be leaving at the end of the year.

The band and dancers continually show the hard work and commitment that QVS promotes in every event that they perform in,



with the Band winning the Scottish Schools Juvenile earlier this year and the dancers all achieving excellence in their recent dancing exams. This is testimony enough to the hard work of not only the staff but also the principle dancer, Morven Craib, Drum Major, Daniel Sloan and Pipe Major, Tom King, who give up their free time to make the Ceremonial team what they are today.

As you can see from all of the different aspects of the school life, you are never bored here! The school embeds within each and every pupil a sense of purpose and so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. Whether it be performing in front of thousands at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, or Trekking up Mount Toubkal on an expedition to Morocco (an experience I will be forever grateful for- thank you Miss Low and Mrs Rankin). The QVS commitment is ever present.

We would also like to mention the efforts of Mrs Adams, again and Miss Phipps in helping all of us with our preparations for life beyond QV. Thank you for going over hundreds of Personal Statements and for always being there as the friendly faces who made such nerve-racking decisions that much easier to make.

Finally we would like to finish by saying thank you to our year, for the laughter, tears and memories shared over our time at QV. The time with you as Victorians has been great, and we cannot wait to go on to be Old Victorians with you all as we leave this Grand Day. All the best for the future and we will miss you all.

Caitlin Willis and Tom King

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

Trust Fund Awards – 2013/2014

“To encourage enterprise, adventure and cultural pursuits”

Parents and Old Victorians will be aware of the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, which was established in 1994 by Mr Jack MacNeil of Connecticut USA, in memory of his father, Norman MacLeod MacNeil.

Norman MacLeod MacNeil [1898 – 1952] was boy drummer pupil at Queen Victoria School from December 1909 until July 1912 when he departed for Canada 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 where he 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 recent years the Trust Fund has helped many pupils in a diverse range of activities. These have included qualifications in Highland Dancing, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, a US Hockey Scholarship and an Open Water Diving and Boat Handling Course. GAP years, Link Exchanges and CCF camps and expeditions have also featured, covering locations as far flung as Australia, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Canada, Morocco, Cyprus and Germany. Other projects have included charity events, several of which have included groups walking The West Highland Way and climbing Ben Nevis.

This year a group of pupils are travelling to France on a cultural visit. Commendably, they have been working hard to raise funds for the visit through sales in Dunblane (see photograph from the recent cake sale) and other events here at QVS such as a French Café. Rumour has it the Easter Bunny was even involved but publication of those photographs may involve the school in legal action!!

Remember, The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to help and support QVS pupils – give it some thought and if you want



to know more speak to a 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 for you to note that, when applying, 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 and to help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills.

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

Ronnie McKinnon, HRBP/Assistant Business Manager





Prize Giving

2014 Prize List – P7, S1 & S2

1	Attainment	P7	Anna Gurung
2	Progress	P7	Charley McMaster
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Anna Gurung
4	Music	P7	Rachel Loudon
5	Paul Mcshannon Quaich	P7	Marcus Wakefield

		First Year		Second Year	
		Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
1	English	Evie Clarke	Niamh Beaton	Rachel MacPherson	Keli Ramsay
2	French	Ellie Hutchinson	Niamh Beaton	Madison Robb	Ellis Majid
3	German	Charlotte Gothard Olver	Niamh Beaton	Charlotte Sowden	Keli Ramsay
4	Mathematics	Ellie Hutchinson	John Dougherty	Charlotte Sowden	Ryan McGuinness
5	Science	Rachel Spence	Tiernan Bark	Pabina Thapa	Madison Robb
6	Computer Studies	Ethan Rowe	Sam Irwin	Richard Dunbar	Pabina Thapa
7	Technical Studies	Elisha Bura	Logan Suggett	Pabina Thapa	Rachel Macpherson
8	Geography	Cameron Crawford	Tiernan Bark	Pabina Thapa	Georgia Forsyth
9	History	Ellie Hutchinson	Tiernan Bark	Jack Mcneilly	Waisea Vuatalevu
10	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Niamh Beaton		Pabina Thapa	
11	Business	Anjipa Malla	Louise Rankin	Rachel Macpherson	Rebekah Sloan
12	Fowler Art	Ellie Hutchinson	Ethan Rowe	Jasmine Gurung	Waisea Vuatalevu
13	Music	Benjamin Adam		Rachel Macpherson	
14	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Anjipa Malla	Tiernan Bark	Charlotte Sowden	Waisea Vuatalevu
15	Physical Education	Chloe Dowdles & Benjamin Adam		Olivia Williams & Jack Mcneilly	

Prize List – Third Year 2014

		Attainment	
1	English	Alicia Smith	10 Graphic Comm
2	French	Lauren Pedder	11 History
3	German	Freya Collie	12 Guildry Of Stirling History Prize
4	Mathematics	Freya Collie	13 Geography
5	Biology	Kirsty Jane Aimer	14 Fowler Art Prize
6	Chemistry	Emmy Moore	15 Modern Studies
7	Physics	Conor Willis	16 Music
8	Computer Science	Conor Willis	17 Physical Education
9	Design & Manufacture	Lora Marshall	18 Business Management
			19 Classical Studies
			Imogen Powell Leonard
			Francesca Cockburn
			Lauren Pedder
			Ewan Searle
			Cameron Smith
			Samantha Rollo
			William Adam
			Anais Scott
			Freya Collie
			Imogen Powell Leonard

2014 Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

		Form IV	Forms V & VI		
1	English	Rachel Graham	Elle Gemmell	14 Music	Prateeksha Khawas
2	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Sophie Tytek	Devon Cox	15 Physical Education	James Work
3	German	Rebecca Leslie	Sarah Sweeney	16 Art	Tarah Lynch
4	Mathematics	Prateeksha Khawas	Kieran Smith	17 Photography	Charlotte Barron
5	Biology	Andrew Burns	Tom King	18 Guildry of Stirling History Prize	
6	Chemistry	Lachlan Bark	Kieran Smith	19 Business Management	Prateeksha Khawas
7	Physics	Prateeksha Khawas	Kieran Smith	20 Information Systems	
8	Computer Science	Stuart Millman	Lauren Wilton	21 Product Design	
9	Design & Manufacture	James Work		22 Woodworking	
10	Graphic Communication	Antony Harvey	Ashley Mcbroom	23 Classical Studies	
11	Geography	Jared Leckie	Lucy McNair	24 Politics	
12	History	Rebecca Leslie	Leah Tytek	25 Williamson Salver For Girls	
13	Modern Studies	Sophie Tytek	Devon Cox	26 HMC Centenary Quaich	
				27 Dux Medal	
					Elle Gemmell
					Jason Feeney
					Bishnumaya Dura
					Sarah Sweeney
					Rebecca Johnson
					Jason Feeney
					Cameron Arnott
					Rhys Clark
					Lee Hutchison
					Matthew Asbridge
					Charles Lynch
					Caitlin Willis
					Charles Lynch
					Christopher Bell



Grand Day Trophies & Awards 2014

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|------------------|
| 1. Cameronian Shield For Piping
(For The Best Piper) | Ryan Mcdougall | 6 Victor Ludorum Trophy
(For Best Sports Person) | Owen Campbell |
| 2. Senior Drum Majors Shield
(For The Senior Drum Major) | Daniel Sloan | 7 The Ben Philip Senior Memorial Bowl | Charles Lynch |
| 3. Highland Dancing
(Highland Dancing Society of London Cup) | Morven Craib | 8 The Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl | Charley McMaster |
| 4. Combined Cadet Force
(For The Best CCF Recruit) | Samuel Drummond | 9 Annual Challenge Cup
(For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell) | Megan Wood |
| 5. The Silcox Trophy For Shooting | Ryan Macpherson | 10 The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver
(For Leadership 'On' and 'Off' The Games Field) | Tom King |
| | | 11 The Prince Philip Medal
(For Outstanding Contribution, Participation and Achievement during their time at Queen Victoria School) | Caitlin Willis |

Captain John McDermid

When my son was about eight years old, his good friend, Jemma Law joined Queen Victoria School and Ben was adamant that when he was old enough, he too would like to go. My husband John and I were able to see, first hand, the positive impact the school was having on Jemma, and John was wholly supportive of Ben going when he was old enough.

John talked about the opportunities Queen Victoria School would offer but I paid little attention to either of them as I was firmly of the opinion that no child of mine was going to boarding school.

In March 2007, I reluctantly agreed to Ben attending the admissions process for which there were considerably more applicants than places. This gave me some hope that my little boy would perhaps be unsuccessful in gaining a place at the school and I could continue to keep him in my overprotective clutches. The admissions day proved to be quite an eye opener. We were shown round the school by the Senior Monitor and Pipe Major, Cameron Lee. The impact that this young man had on not only Ben, but also myself and John, would seal Ben's fate. I remember Cameron as a confident and humorous chap who was able to converse with both Ben and ourselves with ease.

A couple of weeks after the admissions process we learned that Ben had gained a place at the school. My initial reaction was to hide the letter but I knew that I was being completely unreasonable and that I should share in Ben and John's excitement.

John was a Royal Highland Fusilier, now known as the 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland which were based at Glencorse. However, in the summer of 2007 John was to take up a staff appointment at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, returning home only at the weekends. John's only concern about Ben going to QVS was that from having everyone at home, I would suddenly be left on my own.

So, that summer off my boys went, John to Sandhurst and Ben to QVS. Just a few weeks later though John was deployed to Afghanistan on a six month tour. He was attached to 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment as a member of the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team, tasked with training the Afghan National Army. I knew that this was going to be a particularly dangerous tour with John out on the ground in an increasingly dangerous war zone but I was also aware that John needed my full support.

I sent out numerous parcels to John, who truly believed that he and the boys were making a real difference to the lives of the Afghan people. In one such parcel I sent photographs of Ben in his ceremonial uniform but on 14th November 2007, during a routine patrol in Sangin, Helmand Province, John was killed by an improvised explosive device.

I never knew if John ever received the photographs of Ben until, I read a tribute to John's memory by a Gurkha soldier who stated that, "John was a real family man, and had proudly shown me



photographs of his son in his ceremonial uniform".

Queen Victoria School played an enormous part in not only Ben's life but also mine. Ben being at the school amongst his peers, most of whom are abundantly aware of the stresses an operational tour brings, offered a great deal of comfort to Ben and allowed me the time to grieve on my own, shielding Ben from anymore trauma. Many of his teachers quietly kept an eye on him and got him through an often extremely turbulent time. Although QVS had a duty of care towards Ben, there is absolutely no other school that could have competed with the level of care both Ben and myself were given.

Ben is now 17, and like Cameron Lee, is a fine and rounded young man who was the Pipe Major at his final Grand Day on 27th June 2014. John never did hear Ben piping but he would have been so very proud to see him dressed in his ceremonial uniform having become the fine man that QVS has largely defined.

As many of you will know, grief doesn't go away and I don't believe we can ever properly heal but I have learned to cope with my situation and the best I can hope for now is that Captain John McDermid is never ever forgotten. That being said, I decided that I wanted to donate a set of McCallum bagpipes to the school pipe band in John's memory. They have been engraved with his name and a line that sums up the man that John was.... A truly exceptional soldier and a better man.

I had the pleasure of presenting these pipes to the newly appointed Pipe Major, Rhys Clark on Grand Day and would like to thank Mrs Bellars and the commissioners for allowing us to start what is to become a new tradition in the school. I look forward to seeing Rhys present the pipes to the next Pipe Major the following year.

Gill McDermid



Clockwise from top left: QVS students rehearse for the Armed Forces Day National Event. Seen with Provost Mike Robbins and Head Wendy Bellars; Provost Mike Robbins with young people taking part in the event including Principal Dancer Morven Crab; Megan McColl; Lucy McNair; Connor Kelly; Danny Theyers; Megan McColl (left), Mike Robbins and drummer Kirsty Ainer.







Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

As a Housemaster you have the unique overview of the House and individuals. You see trends, patterns and developments taking place. It is with this picture I would like to see the House, next year, develop more in the two areas of respect and responsibility. These aims are central to the school's vision statement, and rightly so, and should be embedded more in Cunningham House. Due to the small numbers in the Cunningham community all boys need to respect individuals; they must also respect the physical environment of the House whether it be their private rooms or communal areas. What makes the community successful are the individual parts that make up the whole – the boys. Fundamentally they must respect themselves, each other and take responsibility for their actions and development. If we work and embed this vision in the Cunningham community, individuals and the House will have an environment in which they can only thrive and grow.

The community of Cunningham is not just the boys travelling and living within it, but the support, help and encouragement that are the tutors. They are vital cogs in any boys' boarding House. They act as sounding boards, yard sticks, coaches, an experienced voice and counsellor. Occasionally they need to be the 'disappointed' adult to let the boys know they have overstepped the mark. The Cunningham Tutors do this so well due to their experience and balanced attitude towards their tutees. This means they get the best from them. As ever I must put on record my heartfelt thanks to the team who make the running of the House go so smoothly (If you would like to see what goes on on a regular basis you only need to follow the links on the school website). It's therefore with a great sadness that Mr Clark will be moving to Trenchard next year. An experienced tutor and one who has the ears of the boys. What is Cunningham's loss is definitely Trenchard's gain. We wish him well. Two other vital members of the team are the Cunningham 'mums' and the lads appreciate their support, advice and even criticism! These are the House Matron Sarah and assistant Karen. Their listening ears, wise advice and willingness to guide the boys in their development is fantastic to see and I know the boys fully appreciate everything they do. Due to their experience and close, daily interaction with the boys' issues, worries

and concerns are picked up quickly and can be sorted before they become all consuming. A huge thank you for being there for the boys even after long and demanding days.

This year's leavers are a great bunch of boys and it is, as they say, quality rather than quantity that matters. All of them have experienced success and this has been through not only hard work, but at 'sticking' true to their beliefs and values, throughout their time in the Cunningham Community: Charlie Lynch, the House Captain winning and gaining an unconditional offer to St Andrews to read International Studies; Ben Curran who has the Honour of carrying the Queen's Commonwealth relay baton, Pipe major and off to read for a degree in Social Sciences. Jay Feeney, school prefect, stalwart in the House and who has been offered a place to read Criminology at University. Owen Campbell, School monitor, Captain of Football and Rugby, winning the prestigious Victor Ludorum and who will be reading for a business degree at Napier University. Finally, but not least, Tom King the Schools Head boy, senior Pipe Major and as I write the 'face' and pipes of the Scottish whisky industry in Shanghai, China.

All I can say, after all that! is well done lads on a highly successful journey in the Cunningham Community, keep in touch and live by the values instilled in you.

Mike Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster







Haig House.

Haig House

As another set of sixth year pupils prepare to depart, we can look back at the year in Haig with fond memories. With Daniel Sloan being our only School Prefect, he took on the role of House Captain. Throughout the year, Daniel was a superb role model for his fellow pupils in the house. When he leaves, Daniel will be replaced by Bradley Scott as the new House Captain. His deputies will be Rhys Clark and Callum Hunter. Hopefully the new group step up to the mark and hit the ground running.

The house again saw many changes both in staff and also in structure. We said hello to Mrs Scott Laing who transferred over from Wavell. We then said good bye to Mrs Scott Laing as she departed on maternity leave. This was closely followed by Mr Laing who departed on paternity leave. In place of Mrs Scott Laing, we were lucky to have Miss Crossan replace her. We welcomed our two new Gappies, Arthur and Jono. Both of the boys have made a great start and the pupils enjoy having them in and around the boarding house. Leaving us this year is Andy Thomson who retires after ten years of service to the school. All the best from all of the staff and pupils in Haig.

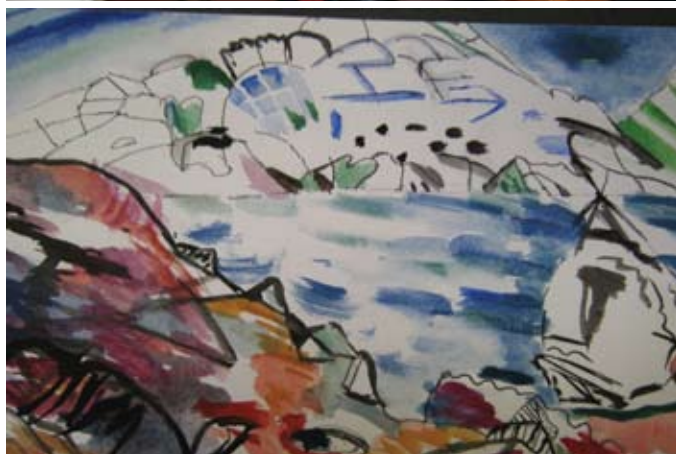
Throughout the year, I was always able to count on both Matron and Carmen for help and support at all times. Without them, the house would not function and they are the ones who really run the show. As a house, we are lucky to have two people like them who really do everything to make sure our boys are looked after. Thanks again ladies.

This year saw the final phase of the house redecoration programme with new windows being fitted in the dorms. Much to the delight of the boys, they were able to spend a few nights in one of the other rooms in the dorm whilst their room was fitted. Luckily for me, there were no issues or all night parties resulting from this (not that I know of anyway). We also saw the introduction of the Haig social calendar, which let the pupils and staff know what was going to be happening all year. Whilst there were some teething problems, all in all it was a successful start. Some great trips were had, most noticeably the house trip to watch Scotland beat Ireland in this year's Six Nations.

As we approach Grand Day, emotions are beginning to run high from staff and pupils alike. Seeing the Haig boys leave in sixth year gives me a great sense of pride. As a Housemaster I am in a very lucky position. Being able to have a positive influence on so many pupils, watch them grow and mature really makes the job worth it. All of the late nights, telling pupils off, trying to repair broken windows, trying to unblock toilets and generally clearing up all sorts of mess as well as finding ceremonial uniform that the boys have 'lost'. Minor details aside, QVS really is a great place to work.

To those who are leaving us, thank you for everything. I hope that when you leave after Grand Day, you look back at your time in Haig House with fond memories. You will always be welcome back.

Niall Lear, Haig Housemaster



Art – clockwise from top left: Tarah Lynch S4, *Shells on the Beach*; Nisha Guring S4, *Post and Mountains*; Hannah Sloan S5, *Still Life with Pepper*.



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

Well another crazy year in the house of Trenchard has passed, and what a year it has been! From quidditch tournaments to Easter egg hunts we have definitely had our fair share of amazing house events. We've been honoured to have had such a great team of house staff willing to put effort into making our time in the house more enjoyable, and to give up their time to help out at our many trips. Although we have had to make some sad goodbyes, like the departure of Mr McConnell as Assistant Housemaster and Miss Low going off on her maternity leave, we've welcomed some great new tutors: Mr Warner, Mr Ronald, Ms Milne and Mrs Leask, as well as Mr Bryce as the new Assistant Housemaster.

The pupils in Trenchard House have been fantastic this year and definitely given the house a personality for any visitors to see. They don't call us the best house for nothing! I have been so grateful to have been awarded House Captain this year to such a great house, but I couldn't have done it all without the help of the other senior girls who have put in huge amounts of effort to organise house events to occupy the juniors in particularly quiet times at school. However, this house would certainly not run as it does without the wonderful Mr Bush, Ms Edwards and Matron and they certainly all deserve a medal for having to put up with us! I will definitely miss this house when I leave and I wish all the luck in the world to Trenchard House,

its pupils, staff and any future occupiers. Thanks for a great year!

Heather Stanfield, House Captain

Another year has flown by and Trenchard has successfully settled in a new year of Victorians. We were worried about the small numbers of the P7 boys when it came to rugby, but quality prevailed over quantity and they had an extremely successful year. The P7 girls also gelled well as a group and I look forward to them helping with next year's intake. We say goodbye to our S1 and S2 girls as they head up to Wavell. As the S1s were my first intake we have grown up together in the school and I wish them success and happiness in their new house.

At the start of the year we welcomed our four new S5 girls and they have done a great job helping to keep the house running smoothly.

As always a successful house needs a good team and I would like to thank all of the house staff for their efforts over the last year. We have welcomed new faces into the team and I look forward to developing the house with them further next year. Finally I would like to wish Heather and Kirsty all the best next year as they head out into the big wide world.

Paul Bush, Trenchard Housemaster







Wavell House.

Wavell House

As I sit down to write this article for the Victorian what started off as a new and exciting position as Deputy Housemistress, stepping into the lovely Miss McIlkenny's shoes, ended up with me stepping up to the role of Housemistress to fill Miss Appleyard's shoes as she delivered her son 10 weeks early. Welcome to the World the gorgeous Jamie Appleyard. Both mother and baby are doing well.

We have had a real baby boom this year in Wavell House with Mrs MacLeod having a lovely daughter; Sophie, and Mrs Scott Laing having a handsome boy; Fergus.

Also after Mrs Scott Laing's many years in Wavell House she has now moved on to be a tutor in Haig House. We wish her well in the boys' house and I know the staff and girls in Wavell will all miss her.

We welcomed Miss McBlain back after the birth of her gorgeous daughter Mia and Mrs McDonnell after the birth of her lovely daughter Edith. Our Highland Dance Teacher, Mrs Drever left us and has since had a little boy; Gunner. We have had a few changes around the House with Mr Gilhooly helping out in the role of Acting Deputy Housemaster. It has helped Mr Buchanan feel less intimidated with all the females in house (and that's just the staff!).

In January Miss Laird became Mrs Thomson and has decided to step down as Assistant Housemistress. We will miss her in this role but she will still be a Wavell House tutor. We would like to thank her for all her input and help and the crazy parties she has organised throughout her years. She excelled this term with our Disney party, and great fun was had by all. Miss Taylor will take up the post of Assistant Housemistress in August, she is no stranger to the House and we wish her luck and look forward to her involvement in the coming years.

I have been very lucky to have such a strong, helpful and patient team around me this term, I could not have done it without you all, I really am grateful for all the help I have been given.

The pupils have been amazing this term always ready to assist in anything that's going on around them, letting me see what a great bunch they are. Wavell House has had lots of events and charity days and it never fails to amaze me how enthusiastic everyone always is, throwing themselves in helping in any way they can while raising lots of money for well deserving causes. We had a cake sale on sports day organised by the POD group (Parents on Deployment) and raised £67.00 just from the girls alone. This will be added to collections from all the other Houses and sent to Poppy Scotland.

As we say goodbye to all our leavers this year it is always a sad time but we wish them well in whatever direction they choose to go, University, College or employment. My Lasting memory of the sixth year will be them running along the corridors waking all the younger years up on Grand Day morning while banging pots and pans; this will live with me for a long time. They are a great group of girls and I know they will always think of Queen Victoria School as some of the best days of their lives with many lifelong friendships being made.

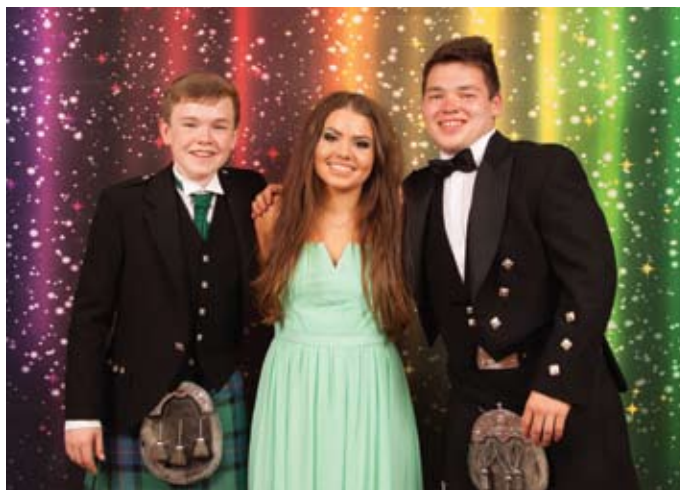
Vivien Hiddleston, Acting Wavell Housemistress

















Friday December 6th 2013 was a particularly busy evening at the School, including both the second Piping, Drumming and Dancing Christmas Concert and the opening of the first Art Exhibition of pupils' work for many years. Organised by Mrs Lynn MacLeod, part-time teacher of Art at QVS, the colourful and beautifully presented works of art showcased pupils' talents across a range of ages. Many parents and other supporters of the School attended the preview before going on to the concert, and concert guests were able

to enjoy the exhibition during the interval. The work stayed on display for the last week of term, giving pupils a chance to see their own and others' work on display. The pieces were of a high standard, and the event was enjoyed by everyone. We very much hope that the Art Exhibition, too, will become an annual feature at QVS.

Mrs Wendy Bellars



For those of you who remember her, it is with great pleasure I can let you know that Susan Macleod has been in touch to let us know that she's graduated with First Class Honours in Art & Design from Dundee – following in the footsteps of her Sister Isla. Her Degree show launches this weekend.

Pictured is her gorgeous jewellery which she has been exhibiting in Glasgow already this year.

Well done Susan another QVS PROUD STORY :)

Jill Adams, Director of Careers & VI Year, English Department





Seasons For Growth

During the spring term we saw the introduction of Seasons for Growth at QVS. Seasons for Growth is an innovative grief and loss education programme using the imagery of the seasons to illustrate the experience of grief.

It aims to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people who are dealing with significant life changes as death, divorce, separation, family breakdown and other changes by exploring the impact and loss on every-day life and learning new ways to respond to these changes. Young people learn that they are not alone in dealing with effects of change, loss and grief, and build their communication, decision making and problem solving skills within a peer support group.

A trained adult 'Companion' facilitates the small group programme where participants support and learn from each other in age appropriate engaging activities.

Three of the staff are now Companions (Dr Jenni Barr, Mrs Alison Morea and Mrs Tracy Thomson) after completing the training in February and starting the programme straight away. We had six

apprehensive pupils from P7 – S3 lined up and ready to go; being the first to start the programme was a daunting prospect for all concerned! After a nervous start we all got into the swing of it and everyone seemed to enjoy it and from the feedback we got from the young people in the group, they got a lot out of it. Some of the comments such as 'It's useful, it's helped me understand my emotions' and 'I look forward to coming and it helps in the house if I feel angry' are very encouraging and made us feel like we made a difference over the duration of the six weeks. Once the course was finished we had a celebration party at Jenni Barr's house where we made our own pizza and cooked them ourselves in her pizza oven – the young people LOVED this (as did the staff!); it was a very positive end to a great programme and a great experience for all concerned.

Looking ahead, we have just had two more members of staff trained as Companions (Mrs Carol Dunn & Mrs Clare Rankin) and we will all be running 2 x 8 week courses in the next academic year, one for the junior pupils and one for the senior pupils.

Alison Morea



1st XV Rugby.

Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Unfortunately due to the school in-service programme, the senior squad were unable to undertake preseason training this year. This is a time of year that allows us to focus on the core skills of the players whilst improving the fitness levels and helping us to hit the ground running when the season starts. This left us some way behind our rivals in terms of preparation time and credit must go to the players for their hard work in the lead up to our first game.

The returning players were joined by a group of players who had not set foot onto a rugby pitch since S2 and had rallied around their peer group so that we would be able to field a team. It's that commitment and willingness to help each other, that sets our pupils apart at QVS.

The original plan for this report was to talk about each game in turn: how the players grew as a team; how they refused to give in and worked tirelessly for each other and how I motivated them and inspired them as a coach. Unfortunately, only two of those would be entirely accurate. Instead, I will talk about a few personal highlights for me throughout the year.

Our season started away at Morrison's Academy in Crieff. On arrival, Mr McLay and I were greeted with a bacon roll to start our morning (10/10 for food). Morrison's have been strong over the last few years and this year was no exception. With ten players returning from the previous year, our boys knew this was going to be a tough match. By half time, our boys were a few scores down. After the first of many inspirational team talks by Owen 'snakehips' Campbell we clawed our way back into the match and narrowly lost 39-28. Notable performances from Conor Young who scored a hat trick and debuts for Danny Sloan, Ryan Hutcheon, Pete Burns, Matt Ashbridge and Callum Mclean.

Our Plate run brought us up against local powerhouses Larbert and Balfron before we were matched up in the final against McLaren High. With true Scottish weather conditions, this was going to be an incredibly tough match. The game was littered with errors and we took a two try lead into half time. Shortly after the game got underway in the second half, Dr Lear and Dr McLay were called into action. Callum Hunter, fresh from trying to dummy the entire McLaren back line, managed to dislocate his shoulder again. Luckily, this was put back into place pretty quickly but much to his dismay, he was not allowed back on the field. When the final whistle went, QVS were Central Region Plate winners. Needless to say the open top bus tour of Dunblane went down a treat with players and fans alike.

On February the 1st we made the journey to Merchiston Castle School. Traditional powerhouses in the school boy game, our boys were looking forward to matching themselves up against them, albeit at 2nd XV level. The moment we stepped from the bus the heavens opened. Rain, wind and hail which looked like it might play havoc with our free flowing brand of rugby. The adverse weather conditions, forced the coaching team inside, to sample some of the Merchiston hospitality prior to kick off (7/10 for the hot chocolate) the game kicked off at a ferocious pace, with QVS relentless in the continual battering of the opposition line. By half time, the match was out of site and we were playing with real width and accuracy which was ironic as the conditions were the worst we had faced all season. Some players had cameos in unusual positions. Ben Curran ensuring his outing in the centre would be a onetime only opportunity. The final result was a 45-10 victory for us. After our endeavours we retired to the Masters Dining Room where we were greeted by a wonderful display of food and drink (9/10 for the main, 10/10 for the cakes).

Some of the incidents good and bad from the season – Conor Young finishing the season as top scorer. Conor Young getting injured in the



U16 Rugby.

warm up v Kelvinside when he saw the size of his opposite number. Pete Burns catching a kick off. Matt Ashbridge catching a kick off. Ryan Hutcheon scoring his first and last try for the 1st XV. Conor Kelly representing Caledonia U-18. Callum Hunter throwing one of the most audacious dummies ever seen at QVS. Jay Feeney trying to argue with every ref he could. Ben Curran being yellow carded three games in a row for the same offence. Debuts for James work, Kyle Rowe and John Kane. Connor Farquhar missing the bus...again.

Sport has a strange way of bringing a group of individuals together as a team. From where we started to where we finished was for me, the most pleasing thing to see as a coach. Every player improved and we became a team. Through the tough times the boys stuck together and wanted to work for one and other till the end of every game. To those who are leaving, thank you. To those who will return next year for another season of 'egg chasing' let's hit the ground running and better what was achieved this year.

Mr Lear

This year was a successful season for the 1st XV, playing well with a fairly new squad, with new additions to playing rugby. Players such as Daniel Sloan, Ryan Hutcheon, Peter Burns and Calum McLean rejoining rugby after a lengthy spell out playing various other sports. Matt Asbridge was also a new addition to the squad, and after never playing rugby before made a vast improvement and was a regular bench warmer.

After a gruelling first weekend which acted as our preseason, the season got underway. The season started with a game against Larbert in the second weekend back. With a few people in new positions and several new partnerships this game was a chance to experiment and learn to play as a team. The boys went out willing to try anything and this clearly showed; after dominating the early stages we eventually began adding points to the board and continued to do so for the remainder. The game set a very high benchmark and gave us the perfect start to our season.

We carried on our form in the plate and went onto the regional final where we were to play Balfron. We were quietly confident and that showed with our early domination throughout the first, and early parts of the second half. Tries free flowed in the game through Owen Campbell, Conor Young and Ryan Hutcheon getting his first try for the school. We went on to lift the trophy where we previously lost the year before.

Looking back at the quest for domination we set out on, there were highs and lows as they say, you win some and you lose some. In the beginning we were a small group of boys shoved into positions and strips and placed on a field. Though through hard nights and the cold winter, we trained and we trained hard. And towards the end we became more than just a team, but an army and when we as warriors were hungry for victory, in the words of Connor Kelly 'no one could stop us'. Yes, there was hardship and we have been plagued by injury. Though through this we grew stronger and the depth within the team was tested and it rose to the task. Although not a perfect season, a positive season.

Under 16's Rugby

To be a part of the under 16's this year has been a pleasure. We started the year with two defeats coming from Morrison's and Wellington so we really needed a win to boost the morale of the team. We played Strathallan knowing a win wasn't going to be easy. We started off the game positively and won the game 40-17. To beat a team of their standard by 23 points highlighted that our team was a very strong one. This win was such a confidence booster going into our first plate game against Larbert. Due to the ages of Conor Young, Cameron Arnott and Nishchal Gurung, we were able to use these players in our plate matches. This brought more experience within the team to provide a stronger team throughout the forwards and the backs. We beat Larbert 62-0 which proved our dominance in both our forwards and in our backs. This win progressed into a semi-final win against Balfron, who were last year's winners of the regional plate. We managed to beat Balfron again with a high score of 53-14. This was our first final as a team and we proved that our team were able to compete with the best in the region beating McLaren High to bring



home the regional plate. After winning the regional plate, we were invited to take part in the national plate. We started off in the quarter finals where we faced off against Calderglen away from home. Mr McLay promised the squad that if we got to the final he would buy each of us an ice cream from McDonalds. This motivation seemed to work as we were able to close the game beating Calderglen and progressing through to the semi-finals. However we have still not seen any sign of the ice-cream. In the semis we were faced against Dunbar Grammar School. We knew this game would be tough as both teams had managed to get this far in the tournament so we didn't expect an easy win. We were up 7-0 at the end of the first half. In the early stages of the second half we were able to score another try leading the game 14-0 but Dunbar still had a bit of a fight left in them. They managed to pull two tries back but missing a conversation leaving the game at 14-12. Even with 14 men on the pitch we managed to close the game out and progressed through to the final played at Murrayfield. This was the first time in the school's history for the under 16's to make it to the national plate final. Going into the final I think a lot of the players were overawed and as soon as we started to play we froze. We lost the final but I couldn't have been happier with the way we all performed and that we got so far in the tournament. think I even saw a tear from Mr McLay's eye at the end of the game. Congrats to everyone this year I had the pleasure to play alongside. I look forward to playing next season and wish the future under 16's all the best in their cup run next year.

John Kane, Captain U16's

S2 Rugby

The S2s had a great season (finally winning more than one game!). The two new boys joining our year, Ellis Majid and Morgan Leatherbarrow really made a difference helping us win 9 out of the 13 games, scoring 57 tries altogether (Ellis Majid being the top try scorer with 16). The forwards put in a great effort this year, having to learn new rules at the break down and the line out. They were especially good in the scrums dominating almost every one of them. The backline also improved by learning new things like running lines and learning set plays, it helped have a bit of pace in the form of Ellis Majid and Jason Gurung. The game against Dundee High was by far the best game we played, with Jason Gurung debuting at centre, making a massive difference in the back line and helping Ellis Majid, Josh Dobson, Sam Drummond, Lloyd Owen and himself scores. Although we made a few mistakes which took the game into the last minute, everyone played very well and it was a well-deserved win. We would like to thank all the coaches and the gappies for the excellent training and coming to support and coach us at our fixtures.

Lloyd Owen and Fraser Arnott

S1 Rugby

This season was tough for the S1 rugby team as they got off to a slow and unsure start. After many consecutive games where we played well but lost, we pulled our first win against Jordanhill. It was a great game from a completely different side to usual. Not long after the win we had to say good bye to our gappy Josh Gordon. He was a great influence and he always motivated us in difficult games. This year our team was also strengthened by a selection of new pupils including Cameron Taylor and Dipen Ghale and also our new GAP coach Johnno.

Our backline got better because of better passing and better communication. Our Captain, Craig, helped keep our spirits and was always positive. We had great tries this season but the funniest try was when Josh was hit in the face with the ball after a kick and managed to score a try from it so well done Josh.

Cameron Taylor had a great season especially in tackling, when the opposition managed to break through our line and went down the wing; he was the one who destroyed them out into touch. Although we did not record many wins, we definitely improved over the year and we are looking forward to next season. Many thanks to our coach Mr Bush and Josh and Johnno the Gappies, for their patience and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Craig Duncan and Josh King

Primary 7 Rugby

Our first rugby season has been great! Many of our players developed skills and learnt the basics relatively quickly. Our team kept on getting stronger and stronger from then on. Our first match was against Morrison's. Our team felt ready to play our first competitive match. We drew 6-6 with Cameron Kelly, Rhys Owen, Ayup Malla, Cameron Dowdles and Daniel Thompson scoring. Our next match was again Strathallan, unfortunately Cameron Dowdles was unavailable, so we were a key player down. We conceded a couple of tries in the first half, but came back on to score 2, but that was just the beginning. Unfortunately Rhys got knocked-out in the second half and had to go to hospital. We then went on to lose that game 7-2. The rest of our matches were much the same winning most of them and losing a couple. The players that really did shine and developed this season were Conor Kirkwood becoming a lot stronger on the ball, Brodie Paterson improving his tackling and team work, Ayup Malla controlling the forwards, Alex Malcolm improving his passing a lot, Ross Merrick and his crazy tackling, and Rhys Owen becoming more team worthy and motivating. Overall we had a great first season.

Ross Merrick, Alex Malcolm and Rhys Owen



Clockwise from top left: S3 Rugby; S2 Rugby; S1 Rugby.





1st XI Hockey.

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

After a reasonably successful previous season we started the year knowing this would be more of a transitional period as a number of key S6 players had left. The season could be characterised in a few ways: the performances were better than the results achieved, the team scored in nearly every game, the delight of many young players growing in confidence taking this opportunity to step up and making their mark in the 1st XI, and the girls always striving to win until the final whistle. There were many amusing moments on our journey this year from the challenge to see how many large chocolate muffins you could obtain from the Dundee High School tea table, the S3's ranting about their missing box of mars bars from the Wellington away game, to the wash out game at Watsons where we were literally flooded off the pitch after our warm up. There was never a dull moment.

Initially the team was captained by Dion Robb, who did a great job bringing the squad together with her encouragement and enthusiasm, often leading the singing on the away coach trips, cheering on the "I am a champion" speech and inspiring the 1 2 QV battle cry before every game. Although the 1st XI started the season with a couple of defeats against Mary Erskine and Strathallan their performances were better than the results indicated. For periods we were well matched with the opposition with Devon Cox scoring some good goals, however, lapses in concentration and sustained effort meant we were unable to maintain the momentum, resulting in our defeat. Consequently, after watching a video on how more successful teams create space ahead of the ball by passing high and wide, we bounced back, played much more effectively and won our next game beating Linlithgow Academy convincingly. In particular, credit should be given to Hannah Sloan, Cara King and Sarah Sweeney for their effective defence, and to Dion for her motivational half-time team talk. Unfortunately, the next few games against Trinity, Strathallan, Beaconsburst and Dollar were challenging and resulted in defeat, but

as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining and new players Lora Marshall and Anais Scott visibly grew in confidence offering hope for the future. You learn more from losing than winning. You learn how to keep going! From observation and discussion we identified the areas which needed most improvement: communication, keeping possession, focus and fitness. Over the following months we sought to address these key points.

After the Christmas holidays we had several matches and outdoor training sessions cancelled due to inclement weather, but used the opportunity to work on the agreed areas, beginning with communication. Blindfolds were used so that players could only navigate imaginary mine fields by listening to the vocal commands of a team mate, playing hockey with one player providing a running commentary with a loud hailer, echo exercises, watching videos that illustrated how goalkeepers screamed instructions to their team mates, and learning about Respected Vocal Leaders all helped players understand that clear, concise and constructive communication is critical on the hockey pitch. Well done to Cara King and Hannah Sloan for being the most audible and constructive vocal leaders. Combining these exercises with pyramid shuttle runs and short repeated sprints for increased fitness and numerous keeping possession drills, we hoped this would make a difference to the team's performance. Unfortunately, Dion had to leave before the end of term and return to her parents in Canada. We all wish Dion well, and hope that she not only enjoys University next year but that she will soon be playing hockey again too!

As the weather improved, we played matches against Dundee High School, Beaconsburst, Wellington and Morrisons. With Hannah Sloan, Cara King and Devon Cox stepping up in turn to be captain. We took this opportunity to introduce new players such as Joelle Campbell and Freya Collie to see what they could do. Although we lost these



2nd XI Hockey.

games, our performances were better and we kept striving to win until the final whistle. In particular, the last game against Morrisons on grass, saw the team play very well on an unfamiliar surface, clearly surprising the opposition, only losing in the last two minutes. With Anais Scott scoring a rasping penalty corner and the debut appearances of Emily Ferguson as a strong defender and Caitlin Yool as a goalkeeper performing some great saves, we nearly got what we deserved.

It has been the new players to the 1st XI who have made the most impact, seizing their chance and demonstrating that with the right mindset, enthusiasm and determination they can succeed. The next season looks like it should be exciting.

Congratulations to Mrs Scott-Laing, Ms Low and Ms Drever for all having healthy baby boys within a few weeks of each other, good timing! A big thanks to you and the gap year students Anna and Hayley for all the help and enthusiasm throughout the season, especially on the dreary cold wet days and early starts.

Finally, we wish all the best to the S6 girls Dion, Devon, Heather, Cara and Jen who will be leaving and going onto new challenges and different journeys. Good luck.

Raymondo The Great, Master Hockey Magician..., oops I mean

Ray Donaldson, Hockey Coach

This year the 1st XI has not had a lot of successes, however, that is not what we like to concentrate on. Throughout this year we have developed as a team, learning how to work better together, and using our skills to our advantage. One success I am sure the team are very proud of is against Clifton Hall, with our 4-0 victory. That is one win we won't ever be forgetting. But this progress could not have been made without the help of our amazing coach Ray, with his constant "NAME AND DIRECTION" and our favourite words from him "okay so we are gonna play a game". And also with Miss Crossan filling in for Mrs Scott Laing, and helping us progress all the way from the development squad, to the original title of 1st XI. Good luck to next year's team, I am sure you will do better than this one.

Devon Cox

2nd XI Hockey

It has been a very new experience for the seconds this year as this was the first year that we had all played together as a team. We spent the first part of the season getting used to playing with each other and working together, and although there were numerous disagreements, we were able to put them aside and go out to each match with the best 'team spirit' we could muster.

Even though our wins were few, we still liked to class ourselves as 'winners at heart' with our high optimism and ability to keep playing our best even though there was no chance of winning.

Our best addition to the team this year was our goalie with ninja moves, Caitlin. We have witnessed some amazing saves and incredible motivation from her this year. Also a special mention to my co-captain, Tarah, who kept things peaceful and calm throughout the season, and also her ability to smash a hockey ball in half during a Strathallan game. Our season wouldn't have been complete without PKay, Francesca, Rachel and Joelle's saves in defence, Georgia Mowat's fast runs up the wing and Lauren and Kirstin's many successful shots at goal.

Overall, I am very proud to be the captain of the seconds as they always give the best they have at every game and never let any loss dishearten them. Thank you to Ray, Miss Crossan and Miss Scott-Laing for coaching us, even when we complain about how cold it is. I hope next season is just as fun and enjoyable.

Sophie Tytek

P7 Hockey

For the first hockey match of the season we were all scared. The school we played were called Strathallan. They were a good team; I mean very good. The score was 3-0 to them. We got tackled a lot by the same girl, who was quite scary, but we continued to work hard as a team.

Our second match we played Morrisons and it was a really big school. Again we were beaten 14-1, and they were a really competitive group. We had to work well as a team to keep our spirits up and not give in.



The third hockey match was at home, and that was a very good game because we didn't lose, but they didn't win. The score was 0-0. The next hockey match we played was against Strathallan again, and we beat them 6-0, with Molly scoring 3, Rhaea 2 and Rachel scoring 1.

I think we had a really successful season on hockey and we are already looking forward to doing it next year.

Molly West and Caitlin Pedder

S2 Hockey

The hockey season started off with high hopes due to the stylish new hockey kit that Miss Scott-Laing ordered. S2 were so very excited to show off the new pink and black Canterbury kit at Mary Erskine's in style!

Throughout the past year, we weren't successful in winning but we were successful by team support – we had concentration, motivation and determination to win. We may have only won one game and drew a few, however we worked so well as a team, always cheering each other on and trying so hard to keep the positive outcome high. Our team and our coaches prefer us to stay positive rather than negative! We were constantly using new tactics which our hockey coaches taught us, Miss Low and Ray.

The season sadly finished as a loss, but we were happy to know that the last game of the season was our last game playing as a year group out of the three years. We know that we represented the school very well.

At the end of the season most of the second year girls attended six Friday Night Hockey sessions at Forthbank Sports Village, organised by Stirling Wanderers Hockey Club. This was an excellent experience

and we all improved our individual skills, game play, and importantly, our confidence! We are very excited for the start of the new season so that we can show off the new skills Miss Crossan and the staff at the Club have taught us.

Madison Robb

S1 Hockey

This year, and I think that everyone will agree, started off as a challenge. We all had to work harder, faster and better if we wanted to win any of our coming matches.

We did a lot of fitness and skill, including things like pyramids, laps, stick skills etc. Although there was a lot of moaning and whinging about the fitness we got through it with a few aches here and there.

We had various matches throughout the season including great teams like Wellington, Mary Erskine's and Trinity. We had a few victories and a lot of great goals.

Overall the hockey season was tough but exciting for everyone, including the teachers. We went from moaning to the teachers about too much fitness to moaning to the teachers there wasn't enough fitness, I guess there's no pleasing us (although I'm sure I'm not the only one when I say there is still too much fitness!).

Well done to all the S1 hockey players who did great in every match and thanks to Mrs Scott-Laing, Mrs Drever, Miss Low, the gap students and a special thanks to Mrs Crossan (who stepped in for the teachers who left for maternity leave) for helping and training us for the fantastic season that just passed.

Elisha Bura



Top to bottom; 1st XV Football; U15 Football.



Athletics

QVS v Wellington v Lomond

3/5/2014

Venue: Kilmarnock sports centre

The day started well with the pupils eagerly waiting for their cooked breakfast, Mr Bryce was also there, even though he wasn't going to the athletics. The weather was good as it wasn't raining, which, let's face it, is always a bonus. We were looking for some good early season results and the likes of Lewis Young, Andrew Sweeney, new arrival Ellis Majid were all looking promising in training.

With the hurdles starting the track events off, it was interesting to see how the athletes were going to cope with little preparation for the event. Rachel Spence and Caitlin Richardson both ran good times and Emily Dodds managed to secure 2nd place. Cameron Taylor put in a gutsy performance and won his race, having never done hurdles before. Roderick Watson had the best technique in the field and won as a result.

We then moved onto the sprints and the notable performances came from Olivia Williams in the 100m, Harry Searle 100m, Ellis Majid 100m, Andrew Sweeney and Lewis Young in the 100m and the pairing of Lennox Baselala and Lewis Young in the 200m. The 800m proved to be more difficult to gain places in and only Jordan Oatley managed to put the opposition under pressure and eventually came second, however there were many personal bests recorded.

Notable field events included:

High Jump:	Andrew Sweeney	2nd (1.60)
Long Jump:	Ellis Majid	1st (4.76)
Shot Putt:	Harry Searle	2nd (7.92)

Discus:	Josh King	
Javelin:	Alex Malcolm	1st (24.14),

Overall a good day and a really good start to the athletics season.

QVS v Hutchesons v St Aloysius v St Columbas v Lomond

10/5/2014

Venue: Hutchesons Grammar School

It's always a pleasure for our athletes to compete on the great track at Hutchesons and having had the girls and boys competition cancelled the week before due to rain, the boys were ready to get out and perform this week. We had three strong teams but we were up against some formidable opposition.

Notable achievements were as follows;

Field

Arras Mathieson	1st Javelin	23.54m
Jack Cole	1st Discus	26.47m
Josh King	1st Discus	18.11m
Lloyd Owen	1st Discus	24.26m
Alex Malcolm	2nd Javelin	18.40m
Ross Dillon	2nd Long Jump	4.09m

Track

Harry Searle	2nd 200m	30.15
Cameron Taylor	2nd 75m Hurdles	14.98
Ellis Majid	2nd 200m	26.83
Roddy Watson	2nd 80m Hurdles	14.54



Lewis Young	1st 200m	24.82
Lennox Baselala	2nd 100m	12.04
Lewis Young	1st 100m	12.09

At the end of the day I asked for a show of hands of athletes that had achieved a personal best on the day and there were well over 75% of the pupils that had done so. A great day for all concerned.

P7's Stirling Schools Competition

This event was held at Stirling University and the P7's were given the opportunity to compete on a synthetic athletics track and get a real feel of what the competitions will be like next year. They came up against some great athletes from all around and from 28 different schools. The teams of five boys and five girls, Ross Merrick, Cameron Dowdles, Connor Kirkwood, Alex Malcolm, Rhys Owen, Caitlin Pedder, Suprina Gurung, Rhaea Clark, Shauney-Lee Young and Molly West.

Not only did they compete extremely well, they were great ambassadors for the school. Out of 28 schools QVS came third, with Ross winning the 150m, Shauney-Lee winning the javelin, Rhys Owen coming second in the 80m, Cameron Dowdles coming third in the 600m and the boys relay team coming third overall.

QVS v Morrisons

2/6/2014

The athletes were now ready for their next competition and we travelled up to Morrisons on what was another warm afternoon. We had six teams out; three boys and three girls teams. The grass track is always immaculate and is a great surface for all of the runners to

compete on. Although it wasn't a full programme due to the weather, we competed at javelin, discus, shot, long jump, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and relays. Notable achievements on the day were as follows;

Track

Chloe Dowdles	2nd 800m	3.12
Cameron Taylor	2nd 400m	74s
Josh King	2nd 800m	2.52
Olivia Williams	1st 100m	14.3
Rebecca Sloan	1st 100m	14.9
Olivia Williams	1st 200m	31.2
Cerys Dodd	2nd 200m	31.4
Charlotte Sowden	2nd 800m	3.08
Ellis Majid	2nd 100m	12.63
Ellis Majid	1st 200m	26.4
Lora Marshall	1st 100m	14.2
Kirsty-Jane Aimer	2nd 200m	31.2
Anais Scott	1st 800m	2.52
Kirsten Hughes	2nd 800m	3.04
Lewis Young	1st 100m	12.4
Lennox Baselala	2nd 100m	12.47
Lewis Young	1st 100m	25.07
Jordan Oatley	1st 800m	2.22

Field

Anjipa Malla	2nd Shot Putt	5.93m
Harry Searle	1st Long Jump	4.20m
Cameron Crawford	2nd Shot Putt	6.48m
Olivia Williams	2nd Long Jump	4.02m
Lloyd Owen	2nd Long Jump	4.72m
Joshua Dobson	1st Shot Putt	8.38m



Joshua Beard	1st Javelin	24.92m
Lloyd Owen	1st Discus	21.61m
Gerogia Mowat	1st Long Jump	3.83m
Caitlin Adams	2nd Long Jump	3.52m
Joelle Campbell	1st Shot Putt	7.40m
Joelle Campbell	1st Javelin	16.65m
Lewis Shaw	2nd Long Jump	4.51m
Jack Cole	1st Discus	26.92m
Joshua Smith	2nd Discus	20.19m

Sports Day

Once again we were blessed with wonderful weather on Sports Day. The pupils had already had two hours of sports in the morning as it was a Commonwealth Games themed week. Each team competed with enthusiasm and effort and the Captains made sure that the athletes were at their events. There was fierce competition throughout but notably in the 100m where James Buick put on the after burners and ran in an 11.66s. Georgia Mowat broke the only record of the day which was Intermediate Girls Long Jump, jumping 4.26m. Every year now I think I might be able to hang up my spikes for the relay team but once again I was called upon to run second leg. Mr Lear showed his class and it was obvious why he was the Glasgow 100m Champion all those years ago. He handed the baton over to me and I was then chased down by a grunting South African, it was akin to a Rhino chasing down a Gazelle (albeit a very slow one). There was little Mr Bryce or Mr Shaw could do from then on and GAPS won by several milliseconds.

The results at the end of the day were as follows:

Junior Competition	Team	Points
1st	Bannerman	210
2nd	Liddell	172
3rd	Ormond	170

Intermediate Competition Team	Points
1st	Bannerman 200
2nd	Ormond 197
3rd	Liddell 157

Senior Competition	Team	Points
1st	Ormond	130
2nd	Bannerman	124
3rd	Liddell	107

The season finished with four of our athletes attaining the qualifying standards to go on to represent the school at Scottish Schools. This year it was held at Hampden and the competition was used as a practice for the Commonwealth Games. The athletes were put through the security and routines that all of the Commonwealth athletes will go through and were marched out onto the track through the tunnel. It was a wonderful experience for all concerned and something to tell the grandchildren about later on in life. First up was Kyle Rowe in the long jump, although he had prepared himself for the occasion is just wasn't his day. He jumped a respectable 5.54 but it was not enough to go through to the finals. Ellis Majid was up next in the final of the 100m D Group. He had worked on his start during the week and looked confident on the start line. He ran a solid 12.44 and came in 6th in the final. Bradley Scott was next and this was to be his first real experience of long distance running in this environment. It was a big field and the standard was very high. Bradley started well and ran in a strong first 1500m, however it proved to be too quick and he paid the price in the later part of the race. That being said he ran in a 10m 12s 3000m. It was a great experience for Bradley and gave him a real insight into the world of track running. Last but not least was Lewis Young, Lewis had been running respectable times throughout the season in the 200m. However he was very young for this age group and the athletes he was up against were all older than him. Although he didn't get through to the semi-finals he has next year to look forward to.

Badminton

Junior and Senior Badminton Tournaments

Summer 2014 saw the return of the annual Junior and Senior Badminton Tournaments. This year's tournaments were again keenly contested and I was delighted with the commitment and enthusiasm shown by all the players that competed. Well done to all those who entered and played to their best.

The Junior Tournament was a knockout format and the prize winners were:

Winner:	Morgan Leatherbarrow
Runner-up:	Jaime Thompson
3rd Place:	Jack McNeilly

Well done to all three prize winners and especially to John on his first triumph.

The Senior Tournament was a round robin and knockout format and the prize winners were:

Winner:	Kyle Rowe
Runner-up:	Leon Boylan
3rd Place:	Josh Conroy

Well done to all three prize winners and especially to Jason on retaining his title!

The Badminton tournament continues to be a great success and I look forward to those of you who wish to enter next year's tournaments.

S Ronald



Inter-House Competition

The Inter-house competition this year proved to be a very competitive affair. It started with a great rugby tournament with all of the boys competing to gain points for their team. Although the cross country is never a favourite for the pupils (I can't imagine why), we had over 90% of the school competing over what was a very muddy track. Despite the conditions it again proved to be a tight race. As it was the Commonwealth Games year, we also ran competitions for the P7, S1 and S2 during their games periods. We ran a duathlon, a swimming gala and a badminton competition and the points all contributed to the Inter-house competition. Over the year the pupils competed in eight sports and Bannerman were the worthy winners of the 2014 Inter-House Competition. The results were as follows:

Rugby

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	20	20	20	60
Liddell	30	10	10	50
Ormond	10	30	30	70

Hockey

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	–	30	30	60
Liddell	–	10	10	20
Ormond	–	20	20	40

Football

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	30	10	30	70
Liddell	20	20	20	60
Ormond	10	30	10	50

X/Country

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	20	20	20	60
Liddell	30	30	10	70
Ormond	10	10	30	50

Athletics

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	30	30	20	80
Liddell	20	10	10	40
Ormond	10	20	30	60

Commonwealth Games Events

	P7	S1	S2	Total
Bannerman	10	30	30	70
Liddell	30	10	20	60
Ormond	30	20	10	60

Touch Rugby

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	30	–	20	50
Liddell	10	–	10	20
Ormond	20	–	30	50

Netball

	Jun	Int	Sen	Total
Bannerman	10	20	–	30
Liddell	30	10	–	40
Ormond	20	30	–	50

Total

Bannerman	480
Liddell	360
Ormond	430



Ski Trip

The Ski Trip was another great success this year and the pupils, once again, proved to be great ambassadors for the school. They didn't grump or groan about the journey and at no point did I hear 'Are we there yet?'. Even when the weather closed in, the group were just as enthusiastic as ever and all of the instructors had nothing but compliments for their ski groups. I would like to thank all of the staff that accompanied the pupils on the trip; Mr Lear, Mr Bryce and Miss McIlkenny for all of their support before, during and after the trip. It couldn't happen without them and the fact that the trip ran as smoothly as it did is down to their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the week. I know that Mr Lear may be rewarded next year with a level 3.

Mr McLay

The ski trip started off with a 26hr bus/ferry journey over to Italy. Mr Bryce literally slept the whole 26hrs. When we got to the hotel we got to settle in and unpack. Then we had a meeting in the front hall about what was going to happen later that night when we went up to ski hire to get our skis and boots.

The rooms were quite small but cosy and the balconies were fun because we always ended up having snowball fights because of the snow we got. Unfortunately the girls were on the bottom floor and didn't get as much snow as the other floors.

The weather was really good for most of the week but for just one day it snowed non-stop. All the snow was very powdery and deep. Most people in my group kept getting stuck and falling, Harry even lost his pole!

Every night after skiing we had an activity. One night we had a disco with some other schools, we also had a pizza night where we got to eat all the pizza we could. We also did karaoke during which everyone had to take part. The karaoke was really fun because everyone was up singing and Mr Bryce was even offered a record deal but he turned it down. Unfortunately Mr Lear was not offered one! The other activities were the free ice cream day and there was free ski time almost every day afterwards and a great ping pong tournament.

In the hotel there was a games room and it had ping pong tables, hence the tournament, and football tables. We got pocket money each day as well and got to go down the street of the hotel and buy stuff from the bakery or the supermarket.

On the last day we had the presentations during which everyone got a certificate saying what level they were on. Mr Bryce got a higher level than Mr Lear (just saying). He's just a better all-rounder really. The bus journey back seemed quicker than it did on the way there and before we knew it we were back at school.

Rachel Spence





A Day to Remember – Cromlix House

Many of you may already be aware that tennis ace, Andy Murray, originally hails from Dunblane. Recently, he decided to purchase a local hotel, Cromlix House.

Myself and two of our students were lucky enough to be invited out for the opening day celebrations. It was during the Easter holidays so two local students were chosen – our Senior Monitor, Caitlin Willis and her brother, Conor. We knew that Andy himself would not be there but his Mum, Judy Murray was hosting the event and the original masterchef himself, Albert Roux, was giving us a talk and cooking us a meal.

Excitement was growing as we drove up the tree-lined drive towards the hotel. We parked the car and were guided into a luxurious lounge, with an open fire in the corner and chandeliers hanging from the ceiling. A few children from other local schools were also in attendance and we waited to see which famous person we would see first.

Judy Murray came round and had a chat with us and explained a bit about the history of the hotel and what she planned for the future. She then introduced Chef Roux, who gave us an utterly fascinating talk on his life and love of food, especially Scottish food. He enthused about the quality of food that is produced in Scotland and

his pride in working and living here. He also spoke about his early days in Paris as he began his career; if you ever get the chance to listen to this man speak, take the opportunity.

Next, we headed out for a tennis coaching session – only for the youngsters! Caitlin and Conor got some seriously good coaching from Judy Murray and learned a lot in a short space of time. As you can see from the photos, Judy is a very active coach, who likes to get involved. Caitlin and Conor were then called away to do a photo-shoot with Judy for the local press.

Next it was the food – happy days! We only expected a buffet but we were led into a private dining area and served a wonderful three-course meal with as much freshly-squeezed fruit juice as we could drink. Alber Roux again joined us to make sure everything was in order and Judy answered lots of questions about Andy and his brother Jamie. She also told us embarrassing stories from their childhood which brought a lot of giggles from the children.

As we said our goodbyes, Caitlin and Conor posed for a photo in front of the house – I'm sure they now have ambitions to live in such a place. It certainly was a day we won't forget in a hurry.

Donald Shaw





P7s got 'Commended' in a closely-fought competition

Rotary Club – Senior Citizens Night

A great big thank you! Last night around 70 of our pupils really did the school proud!

They hosted over 100 local senior citizens along with the Rotary Club to a great evening of entertainment, songs, dance and laughter. Their looking after of our guests was very touching to see; I thought I'd offer you a little glimpse :)

- Arras asking a very deaf old lady where she was going on holiday over Christmas (!)
- The old lady from Bridge of Alan who fell in love with Cameron Arnott our very 'handsome laddie' as he piped her in to the main building.
- Joelle taking an old lady's arm along the corridor and telling her that she loved wearing her ceremonial uniform and was very proud to be a Victorian.
- Jade collecting in tea and coffee cups and having a lovely conversation with an old lady with real mobility problems about the merits of jaffa cakes.
- The old woman who hadn't been out at night for years' delight at winning the shortbread in the raffle
- The smiles that the S1 hornpipe dancers got from the disabled old lady in the front row who clapped and cheered even after they'd stepped offstage.
- Jay and Charlie's lovely thoughtful manner in doing the raffle and making sure the presents were delivered to the winners with a smile.

- Bishnu and Navino welcoming guests as they came in and pointing them so politely to the cloakroom – run by Tom's exemplary team.
- The gorgeous Blue Bonnets & Jig by our senior dancers that brought the house down!
- Sam Drummond as our fabulous doorman bidding all guests a very warm welcome to 'His' school :)

And that's just a tiny snapshot – they were amazing, fabulous and a credit to us in every true sense of the word. I would just like to take a moment to thank those who helped make last night such a great evening. Things don't just happen – so I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the MAD Group for all your help: The PD & D Department; Estates; Mr Dougan; The Catering Staff; Mr Adams for welcoming the guests; The people who contributed to our fabulous raffle; my great team on the night of Vivien, Maureen, Kirsten, Harriet (Gap) and last but definitely not least – the indomitable Rebecca J – who seemed to be everywhere all at once and was the key to last night's success

As Hannah Sloan said last night afterwards - "you start off thinking that it is something for them that you're doing – but it ends up being an even better thing for us – it was amazing!"

Thank you SO much, ALL of you!

Jill Adams, Director of Careers & VI Year, English Department

QVS Purple P

Thanks for all the positive comments, support and encouragement that so many of you have offered the a Rotakids in their first big event today. They were really buzzing after chapel and loved being able to help "Make a Difference" Here they are making a Purple P to

raise awareness of Pancreatic Cancer. It has been retweeted by Pancreatic Cancer UK, Rotary International, Cancer Research and many others on the night. A big well done is due to them.





Clockwise from top left: The teams, the supporters, the banners and Wayne Mills, the Quizmaster; Anjipa, David, Freya and Evie; Harriet, our Gap student with fellow countryman, Wayne Mills, the Quizmaster; Evie with author Catherine Mac Phai; Joe and Jamie with author Keith Charters; Zany author Kirkland Ciccone with Anjipa; Callum, Mhari, Joe and Keli.

Kids' Lit Quiz 2013

This year QVS entered two teams for the West of Scotland heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, which turned out to be a particularly challenging competition, with a record number of two hundred pupils battling it out over 100 team questions and 30 questions for the audience/supporters. Our junior team comprised of S1s David Burns, Evie Clarke, Anjipa Malla and S2 Freya Powell-Leonard and the senior team included S2s Joe Osborne, Keli Ramsay, Callum Pearson and Mhari Sibeth. The senior team won a round on books about amphibians, but were beaten at a tie-breaker about the character King Kong. The junior team won a round about books on trees, but were beaten in a tie-breaker because they didn't get their hands up

quick enough to answer which day of the week is based on the Viking God Thor. However, Elisha Bura, one of the supporters, was quick to get her hand up for the question about what is the most universal folktale and Jamie Thompson won a five pound book voucher for a question on a Wilbur Smith book about pirates. Harriet, our Gap Assistant from New Zealand, was delighted to meet Wayne Mills, the Quizmaster, as he is also a Kiwi. There were several authors at the quiz and our school Commissioners generously gave money for pupils to buy a book each so they could get the opportunity of having their book signed and chat to the authors.



Barry Hutchison, Visiting Author

Barry Hutchison visited QVS as part of the Stirling Libraries *Off the page* book Festival, September 11th 2013 and spoke to P7s, S1s and the S2s from the Kids' Lit Quiz teams.

He was very funny and told stories about being scared of squirrels and his invisible friends. He outlined the plots of his recent novels and

pointed out one had been banned in Germany. This was a particular favourite of the QVS pupils, for some reason! He stayed for an hour after his talk, signing books, drawing cartoons and chatting to pupils. Our thanks to Stirling Libraries, as always, for hosting the event in our school.



MAD Interact Club – Gavel Night

Last night the Interact Club (MAD) competed in their very first 'Gavel Night'. This, for the uninitiated, is a Games evening which Rotary Clubs hold to compete against one another for fun, fellowship and fundraising. We were hosted by the Interact Club(s) of Alloa & Lornshill Academy.

President Kristy and her gang were most welcoming and fantastic hosts. We played a challenging selection of games including Dominoes, Twister, Connect 4 and Carpet Bowls but sadly were narrowly defeated by our hosts.

Fun, friendship and fundraising were there in abundance and we are now looking at making it an annual 'fixture'.



Vikings

There were two trips to Vikings this year; one headed by Mr Beattie in September 2013 and one by Mr Thompson in May 2014. The pupils enjoyed a visit to the Viking Centre, hearing about fishbone porridge with crunchy rats, Odin tearing out his own eyeball and the story of the Battle of Largs. They tried on Viking clothes, made flour on the old grinder, and made brass rubbings of their names in Viking runes. After that they had a refreshing swim supervised by our ever-patient Gap students. Following this exercise they then enjoyed the highlight of the trip; walking along the Prom to Nardini's Ice-cream Parlour where they ate their body weight in ice cream.

Mr Thompson has run this trip now for a generation of QVS pupils. It was his first QVS trip and ten years later, his last QVS trip. When this magazine is published he will be retired with his wife Kath and hopefully living the dream in Italy. We all wish him well.

September 2013 Mr Beattie stepped manfully up to the plate, taking 'sole-responsibility' of the trip in Mr T's absence, as he was the only member of staff wearing a suit. However, under his sterling command the educational excursion went off like clockwork. Pupils behaved impeccably, just like Mr Beattie's attire. Half the group went for a swim while the other half did the Vikings experience. The same lady Viking with the long red hair did her schpiel about fishbone porridge and Odin's eyeball, as she has done for the last nine years. Children enjoyed grinding the stone to make wheat and trying on the Viking kit and playing with the swords. The more creative amongst us made brass rubbings of our names in Viking runes. Obviously the highlight of the day was the trek to Nardini's for one of their calorie-free ice creams. The times we have taken QVS hordes there we should get

shares in the place or at least a staff discount. The only low point of the whole day was that the staff didn't get coffee, but this was blamed on Mr T.

May 2014. Same trip, but this time Mr T was in charge of the day out at the seaside. Logan was sick three times on the bus going there. Mr Boyd heroically dealt with each incident. However he later let the side down by falling asleep in the Battle of Largs. Mr T struggled painfully with the accounts due to the fiendish multitude of payment methods. It totally ruined his lunch. Disaster struck again when staff realised there was no coffee available. Very inconsiderate of the Vikings to pick the only place in Scotland with no café. By this time, under the burning sun, wearing a suit and tie didn't seem the best option as Beatz was starting to lose his cool. No point having a cool iPhone if you forget to bring your shades.

On reflection this is Mr T's last QVS trip and this has brought him full circle because it was also his very first QVS school trip. He chose this particular place to bring a succession of first years because it brings back sweet memories of his Viking childhood when he hung around with his motley berserker pals. In those days he was known as Chief Askard Tommason. He tried to recreate this pleasant time by asking hell-raising staff to go with him, Ranalf the Druid Seer, Ragnar Beattie the red-headed weegian slayer, and the two Valkyries; Sally Magnasson the Norwegian princess and Kristen the Rune-Reeder. He also gathered some young Outlanders to be in charge of the swimming. All went relatively well until the longboat broke down on the way home and the pupils created their own memories by playing out the Battle of Largs in the Erskine Garden Centre car park. By the time reinforcements arrived the staff member were equally berserk.



French Trip

Bonjour!

As the QV Paris Trip 2014 approaches and excitement grows, the Paris 2014 pupils and staff have been busy fundraising to pay for the pricey flights! Ventures undertaken this year include a stall with a raffle and cook book sale at Grand Day (we will be there again this year, so be sure to come visit!), a crêpe sale on Pancake Tuesday, a sale of Valentines and Mother's Day cards, and the now-legendary Easter Egg deliveries! A big thank you to Mr Bryce and Mr Lear who dressed up as Easter Bunnies and delivered chocolate eggs – remember, embarrassing pictures are for life, not just for Easter! I also must say 'Merci' to Mrs Sheerin, for the ENORMOUS amount of help she gives me with all things French at QV! There have also been a few successful bake sales both in school and at the Dunblane Centre, so thanks to everyone who baked or ate cake in support of our fundraising!

The Higher French class kicked off the year by sampling the pastry menu at Dunblane's French-style 'Café Continental' and last term had a movie evening where they watched the movie 'Hors du Prix' while enjoying their not-so-French homemade pizzas.

S3 – S6 pupils were lucky enough to attend a screening of the film

'Comme Un Lion' at the MacRobert cinema at Stirling University during French film week. We shared the cinema with Dunblane High School, and had our own reserved seats at the front of the cinema! Everyone who took part in the trip really enjoyed the film.

One of the most exciting French-related items from this year was that Morven Craib, a very talented linguist, won a Rotary competition called 'Euroscola'! Morven was flown to Strasbourg for a week, and took part in various events at the European Parliament. I have received emails from the people running the event praising Morven for her great work during this week – well done Morven!

The S3 French class participated in the Institut Français' online competition, with rival teams in schools all over Scotland. We scored 66/100 and unfortunately didn't grab enough points to get a prize, but everyone enjoyed taking part. Better luck next year! As usual QV also celebrated European Day of Languages with a presentation in chapel, singing and activities in the library at lunchtime, and hopefully this tradition will continue.

Bonnes vacances à tous!

Mlle McIlkenny





Clockwise from top left: At the Brandenburg Gate—Callum gets the prize for “Most frozen-looking!”; At the TV Tower, Alexanderplatz; In the cupola of the Reichstag; Waiting patiently ...; Jewish Museum—the metal discs represent the faces of the millions who perished in the Holocaust.



Clockwise from top left: Look of wonderment on Rhona's face—Should she try a chocolate chilli?; Cheer up!; Peek!; Mmm ... Good choice, Jade!; Potsdamer-Platz; U-Bahn station, waiting patiently ...; The Team ...; ... from Scottish Slimmers (NOT!)



My First Year at QVS

Fun, Frolics and Fountains of Knowledge from Primary 7

Each year I ask the pupils to tell me about how they feel now that they have been with us at Queen Victoria School for a whole academic year. It is often the same type of things they come up with but the friendship and belonging is always at the top of their list. I have compiled some of their opinions for our Victorian magazine again this year.

Along with this I have included mini reports and lots of photographs from the Primary 7 pupils about lots of other events and activities they have been involved in. I hope you can picture and enjoy a flavour of what life is like for our youngest pupils at QVS.

Congratulations and well done Primary 7 and I wish you further success in High school.

L. Gail Edwards (Teacher & Deputy Housemistress)

My First Year at Queen Victoria School

I like sports and was really happy about all the sports we do here. The girls start with doing hockey and the boys doing rugby.

Over the holiday, just before I started here, my sister showed me how to hold the hockey stick and how the game was played.

When it is games periods you split up into year groups. The youngest ones start by learning how to pass and stop the hockey ball and some people learn faster than others.

The worst thing about games is that they like to do a lot of fitness exercises. There is a thing called pyramids, where you run to all the lines and the first time you do it kills you. The more times you try harder the easier it all becomes.

I really enjoy playing hockey now.

Molly

Halloween Party

Pumpkins, pumpkins, delicious and ripe,
Ready to scare all night.
Hunting with vampires and ghosts,
Starting to evilly boast.

Vampires, vampires, pale and vain,
Prisoners, prisoners, wrapped in chains.
Mutants, mutants, covered in veins,
Death, death, comes with pains.

Ghouls, ghouls, come to dish out a fright,
Ghosts, ghosts, take all your might.

Witches, witches, riding on their brooms,
Zombies, zombies, in their rotted old rooms,

Frankenstein, Frankenstein, still dumb and old,
Dead vermin rotting on the road.
Grab your pitchforks and torches my hearty,
We're going to crash the Halloween party.

Anna Macpherson

The Best Rugby Game

The best rugby game in my first year here was when we were against the Wellington school. It was a very intense match with the tries being scored by Rhys, Ross, Cameron and myself. The biggest hit was done by me and I also got picked to be the 'Man of the Match'. The final score was 11-1 and a fantastic win for our QVS Primary 7 team.

Brodie Paterson

My First Year at QVS

My first year at QVS was great fun especially making new friends with my roommates.

The hardest part for me was getting in to the Trenchard House routine. Like the times to go to the dining hall and getting out of bed every morning at 7 o'clock!

Having roommates is a really good thing because if you are sometimes home sick your friends will understand and help you.

Trenchard House is good because you get a strike board so if you do something wrong you will get a strike.

The school day is good because you have a timetable so that you know what time your lessons are. We have six one hour periods a day and we start school at 8.35am by going to chapel and finish at 4.25pm.

In your first year you have to choose, either, piping, drumming or highland dancing and you have to do three lessons a week. My favourite lesson is PE for two hours in a row on a Tuesday.

Marcus Wakefield

My First Year at QVS

This year I have been doing a lot of things but the thing that I have most enjoyed is playing rugby because I never played it before and I really enjoy it now. Plus all the fun trips that we went on to Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Science Centre, Safari Park and lots of Tutor Trips.

Also I enjoyed Trenchard because we go on House trips which are fun. We go to see movies and go karting and all sorts of things that I like. The teachers are really nice which just tops it all, who are Mr King, Ms Edwards, Ms Low and a lot more other teachers that we go to for other lessons.

Our Rookies Parade was good when we march and become real Victorians at the QVS.

I love the uniforms that we have to wear and it is really fun and I enjoy it here at boarding school.

Logan Ferguson

Parade Weekend

On a Parade Weekend we went to the cinema with Trenchard House to see the, 'The Other Women' and it was good and very funny. Our group had to go to McDonald's first because our film started later than the other film. Then it was time for us to go into the film and we bought sweets, popcorn and juice to take inside with us. It was a good day out and I really enjoyed it.

Molly West

My First Year at QVS

School Trip

Our first trip was to Stirling Castle which was great fun. We got told a lot of facts by the instructors and now we all know a lot more about Stirling Castle other than it is a landmark near our school.

Rookies Parade Sunday

Rookies Parade is when we march for the first time, on our own, with the pipe band. The whole school is watching you go around the parade square marching. At the end of the parade you throw your Glen Garries in the air. Then you can call yourself a true Victorian. On the same Sunday we do a Christingle Service with Ms Edwards. We all make a Christingle from an orange, cocktail sticks, sweets, a candle and red ribbon. Some of us read and some of us hold a Christingle and walk down the middle of the chapel. It is a lovely service and gets us in the festive mood for Christmas. This parade Sunday is all about the new P7's.

Sports

The main sports we do at QVS is that the boys play rugby and the girls play hockey. Most of our matches are played on a Saturday morning and if you do not have a match you have to go to classes in school.

Joshua Powell-Leonard

Edinburgh Castle

Primary 7 went to Edinburgh Castle as part of our Wallace and Bruce project and it was amazing. Firstly P7 was split up into two groups and we spent most of the day there which was great. One group went to the chapel and the other went to the Memorial Hall.

At one o'clock both of the groups came together and waited for the daily one big gun to go off. When it went off the BOOM! The sound was so loud that everybody jumped even although we knew it was going to happen!

Just before we left, the class stopped at the gift shop to let everybody buy something. We got on the bus and went back to school after a really interesting and informative day and I would like to go back again someday.

Ross Merrick



My First Year at QVS

My first year at QVS has been really exciting and very interesting. It is great that we get so many opportunities and chances to go out and explore. You will miss your family and you may get homesick. At first I was homesick for a week but, because I was so busy, I soon felt better. At some point in the year you will want to go back to school from the holidays because you will miss being busy. You make friends so quickly but of course you are going to have some who are always there for you and maybe you will make friends here who will be there throughout your life. I am very thankful to all the staff for the enjoyable trips we go to and I think we are very lucky for the facilities we have. Altogether my first year has been tremendously exceptional and I hope it will stay like this for my years still to come.

Cristy Pun

Rookies Parade and Christingle Service

This is a very special Sunday for the new pupils at Queen Victoria School. First of all we performed in our own service called a Christingle Service in the school chapel. This is all about Christmas and giving, in which some of the P7's read their speech out to everyone. The rest of the P7's held Christingles which we made from an orange, cocktail sticks red ribbon and sweets. They walked down the aisle in the middle of the chapel.

After that we went outside and started the Rookies Parade where we had to march onto parade square. This is the first time we get to march and at the end of the parade we threw our glen garries in the air and that makes us real Victorians now.

We can now join the rest of the students when we march on Parade Sundays and on Grand Day.

Joshua Powell-Leonard

My First Year at QVS

My first year so far has been tough but I have lived through it. I have made lots of new friends and I now know my way around and I have learned more about the school.

So far we have been on 17 trips including house trips, tutor trips and school trips. My favourite one was going to the go-carting. It was so much fun!

Next week we are going to Ardgour and I am so excited about it.

We have also been to Edinburgh castle because our topic was Wallace and Bruce, so that was also fun! I found out stuff I didn't already know about Edinburgh castle.

We have had four terms since I started here which have been long and hard work but have also been fun!

Caitlin Pedder

My 1st Year at QVS

P7 at QVS was really fun. It has been exciting and has been full of joy. I found out lots of different things about Scotland and this school. When I first arrived here I didn't know many people so I didn't know what they liked or didn't like. But as the days passed, I got to know more about the people and I made good friends like Rhys, Conor, Ross, Alex and Brodie. There have been arguments but it all works out in the end. I didn't really get homesick because I had a sister to look after me but my friends did. So we have to look after them.

The Primary department and Trenchard has been really fun because we go on amazing trips like Stirling Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Science Centre, Our Dynamic Earth, Museum on the mound, The Food Festival, the cinema, the theatre and more. My favourite lesson is P.D.D because I am a piper and now I am in the CCF. But I also enjoy ICT, maths, English, E/Studies, PE, drill and much more lessons. The teachers are really nice like Mr King, Miss Low, Mrs Bremner, Ms Edwards and many more.

The highlight of my year has to be Rookies Parade and rugby. Especially when we played against St Columbus when we won 4-3.

Overall, the year has been really good! I can't wait till S1.

Ayup Malla

My First Year at QVS

When I first arrived at QVS I was intrigued by the appearance of my new school and having new people to share a room with. I was very excited about starting school the following day!

When I first heard I was coming I was so happy and preparation took a very long time, but it all paid off in the end. As the year has progressed I have learned new things and also learned to put others needs before my own. I have made lots of new friends and I am also a Highland Dancer (we may even be dancing on Grand Day!). My favourite subject is Art; I love using all of the facilities there. We start chapel 8.30am and finish school at 4.25pm. After that we get an hour and a half free time then it's dinner. After that it's up to prep and back in house for supper and on beds before lights out. Life in the boarding house is pretty tough, making new friends along the way really helps. They are the ones who will help you with homesickness. We just remember everyone has been through the same feelings as you, especially after the holidays! Other than that P7 has been great.

Amy



Ardgour

On the 2nd of June we went to Ardgour near Fort William! We got there after our lunch stop at The Green Welly shopping area. When we arrived we got rid of our bags into our rooms and then we went and had a meeting (getting to know the staff's names)! After meeting all the staff we went to our first activity. My group went climbing and abseiling (indoors).

After our activity we went to go have some dinner! It was so good! Then after dinner we got to have a night activity and then explore. Explore is where you get to find out what the staff are like, Christian or not! We found out the staff were all Christians. After this we would sit down and say grace and then have supper at 9.00pm. It was then time to get showered and then bed. Lights out at 10.00pm!

Then next day we did the High Ropes and Archery. It was fun! I was scared at the High Ropes but I did half of the course! In the afternoon we did the Zip Wire and Adventure Course! It was also so much fun! On the adventure course I went with Suprina and she was so funny. Then after all the activities we have free time until dinner and then night activities, explore and then bed!

The next day we had ADVENTURE DAY!!! We went out and did Zip Wire, Climbing, Bog Jumping, Archery and Team Building. We had so much fun and got so mucky! It was fab. We had gold coins to earn and our group came 3rd out of 4 groups! We did the normal routine before bed! But for dinner we had a BBQ.

On Thursday it was my birthday and I woke up when Shauneys said it's Dannii's birthday! And the whole room sang Happy Birthday to me, even when Yancy was still half asleep.

Then my group had to go extra early because we had Canoeing and we had to go in the minibus back to where the Corrin ferry is. I didn't like it at all, I thought we were going to go for a float in the freezing, ice cold, Antarctic water but some people did fall in! We got out and got changed and were almost late for the ferry but they waited on us! Thank goodness! Then we got on the bus and came home!

Dannii Paige Blyth

When we arrived at Ardgour we all put our bags into the rooms that we got given. After that we all had to go into the lounge and we were told our timetable of activities. Afterwards we went to do our first activity. My group was called the Chiefs and we did the climbing wall and abseiling. The climbing walls were great fun.

When we went outside we didn't realise there was no wind and it was damp so there was tons of midges flying around eating you alive and it was not pleasant.

On the last day my group did canoeing near the Connel ferry jetty. At the start we had to get the canoes out of the rack and as a team we



carried them down to the shore. When all of the canoes were down there we got into groups of three and got into a canoe.

First of all we learned how to make our canoes go forwards and backwards the instructor, called Hugh, told us how to turn the canoes. When we all knew how to do it we played a game where Hugh threw about 15 rubber toys into the water and we all started at the same point to see who could get the most of the toys into their canoe. The group with the most toys won.

The second game we played was that every group put two toys onto the front and the back of the canoe and the other groups had to try and knock them off. The group that knocked the most toys off the other groups won.

At the very end we jumped into the water and it was freezing cold!

Josh Powell-Leonard

At the start of June, Primary 7 left QVS for our eagerly anticipated week of outdoor adventures. Our journey took us through the wilds of the west of Scotland via Glencoe to the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. Taking the Corran ferry across the waters of Loch Linnhe, our home from home for the week was on the rugged shore of the deep sea loch at the Abernethy Ardgour Centre.

The boys and girls were led by their encouraging and enthusiastic instructors for days filled with unforgettable fun and challenging activities on dry land (yes, the sun shone for us) on and in the water whilst canoeing and in mid-air on the high ropes, climbing wall and zip line. Everyone discovered hidden strengths as they faced their own challenges with the support of their friends and team mates.

The girls and boys made the most of every minute of their time at Ardgour with games on the lawn until supper time before clambering into comfortable bunk-beds at the end of each day.

Our time at Ardgour was over all too soon and after our last morning of activities and a final trip on the ferry, we met our coach on the banks of the loch. As we pulled in through the gates of QVS filled with happy memories we found a warm welcome back to Trenchard.



Basel Christmas Tattoo 2013

Queen Victoria School was honoured to be asked to play in the very first Basel Christmas Tattoo in December 2013.

The team was led by Jim Clark (Drummie) and included Keith Bowes (Pipey Sir), David Stacey (SSM) and Gail Edwards (Teacher/pastoral). After months of practising, organising, re-organising and planning, the thermals were packed and we were ready to experience the winter weather, rather than the summer sun, as in previous years when QVS performed at the Basel Tattoo.

It was an early start from QVS to get to Edinburgh Airport for the direct flight to Basel, Switzerland. When we arrived we were all disappointed to find no snow!! The coach took us to the Basel Hilton Hotel and there were big smiles all around at staying in such luxury.

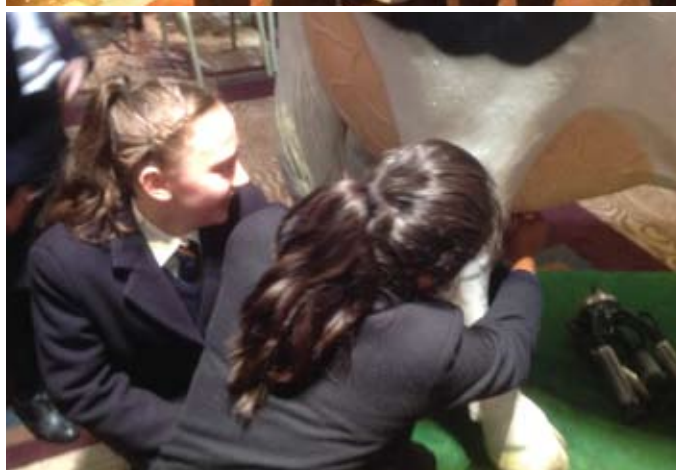
There was little time to enjoy our surroundings as there were so many rehearsals with all the other acts that made up the story of the Christmas Tattoo, which according to the Drummie was one of the best Tattoo productions he has been involved in. When we did have some free time we enjoyed going to the Christmas Market to enjoy

the food and buy presents and some of the students went ice skating. They discovered that it is very expensive in Switzerland and the favourite pastime for some was busking, and then going to Migros supermarket to replenish sweets and juice supplies!

Although there was a lot of waiting around between rehearsals and the actual shows, the students were very professional in their performances and always sociable with the other performers particularly the National Youth Pipeband kids. Every day they played to a full house and were warmly received with standing ovations not only in Basel but also in Zurich when we performed there.

Another first for us was to set up and regularly send a 'blog' update to the QVS website for parents and others to follow our experiences during the Tattoo and thank you to Miss Edwards for that and her daily updates.

It is to everyone's credit that we have been invited back again to perform in the 2014 Basel Christmas Tattoo.



Food for Fitness Festival

St Mary's Episcopal Primary School invited us to their 'Food for Fitness Festival' on the 12th May 2014 at the Dunblane Hydro.

The whole school had been involved in their project to celebrate a Commonwealth Healthy Eating Day. There were lots of stalls where you could taste different types of healthy food and participate in other activities to help you keep fit.

It was a super surprise for us to meet Judy and Jamie Murray (Andy Murray's mum and brother). Judy Murray was supporting this event

and took a huge interest in supporting the pupils to eat healthy to keep fit.

We all had a fantastic time and St Mary's pupils entertained us throughout the day with dances and musical displays about 'Food for Fitness.'

Thank you.

QVS Primary 7 and staff



Junior Minstrels

The Primary 7 pupils all participate in the Junior Minstrels under the guidance of Mr Breingan and Ms Edwards.

They perform, mainly for Church Guilds in the surrounding area, to show them all the different things we learn at Queen Victoria School. These include, Highland Dancing, reciting Scottish poems and

singing Scottish songs. Some of our pupils play musical instruments and a few of our senior students come along to help and support us.

Although some pupils are apprehensive to begin with they soon enjoy talking to the old folks and demolishing all the biscuits that are always on offer.

House Trip Go Karting

The Trenchard House trip was super fun and the go-carts were so fast.

I came second in the quarter finals. Then in the final race I cut the corner but someone drove in front so I rammed him and then lost control. There was a pile up and the whole race had to be restarted.

This time I came 5th and would recommend this as a great activity for everyone.

Marcus Wakefield



The Glasgow Science Centre

Firstly, when we arrived we were shown where we were to meet for lunch. Secondly, we made our way over to the IMAX to watch the 'Space Station' film and the lady gave us some 3D glasses and then we went in.

Next we went to the gift shop for 10 minutes. After that we had lunch. Afterwards we went up to the exhibition and activity floor level and played with all sorts of weird and wonderful gadgets.

Next we went into the Planetarium to see all the stars and constellation's. The ladies also taught us how to find the North Star.

Last but not least we went to the second IMAX about the Hubble telescope and other space missions and all about how planets and galaxies are made. It was really good!

Charley McMaster

When we got to the centre we went to watch two Space IMAX films. The first one was called Space Station and the other one was telling us about planets and stars all in 3D.

Afterwards we had lunch and then went to the planetarium. The two women told us about the stars and we had to look at the stars and find the North Star, Orion's belt and different constellations.

It was very interesting and helped us understand our Space Project in class.

James Skinner



Ms Edwards Tutor Trips

With Ms Edwards we have had quite a few tutor trips, including cinema trips, Laser Quest and dinner at Jimmy Chungs.

Our favourite tutor trip with Ms Edwards was Jimmy Chungs because it was an all you can eat buffet.

On our first tutor trip to Laser Quest we were all really excited because it was our very first QVS tutor trip. When we got there it was very dark but then we got into three groups. We got all the things we needed like our special flashing target jackets and guns. We then went through into a maze and all the fun started, trying to find and shoot each other. It was so much fun!

Our next trip was to the cinema and we went to watch the Lego movie. Callum a GAP from Australia came with us. The movie was

really funny and it went by really quickly. Everyone was singing because we all knew most of the songs because we had heard other people singing them.

Afterwards, we went to eat at McDonald's. We all got free McFlurries with our meal because we had our Young Scots cards. Most of us got a Happy Meal because we wanted the toy inside it. It actually wasn't a real toy, it was a cup with a character from the Lego movie on it. Most of us got President Business but some got Batman.

All of our tutor trips with Ms Edwards have been really fun and exciting and everyone loved them. Thank you.

Lily Miller and Rachel Loudon





YES or NO – you decide!

To mark the significance of many of our pupils voting for the first time, a Referendum Awareness session was arranged in June. This was to give all voters the opportunity to learn about why they could vote, what they were voting for and hear arguments from both sides of the campaign. Russell Taylor, Deputy Electoral Registration Officer kicked off the proceedings and spoke about how to register to ensure you could vote. This was particularly useful for our S6 who will no longer be at school come the referendum. Professor Stephen Ingles, University of Stirling then gave a brief presentation on the importance of democracy and youth participation. There were some interesting questions and comments from our pupils with regard to compulsory voting and the different ages of responsibility that we have. There were mixed opinions on whether 16/17 year olds should vote.

The session concluded with a Question and Answer session. The panel comprised of Keith Brown MSP and Councillor Graham Houston for YES Scotland. Better Together were represented by Councillor Johanna Boyd and Alan Grant, Youth Speaker for BetterTogether. Our pupils asked them a range of taxing questions including the future of our school, the impact for University students, the role of the monarchy and which currency will be used. They

certainly sparked debate amongst the panel! All members of the panel enjoyed the debate and were impressed at the range of questions and the confidence of our pupils. The panellists did not get off lightly as there were a few probing questions from staff as well!

Comments from pupils:

"The talks were interesting because it answered many of our questions and gave us an insight as to what could or could not happen"

"It was good to hear their views and it helped me to make a decision"

"I enjoyed the Question and Answer session because I was given information about what could happen if Scotland becomes Independent"

Thanks to all our guests for taking the time to participate. It was an informative and entertaining afternoon which hopefully will help our pupils decide. Their future is in their hands!

Mrs Rodger







Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh Vaults trip 2014

On 15th May 2015, the new S3 and S4 Modern Studies class along with the junior members of the Pupil Council headed to the Scottish Parliament. None of us knew what to expect. We were shocked by the design of the building and how it looked – not like any other parliament buildings. After going through a security check we were taken into the education room. We received some background information on the Parliament and were asked questions about the MSPs, the parliament itself and Scottish independence. We also got to suggest issues that we would like the parliament to change. We then got taken up to First Ministers Question Time. We all found this interesting even though we could not always understand what they were saying and what it meant. There were a range of questions discussed including the sale of Commonwealth Games tickets, tax avoidance and whether a government minister should be forced to resign. We found it funny when the MSPs and the different parties started to argue as the room got loud and was full of tension. One of the MSPs was told to stay behind after Question Time for improper conduct – it was like they were being sent to the Head for misbehaviour! After question time we had to leave quietly and we met with four local MSPs. We asked them a range of questions covering why they became an MSP, what their job involves to the use of bio fuels and topically, what would happen to our school if Scotland were to become independent. Our trip to the Scottish parliament was very

successful. It gave us a good taste of Scottish politics and helped us to understand the way politics happen in Scotland. It also gave us the chance to see a lot of the Parliament building and learn what happens in each part of the building.

We then headed up the Royal Mile, stopping a few times for Starbucks, for our tour of the Edinburgh vaults. Our guide told us about what they did to prisoners about 500 years ago, then we got taken round various 'closes' and learnt about what they were used for in those times. We then headed down to the vaults. There were no lights, just one candle which our tour Guide held. We learnt about the vaults and what they would have been used for. We were surprised that they were actually used for trading as well as homes for many poor people. Our guide told us lots of different ghost stories which scared some of the group. Some of us couldn't get out of the cold under grounds quick enough!!

Thanks to Mrs Rodger, Mrs Sheerin, Arthur and Jono for an interesting and enjoyable day out.

Joelle Campbell, Samantha Rollo, Cameron Smith, Andrew Sweeney, S4 Modern Studies



Maths Challenge

All S1 and S2 participated in Queen Victoria school's annual Maths challenge consisting of the following four rounds:

- Round 1 – Problem Solving
- Round 2 – Practical
- Round 3 – Building an Aeroplane
- Round 4 – Relay

S1 winners: Harry Searle, David Burns, Jacob Codd and Treshing Gurung.

S2 winners: Jasmine Gurung, Charlotte Sowden, Abi Cairns and Ryan McGuinness.

Maths Department



Physics trip to Faslane

On a sunny day in September the S4 Physics class took a trip to Faslane. The intention of the trip was to learn more about nuclear reactors and radiation safety. When we arrived at Faslane we were greeted by Lt Cdr King, Cara's father. He then took the group into the training centre where we enjoyed a presentation on nuclear reactors in submarines. He then took us on a tour of HMS Victorious which was very interesting and informative, going down the long ladders into the submarine was an experience. We took a tour of the

submarine looking at things from the sleeping quarters to the torpedoes and the main control room. After our tour we had lunch and then took an overall quiz about what we learned in the day, we really enjoyed our time at the base and we thank Cara's father for organising our trip.

Rachel Graham and Leon Boylan



Safe Drive, Stay Alive

On the 30th of January, my year S4, went to the MacRobert Theatre to see a roadshow called Safe Drive, Stay Alive. When we arrived and entered the Main Auditorium, I felt rather nervous, with all the eyes looking at us. We sat down, I sat next to Leon and Mairi. I sat observing my surroundings as loud and lively music blared out. There were Central FM DJ's there up on the stage. We sat down for a while until the presenters asked everyone to stand up and take off our ties. We were happy and felt in a celebration mood.

Then the lights dimmed off and they started to play music and we had to move and jump around, some people in the audience were even asked to go on stage to dance around. While this was all happening the stage hands would go around and give out glow sticks to random people. Half way through that bit of the show some teachers were even asked to get up on stage to dance. They went behind stage for a little while. When they came out they were all wearing costumes and had to dance. The song "YMCA" started to play and one of the teachers had to stand up front. Things started to calm down after the teachers had their fun.

After all the warm up/jumping around, we were told to sit down and this is when the proper part started. The presenter, Mick, came on stage and asked all those with glowsticks to stand up. He explained that the 38 people who stood up represented those who died in one year on the roads around Stirlingshire. After that we heard a story from four emergency service staff: a police man, a paramedic, a fireman and a nurse. This had a devastating impact on us.

The first story was about a girl called Louise, who got in a back passenger seat of a car with her boyfriend in the driver's seat. He was drunk. At this moment she dropped her mobile and took her seatbelt off so she could grab it. Unfortunately the driver veered off onto the other side of the road and a car was heading towards them. He turned back round and with a fright steered away which made the car tumble a few times. The policeman was on stage at this point telling us his perspective about how he and his partner had to check the state of the situation. The guys in the front were alive but badly injured, but Louise? Louise was dead. At this point a paramedic came on stage. He told us about the condition of the two boys. Just after he had arrived the fire service arrived, one of them came on stage and told us that they had to tear the doors off to get to the two boys. Seeing her in the morgue turned Louise into a person, not a fatality. This really hit home to us hearing him tell it with a shaky voice and sad face.

Mathew then came on stage to tell us a story about a teenage boy called Michael, who was only 19. Michael was the perfect student; intelligent and sporty. Mathew told us how Michael went out late to a party, but on the way back was involved in a road traffic collision. He had got into the car with a drunk driver. The police came knocking at the door late and the mum and dad had to go wake up Michael's two brothers. Mathew started to get upset. This is when he told us that Michael was his older brother, I couldn't believe it. This story really brought tears to some of the audience. When he was telling his brother's story he kept getting upset and had to take a few moments. It made it seem so much more real to hear it in his shaking voice and see his pain so clearly. It made his brother not just a statistic but a person.

The last and final story was about a teen called David, told by his dad. David was the kind of person who liked to enjoy life and have fun. There were multiple pictures on screen of David. His story was that he had a family party and when it was over he went to a different party with his mates late at night. On the way back he got in a car with a drunk driver and they had a road traffic collision. Since then David had been confined to a wheelchair with spinal injuries, causing him to lose the talking functionality in his brain, sadly causing him to have to use an e-voice. His wheelchair has a joystick for moving around and he has to have 24hr care. David came on stage after his dad and 'talked' directly to us about how his life had changed forever and now he was a prisoner in his own body. This really made the audience see and feel the pain and suffering in his and his family's life.

After the show, the bus journey on the way back had a massive difference in atmosphere compared to the journey there: where there had been plenty of discussion. I think the show had a massive impact on how I think about driving in general and will hopefully stop me ever getting in a car with or as a drunk driver. My feelings towards the roadshow are that the stories really allowed me to feel like I was there. This inside made me think about the consequences of being in a road traffic collision. It's an afternoon I can never delete from my mind and I will hear David's e-voice warning in my head for a very long time to come.

Stuart Millman

Arriving at the MacRobert Arts Centre theatre to see Safe Drive Stay Alive I really didn't know what to expect. The staff from Safe Drive Stay Alive were dancing around, handing out glow sticks and encouraging us to get in the 'party mood'. As we were doing that we were interrupted by a sudden roar of music. This wasn't at all what I'd been expecting...

As the tidal wave of music crashed through the speakers one of the DJs from central FM came out on the stage. Row by row people began to stand. He told us to relax and take our ties off. That it was Saturday night and time to Par-Taay. The Black Eyed peas were suddenly daring us to have a 'Good Good Night'.

Then all of a sudden, in a split second, the lights went down and the mood changed. It's hard to explain how it felt in the room but let's just say it went cold as ice. A spotlight came beaming down on to the centre of the stage and this is when it really started for me. Mick – the founder of Safe Drive Stay Alive – walked confidently into the spotlight. Solemnly, he began reading us facts and figures about our local roads. He made the 38 people who'd caught glow sticks stand up, saying 'That's how many people died in the last three years.' That really hit home for me; because there are 38 people in my year. Now once again the room went completely silent.

A sudden burst of light hit the screen: you could hear the audience recoil in shock. Louise's story started off as you expect. As her story developed, however, you see how making one or two bad decisions can not only affect her life it can affect those who love and care about her. Louise chose to get in a car with a drink driver; not only that, but she stupidly didn't wear her seatbelt. I think that so many of us were

really affected because they were ordinary people just like us and their story seemed so real.

This story really opened my eyes to the fact that it could be me lying in the back of the car dead. Now once again the theatre went dark and the spotlight came beaming down on to the centre of stage once again. A police families officer is the one that has to tell family and friends the news that no one wants to hear. He was the officer that had to tell Louise's mother and sister. I don't know how he could do it. I know for a fact I just wouldn't be able to find the words to say. Not ever. Once he had informed the family members he has to take the family to the morgue to identify the body. This moment made the line between life and death seem very fragile.

The Paramedic that treated Louise was there too. He told us he has been involved in helping at many accidents but this one has stuck with him. He still sees Louise's dead body when he tries to sleep. He said he had never seen anything like it before. His trauma was very real and made me see that for the emergency services this is not just a job. I didn't know whether to admire or pity him more. The fireman who had the unenviable job of cutting David free was the next person to speak. He did this by using a metal cutting machine which sliced into the brutalised body of the car. The image of the car was a powerful one – it was almost like a metaphor for their lives; turned into a mangled wreck whereas it had been so perfect only hours before.

Next, a man stood silently in the spotlight and started to tell us a story about a party that ended in a fatal crash. A boy's parents got a call at around three in the morning and at five they decided to tell his two brothers that their brother had passed away; little did we know the 15 year old brother in the story was the tearful and shaking man standing alone on the stage telling us his own story. I'm now around the same age as he was when he received the terrible news. At this point I think most of the theatre was in tears.

The final person that came out was David. David comes to the show every year. He comes because he believes that even if he only changes one person's life he will be happy. David was thrown out of the car window when he was in his 20's in a near fatal collision. Now David is fully dependent on carers and family to look after him. David can't talk. He only has a computerised voice to try and make him feel even a little bit normal. David's dad is still angry about it so he is trying to make as many people see how a bad choice doesn't only affect one person's life; it devastates their entire family.

Safe Drive Stay Alive has really opened my eyes to the vast number of people whose lives are affected by accidents involving cars. It also showed me how lucky I am to be able to walk and do the things I enjoy and it's made me be more grateful for them too. To be completely honest it's changed my life. It has made me think what if this is the last car trip I take? But one of the deepest questions asked on stage was. Who is the lucky one: Louise who's dead, Martin who will never walk or enjoy the things he once did, or Garry who has to live with the guilt of being THAT driver. I'll let you decide that one...

Ryan Macpherson

On Thursday, S4 went to the MacRobert Art Centre to watch the Safe Drive Stay Alive roadshow. To begin with, the atmosphere was upbeat and lively: A DJ from Central FM cascaded out glow sticks to people in the audience and we felt like festival goers in the flashing lights and party ambience. Then, all of a sudden, the lights died and a man

named Mick, the founder of the Safe Drive Stay Alive roadshow, walked out silently into the centre of the stage. He told everyone holding a glow stick to stand, explaining that every person standing represented a person that had died in a car collision in the Stirling area in the past two years. There were 38 people which really hit hard and made us reflect on the real lives that had tragically been snuffed out too soon.

This was such a sudden change for everyone; from the bright cheerful beginning to the sudden drop. It was a huge emotional change which left everyone including me feeling quite shocked and shaken. I think that the way they start off with a really happy atmosphere, made the emotional difference even more of an emotional juxtaposition and affected us immediately.

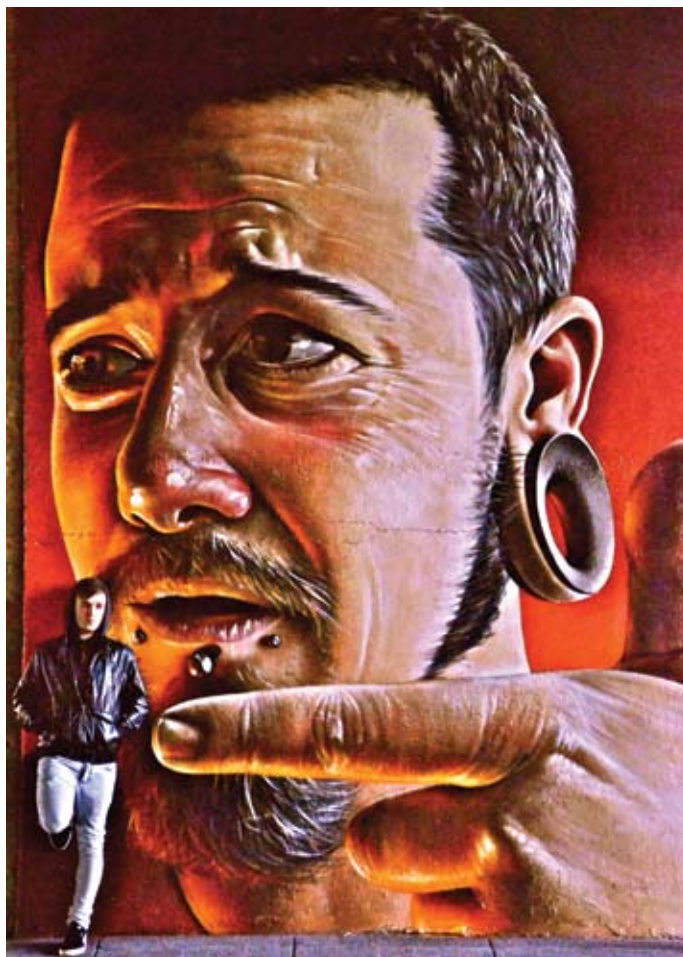
Louise's story was the first to be told. Her story was told through a video reenactment of the night it happened. The real emergency staff acted in the video: I think the fact it was the actual emergency staff had a much bigger impact on how it was told. It made it more vivid and more emotional. I found it much more effective: hearing their shaking voices and tears on their faces even months later made it feel more personal; the fact they had all experienced something so awful bonded them together in the tragedy and drew us in in a very striking way.

A woman that was working in the hospital the night of the collision asked us who we would rather be: Gary who was drink driving that night, Martin who was the reason they got in the car that night, Louise who was killed that night, or Claire who left the party arriving home safely and remained completely oblivious. And then she told us "I know who I'd rather be" before walking off the stage. I think that this really made me think about who really was the best off. It was striking, hard hitting and painful and really had an impact on me personally. You could have heard a pin drop as we all sat there thinking about our own families and the repercussions for them.

The next story we heard was Michael's. I think that the fact he kept his story untold for the majority of the show had a much more personal effect. He started off telling it as just a story, then revealed that he was the boy in the 'story' which really enhanced how real it was. It was clear to see that he still felt the same pain and loss after nine years. Michael's dreams and bright potential had been destroyed in just one moment. The last thing he said was "I guess I just miss my friend" I think this had a strong effect on everyone and left us feeling that it could have been any one of us. I felt like it made me realise that it could be me, or one of my sisters, or friends. People always think it's never going to happen to them, until it does. And then it's too late.

Jen's story was told by her mum: I think that a female perspective reminded us that young women are affected too. This was quite effective as it made you imagine your mum standing up there, still not able to accept what had happened to you after all the years of pain had gone by. Jen's whole side of the car was completely mangled and crushed. Her mum makes it clear that there was no drinking or drugs involved and there was simply no one to blame. This also reminded me that you don't have to be drink driving, or on drugs, any of these things people just assume. Jen was eventually wheeled out as she's permanently disabled due to the collision. Her mum stood there in tears just holding her hand, which really was an emotional moment for me.

The final story was David's story, told to us by his dad. David wasn't killed, or injured: the collision had caused him permanent brain



Clockwise from top left: Bishnu Dura S5, *The Other Side*; Conor Young S5; Navino Gurung S5, *Remember Belany*; Hannah Sloan S5, *Still Life with Pot of Flowers*.

damage which made him unable to do anything that we just take for granted. This was the story I found the most touching, and the most emotional. David's father had turned from a kind loving working man to a full time carer for his son. He talked about never having grandchildren or seeing his son grow up and marry; it genuinely left you feeling guilty. He showed us a video of David at his 21st just having a good time dancing; then when David was brought out in his chair unable to speak or move it was such a huge contrast, and really showed how much had changed in the short time between the party and the collision. To end his story David played his speech: spoken to us through an electronic voice. This speech was sad and hit hard. He told us how we all take for granted all these little things that just seem so simple to us, yet impossible for him, and how he used to be a fun guy and still is he just can't show it. It was hard to listen to but I think Safe Drive Stay Alive is represented by David's bravery and hope for the future that we will listen and not just become another statistic. It was an afternoon that I'll never be able to forget and that I appreciate being given the chance to attend. It gave me hope for the future.

Kiera Smith

Arriving at the Safe Drive Stay Alive roadshow in the MacRobert theatre at Stirling university I felt calm – I had already heard about it from S5 – but nothing could have prepared me for that afternoon. It started off so happily with loud music blaring out like we were at a festival and the Safe Drive staff brandishing glow sticks and dancing on stage. A group of us actually joined them and were having a brilliant time, bouncing around to The Black Eyed Peas and YMCA.

Mick a fire serviceman with 38 years experience and the founder of Safe Drive Stay Alive introduced himself and asked all of the people in the room with glow sticks to stand up so I did. Mick then told us the shocking statistic that all the people with glow sticks – 38 in total the size of my year group at school – have died on our roads in the past year, which hit me like a brick wall: the fact that so many people have been injured shook me to the core. He then went on to tell us that some of his friends were going to come out and tell us about their experiences about this one night which is a normal working night for them but would change the world for others. I just felt like he had just dropped a bombshell: we were all so happy and then it just shattered leaving us in disbelief and silence.

We then heard a true story about four people and one night that ended in chaos. Gary who was intoxicated so shouldn't have been behind the wheel took his eyes off the road for about ten seconds and because Louise was not wearing her seatbelt, she was killed instantly. This devastating tale was explained by the actual emergency services team: they told us how soul-destroying it is telling someone that their daughter has died. Afterwards, even these hardened professionals can't sleep because all they see is the dead person's face: to me that was so horrible I felt devastated that they have to go through that experience all because of people not taking precautions. It was more than an eye-opener. It was agonising to watch.

The story of Michael showed us no matter how popular you are and how good at school, it's no guarantee that you won't put yourself at risk. Michael went out with his friends one night and the driver wasn't drunk he just lost control of the car. Michael was fine or at least that's what he thought when he got out of the car and stood at the side of the road with a bit of a sore stomach; but within half an hour Michael was dead. It turns out that sore stomach was his organs shutting down because of the way he was sitting with his knees up against the

chair in front. This story was different from the rest. I think Michael's story really affected me because you could see how much his poor brother was shaking still because of how hard it is to lose someone and it made me really think because of the fact I have two brothers and how would I handle it?

Jen's story is probably the most difficult one because she was in the passenger seat and she had her seat belt on. Her mum who was telling the story showed us pictures of the car after the crash. Sitting there in the darkened and silent theatre, I just thought that you can do everything right: wear your seatbelt; don't get in with a drunk driver and yet you can still be killed or injured. After hearing Jen's tale I personally think this is worse because once you're left like that you don't have a life: you can't go out to parties you can't dance, drive, have children or get married you have to be taken care of your whole life. It's not living it's just existing Jen came out onto the stage and this was the first year she had done it. It made me admire her courage and feel sorry for her situation. I don't think I'd have had the guts to wheel myself out into the spotlight like Jen did.

David's dad came out and seemed really angry at the world. He was talking to a whole room of people but it felt like he was just talking to me. He was telling us about David, how he had his whole life 'sorted': he showed us a video of David in his kilt dancing with his mum at his 21st birthday party. His dad's voice shook as he called it "David's dance" but now explained that they call it David's last dance. Then David came onto the stage and activated his "e-voice", explaining how bad his life is now all because he got in the car with a drunk driver but then he also said he still had a wicked sense of humour and said I want to play you a little bit of a song of how I feel, then 'Lonely' by Akon came on and I didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. I would say that's probably the best I can do to describe its effect. It's not that there are no words to describe it; I think there are too many. There will never be enough for David now and that's what really affected me.

I think the Safe Drive Stay Alive was really effective because it depicted real people not actors and they shared their experience and pain with us and it really made us think about the fact that you should always wear your seatbelt. Looking back on it now, I should have said thank you but to be honest as I walked past David and Jen, I could barely say anything. For once, I was lost for words. Safe Drive; Stay Alive.

Connor Watson

One of the best presentations we have had in S4 was Safe Drive, Stay Alive. When we arrived, the hall was swarming with fourth years from other schools. At the beginning, staff were dancing about the aisles with glowsticks and people from the audience were grabbed and put onstage to dance. It had a party atmosphere and everyone was 'high' on the fun and laughter. After a while, one of the men onstage asked that all those holding a glowstick stood up. He said that there were exactly 38 glowsticks in this room, and that it was for a reason. Exactly 38 people die in our local area every year due to a car related accident, and that 2000 are seriously injured. This was a shocking contrast to the laughter and dancing we'd just been submerged in and made everyone sit still and think more deeply.

The very cinematic film started with two teenage boys named Martin and Gary driving them both home from school discussing their plans for tonight. The film then stopped suddenly and the screen went black. We all held our breaths until a man in ambulance gear walked

solemnly to the centre of the stage and introduced himself: he was one of the men that arrived at Gary's car late at night. He explained what his job was like, how stressful it was and how the effect was on him. He explained that Gary was crushed in the car and there was a 'fatality' in the back, which meant that there was someone dead in the back of the car. He then went off the stage and the film resumed, showing the medics try to get the boys out safely. They described how Martin had dreamed of being a famous footballer but could no longer do that because he was paralysed and would be in a wheelchair for life. One of the nurses asked us whose place we'd rather be in, Louise's, Martin's, Gary's or Claire's. It was very hard to say but definitely made people think harder about the decisions we make so casually on an everyday basis.

We thought that that was the end of the entire presentation, until one of the dancing staff emerged onstage on his own. He was a tall, well-built man that looked like he was in the army, and he started talking about a 19 year-old boy named Michael. Michael was a very tall man so he had his knees to his chest in the back seat, and when the car hit the tree, his organs ripped, causing him to collapse outside and die quite quickly. He then revealed that Michael was his older brother. When he read something that was read at his brother's funeral, he stuttered, shook and fought back tears – I think this was the part that made an effect on us. Seeing a strong man who seemed as if he were made of steel cry in pain even years later at his brother's loss. He was good at holding back but he still shuddered and his voice still shook and cracked when he spoke. It showed us all that doing something as simple as not sitting right in your seat can be fatal and affect even the strongest people. Before he walked off stage, he said 'Maybe I just want my friend back' and that was when it really hit home that this was a real person who'd been lost; not just a statistic on a page.

The third and final story was about David. His dad spoke about him while photos and videos of David played on the screen. David was a tall, very cocky boy. He even had a special dance that he used to do but his 'last dance' was shown on video. David didn't wear his seatbelt and when they crashed he hit his head and his brain swelled up. His dad explained that when they visited David, he was covered in wires. Instead of being sad, his dad seemed quite angry, and explained how painful it was that he'd never have grandchildren or see David get married or get a job. When David wheeled onto stage he no longer looked like the tall, lanky man that we'd seen in the photos before; but this slumped, squashed shape in a wheelchair. He made a speech using his e-voice. He warned all of us about being safe and not being stupid, and the part that upset most was when he said 'I thought I looked cool, do I look cool now?'.

It was true, he had thought that he looked cool, windows down, seatbelt off, but fast forward a year or more and he's now immobile in a wheelchair, unable to talk and unable to do anything for himself. Someone even has to come to his room in the middle of the night to move him. He can't text or move his hands properly, little simple things that are taken for granted everyday. He then presented the song that 'described how he felt' and "Mr Lonely" started to play as his Dad came back to wheel him off. Most of the audience – myself included – were crying by this point. It showed how devastating road accidents can be and surviving is often only the beginning of a very hard battle.

I found this whole afternoon very traumatic, emotional and harrowing – but I am glad that I was given the chance to go and see for myself the devastating effects of drink driving; not just on those in the car but on the emergency staff and their friends and families who love

them. It is engraved on my mind the look on David's dad's face when he told us to 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' and I will never forget his voice shaking as he said it – hoping that David's bravery might prevent someone else's life being shattered like his son's.

Jade McCartney

Arriving at the Safe Drive Stay Alive Road Show in Stirling yesterday I was unsure of what to expect and I had mixed feelings about what would happen. As we entered the main auditorium staff were handing out glow sticks, playing music and speaking to the visitors from the stage. They were getting people to remove their ties, get on stage, stand up and most of all be happy. They got people to use their bodies in dancing and jumping around being happy. They then told us all to sit down comfortably and quietly and listen. A man said that all the glow sticks were important. He told all the people in the room holding a glow stick to stand up. He said that the 38 glow sticks were the amount of people that had been killed on our roads in the last few roads.

We then had to sit and watch a reconstructed video of an actual crash that had happened involving the death of a girl called Louise. During the video they stopped after different parts and some people who were there from that actual night and who had been in the video came out to speak. As the video paused you could feel the silence and emotion in the room and out came one of the four people involved and who were at the scene told us how that night changed their life. They described how they were all talking and having a normal night at work and then they heard there might be a fatality at the collision and they changed from calm to nervous in a split second. At the end of their talk they all said the same words: Safe Drive, Stay Alive.

The video that we watched was about a group of young teenagers who were involved in a road collision. There were 3 people in the car when it crashed Louise, Gary and Martin – Louise died instantly, she was not wearing her seatbelt. She wasn't driving and she wasn't in control of the car but she was in control of herself and her life was ended. If she had her seatbelt on she might have survived, she might be walking, breathing, laughing, talking and living but all this has been taken away from her and now all she does is lie in coffin. The story changed from a story to a memory when we found out that she was dead and it definitely hit people in the heart and the thought of them making a wrong decision and ending up like Louise. After the funeral and it had all cooled down, who would feel the most blame, Gary or Martin. After all it was Louise's choice to get in the car.

Next of all a man came out and spoke about a boy called Michael. Michael was in a car when he was involved in a collision, he was in the backseat and he walked out of the car after the collision with only a sore stomach. He then died on the street after his organs failed. When he was in the back of the car he had his legs up against the seat and they crushed his organs in the crash. The man telling the story was his younger brother when he died. He didn't reveal this until the end and it shocked a lot of people because it was unexpected. You sort of think of his brother as a person Michael could've been, Michael could've been this boy's role model but he has had to grow up without his older brother, his role model. The impact that this had on people in the audience was huge because a lot of the people in the audience had close brothers and sisters, some of whom they look up to as role models just like the man did with his brother Michael.

Jen's story was probably the hardest of all of the stories to take in

because Jen was doing everything correctly. She was in the passenger seat with her seatbelt on and completely unaware that she was about to be in an accident that would end the normal life that she ever dreamed of having. She was paralysed and was unable to do basically most of the things she did before, washing herself, partying, driving and even doing some really simple activities such as just walking around her house. Jen now needs 24/7 care to help her use the toilet, wash herself and eat for the rest of her life all because of a crash that she had no right to be injured in. She had nerves of steel coming out onto the stage in her wheelchair and sitting there next to her mum as she saw all of us young people that could easily be affected and put into the same position as she is in.

Last of all came out a man who looked very angry and clearly full of hurt and torn apart emotions. He told us very strongly about how his life has been changed and that he can't do anything about it. He showed us a video of his son David dancing at his 21st birthday. He described it as Davids last dance and told us why. He then brought out his son David who was in a wheelchair and could only communicate by shaking his head and using his e-voice. He explained his story to us and told us about his wicked sense of humour. He then played the song Lonely and told us how this now describes his life. You can never really describe your feelings about what happened to David and that is a really sad feeling.

Jack Miller

S2 Writing

Tick tick tick tick

Tick tick tick tick...

It won't stop, when will it stop?

I think I'm dreaming...

"HELP!!!" I scream, banging my fists on the glass. "PLEASE HELP!!!! ANYBODY!!!!"

It's no use.

Tick tick tick tick.

Maybe if I stop the ticking, time will stop. If I stop the hands moving round, pull them back, rewind and choose another path, everything would be fine. Maybe I will see what's coming, and change the past, altering the future for the good.

But that's impossible, right?

Tick tick tick tick

"Ugh, could you PLEASE, pleasepleaseplease PURLEASE, do something about that, that TICKING?!?!?" I wanted to slap that new girl, Charlie or whatever her name was, right in her smug little face!! But of course, I did that to the last girl I worked with on a project at school and – and that did NOT go well. This girl, well... I didn't plan to be partners with her. She wasn't the most popular girl ever, always sulking in the corner of the dining hall, staying in the bathrooms at breaks... It was also her long dark hair and pale face which gave off the feeling she was some kind of 'emo'. The strangest thing though, was the watches.

She sighed. Seriously, couldn't that girl just have ONE watch, not TEN?!? Pfft.

"Sorry, I don't take my watches off." She smiled at me slightly and carried on writing notes for god-knows-what-topic-we-are-working-on.

"Uh, listen Cristy."

"It's Cindy."

"Ok,whatever, Cindy, if we have to work together, then I suggest you do as I say." I announced, and she raised her eyebrows.

"Excuse me?" she questioned.

Silly girl – obviously she didn't know who she was talking with. Only the master of compromise, Emma Ramsay!! Me, in case you are stupid enough to think otherwise.

"So I was thinking, Silvia –"

"Cindy!!"

"Sorry, I was thinking, maybe if you... Do all the work say, I could repay you?"

She thought for a moment, then smiled almost eerily. "Sounds good,

but how will you repay me?" Her eyes looked towards my small, silver and very expensive watch. "Nice watch." She continued.

"It's yours if you do all the work..."

"Done."

Tick tick tick tick....

Of course I wouldn't give her my watch!! Do you know how EXPENSIVE it was? And she already had like, ten.

Sure enough, she did the work. Every lesson she would write notes and work hard on the project while I admired my nails and went on instagram.

On Monday, she announced that she had in fact finished early.

"Ah, well done Cathy!!" I said, patting her on the shoulder. "Hopefully I will get an A for all this work –" I started, but she snatched the notes back off of me.

"Excuse me, Emma, but I believe we have a deal?"

"A deal?" I repeated, and scratched my head thoughtfully. "I don't remember any deal?"

Her brows burrowed and she frowned at me. "Your watch, Emma?"

"What watch, Sandy?"

She sighed and grabbed my wrist forcefully. "This watch!!"

I screamed and try to pull away from her, weird girl.

"Let go of me, you mangy... PEASANT!!" Ok, don't judge me, I'm not good at comebacks.

And that's when she started muttering something weird under her breath, some eerie strange language.

"Stop it, you're so WEIRD!!"

And that's when it all went black.

Tick tick tick tick

So now I'm here.

I don't know HOW I got here, and when I will get out. If I ever get out that is.

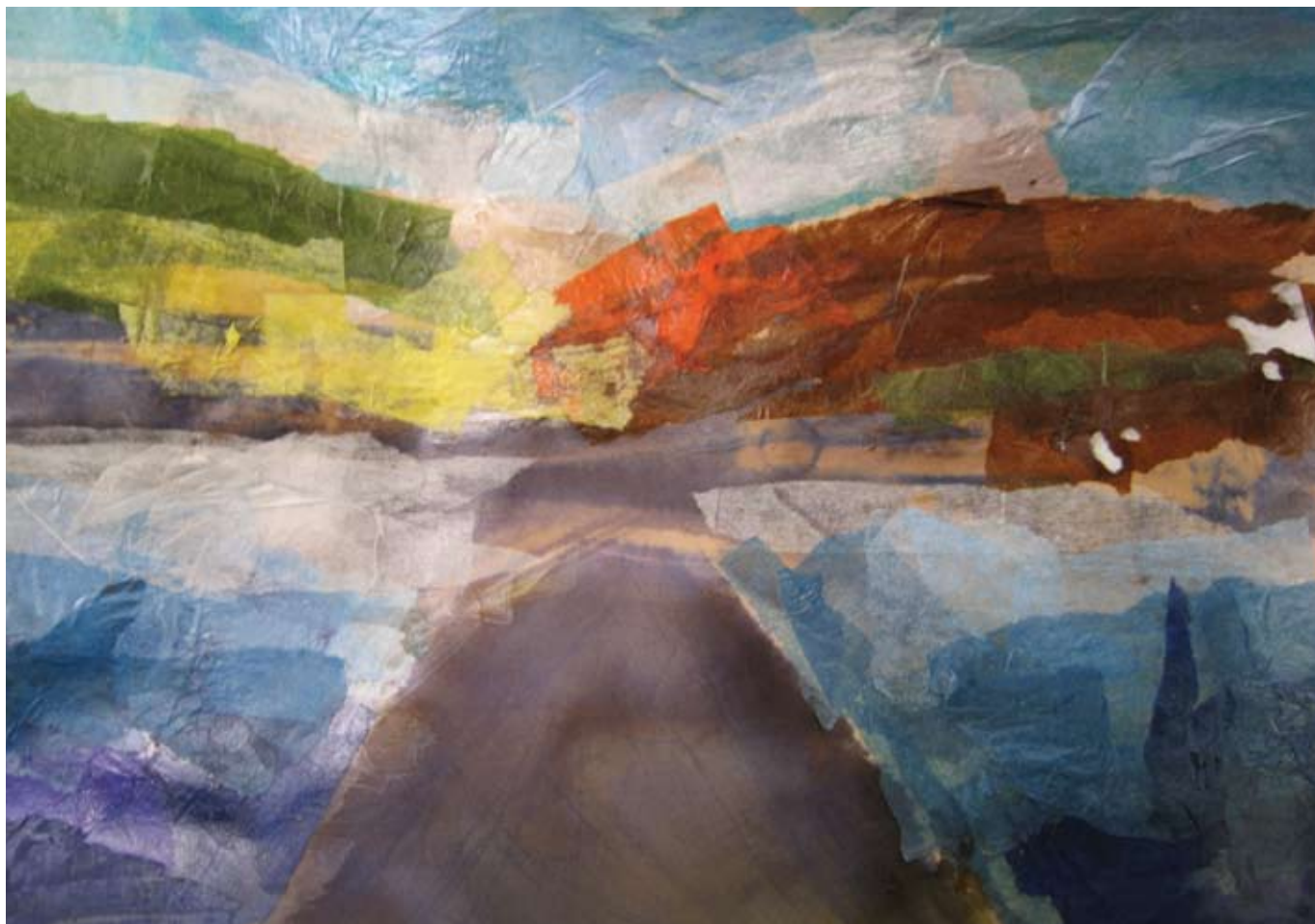
But the hands keep ticking and the tick – tocking won't stop. It's not very spacious in here, very claustrophobic and my nails have broken, trying to claw my way out.

And it's weird seeing other people through the glass, they don't notice me, but they see me.

Who knew I would end up trapped in my own watch?

Tick tick tick tick....

Mhari Sibeth



Top to bottom: Daniel Beard S4, *Path on the Water*; Tarah Lynch S4, *Deep Thunder Roared along the Shore*.

Creative Writing

A Pair of Shoes

Bouncing up the stairs of Waverley I eagerly pushed my way through the mournfully slow crowd. On reaching the top I felt a thrill, as Princes Street rose in front of me. I hurried across the road, narrowly avoiding a dodgy taxi driver and burst through the shop door. Relief flooded through me as the shoes I had waited so eagerly to buy, stood dazzling on the shelf. It was a week after my birthday and I had finally built the courage to make such an outrageously expensive purchase. Smiling as the shopkeeper handed me the box and receipt, I peeked inside again, just to check they were really there. My concentration was broken by a deep voice and as I tripped out of the doors I spotted the source, a man maybe forty, unshaven and unclean was looking at me.

"Got any spare change sweetheart?" He repeated, his thick Highland accent going through me.

"I... Um, I..." I fumbled through the insides of my pockets, I had nothing! Oh God, this was so awkward, I had clearly just spent a fortune and now didn't even have a penny for a homeless man! Guilt rushed through me and I instantly resented the purchase I had waited so long to make.

Panicking, I scanned the street and spotted a McDonalds, the only thing I could think to offer.

"I've only got my card" I choked, I sounded so pathetic. "Do you want a McDonalds?"

"I'm alright sweetheart but thank you anyway."

"Are you sure, not even a coffee or something?"

"Aye, go on then, milk and two sugars."

"Right, two secs." I rushed off across the road. God why did I have to be so insistent? Why couldn't I have just said 'sorry I've no change' like everyone else does?! Idiot.

On my return I handed the coffee to him and he took it calmly and normally, then took a sip. I don't know what I'd expected, maybe some mad rush and gulp situation but he surprised me anyway.

"Thanks very much sweetheart." He smiled, his coppery stubble shining in the sunlight. "What brings you into Edinburgh this fine day then?" He asked.

"I... Um, shoe shopping actually." I felt so wrong, how could I have just parted with half my bank account over a pair of shoes and this man is begging for money to eat.

"Oh, nice" he smiled, but not sarcastically, he seemed genuinely interested. "Let's see them then", he nodded to the box in my arm.

Bending down I opened the box, trying to conceal the obnoxious price. "Ooh, very high!" He laughed which relaxed me a little. "When will you wear them?"

I swallowed guiltily, I didn't actually know.

"A school dance I think" I lied, this was a stupid buy.

"Very good" he smiled. "What school are you at?"

"Queen Victoria School, it's a boarding school in Dunblane, it's for military kids." Why was I saying so much?! Just leave already!

"Oh! What reg is your dad then?"

"He was PT core, but Queens Own before that" I was intrigued, why did he want to know? Was he military?

"Oh yes! I knew a few guys fae Queens Own Highlanders, I was Black Watch."

"Really?!" Megan, Shut Up.

"Yes, I was in ten years before I left."

I asked him why he did leave and was shocked when he told me. He had been posted in Germany where he had met his wife, a German nurse, to whom he had two sons. He told me of how beautiful she was and how they had had a wonderful military wedding, where they then honeymooned in Nepal and returned to have their children. Then his wife was suddenly diagnosed with cancer and tragically, she died. It was heartbreaking to hear of how their life was ripped apart. Unable to cope, his family came over from Scotland to look after the boys but it was too much for him and he turned to alcohol. He was dismissed from the army on compassionate grounds and he blew his lump sum on drink, leaving him penniless and cut off from everyone he loved, including his own children.

I felt tears well as he recollected how in love they had been, how he had cried at the birth of their first son and how sorry he was to not have seen them grow up. He had kept in contact with them though and spoke of them with such pride, and I could see the joy in his eyes. I felt a sad connection as my parents shared the same vocations as he and his wife and from this tragic twist of fate his sons lived an extremely different life to me, with neither parent around.

His story really affected me, I had originally felt cold and awkward towards this man only to realise we shared so many similarities, how could this have happened to a British soldier? When I told my parents about it, their reaction was that he was probably some drug user and had made the whole thing up. I know this is what most people's views on homeless people are, I thought it myself. But there are very few out there without a story behind them.

What had started out to be an indulgent shopping trip left me not only questioning the purchase, but my values also.

Since the encounter I now think and look twice towards homeless people and consider what path they have taken that has led them to being on the streets.

After further reflection I returned the shoes.

Megan McColl

Flown Away

Marvin sat on his old oak rocking chair on the porch overlooking his garden. His gaze was fixed on the bird feeder watching a gathering of blue tits. He assumed that they were all one family, looking out for one another. While three of them were eating, poking their little beaks through the wire mesh, one perched on top keeping guard. Marvin loved watching the birds, he always had. He thought back to one of his fondest memories of a bird. It was all the way back when he used to be a coal miner at Decker mine in Montana. He had been pushing a cart full of coal towards the exit of the mine when the ceiling collapsed sealing him inside. A stroke of dumb luck passed by Marvin that day because what had collapsed sealing him in was mainly loose pieces of rubble which he could move with his hands. For four hours Marvin moved these rocks until finally the warm, majestic light of day pierced through a hole in the rubble. Marvin remembered gasping in the fresh air like it would be his last. The slight warm summer breeze grazed his cheeks and in the distance he saw a perfect apple tree, upon which perched a finch singing with all its might of what a glorious day it was.

Marvin snapped out of his day dream with a harsh relentless coughing fit. Moments later his devoted wife ran out onto the porch with a cool glass of water. She started patting Marvin on the back seemingly trying to hit the cough out of him. Marvin humbly took the water in his hand, a few beads of condensation running down the glass. It was a warm slightly humid day the kind of which makes cool glasses of water more valuable than gold. Marvin sipped at his water, the liquid almost regenerating him back to a stable condition. He wheezed out thanks to his wife and then sank back further into his chair.

"Marvin, honey, I really want you to go see a doctor. You have had this hellish cough for way to long and I'm worried for you. In fact it's since starting this crazy campaign that it has gotten worse." Her western American accent really came clear when she got a bit angry. Marvin loved that.

Thinking back to that day, the start of this crazy campaign made his stomach turn and his eyes well up. Holding down the tears that he had kept at bay for a long time he thought about his crisis day. Marvin had been doing much the same as he was now, out on his porch in his armchair watching the birds and the world go by. It was there at that very moment where he realised something. Life was too short. Since being a boy he had always stored his money in his bank and watched the numbers grow, each time putting it aside for whenever he really wanted something. A child's mentality but now with the number so big it had been more like a miser's strategy, and now he wanted something.

It started with a simple holiday to Spain, two weeks in a quiet little one bedroomed cottage with a pool. It was during this relaxing stress-free holiday that Marvin told Sarah to be at a certain place at a certain time for a surprise. Sarah hated surprises, and she thought that her husband of thirty-five years would have known better. She pulled up to the destination parked the cool air-conditioned car and entered the humidity of the outside world. Scanning the brown desolated field with her eyes her ears picked up a subtle humming noise which grew louder breaking her search for Marvin. She looked up just in time to see a man jump from a plane deploying a parachute. After a gentle spiral down and a safe landing Sarah had

become very amused watching the display. The man was de-kitted and suddenly to Sarah's surprise Marvin appeared and walked towards her. "Did you see and like the surprise!" The only real surprise of the day was the one that hit Marvin across the face. The rest of the holiday went exactly as planned, relaxing, peaceful, placid.

About two months after returning home Marvin had booked another European quaint holiday for two weeks this time in Italy. For his darling wife he had booked a spa day, wine vineyard tour – Italian wine had always been her favourite – and had taken her out for countless five star meals. The perfect holiday, with a slight minuscule twist. While she was at the spa Marvin had gone to the Autodromo Nazionale Monza racetrack to fulfill a life-long dream of driving his dream car. A matt black Lamborghini Mira. While she had gone to the vineyard Marvin had booked a flight lesson. Whenever Sarah asked – or even sometimes pleaded – why he was doing all these adrenaline filled activities Marvin had simply replied saying that he had money to spend and that life was too short. His invisible motto it seemed.

Over the next two months Marvin had blessed three more countries with his presence and Sarah had gone with him. He saw money as no issue the American dream – his American dream – was coming true. He had done so much. An air balloon ride, seen two wonders of the world, walked up mountains, he was destroying the stereotypical wall of the over fifties limitations. Daily he put a big red felt tip pen through things on his bucket list.

Sarah looked out into her garden and watched the blue tits enjoying life to the full. They were so alive, not just in the sense of living and breathing, but they really were living. Every day they could go where and when they wanted not bound down by any chains. The sky ironically was the limit. Sarah had assumed that the weight loss of her husband was down to all the traveling that they had done over the recent months. She put the bad cough down as a side-effect of working in the mine and being an ex-smoker. The thing that shocked and worried her daily, was how relentless and harsh the cough was becoming. Now standing over her wheezing husband on the porch of their house she begged him to go and see the doctor.

"I have seen a doctor for Christ sake, Sarah!" The words that did splutter out were of a venomous nature. "I have lung cancer and six months left to live." Upon the climax of his sentence as if to prove a point Marvin began coughing again.

Sarah felt her blood run cold, and she took a seat resigning from her job of back patter. She looked around again and the world to her surprise hadn't changed although her world had. The birds still sang, and the warm breeze still blew. She had never been the religious type but she imagined that if there was a higher power he had been too busy to hear Marvin's news. She gathered up the courage to talk again.

"When exactly did the doctor tell you this news?"

"Four months ago. These next two months I need to stay in hospital."

Sarah lowered her head in despair. Raising it again she saw that the birds had flown away.

Rhys Clark

Discovery

I tiptoed up the carpeted wooden steps, my bare feet slightly chilled by the night air drifting through the open window. Trying to fit your daily night time routine into a new house is always difficult. It's harder for me now to get a glass of water at night. The house is pitch black due to the lack of lamps or any torches. They haven't been sent over yet. I don't particularly like using the new bath as it feels alien to me. The dark colour of its traditional metal turns the usually welcoming suds into a dark basin of liquid in which you can't seem to make out the bottom. The hallways are long and narrow, the stairs creak and groan under even the lightest of weight and the rattling windows in the spare rooms that are yet to be fixed keep you awake late into the night.

No, I don't like the new house. I did try to have an open mind at first, for my parents, but they always seem to be out working. Some nights they get in so late that I would be sleeping and I'd miss them the next morning, the closest I would get to them would be the rumbling of the tyres against the tarmac as they drove away. 'Traditional' is the word my mum and dad used when describing this fantastic new home they had found for us. The feeling that generations of people have passed through the old creaky house before us, have used the same kitchen as us and have used the same beds as us, to me, is creepy. That's what this word 'traditional' is translating to me.

You can't really understand them unless you've experienced them; the feeling that somebody may be walking behind you down the long lonely corridors when you're by yourself and you feel the constant need to look over your shoulder although there is absolutely nothing there, the irritating sounds that make a white noise that you haven't yet become accustomed to at night or the deathly silence that fills a room which seems louder than anything else that you've ever heard.

I passed my mum and dad's bedroom. The door was closed, but there was no certainty of whether or not they were in there. Neither snore. I'm not one of those lucky individuals that can simply collapse into bed and fall into a coma. The smallest sound can wake me; the click of a lock, the creak of a step, the drip of a tap or the scratching of a twig on the window. Usually I either read my current book or watch funny clips on YouTube, anything to take my mind off those awful, invasive noises. A few hours later my eyes will begin to feel heavy, my neck will start to feel weak under the weight of my head and it will start to sink to the pillow. Eventually I will drift into a light sleep which could be disturbed at any moment by the slightest noise.

Tonight, however, was even more difficult than usual. I had turned off my phone, returned my half read book to the drawer at my bedside and made sure that all of the curtains were fully closed so that no shards of moonlight could penetrate the darkness. Something must have been bothering me, because instead of feeling drowsy or headachy like I usually do at night, I felt absolutely wide awake. It wasn't a struggle to keep my eyes wide open, my head sat contentedly on my neck and my body felt as tense as though I were waiting for an attack, some sort of forceful blow. Something was keeping me awake. That was when I heard it.

The long and strained creaking was quiet at first, however it grew progressively louder. I automatically pulled my feet into a tuck position, my breathing grew laboured and so strained that I couldn't even hear it anymore. The noise stopped for a while, and just as I started to feel myself relax, another creak echoed down the corridor. Someone was in our house. The noise seemed to be coming from downstairs. A sick feeling formed at the pit of my stomach, I started to break into a sweat and I was too scared to even remove a long brown strand of hair from my face; I was convinced that this person

would be able to hear even the slightest movement. Then it stopped. "Caroline"

At first I just sat there, unmoving, then I finally relaxed. It was my mum. I jumped out of bed as a feeling of joy and relief washed over me. My tensed muscles relaxed, I wiped the sweat from my palms and regained a normal breathing pace. Of course it would have been my mum, what was I thinking? I scurried across the corridor. Then I saw her.

She was crouched at the door in her white nighty, her face was pale, her eyes wild and bloodshot. She had a strange expression on her face. One of relief as she saw my face mixed with the original look of horror. I'd never seen someone so scared before in my life.

"Mum?" I whispered, my voice losing strength.

"Don't go downstairs, I heard it too!" she hissed frantically. The woman that sat before me was a stark contrast between the figure I saw as my mother. My mum was always calm and composed, collected and neat, smiling and happy. This woman was a sinister creature, partially hidden, and holding onto the edge of the door with her long pale fingers. She looked like my mother. She sounded like my mother. And yet I did not recognise her. Perhaps because I had never seen her so scared before in my life.

"Caroline, come downstairs! I have something to show you!" the voice of my mother called from the downstairs landing. I looked towards the stairs. How could my mum be up here with me, but be calling me from downstairs?

And then I realised the obvious answer. One of them wasn't my mum. Why would somebody pretend to be my mum? Which one was my real mum? Questions were flying around in my head, getting jumbled up and confusing me further. I turned back to the mysterious woman claiming to be my mother, but she wasn't there.

"Caroline, come and hide in here" her voice whispered.

I squinted to make her out, but she was just a dark shape now, a pair of ghostly white eyes staring at me from her bed. She was sitting in the same position as I had been, tucked up and terrified. I wasn't sure what to do.

Then I had an idea. "I'll go and check it out" I answered, but as I turned towards the stairs my heart jumped into my mouth as a cold hand clamped around my arm like a vice.

"No!" she seethed at my stupidity. I was amazed at the speed she had mustered to reach me.

"Then why don't we go together?" I asked, terrified.

"There is a stranger downstairs, trying to impersonate me, and you want to go and see who it is?" she exclaimed, bewildered.

"I'm not staying up here," I told her stubbornly and shook off her arm. She watched as I started down the stairs. I was now certain. My mother would never act like that. I reached the fourth step, and that was when I started to run.

My steps thudded down the stairs. I heard more thuds behind me, completely out of sync with my own. I ran faster.

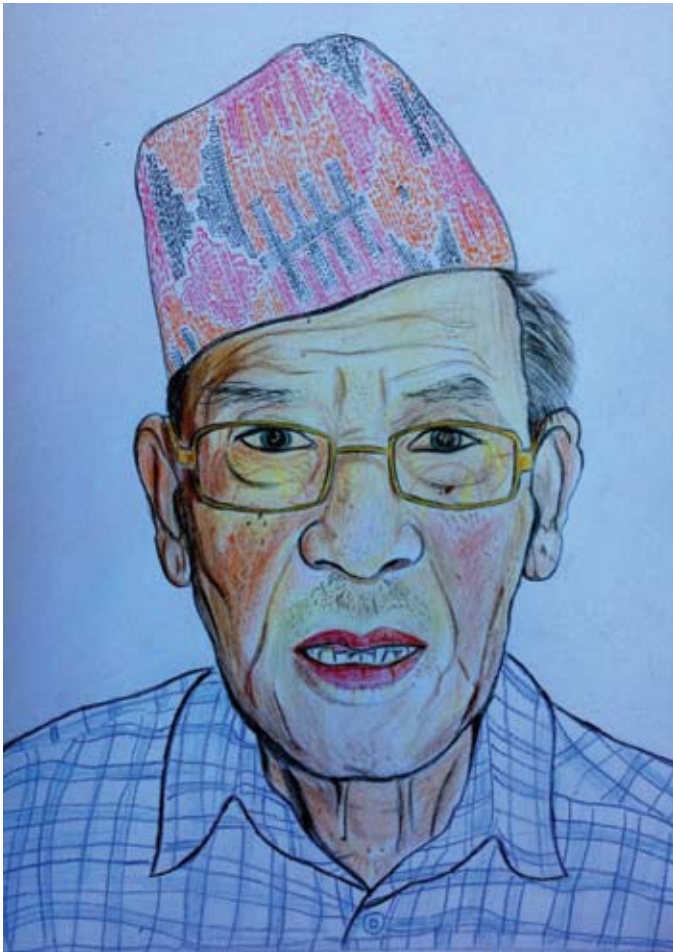
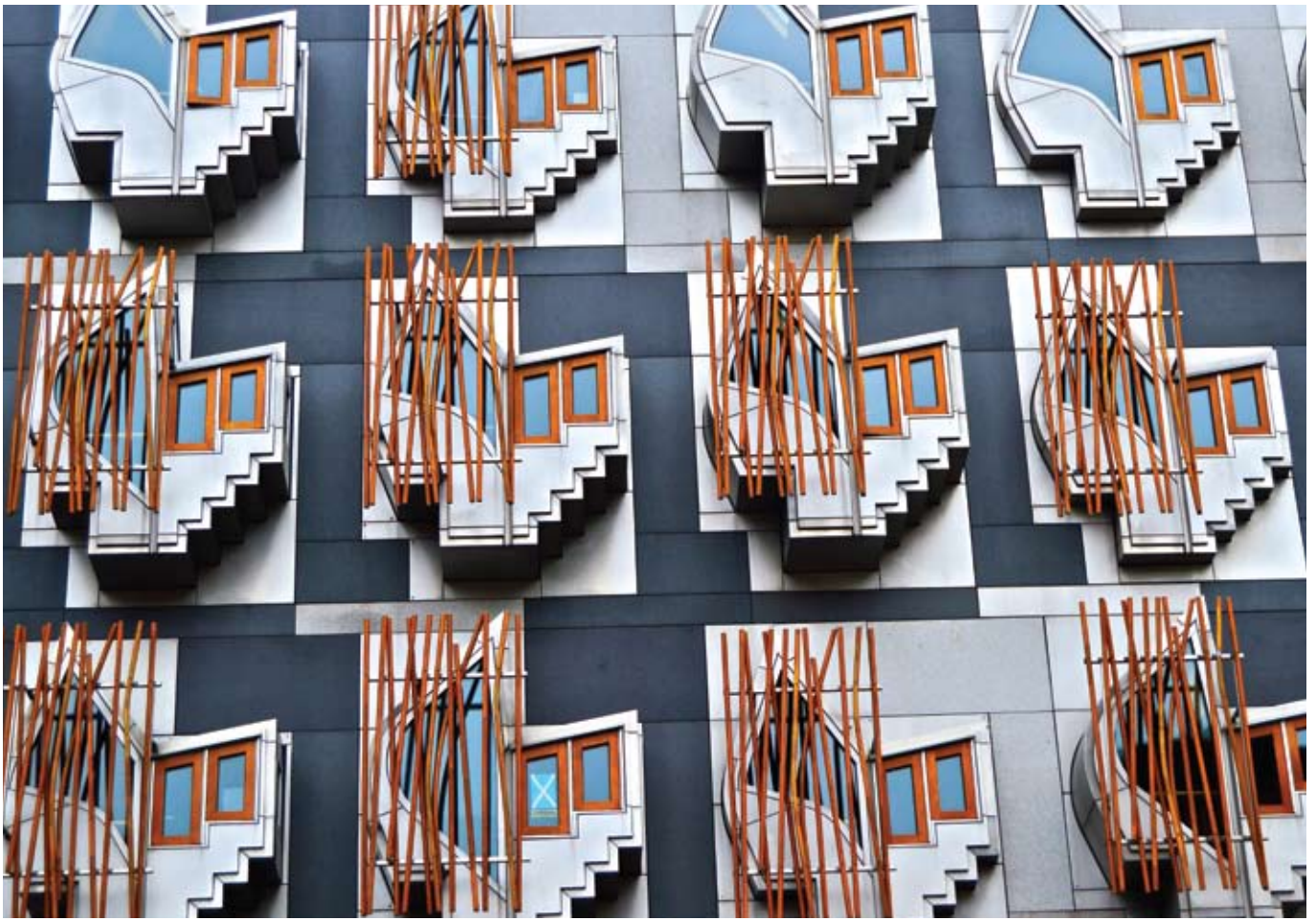
"Caroline!"

My mother stood at the bottom of the stairs, wide eyed and smiling in her work suit, her arms outstretched to hold me.

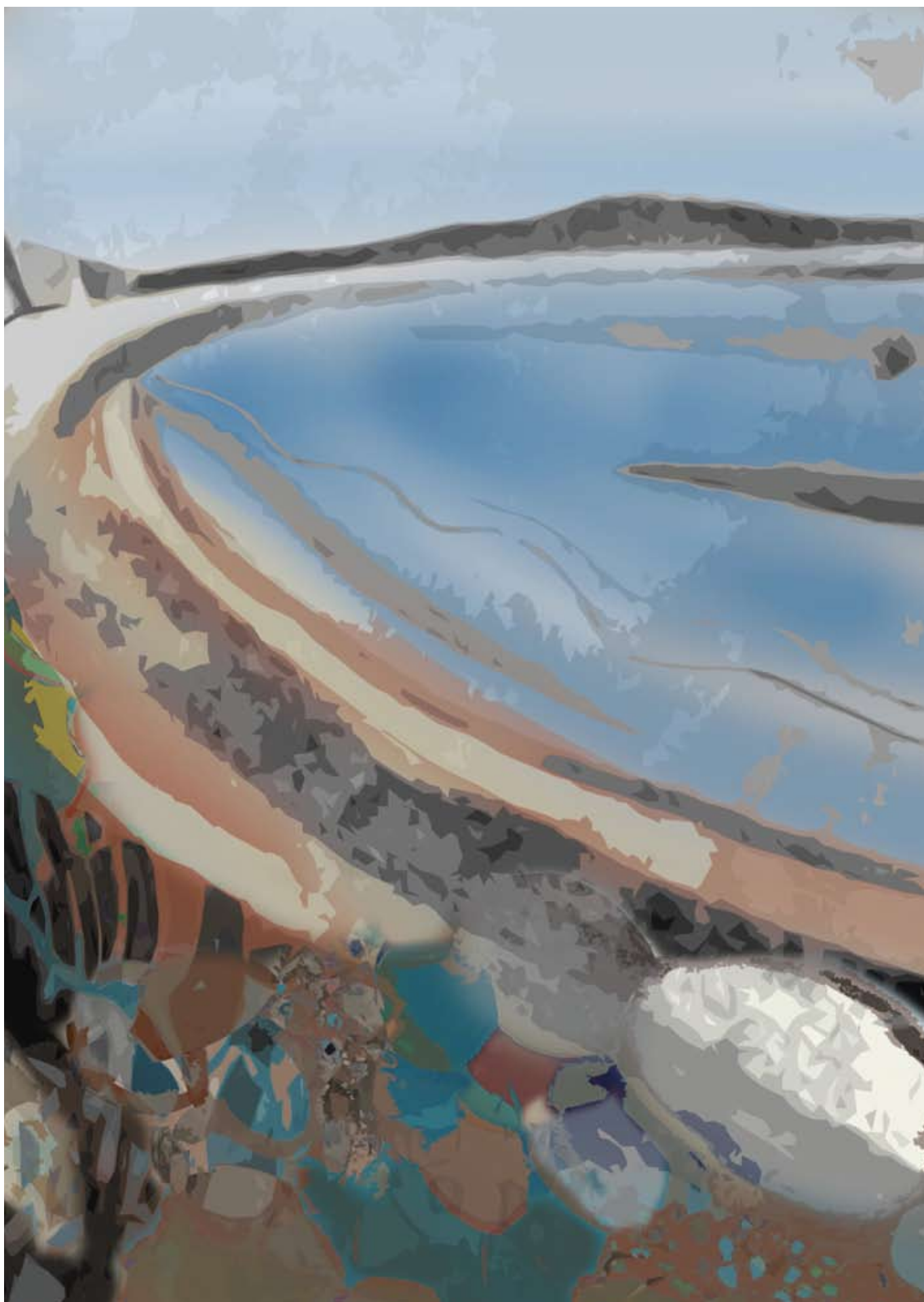
She seemed calm.

I needed her calm.

Sarah Sweeney



Clockwise from top left: Connor Young S5; Hannah Sloan S5, Stamen; Bishnu Dura S5.



Emily ferguson S4, By the Coast.

Musket Fire

I stood there in awe and wonder at the scene that lay before me. A once beautiful hillside was now awash with gun smoke, charging me and the dead. The green setting contrasted with the blue uniforms of the opposing French army. This was my first experience of war. It was nothing like the heroic drama the recruitment officer depicted. There was much more death. My grip on my Army-issue musket tightened as I pondered whether, if it really got down to it, I could kill a man.

The words "Company will fix bayonets" flung me into reality. I grabbed the little dagger that hung by my right thigh. I waited for the next volley of command. "Fix...bayonets".

Without conscious thinking I grabbed the end of my bayonet and rammed it onto the end of my musket. It fixed with a click.

I knew what came next. The words still ring in my ears today. "Company will advance".

The words span around my head, "this is it" I thought.

"Remember lads, King and country!" my commanding officer, who was not much older than myself, bellowed. His name was Captain Edmund Cameron. I quickly glanced at the two soldiers either side of me. Although I recognised their faces their name was unknown to me. This is because I had only been in the regiment, The 2nd Hampshire, for a month.

We started moving forwards at a steady pace accompanied by a simple drum beat. Our field equipment rattled gently. The only thing that possessed my mind was the battle that lay just over the ridge of the green hill we were now facing. It was midday so the barbaric sun was beating directly down on our already battered skin. The only thing that provided some sort of armistice from the relentless sun was the peak of our black hats. Our blood red tunics intensified the heat until our torsos were cracked and charred. Its golden buttons glinted in the sun.

I looked up and saw about ten black crows circling the area around the battlefield.

I looked forwards, there no more than 500 metres away was a line of French soldiers. The only visible differences between us was the colour of our jackets but nevertheless our King, King George III, declared war on the French. The real reason for this I do not know. I do know however that I am here and King George is not. Ironically our leader was a German, not even of British descent. In my opinion, I have more right to the throne. Our ranks and the French's looked equally matched. We awkwardly moved towards each other. Which side would be the first to fire? Fire too far away and you'll miss, leave it too late and the enemy will get the first volley. I trusted my commanding officer – I had heard of his reputation and was in awe.

I clenched my teeth and tightened my grip on my musket. We had been ordered to halt at least 400 metres from the enemy. The reason for this was now evident. Six cannon balls screeched over head. They smashed into the French lines. Tens of men vanished in a cloud of smoke and dust. My heart skipped a beat. I looked around. I noticed a line of cannons positioned on a hill top to my left, a British flag placed next to a gun carriage reassured me. There was hope. I looked forward, what I saw amazed me. Despite great losses the French force was still standing strong. I guess the plan was just to soften them up.

"Forwards!", Captain Cameron blasted. At a steady pace we approached the enemy lines. When we were about 200 metres away from the French we received the order to fire. I brought my musket into my shoulder and aimed it in the general direction of the soldiers in front of me. Our muskets were very inaccurate so there was little point in aiming. Regardless, lines of the French soldiers dropped to the ground.

My heart leapt into my throat. The sudden realisation that now I have fired my musket it was the French's turn, the only difference is that this time they were aimed at me. The pause felt like it lasted years. The battered French soldiers raised their muskets. I picked out the enemy commander, he raised his sword. He opened his mouth wide in preparation for the command we all knew would come next. The French commander dropped his sword. "Feu!".

We were standing in neat lines at the bottom of a valley that towered around us. The deepest part of the valley was covered with tall grass – it was the perfect place to hide. Instead our glorious commander had decided to stop us just to the left of it. Our leader was a Capitane Jean Claude. He was in his late 40s. I saw this as less of a hindrance as it meant he had plenty of experience. I was part of an experienced section, the 8th Garde Royale. We had been fighting this war for two years now under the supreme commander Napoleon Bonaparte. We had stormed through Eastern Europe and were now facing our greatest foe, the British just outside Antwerp, Belgium. However, I still had faith in my leaders, we will brush away these scum like we did the rest of Europe.

I raised my head a little. I saw a squad of British soldiers just coming over the hill. Their outlines were emphasised by the blue sky behind them.

I noticed a platoon of birds, probably crows, circling above us.

I wasn't scared of the oncoming troops, I knew that there weren't any experienced enemies expected in this battle. The British came closer, they were about 500 metres away now.

Suddenly a wave of iron smashed into our lines. One canon ball hit my fellow soldiers next to me and forced me to the ground. I looked around. A bloody mist replaced what used to be my friends. I wasn't too affected, I had experienced this kind of warfare in Russia.

I got back onto my feet and picked up my musket. I glanced around and got back into my line. I saw the British moving again. They stopped 200 metres away. Their commander screamed a command I couldn't understand. With this shout the British unleashed a volley of musket fire. The black iron balls shredded my comrades around me. Capitane Claude raised his sabre. It glinted in the sun. I raised my musket into the aim. I pointed it at one particular soldier. He was young looking. I could see the terror in his eyes. I guess I was being nice, taking him out first so he doesn't see his friends follow suit.

Claude dropped his sword and screamed the word "Feu!".

I squeezed the trigger; my musket went off with a kick.

Matthew Asbridge



Music

Bob Marley once said “One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain.”

I’m not sure he would still be saying that if he worked at QVS.

So what has hit us this year? Well the new music block continues to develop with our keyboard suite just about fully functional after some interesting problems with the low voltage supply. The opening of the music “Japanese Garden” a feature that replaced the muddy patch between the staff garages and room 20 and helps to provide a pleasant tranquil environment for staff and pupils. The sound of wind chimes, the cherry blossom and the flowering of flowers planted by some of our junior pupils provided the backdrop for the official garden opening complete with a variety of Japanese food and drink.

The arrival of some wonderful new instruments has meant we now have every standard woodwind, brass, strings and percussion instrument in the school music inventory. We had a lot of fun assembling the new vibraphone especially as the manufacturer had packed parts from two different instruments in the box. After ten phone calls, twenty photographs and a video we now have all the parts in the correct place.

Our instrumental tutor team have had a busy year with lots of lessons, including all of the P7s on brass and woodwind. Great news with the arrival of a baby boy for our singing teacher Jo Greer and mixed feelings about the promotion for our percussion tutor Michael Bryans meaning that sadly Michael will no longer have the time to work at QVS. He will be very much missed by our pupils and I will be very sad to lose such a talented and dedicated member of our team.

The departure of some of our young musicians including my “long term management team” Tamara and Alanna, of whom more later.

“Without music life would be a mistake”.

Nietzsche, that happy philosopher! had it right and for many of our young students who have embraced the wonderful world of music this has been a very successful year. Over the last 12 months we

have had some great results in both the external Associate Board exams as well as the SQA school based work.

Our ABRSM year saw the following results and included a number of our youngsters visiting the examiner for two consecutive grade 2 exams on two different instruments. One of the board examiners remarked, ‘I just heard a flute player who looked just like you!’ This led to a distinction pass on flute and a merit pass on violin for Charlotte Gothard-Olver

This year saw the following pupils succeed in their external instrumental exams; William Adam grade 6 piano, Georgia Clark grade 3, PK Khawas and Rachel Spence grade 3 piano, Aoife Dillon grade 2 piano and grade 2 clarinet, Anais Scott grade 1 and grade 2 alto saxophone, Sam Drummond grade 1 alto saxophone, Kirstin Hughes grade 2 clarinet and Richard Dunbar grade 1 clarinet. These results included four merit and three distinction passes and two visits for the traditional after exam ice creams!

This year also saw the first group of our youngsters sitting their NAT5 musical practical exams with other pupils sitting Int 2, Higher and Advanced Highers.

I’m sure that this group will do as well as last year’s group who maintained the school’s recent 100% credit pass record.

Tolstoy said “Music is the Shorthand of Emotion”.

Once again our youngster travelled from the school to perform in the wider community. A small group of primary seven youngsters with the help of Elle Gemmel (S5) on flute, were invited to our retired school chaplain John Silcox’s church in Dunblane and put on a fundraising evening of Christmas carols and songs that raised over £700 to support the missionary education work of a local family who are working in Chad.

This year also saw the full squad minstrels performing at their annual engagement in Sauchie as well as visiting the ladies and gentlemen of Dollar for the first time. As always their behaviour, dress, musical



and dancing talents were very appreciated and of a very high standard. Once again I must thank Miss Edwards for organising and helping staff these events and also our GAP student Callum who along with seniors Heather Stanfield, Rhys Clark, Cameron Arnott, Rhona Wilson and Kirsty Lawson performed and helped with the minstrels.

Victor Hugo "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent".

The Christmas concert was the normal combination of new and old carols and Christmas songs with some excellent playing from some of our youngsters with very enthusiastic audience participation. A trio of xylophonists made up of a duo of brother and sister Sloan, Daniel and Hannah and John Kane performed their very own version of an old French carol.

Old Victorian Alanna Macfarlane continues to go from strength to strength at the Royal Academy in London and was back in Scotland to tour with the National Youth Orchestra earlier this year. She continues to follow her dream to become a professional orchestral bassoon soloist.

Summer concert saw us say goodbye to Michael Bryans our drum kit and percussion tutor who is now leading extra percussion projects for his local council. The pupils gifted Michael a tenor drum and we then

had him play this in the traditional rendition of "Pirates of the Caribbean". We had an excellent group of soloists including the Ukelele crew, Georgia on piano and singing, PK and Jade singing with guitar, Will and Ben Adam on piano, Kirstin on clarinet playing "Shush", Lauren "A policeman's lot" on trumpet and Robina playing Solveg's song on clarinet. Our summer concert is the time for the leavers to perform and this year was no exception with Megan singing, Calum, on rock guitar, Cara performing on guitar with her tutor Gordon Bailie and Elle on flute. I'm going to miss you all, especially Elle who has been making me strong black coffee whenever required, on the hour every hour, for the last year!

Ah well what's next? More new exams, more new pupils, more new technology, some new tutors, never a dull moment in the world of QV music.

Almost two and a half thousand years ago Plato said.

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order and lends to all that is good and just and beautiful".

I think he got that right!



Pipes and Drums.

Pipe Band

The 2013-14 academic year was yet another extremely successful one for the pipe-band, taking part in several shows and jobs both home and abroad whilst all the time driving up the standards of playing within the band itself.

The last few weeks of the Christmas term have always been a busy period for the band, but I think it's safe to say that this year was the busiest in recent memory. As well as putting several hours of preparation into our annual Christmas concert the band had to contend with learning a whole set of different tunes for the Basel Christmas tattoo which took place the week later. Throughout this period the diligence and determination of everyone involved, both pupils and staff, truly shone through and the band was able to perform to brilliant and very different shows within such a short timespan.

The Christmas concert was a huge success and the band was able to deliver a unique and extremely high quality show. Additionally, for the first time ever, the concert was broadcast live on the schools website, a truly remarkable feat and the band is extremely grateful to Garry Carr for all the hard work he put in to accomplish this. The concert was also improved vastly by the addition of a piano and a guitar to the concert which added a flavour quite unusual for our band here at QVS.

The band was fortunate enough to once again compete in the Scottish Schools pipe-band championships in which the previous year we came second overall in our grade. Having been moved up a grade this year we knew that the pressure would be on leading up to it, but through hard work from the entire band we were able to perform on the day and come away with first place in our grade. A phenomenal achievement for the band.

In the summer term the band took part in the usual summer engagements such as the Edinburgh Garden Festival, at the Royal Highland Centre in Ingleston, and the school junior drill competition. All these events, of course, amalgamating in the school's end of year "Grand Day" parade and then performing at the UK Armed Forces Day parade the day after ending the year on an extreme high for everyone involved.

Cammy Arnott



Wind Band.







Armed Forces Day



Students at the UK's only school for military children take pride in a starring role at Stirling's Armed Forces Day National Event.

Young pipers, drummers and dancers from the UK's only school for military children have spoken of their pride in being part of Stirling's Armed Forces Day National Event.

Some 80 students from the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane will take part in the large parade from Stirling Castle Esplanade to the new events arena in the royal parkland beneath the ancient fortress. They will then take a starring role on stage, entertaining the crowds during what is likely to be the biggest day of celebrations that Stirling has ever seen.

The Armed Forces Day National Event takes place on Saturday 28th June, and celebrates the contribution to British society of the UK's armed forces, past and present.

One of those taking part is Lucy McNair (17), a Drum Major, who said: "We all have parents in the military, so we understand their situation. The armed forces are a massive part of British life and do so much to represent and protect British society. The Armed Forces Day National Event is a chance for the public to show support for them and all their families."

Danny Theyers (17), who will carry the School Colours in the parade, added: "Armed Forces Day is important because it's dedicated to all those soldiers who make sacrifices, or may one day be called on to sacrifice themselves, for our country."

Megan McColl (16), a Senior Piper, said: "Armed Forces Day really matters because it brings together families from all across the UK so they can enjoy a day out and celebrate the armed forces which they all share in common."

Established in 1908 and funded by the MoD, Queen Victoria School is a boarding school for the children of Royal Navy, Army, or Royal Air Force personnel, who are Scottish, have served in Scotland or in Scottish units. At any time one, or both, of their parents could be on the front line in war zones, carrying out peacekeeping duties, or be based in dangerous and inhospitable places all around the world.

Morven Craib (17), Principal Dancer, said: "We are all very proud of what our parents do and the Armed Forces Day National Event is a chance for everyone to show their support for our military. It's very important to recognise what the military do for us. They really should be celebrated."

Connor Kelly (17), who will bear the Queen's Colours, said: "I don't think there's enough recognition of everything that the armed forces achieve. It is their work which helps keep our country safe."

The Armed Forces Day National Event will be, spectacular, colourful and fun. Some of the highlights include:

- Parade and Drumhead service
- Flypast of current and vintage aircraft
- Tri-Service simulated combat and rescue mission
- Tanks and other military vehicles
- Live music and entertainment.

Queen Victoria School pipers, drummers and dancers make regular appearances at events across the country, including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. According to the Head, Wendy Bellars, they are very much looking forward to the Armed Forces Day National Event.

She said: "It is very important to us as these are all children from military families. To be a part of the music and dancing is a real privilege and a chance to fly the flag for the UK's armed forces. The enormous sacrifices which our armed forces make are not always appreciated, but this event is a chance for that to happen. As a Scot, I am very proud that this event is taking place in Stirling this year."

With troops returning from Afghanistan, and in a year that marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the start of the liberation of Europe from the Nazis, Armed Forces Day National Event 2014 is of very special significance.

Stirling's Provost Mike Robbins said: "There are now around 50 days to go before this huge event and we are really looking forward to seeing the students from Queen Victoria School taking part in the celebrations. This is the only school of its kind in the UK and has been part of the community in Dunblane for more than a century. It provides us with a very strong connection to the UK's armed forces and their families.

"It's going to be a spectacular occasion and a superb chance to show our support for the UK's armed forces, and for marvellous places like this school."

The QVS contingent will consist of around 30 dancers, up to 25 pipers, plus drummers and standard bearers. The parade from the castle will include serving personnel from all three services, more than 1000 veterans, plus cadets.





Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

It has been a quieter year for expeditions this year with less pupils progressing on to Silver and Gold, in part due to the transition to the new online E-D of E recording system. This term a more robust support system for pupils will be introduced. This will see new entrants into the scheme timetabled with an administration period every five weeks. At this period pupils will be helped and encouraged to enter information into their E-D of E accounts. I am confident we will see more pupils' progress to Silver and Gold in the coming years.

Bronze Expedition Girls;

Caitlin Adams, Joelle Campbell, Francesca Cockburn, Aoife Dillon, Sushmita Gurung, Kirstin Hughes, Hollie Keena, Lora Marshal, Georgia Mowat, Lauren Pedder, Imogen Powell-Leonard, Samantha Rollo, Anais Scott, Cameron Smith and

Bronze Expedition Boys;

Andrew Sweeney, Lewis Young, Ewan Searle, Flynn Suggett, Alex Johnstone, Ryan Thomson, Jordan Oatley, Cameron Houston, Donovan Blythe, Michael Envy, Robbie Hope, Sam King, Arras Mathieson, Joshua Smith and Leon Boylan.

During the practice expeditions in Glenartney the girls group had the better weather; a clear sunny weekend, although the clear skies meant a chilly night. The boys were not so fortunate with the weather; it rained most of Saturday with showers on Sunday. For some of the

pupils this was their first time in the hills never mind camping so lots of new experiences and learning new skills. The training involves each pupil leading the group on a section of the route. Firstly the pupil must identify the six figure grid reference of their start and finish point then calculate the expected time it will take the group to complete that section of the route. Time calculations are found considering distance, accent, weather and group ability. Next the pupil must brief the group by gathering everyone round orientating the map and explaining the route and highlight any points of interest and any areas where extra care may be required. At the campsite we start with selecting a good spot for the tent then a demonstration on the correct pitching of the tent. Cooking is the next area, again finding a suitable place, and consider the care that must be taken. We also look at environmental issues covering the use of the river, litter management and wild camping hygiene.

The assessed expeditions were held in the Ochil Hills with groups being dropped off at Tillicoultry, Dollar and Glen Devon. Just like on the practice expeditions the girls had the better weather.

Here are some comments from two of the girls;

"I was in a team of 6 people, starting off was hard mainly because our root was blocked off so we had to re-root. after we got half way we stopped for lunch not realising that we were heading the wrong way we got our direction sorted out and got back on root instead of going



over the main hill we went around and walk beside the dame almost convinced that we were lost we kept on going finding the campsite, but also we where the first group there. We set up camp and made our food for the night. The way back was a long and tiring walk and felt that it went on forever we all decide to go the long way mainly because there was fog over the hill not want to get lost we headed not knowing this would take so long finally getting to our distiction we got in the mini bus and went home I had a good experience. :)"

Lora Marshall

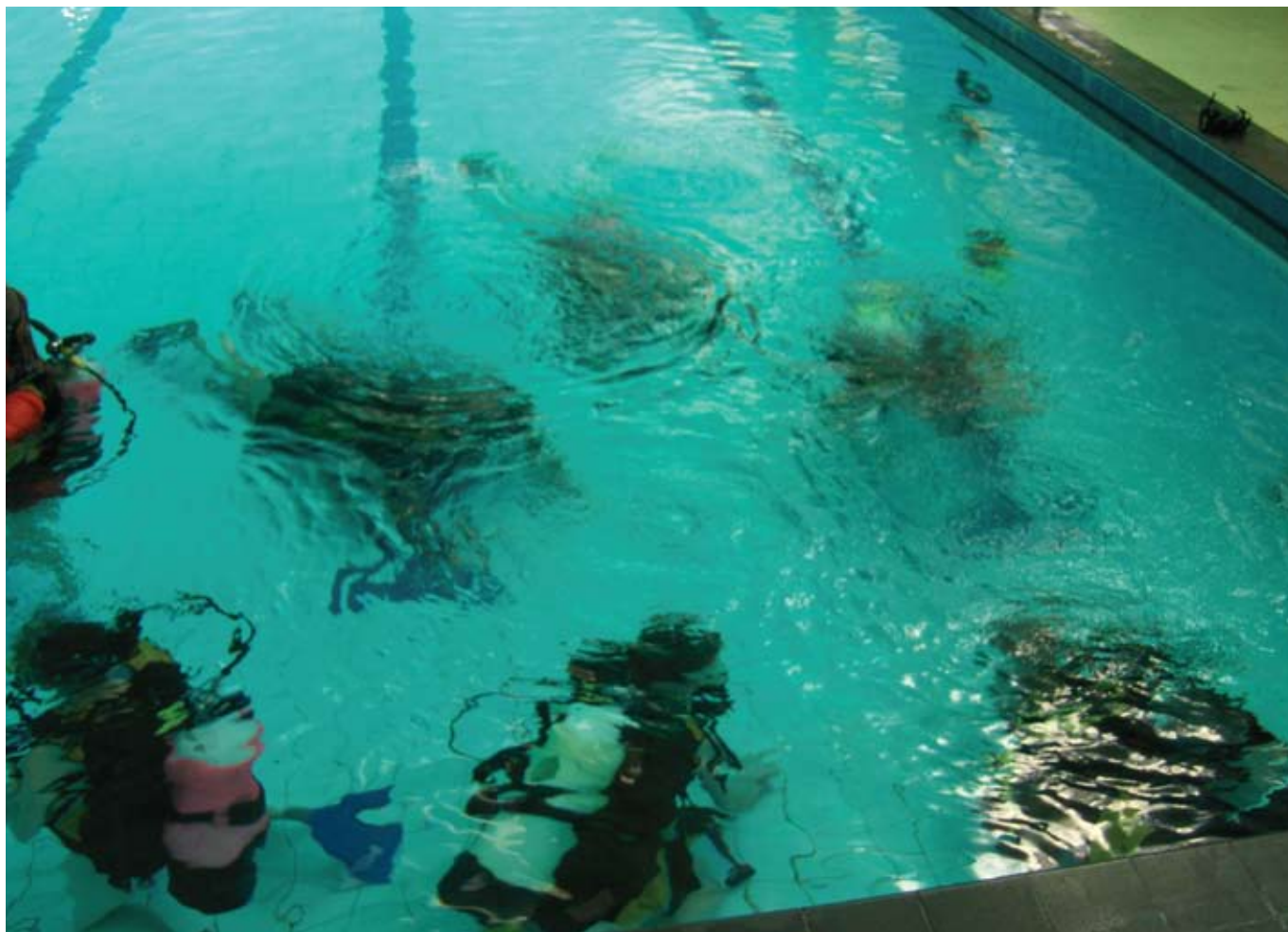
"D of E was an interesting however very fun weekend to take part in, I enjoyed the weekend very much because just in general I enjoy hill walking and I also enjoyed spending time with the other girls very much. At times d of e was a bit stressful, but soon enough became fun again. I thought the most challenging thing about D of E was deciding as a group what was what, for example the group might disagree about which direction to head in. in my opinion the best part

of D of E was definitely camping; this was because all of the girls came together and had a fun night. Overall I loved D of E and cannot wait for silver."

Anais Scott

Thank you to all the staff who help the pupils with the various elements of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In particular I would like to thank Miss Laura McIlkenny for helping with the girls Bronze training expedition. Like most of the girls this was Miss McIlkenny's first wild camping experience, I bet she can't wait to help out next year! Congratulations to Mr Kirk on becoming an accredited Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Assessor. This will give us more flexibility with our assessed expeditions and allow more collaboration with Dunblane High School.

Tom Shannon, P T Outdoor Pursuits



Contingent Commander's Report

Last October the Contingent Biennial Inspection took place and the Royal Navy provided the Inspecting Officer. Lt Cdr Drodge RN Commanding Officer of HMS Gannett was very impressed and wrote a very complementary report, he particularly highlighted the enthusiasm of our cadets and staff as well as the happy atmosphere which encompassed his visit. The first part of the day was made up of a parade and inspection of all the Officers and Cadets. After lunch, which included a dancing display, the second part of the day gave the Inspecting officer the chance to see our Cadets in action with the three Sections engaged in a variety of activities throughout the School grounds. The day ended with a final parade and address by the Inspecting Officer. As well as thanking all the Cadets and Officers for their efforts I would also like to thank Mrs Bellars for joining the inspecting officer throughout the day.

Shooting goes from strength to strength as you will read in Lt Harrison report. The growing success of the shooting team is down to the time, dedication and effort of Lt Harrison. Well-done Scott.

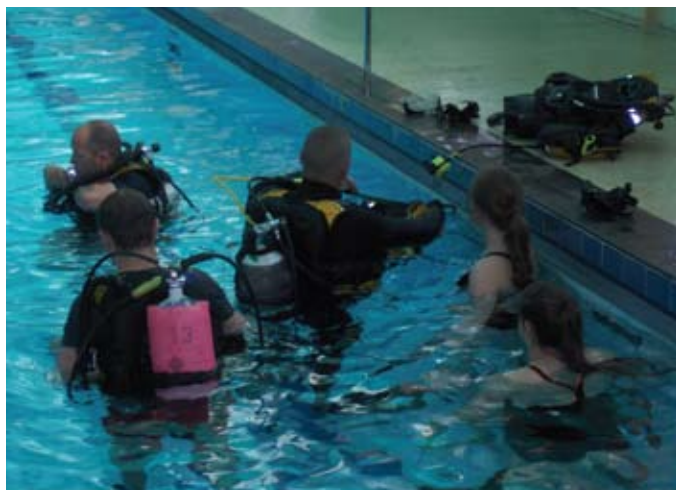
The Royal Naval Section has been ably commanded by Lt Paul Bush while Sub Lt Caroline Mcblain was on maternity leave. When Sub Lt Mcblain returned in November Lt Bush stepped down from the CCF to concentrate on his House commitments; thank you Paul for your hard work and support over that period. Since Caroline's return the Section has been involved in model boats, diving, mountain biking, flying and sailing. In January Caroline hosted the Northern

Area Royal Naval Conference with delegates coming from as far afield as Northern Ireland. One of the year's highlights was a flying day with one of the Royal Navy's SAR (search and rescue) Sea King Helicopter. Thanks to our intrepid aviator Miss Phipps for providing female cover everyone had a super day. Sub Lt Duncan Davey has been invaluable supporting Caroline and together they are doing a great job.

The Army Section under the command of Capt Mike Eastham is attracting more cadets and their high standards of military skills are becoming well established. As you will read in Lt Harrison's report the summer camp was very successful and when I visited them all the cadets were in high spirits and clearly enjoying themselves. At the start of the new term a new member of staff, Scott Renwick will be joining the Army Section and I am sure his Army Cadet Force background will prove to be very useful.

Great to see Air Experience Flying back as this is the backbone of the RAF Section. Congratulations to Rebecca Appleyard on the birth of her son and thank you for all the work you did with the RAF Section supporting FI Lt Gilhooly. Mrs Christine Milne will be joining the RAF Section in December when all the Hockey staff have returned from maternity leave

We had two Field days this year the first in March saw the RN Section sailing and mountain biking, the Army Section involved in an



overnight exercise at Barry Buddon and a visit to the Black Watch Museum, while the RAF Section had an activities day at Luna Bay on the East coast.

The second field day had the RN Section sailing, the Army shooting and D-Day Atlantic wall visit. The RAF Section had a visit to RAF Leuchars and the typhoons of 1 squadron.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings the school took part in a D-Day parade and service of remembrance.

Few would credit that part of Hitler's coastal defences could have been built in Scotland, and yet, on moorland north of Stirling, a section of the Atlantic Wall was constructed and survives to this day (NGR NN 8379 0367). This was recorded in the course of mapping an area of Sheriffmuir, on the western flank of the Ochils, by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical The 'Atlantic Wall', incongruous in its moorland setting, is a massive block of reinforced concrete 86 m long and about 3m in height. Just over half of the Wall is 3 m thick, stepping down to 0.7m at the south-west end, where the Wall curves round slightly to the west. The rear face of the Wall is vertical for about half its height, battering inwards towards the top, which is flat. The front, or seaward (facing north-west), side slopes outwards to create an overhang, with a small inwards batter at the top supporting iron pickets between which barbed wire could be strung. The pattern of the corrugated iron sheets used for shuttering in the construction of the Wall and individual dumps of concrete are clearly visible. Some care has been taken in finishing the surfaces and filling the gaps between the initial dumps of concrete. A small tunnel runs through the Wall about half way along. The Wall was built

to practice assault techniques and presumably specifically to perfect a method of breaching it. It is no surprise, therefore, that the front face of the Wall is extensively pitted by impacts from a variety of calibres revealing the 1/2 inch and 1 inch iron reinforcing rods. Holes of various diameters have been drilled into the face of the Wall to take explosive charges which may have been responsible for much of the extensive damage to the Wall. The most spectacular damage is a gap some 4m wide, from which a spread of debris extends backwards for some 40m. The sheer force of the explosion that caused this breach can be seen in the twisted reinforcing rods, bent back from the edges of the hole. This explosion and the consequential damage must have marked a notable success in perfecting techniques to overcome such a massive obstacle.

Thanks

Thanks to staff for helping the CCF; Miss Phipps flying, Mr Ross, Mr Clark and Miss CCF Beating Retreat at Holyrood Palace, Mrs Milne, Miss McKenny and Mrs Sheerin Field days, Royal Navy Head Quarters Staff RN Area CPO Stevie O'Neal, Army Head Quarters Staff SO2 Carron Buccannon and Davina, Major John Kerr, WO1 Gavin Mooney RSM CTT, WO1 James Martin TSA, Sgt James Galloway CTT, Sgt Fiona White Scottish Transport Regiment and Cpl Dave Allan, RAF Head Quarters Staff Sqd Ldr Brian McCran .

And finally thanks to all the cadets for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Commander Tom Shannon RD RNR, Contingent Commander.









Cadet Summer Camp 2014

This year's Summer Camp was held during the first week of the summer holidays at Barry Buddon training area near Dundee.

During the first day at camp cadets participated in Exercise Shakeout which gave them an opportunity to refresh their skills in weapon handling, patrolling and section attacks in preparation for Exercise Striking Lion. There was also an opportunity for those cadets who had not already passed their weapon handling test on the Light Support Weapon to do so.

Monday morning saw the start of Exercise Striking Lion. QVS teamed up with Glasgow Academy to form 3rd Platoon and were tasked with a variety of missions. Firstly cadets had to establish a VCP (Vehicle Check Point) and search vehicles for hidden explosives and weapons. Next we moved to the observation post where cadets had to be 'on the look-out' for suspicious vehicles and characters, noting any unusual behaviour. Finally, we had to undertake a reconnaissance patrol in order to gather intelligence to support our night ambush on enemy forces. Using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics, 3rd Platoon executed a 'text book' ambush on the enemy! Completely exhausted, the cadets returned to their 'bashers' for a few hours well-earned rest.

Tuesday morning saw us up at the crack of dawn, ready to strip down our harbour area and receive our next set of orders. 3rd Platoon was tasked with leading the assault on a variety of enemy positions, clearing out the enemy as we advanced. This was executed with great enthusiasm and 3rd Platoon finished the exercise on a high.

Adventurous training was the order of the day on Wednesday. QVS teamed up with Glasgow Academy on a trip to Monikie Country Park, Dundee. We split into three groups and throughout the course of the day cadets participated in a variety of team building activities. Great fun was had with the orienteering course and the problem solving

activities. The highlight of the day, however, was the raft building race – this involved the cadets building their own rafts, racing around the lake in an attempt to be first to collect the flag and return it to the shore. This turned out to be a 'very' competitive activity and resulted in many wet cadets!

Thursday saw us off to the ranges where QVS cadets fired the GPA2 rifle and the LSW. We were fortunate enough to be able to use the ETR (Electric Target Range) which provided good practice for those cadets due to attend Bisley. The cadets demonstrated good weapon handling and high marksmanship skills, with Cdt Ryan McGuinness achieving 'best shot' for that day. A round robin of events was provided on Thursday evening. The cadets took part in a variety of activities including archery, inflatable obstacle course, climbing wall and the 'Barry Buddon' obstacle course (another opportunity to get wet for some). All survived, but only just!

Friday was the final round robin of military performance events. Cadets took part in TIBUA (training in a built-up area), which involved them 'clearing' rooms using blank ammunition. Other activities included a survival stand, indoor range and obstacle course. There was an opportunity to relax (at last) on the Friday evening with a disco which was enjoyed by all.

The cadets had a fantastic week and learned many new skills. Cdt Joshua Dobson achieved 'Best QVS Recruit' and Cpl Ewan Searle achieved 'Best QVS Cadet'. All cadets displayed enthusiasm and keenness and were a credit to Queen Victoria School, especially S/Sgt Ryan MacPherson who played a key role in pulling the QVS section together. I know that they would all like to say a big thank you to Cpl Allan for giving up his time to help with summer camp.

Lt Harrison, QVS Army Section





QVS Shooting Team – Bisley 2014

This year a team of ten cadets attended the School's Imperial Meeting at Bisley between the 6th July and 11th July. The team was captained by S/Sgt Ryan MacPherson, aided by S/Sgt Connor Watson who took charge of administration. Also shooting for QVS were Sgt Joshua Conroy, Sgt Emily Ferguson, Cpl Ewan Searle, L/Cpl Leon Boylan, L/Cpl Alexander Johnstone, L/Cpl Straun Campbell and Cdt Joshua Conroy. Cdt Charlotte Barron and Cdt Hannah Davies provided admin support to the team.

We started the week by entering the Cadet L98A2 GP rifle matches: the Marlborough Cup; the Cadet GP Match and the Marling. These competitions require cadets to run forward 100m to a firing point and then compete in deliberate, rapid and snap target shooting. We also entered two four man teams into the Cadet Falling Plates (some fun before the serious business of the main competitions). The target rifle competitions took place on Tuesday and Wednesday with the Wellington (300 yards), the Iveagh (500 yards) and the Victoria Tankard (600 yards). L/Cpl Boylan was awarded an engraved silver spoon for his efforts in the Iveagh. The week concluded with the final competition, the Ashburton, on Thursday. This prestigious competition requires the cadets to take on the roles carried out by adults in the previous competitions. This includes taking responsibility for administration, coaching and scoring.

The weather provided some challenges this year with a combination of sun, rain and high winds making for difficult shooting conditions at times. Despite this, all eight cadets who were shooting managed to secure a place in the top 100 of the Cadet Champion at Arms (top 63 to be exact). The cadets displayed commitment and professionalism throughout the event and particular recognition needs to be given to S/Sgt Ryan MacPherson and S/Sgt Connor Watson who respectively took responsibility for coaching and administration during our time at Bisley. A special mention is also needed for Cpl Ewan Searle, who took on a coaching role on this his first trip to Bisley.

It wasn't all work though and we were able to take the opportunity to relax and enjoy some social activities too. Sgt Emily Ferguson celebrated her 16th birthday on the range with a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' from her team mates and a cake which provided a well-needed sugar fix. We joined up with Morrison's Academy for a Chinese buffet meal, where the cadets took on the 'all you can eat' challenge admirably. We managed to make time for a bit of recreational shooting with cadets having a go at clay pigeon shooting, which resulted in lots of laughter. We also took the opportunity to catch up with some old friends from last year.

I know that the team would want to say a big thank you to Mr Mike Barton who provided us with invaluable coaching assistance throughout the week. Yet again, it was a privilege to take the QVS Shooting Team to Bisley and their enthusiasm and commitment should be commended.

Cadets Champion at Arms

Cadet	Position
L/Cpl Boylan	17
S/Sgt Watson	27
Cpl Searle	48
S/Sgt MacPherson	52
Sgt Conroy	57
Sgt Ferguson	58
L/Cpl Johnstone	61
L/Cpl Campbell	63

Lt Harrison, QVS Shooting Officer



RN Cadets.

Navy

The past year has been a good year for the Navy Section in which we have seen many of the younger pupils taking up more active roles within the section. It has been really encouraging to see the boys trying to teach the girls how to put a tent up and then watching the girls boss the boys around in the hockey tournaments. The teamwork this year is something the section should be proud of.

With the return of Miss McBlain to the section and Mr Davey joining, many great activities have been laid on, such as sailing and biking, both of which were enjoyed by all involved. The sailing skills of many involved were... questionable (especially my own!), but there is no doubt that these trips were the highlight of the Navy section's year. Long may these trips continue.

Thanks to the hard work of Coxswain Tom King this year's lessons have been well prepared, with many S5s preparing for next year's roles and leading their own lessons alongside the S6s.

I am glad to have seen so many S3s taking an interest in the Navy Section and hope that their enthusiasm continues, to help build an even bigger Navy section.

All the best to the very capable S5s who will be taking over next year, I know you will all be great assets to the Section. Thank you all for a great year.

Coxswain Caitlin Willis



Top to bottom; RN Cadets; RAF Cadets.



The Civic Reception which was held to welcome the Moderator of the Church of Scotland to Stirling.

Brigadier Bob Bruce

Brigadier Bob Bruce, one of our former pupils, has been awarded a DSO in the relatively recent Operational Honours list.

Col J C Hair



Tom King in China

All going well with the Promotional Tour of 'Seven Malts' – the new Chinese Non Alcoholic beverage du jour :)

He sends best wishes to all and is thoroughly enjoying himself

Jill Adams, Director of Careers & VI Year, English Department

Old Victorians Association

The Old Victorians association at Kellerhall was held on 3rd May 2014 for the annual Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham Stadium.

We had been granted access to Kellerhall (The Royal Military Music Academy) and had our own cordoned off area to entertain our guests and to do our bit to promote the school. All Old Victorians, supporters of the School and students parents were welcome to stop by and say hello and enjoy a beverage (or two). It was another memorable event by the OVA.

Steve MacKinnon, President Old Victorians Association

Gerald Belton

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that my father, Gerald Belton, died peacefully on Friday 8th November 2013 after a short illness. As I'm sure you'll remember, my father was a long time Commissioner of QVS and took both great pride, and great pleasure in his association with the School. Undoubtedly my father made many friends during his time as Commissioner.

On a personal note, may I express my thanks to all at QVS for the joy that was brought to my father's life by his association with your great School.

Nicola Belton

Harold Samuel Eaton Stevens – former Head of QVS

- 1892** Born Bareilly, India to Harry George Raikes Stevens and Amy Sarah (nee Eaton).
His father was Regimental Schoolmaster, Hampshire Regt. Later Army Inspector of Schools and, in 1915, Headmaster of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane.
HSES: Initial schooling in Nova Scotia then to George Heriot's School, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh University 1910-1914.
- 1914** Commissioned to Royal Scots and served on the Western Front until 1919.
Wounded twice. Military Cross, Croix-de-Guerre with Palme, Legion d'Honneur.
- 1919** or **1920** marries Mona McGregor* in Edinburgh.
- 1920** Arrived in Bengal - Assistant Magistrate & Collector Chittagong. (1st child, Betty Ker my mother, born there in 1922).
- 1922** Kurseong.
(2nd child, Pamela, born. She dies in 1924 and is buried in the cemetery there).
- 1923** Serampore in Hoogly.
- 1924** – **1929** various postings including Dacca, Midnapore, Howrah.
- 1929** – **1931** Special duties in Calcutta.
- 1931** Bakarganj, Chittagong, and a special second posting to Midnapore.
February, 1931: Mona Stevens dies and is buried in the Scottish Cemetery, Calcutta.
- 1935** On staff of Government of Bengal in Calcutta.
November: while in Bombay he marries Iris Hansen nee Brown (Anglo-Indian Catholic divorcee)**.
- 1936** – **1947** Various posts:
- 1941** Commissioner Presidency Division. Director of Civil Defence, Calcutta Area.
- 1942** Joint Chief Secretary and above.
- 1943** Special appointment as Food & Civil Supplies Commissioner when Suhrawardy was Member for Civil Supplies.
- 1944** Chief Secretary.
- 1945** Advisor to the Governor.
- 1947** Chief Secretary Government Home Dept. & Chief Minister's Dept.
- 1947** Retired in August. Returned to UK and resided at Bexhill-on-Sea.
- 1969** Died 23rd July.

Appointed CIE in 1938, CSI in 1944, KCIE in 1947.

* Alasdair Alpin McGregor in Auld Reekie (his autobiographical account of life in Edinburgh) describes his friendship with a young Mona and her older sister Mary. HSES suffered from neurasthenia (shellshock). Mary was a VAD at Craiglockhart War Hospital. It is thought that this may have provided the opportunity for his meeting Mona.

Mary married Captain Ian Kaye R.E. (Then at the Royal Engineer's base in Stirling). During the Great War he was instrumental in encouraging volunteers to join the 16th. Battalion, Royal Scots, which drew recruits from Heart of Midlothian football club. Kaye designed many important buildings in Edinburgh including the Bank of

Scotland building on the Mound.

** This marriage horrified his parents. It was assumed that it would have repercussions for his career. There is no evidence that it did. Although Margaret Martyn in her book Married to the Raj refers to the possibility of his being black-balled if he attempted membership of one of the prominent Clubs in Calcutta.

Hansen is thought to be Danish and have been a police officer in Calcutta. The book Memoirs of an Adventurous Dane in India 1904-47 makes no reference to this marriage.

Service in The Royal Scots during the Great War 1914-18. From the War Diaries:

- 1914** 14/08; Applied for a Commission in 'Any Highland Battalion' 19/08; Recommended for a commission.
- 1915** 20/02; Captain - 12th (Service) Battalion. [K1 raised Edinburgh August, 1914].
11/05; Battalion disembarks at Boulogne, France.
To Belgium near Courtrai as part of 27th. Brigade 9th. Division.
16/09; Leave.
24/09; 'C' Company Commander.
The Battle of Loos.
25/09; Bullet wound to left wrist and hand.
01/10; Arrives at Dover off S.S. Brighton.
- 1916** 01/05; Posted to 13th. Battalion as 'D' Company Commander.
13th (Service) Battalion. [K2 raised Edinburgh, September, 1914]
Landed in France July, 1915. To Belgium near Blicquy, S.W. of Ath.
Part of 45th. Brigade 15th. (Scottish) Division.
12/05; Shell hit HQ dugout and killed C.O. Assumed command of Battalion *.
19/05; Command handed back.
05/06; Confirmation of award of Military Cross*.
24/06; Award* listed in London Gazette and Mention in Despatches.
28/06; At Hohenzollern Redoubt:
Gun shot wound to right shoulder and behind right ear. Tinitus.
01/07; The Battle of the Somme starts.
23/07; Arrives at Dover off S.S. Newhaven.
28/11; Diagnosed neurasthenic. (i.e. shellshock).
- 1917** 08/05; Rejoined 13th. Battalion.
06/07; To Senior Officer's Course, Aldershot.
01/10; Rejoined. In command of 'A' Company.
27/11; To hospital.
15/12; Rejoined for light duties only.
- 1918** 31/01; In command of 13th. Battalion while Lt.Col. Hannay DSO is away.
02/04; London Gazette: Promoted to Major.
25/03; Lt.Col. Hannay returns from command of the Brigade.

23/05; London Gazette: M.I.D. – Sir Douglas Haig's despatch of 7th April, 1918.

04/06; 13th. Battalion in the line. Major Stevens in command.

22/07; Relieved the Americans in the line.

26/07; Shell hit H.Q. shelter killing C.O. and staff.

Offensive reconnaissance near Berzy-le-Sec which resulted in award of Croix-de-Guerre with Palme.

13/08; Presented with Legion d'Honneur by General Mangin, Divisional Commander.

17/08; Command handed to Lt.Col. Sir Ian Colquhoun Bart., DSO.

24/08; On leave. Then to 3rd. Reserve Battalion, Mullingar, Ireland.

1919 15/02; 'H' Training Battalion, M.G.C., Grantham.

17/03; No.2 Machine Gun Company, Grantham.

Military Cross – 'For conspicuous gallantry'.

'At a critical moment during an attack on the enemy's position he organised bombing attacks and, by his fine example and coolness, rallied the men and took control of the situation'.

Croix-de-Guerre with Palme.

'Showing great valour, courage and initiative.... near Berzy-le-Sec, where after taking command of his Battalion, he directed an offensive reconnaissance against the enemy line prior to an attack on Taux, causing the enemy serious losses and pinning him down'.

Chevalier of the Legion D' Honour.

One of only 11 allotted to the Division and presented by General Mangin with special instructions that they were all to be considered as rewards for '... good work on the field of battle'.

Citations

Ready, Steady, Go for ... Commonwealth T-shirts!

As part of the whole school focus on the Commonwealth Games, the Pupil Council decided to run a design a t-shirt competition with the winning entry being printed onto a T-shirt. Choosing the winner was difficult, but the gold medal went to Demi Gallagher – well done! We agreed that her design summed up the Commonwealth Games and would look good on a T-shirt. In total 171 T-shirts for pupils and staff were ordered. Those who ordered a T-shirt were allowed to wear it instead of school uniform for one day during our Commonwealth week. Each T-shirt was sold for a small profit. We made £88.50 which we donated to SportsAid Scotland. SportsAid Scotland provides financial grants to talented sporting youngsters to assist them in becoming Scotland's future sporting stars.

The running of the competition, collecting orders and distributing the t-shirts was a lot of work but was good fun. It also gave us a chance to show what the council can achieve – from developing an idea to seeing it through successfully.

Many thanks to the staff who helped us: Mr Adams, Mrs Rodger, Mrs Sheerin, Mrs Morea, Mr Lear, Mr Eastham, Mr Bush and Mrs Hiddleston.

Finally, a massive THANK YOU to all those who supported us and bought a T-shirt. You all looked great in them.



Joe Osborn, Sam Drummond and Kirstin Hughes, Junior members of the Pupil Council







Staff List

Senior Leadership Team:

Head W A Bellars MA(Hons) DipEd MA(Ed Man) PGCE

Senior Deputy Head D Shaw BSc(Hons) PGCE

Deputy Head (P&G) S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE

Deputy Head (PS) C A Phipps BA(Hons) PGCE PGCG

Business Manager S B Dougan

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Wavell R L Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE

V J Hiddleston (Acting) from May 14

Cunningham M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE

Haig N Lear BSc(Hons) PGCE MSc

Trenchard P Bush BA(Hons) PGCE

Principal Teachers:

G J Beattie MA MEd PGCE PGC in SFL PGD in SFL

D V Breingan DRSAM DipEd

G T Buchanan MA(Hons) ALCM

D J Davey BSc(Hons) PGCE (Acting PT Science)

D Gilhooly BA(Hons) SQH PGDSLML DipEd

T King BEd(Hons) PGCE PGCG ATQ Primary DRSAM PGRNCM

A M Kirk MA(Hons) DipEdTech PGCE

J S Laing DipTechEdn

J S Lawrence BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE

C A Milne BSc PGCE

D McLay BEd(Hons)

A Thomson MA PGCE

R C Wright BA PGCE

Teaching Staff:

J Adams MA(Hons) PGCE

R L Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE

R M H Boyd BD(Hons) DipTh (School Chaplain)

C N Bremner BEd(Hons)

A Bryce BSc(Hons) MSc PGDG

P Bush BA(Hons) PGCE

H A Cole BA(Hons) PGCE

S Crossan BSc(Hons)

A M Downey BA(Hons) PGDE

M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE

L G Edwards CertEd Cert PP in BE

S C B Johns DipEd

N Lear BSc(Hons) MScPGCE

V M B Low BEd(Hons)

L MacLeod BA(Hons) PGDE

C McBlain BSc DipEd

A V McDonnell BSc(Hons) PGDE

L A McKenny BA(Hons) PGDE

J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE

K L Rodger MA(Hons) MSc PGCE

S K Ronald BSc PGCE

J F Scott Laing BEd(Hons)

T McP Shannon RD HNDMechEngDipTechEdn

C-A Taylor BSc(Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGC in SFL

Uniformed Staff:

School Sergeant Major D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)

Pipe Major G R Ross Dip Piping (late Gordon Highlanders)

Drum Major J G Clark (late The Highlanders)

Highland Dancing Instructor

M H Drever BSc(Hons) PGDE MUKA HNC

S S Stinson

School Librarian:

C Sheerin BA(Hons), DipLib, MCLIP

Visiting Music Teachers:

G Baillie

I Hood

AM Lynch

J Bamforth

D Kirkpatrick

H McIntosh

M Bryans

J Leavey

G Spowart

J Greer

House Matrons:

Cunningham S M Eastham

Haig C Dunn

Trenchard H A Devlin

Wavell M C Sword

Housekeepers:

H L Galletly

K McVey

A MacDonald

M del C O'Neill

Medical Centre Staff:

Sister M A Skeith RGN

Sister A Brennan BA RGNDipHV

Auxiliary V J Hiddleston

Foreign Language Assistant:

J Messerschmidt

Overseas House Assistants ('GAP' Students):

A Brotherson

M Johnson

T Morton

A Crawford

C McLeod

T Prentice

J Du Plessis

H Milligan

Business Support Staff:

HRBP& Assist Business Manager

S J Rutledge Chartered MCIPD to Dec 13

R McKinnon Associate MCIPD from May 14

Estate Manager A McGregor to Mar 14

J Robinson from Mar 14

Finance & Administration Manager K Lawrie BA(Hons)

Deputy Estates Manager M A Stephen

Deputy Finance & Administration Manager I M Mair MAAT

ICT Manager N A Penrose

Head's Personal Assistant C P Rankin

Senior Deputy Head's Personal Assistant A Morea

Deputy Heads' PersonalAssistant L M Craig

School Business Manager's Personal Assistant A MacFarlane

Business Support Officer A B Gauld BA(Hons)

Accounts & Administration Officer M Symon

Purchasing & Administration Officer A Kerr

Estates Administration Support Officer T Thomson

Administrative Support& Reprographics Assistant A Paddon

Science Technician M Leask BSc

Storekeeper (Clothing) M-A Fleming to Dec 13

T Carr from Mar 14

Storekeeper (Accomm Stores) G Marnock

Storekeeper(Equipment Stores) S Harrison

Storekeeper (PE Dept) P A Warner

Leading Hand R G MacDougall

General Hand G R McConnell

General Hand M Brailey



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