



The Victorian 2015

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL



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Vision Statement

Ethos

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

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

Academic

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

Non-Academic

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

Civic and Service Responsibility

Queen Victoria School is an asset to the Ministry

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

Pastoral

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

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Colour Party.

From the Head – Grand Day 2015

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of all ages. Thank you for being with us for our 2015 Prize-giving ceremony.

At Christmas I was reading the latest instalment of Stephen Fry's autobiography, called *More Fool Me*. The link between that volume and his previous one was to recall that most of the significant things in Stephen Fry's earlier life began with the letter C. If you know anything of Stephen Fry's earlier years, you'll understand why the only one of his c-words that I can mention in public is CHOCOLATE. I was reminded of that focus when I began to think about what I wanted to say this morning. What I want most to reflect about the past year at QVS also begins with the letter C: two words, in fact: COMPASSION and COMMITMENT.

And then, the more I thought about it, the more I realised that almost everything we do can be described under a heading that begins with the letter C ...

A light-hearted one to start with: Creative Thinking. Dunblane isn't known for its vast stretches of sandy beach. So what do QVS pupils do on the rare summer Saturdays when the sun is shining and there's no breeze? A few creatively minded ones decided to sun-bathe in the long-jump pit. Superb!

More seriously: Compassion and Commitment. We've long been good at raising money and awareness for charitable causes, here at QVS – and I know that that is an Armed Forces characteristic as well – but this year the pupils excelled themselves. Sadly, several of our Gurkha community had relatives and friends who were affected by the earthquakes in Nepal this spring. It was no surprise that they and their friends wanted to do something to help those who were homeless, injured and in need of supplies. The extent to which they did so, however, was remarkable: collecting clothes and blankets, in the first instance; collecting cash with the Rotary club members in

Dunblane and Bridge of Allan the following day; raising awareness with a Buddhist-themed, meditative Sunday service and a weekday Assembly presentation; organising a coffee morning and cake sale. It was heartfelt; it was done with conviction and an understated confidence; it was extremely impressive, and it was very effective.

Other charity work this year has included lots of cakes (Stephen Fry would approve); a "Beat Beethoven" fun run, to the accompaniment of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; and a Halloween fancy dress day in aid of the Huntingdon's Disease Association. Both staff and pupils took part in each one. Ms Downey reported her "best ever 5k time" after the run; and one of the highlights of the fancy dress day was Mrs Rodger dressed up as Princess Fiona from *Shrek*.

Commitment is also shown, of course, on the Games field, and this year as well as the much appreciated weekly fixtures in rugby and hockey, and many in football, we hosted two days of the Stirling County Cross-Country Championships; had two teams reaching the semi-finals in the Brewin Dolphin Rugby Plate Competition; and had two boys represent Scotland in the Independent Schools' match against England. Although Kyle Rowe and James Work's Scotland team lost the match, James did score Scotland's only goal.

On the subject of Games, I'd like to thank all the staff who make those events possible, and in particular this year Mrs Scott-Laing, who has been Acting Principal Teacher for several months; and Ms Sharon Crossan, who has taught in the PE Department during that same time.

Ms Crossan has also thrown herself into work for the Peru expedition this summer. She and Mr Stacey will be taking a small group of pupils on what promises to be the experience of a lifetime including Machu Picchu and some project work with a local community. Preparation for the expedition included a spring weekend of camping here in



Cunningham House prefects.

Scotland, where the overnight temperature was such that the tents were frozen solid the following morning. Commitment indeed!

Commitment was shown too – as always – by the pupils and staff undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions this term. Pupils came back absolutely soaked through, and one member of staff said she'd never been so cold in all her life!

Another important "C" in our lives is Chapel, which I mentioned earlier in connection with the Nepalese focus. One of the best events of this academic year was definitely the *Blue Christmas* service organised by our Chaplain, Mr Boyd. An innovation this year, but likely to become a permanent feature, it allowed pupils, staff and family members who had experienced loss in the past year to come to a quiet service of reflection, and to light a candle if they would like to do so. It was both effective and movingly well attended.

C is also for Christmas, and we enjoyed this year the Candlelit Service; the Carol Concert; *The Match Girl's Christmas* – an excellent musical staged by Primary 7 under Mr King's expert guidance; and the Christingle service.

The Christingle Service coincides with Rookies' Parade, which brings me to another important C – Ceremonial. As well as another excellent Rookies' Parade, we enjoyed our other Parade Sundays and latterly introduced Morning Music on the Parade Square – a development that proved so popular with visitors that we hope to repeat it from now on. In that context, it's time for me to thank in particular Mrs Mischa Drever, who was our Highland Dance Instructor until very recently; and to congratulate Ms Stinson, who was maternity cover earlier in the year and has now been appointed to the full-time position.

Dancers, pipers and drummers – under the guidance of Mr Ross and Mr Clark – have been busy throughout the year, performing at MOD Caledonia's Burns Night; at an Erskine Hospital fundraiser at Stirling Castle; in the Scottish Schools' Pipe Band Championships – where we entered TWO bands this year, one of which came second in the

class of eight to which it had been promoted; and at the wonderful Piping, Drumming and Dancing Christmas Concert No.3.

QVS pipers, drummers and dancers also performed at the Palace of Holyrood House, with the CCF Combined Bands. You may remember my mentioning last year that for the first time ever a female – our own Lucy McNair – led the Combined Bands at Holyrood. Lucy was awarded the Commander's Coin for Excellence as a result; and I'm delighted to say that this year, once again, a QVS girl was Senior Drum Major: Navino Gurung – who had also spearheaded the Nepal assistance campaign – led the bands superbly and could be heard across the courtyard even when facing in the opposite direction!

C is for CADETS, of course, and the Commander's Coin for Excellence was also awarded – by Brigadier Harkness of 51 Bde – to the eight QVS cadets who took part in the Welbeck College Leadership Challenge this term. It was the first time that QVS had entered a team in the competition, which had 15 entries, from across the United Kingdom. Impressively – they came first; a great achievement both for the cadets and for Lt Scott Harrison who had trained them.

Cadets are off to Summer Camp and to Bisley once again this summer, and I'd like to pay tribute to the hours of work put in by the staff who support our cadet activities: not only Mr Harrison, who has done so much to revive and develop rifle shooting, but also Mr Shannon – in charge of CCF; Mr Stacey; Mr Gilhooly; Ms McBlain; Mr Davey; Mr Wright and Mr Renwick.

C is also for Curriculum; one of my favourite definitions of "curriculum" is "that which is examined". Obviously that's a very important part indeed of what any school does, and it's been fascinating, and encouraging, to see the work being done by Mr Shaw and his Curriculum Group, to make sure that we evolve a system which does the best we can for QVS pupils. S2 parents have already heard about some of the changes in store, and there will be more changes for the better to come in due course.



Haig House prefects.

C is – most importantly – for Children; or “CYP”s – C-Y-Ps, as they are called in GIRFEC circles. Too many abbreviations there, I think: CYP stands for “child or young person” and GIRFEC for Getting It Right For Every Child. GIRFEC is a major Government initiative which has implications for every school in Scotland, and I am grateful to Miss Phipps, Mr Adams, Mr Beattie and Mr McLay for the immense amount of work they have done, with Housemasters and Housemistresses, to ensure that QVS is well “ahead of the game” in that respect.

C is for Care Inspectorate too: it’s never pleasant to be visited by the Care Inspectorate, especially when they come unannounced. However, I am pleased to say that the School came well out of the two visits we had this year, and I believe that the Inspectorate is developing an understanding of what we do, how we do it and why we do it that way. We are also always open to suggestions for improvement, and I think they appreciate that. Once again, thanks to Mr Adams, for leading on our relationships with the Care Inspectorate.

C is for comfort – and we look forward to the refurbishment of Trenchard House over the summer break.

C is – straining this a little, I know – for what some people call “Co-curricular”. We call it “extra-curricular”. There has been a stunning range of trips for pupils this year: to Paris, with an excellent follow-up lunch and presentation here at School afterwards; to London, for the Classical Studies pupils; to Courmayeur with the PE Department for skiing; to HMS Ambush for a very practical Physics session; to Normandy with the CCF as part of the WW1 commemorations; and for four of our pupils and two staff to Gallipoli, a very moving but enjoyable expedition with serving and former serving members of what used to be the King’s Own Scottish Borderers. These are outstanding opportunities, and I am very grateful to all the staff who make them possible.

Of course it wasn’t all positive this year: in January and February we suffered a very heavy load of throat infections, Coughs and Colds. I

nicknamed it “the boomerang cold” because just when you thought you’d thrown it off, it came back and hit you in the face.

C is also for Community Links: we have had visitors from Strathcarron Hospice for staff training sessions; visits from and to the local Rotary Clubs; from and to the Cathedral; and from the Old Victorians – our former pupils. One of the great pleasures of this year was hearing that an Old Victorian called Bob Bruce had reached the rank of Major General.

Mrs Adams is responsible for many of these community links, not least in her role as S6 Coordinator; and also as Director of Careers, an additional responsibility which she has now relinquished and which has been taken on by Mr Porter.

Careers – another C – is an area to which Miss Phipps and Mr McLay, too, have contributed a great deal this year; and Mr Shaw is driving forward our link with Forth Valley College.

No Grand Day report would be complete without paying tribute to Colleagues, and it’s been good this year to welcome Mr Davey to the position of Principal Teacher of Science, and Ms McBlain to the same role in Maths. Sadly, we’ve had to say goodbye to some colleagues who have moved on: Adele Kerr from Finance; Stephen Dougan, School Business Manager; and Kenny Lawrie, Finance Manager. In the autumn, Sister Angela Brennan from the Medical Centre and Mrs Morna Leask our Science Technician will be moving on. We thank them all for all that they have contributed to the School, whether that was over a short period or a much longer one – 17 years, in Mr Lawrie’s case – and we wish them every success in the future. We also wish our Languages Assistant well as she returns to Germany. Nina Kuessau has made an excellent contribution to the Languages department, and also brightened up my year enormously when I worked out that the friendly, cheerful, nothing-is-too-much-trouble colleague whom she called “Cherry” was actually our very own Mr Buchanan!

This year too Mr McLay has done sterling work as Acting Deputy



Trenchard House prefects.

Head (Pupil Support) during Miss Phipps' absence; and I'd like to place on record also our gratitude to Karen Allen and Paul Melton, from DCYP Headquarters in Upavon, for all that they have done to help us during Stephen Dougan's absence on Support to Operations, and then subsequently during his move to wider DCYP responsibilities.

Communication is an important C for any organisation, especially schools. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to our surveys this year – and apologies if at times we overload you in that respect. Pupils, staff and parents all have opportunities to comment on areas that both we and the Inspectorates in Scotland consider important. I'm particularly pleased to be able to say this year that over the three years that we have been measuring staff views of Leadership and Management, there has been a steady year on year improvement in our results.

C is for Complaints, too; we do occasionally get these.

Communication is part of our response – and, indeed, of our attempt to forestall complaints as far as possible. Catering – another C – was the focus of some complaint this year, and I hope that you have managed to read the School's responses, both on the website and in the Spring newsletter. We are proud of the work of our Catering team – ESS, part of the Multiple Activity Contract – and we know that they do all they can to provide nutritious and appetising meals for nearly 300 people three times a day. More on this on the website – but if any parent wants to drop in for a meal, unannounced, he or she is welcome to do so: just sign in at the front desk and ask for a member of the Senior Leadership Team to take you into the Dining Room.

C is for the Campus here at QVS; the grounds maintenance work this year has kept it in good order – no mean feat given the trials and tribulations involved in the handover of the Regional Prime Contract to a new provider.

C is for Conference – the MoD/ADES Conference at Dunblane Hydro at which Mr Adams, Mr Eastham and Sixth Formers John Kane and Ashley McBroom talked to a room of 90 adults about school life for

Service children, and at which the pipes, drums and dancers performed to great acclaim once again.

C is for CHOICE: and had the people of Scotland not chosen to vote in favour of remaining in the United Kingdom last September, the future of QVS would look very different. Quite a few of our older pupils had the right to vote, and were well prepared for the event by the even-handed Mrs Rodger, with the help of Mr Stacey and Mrs Rankin on the admin side.

A very special "C" this year stands for "Cammy and Co." – Cameron Arnott, our Senior Monitor, and his team of Monitors and Prefects, including our Deputy Senior Monitor, Lucy McNair. They have coped admirably with the administrative and ambassadorial responsibilities of prefectship, and have been excellent role models to the other pupils, both in their Houses and more widely across the School. Cammy has an unconditional place to study Engineering at Glasgow, and one of the very rare Royal Air Force Bursaries to go with that. Lucy too held a number of unconditional offers and has turned down Edinburgh to go to Aberdeen, her first choice. Our expectations of the Prefects and Monitors I think become more deeply embedded with each year that passes, and each group reinforces these for the team to come. I am very grateful to all of the 2014-15 team, and wish them, and all this year's leavers, every success and much happiness in future.

No Grand Day Report would be complete either without my thanking our Commissioners – the C group sitting behind me here today, and their colleagues who sadly could not join us. Once again, it's been a very busy year for the Commissioners. The progress achieved with detailed plans for the development of the campus, new buildings, a landscape management plan and – we hope – planning permission for this from Stirling Council, could not have been accomplished without the driving force of the Commissioners, and in particular Mr Colin Ross and the Chairman, Mr Pluntree.

C is for celebrations – a number of which we've had this year. Thanks to Mrs Adams we've had the Winter Formal event, the Spring Fling



Top to bottom: Wavell House prefects; Monitors.

and the S5/S6 “prom”; and in Houses there have been many year-group and tutor events across the year. Sometimes in the midst of all the day-to-day work they do, it is tempting to forget the special events that our House teams arrange for and with the pupils. I am sure you join me in thanking them all for their care of your children. The biggest celebration of the year is today – Grand Day – and I wish you all a happy, dry and, in the case of the pupils, upright Grand Day Parade. I am thrilled that Dame Anne, such a loyal and active supporter of the School over many years, is our VIP guest today.

Finally, you may be wondering why, after talking so much about iPads this time last year, I haven’t mentioned “C for computers”. It’s a welcome tribute to the way in which we’re learning to embed computer technology in our day-to-day lives here at QVS that I don’t

have any events or anecdotes with which to regale you this year. I shall however leave you with a wonderful analogy that I heard at a conference in November. “School staff adopting ICT in teaching and learning are like sheep,” the speaker said. “Some are enthusiastic and energetic; like spring lambs, they bound ahead, leading the flock. Most are steadily moving along in the general direction of travel. A few are straggling at the back and need “guidance” and “encouragement” from the sheep-dogs along the way. And there will always be some who are stuck on their backs in a ditch, with their feet in the air.” But not here at QVS, of course!

Have a very happy summer holiday, and thank you for listening.

Wendy Bellars, Head

Address from the Chairman of Her Majesty's Commissioners

Many of you I am sure took the opportunity at Grand Day to look at the architects' proposals for the new teaching block, boarding houses and other buildings. I hope that like me you think the new buildings will be a stunning improvement over some of the old ones. Our plans have been submitted to both the local authority and Historic Scotland for approval and to date we have had no real problems. The downside at present is that the construction timetable seems a long way off because of funding constraints but we continue to work to bring this forward.

Whilst all of this has been going on, some Commissioners turned to other matters. The school manages three trust funds for the benefit of the entire school. One of these funds, the Scholarship fund was set up in 1926 to provide money for pupils about to undergo officer

training to help them buy uniforms. As most of you will know there has been no need for this assistance for many years. Moreover it was only applicable to boys! Commissioners have therefore been looking at ways to use the Fund's money in a more useful way. Unfortunately this was not simply a matter of saying "Change it!" Until very recently it looked as if we would have to apply to the Court of Session for permission to bring about the change required. Fortunately however, and with help from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, it now looks as if we can avoid that delay. We now expect that by the beginning of next year the Scholarship Fund will have been remodelled to provide modest grants to pupils, both boys and girls, requiring assistance with University or other further education fees.

The modernisation process continues.





Clockwise from top left: Kiera Smith S4, NAT 5, silk screen print design; Eilidh Firth S4, NAT 5, still life expressive; Hollie Scott, P7A, self portrait.

From the Senior Monitor

Grand Day Speech 2015

At the end of last year when Mrs Bellars approached me and asked me if I wanted to be the senior monitor for the next year, I don't think I could possibly have said yes any quicker. I had known from the very first parade I took part in at the school, in my S1, that commanding the parade was what I wanted to achieve before leaving the school. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Bellars and all of the staff for trusting me with this huge responsibility and allowing me to achieve that goal. In light of this I'd like to take this opportunity to make a few thank yous.

Mr Stacey has been a constant source of office banter in Cunningham through the years and the occasional quiet word when needed (or not so quiet in some cases). If you were feeling especially brave, you may even make the odd joke about how the Celtic game went. All jokes aside Mr Stacey has done a great job at preparing not only myself but the entire school for every parade this year, as I'm sure you will see this afternoon.

All of the housemasters and mistresses, and deputies, for their tireless work all year to make our significant time in the houses as memorable and enjoyable as possible. I think I speak for everyone when I say that our time at QV would simply not be the same without you. I would like to say a particular thank you to Mr and Mrs Eastham who have done everything they possibly could have from day one to make our time in Cunningham as enjoyable and successful as possible. Of course the housemasters couldn't possibly run the houses all by themselves and the house tutors play a massive part in our time here. I'd especially like to thank Mr Mclay, our "tutor father" and the entire Mclay family for making us Cunningham boys officially part of the tutor family.

This year being senior monitor has been a fantastic experience; however it has not been without its challenges, but with the dedication and hard work of the brilliant team of Prefects and Monitors we made it through a relatively smooth and successful year. This is thanks also in no small part to Mrs Adams, who has worked extremely hard all year to coordinate everything we do and to make our S6 as enjoyable as possible. However, as great as the team of prefects have been my enduring memories of the school will be the laughs with all the year group. Whether it's John Kane thinking an avocado was a species of bird, Rhys Clark and me planking on everything we lay our eyes on in Paris, including the Eiffel Tower, or Lisa Graham thinking Barcelona was a country because they have a football team. These moments will undoubtedly stay with me forever.

I could not mention my year group without giving a special mention to Lucy McNair, this year's Deputy Senior Monitor and lead Drum Major, who has been nothing short of fantastic in supporting and helping me, as well as slipping in the occasional reminder about an upcoming, imminent event. I can truthfully say that I don't know how I could have managed this year without you.

So thank you all. Thank you to the staff for supporting us and aiding us on our journey through this school and life as a whole, but mostly thank you to every member of my year for their friendship, support and memories over the years. I wish you all, all the best in life after QV.

Cammy Arnott





The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund (NMMTF)

“To encourage enterprise, adventure and cultural pursuits”

Parents and Old Victorians will be aware of the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, which has been a registered charity since the 5th of January 1994 (Charity Number SC022257). It was established by Mr Jack MacNeil, in memory of his father, with the objective of developing the qualities of leadership, self confidence and self-esteem in selected pupils of the School.

Last year the Trustees made an award to a group of 27 pupils who were travelling to France on a cultural visit. Prior to the visit, the pupils concerned spent two years fundraising. In February this year they shared their experiences with us during an informative and tasty lunch. I have included a few of their experiences in this article.

Despite finding the Eiffel Tower “scary”, William Adam conquered it and commented that his “self-confidence has increased enormously by being able to confidently speak to people that do not speak the same language”. This was a view shared by most.

Ryan McGuinness found this a great learning experience but “was shocked by Paris as it has a reputation for being so

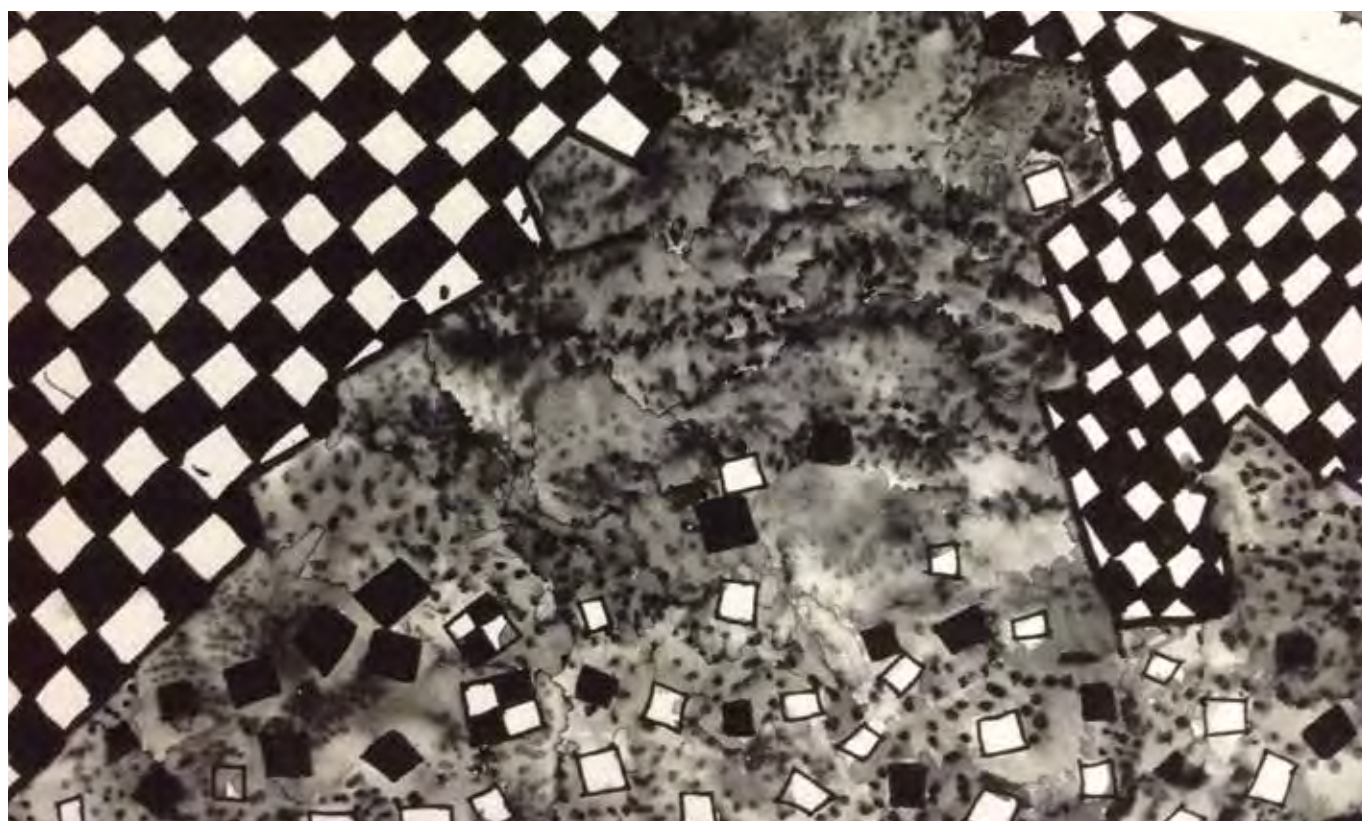
wonderful, but it is full of homeless people. The poverty is really striking. There is such a contrast between the really beautiful buildings in the centre and other areas that were a big disappointment.”

“Paris has made me far more aware of different world cultures and the experience of meeting foreign people has ignited in me the desire to travel more.” – Lauren Pedder.

This year the Trustees have awarded grants to a group of nine young people who are trekking in Peru and one young lady who is taking a gap year. We look forward to hearing how they get on. 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.

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



Molly West, S1, pen and ink drawing.





Prize Giving

2015 Prize List – P7, S1 & S2

1	Attainment	P7	Pratistha Khawas
2	Progress	P7	Lauren Donaldson
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Hollie Scott
4	Music	P7	Hollie Scott
5	Paul Mcshannon Quaich	P7	William Sanmani

		First Year		Second Year	
		Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
1	English	Suprina Gurung	Brodie Paterson	Rachel Spence	Scott Burns
2	French	Rachel Loudon	Joshua Powell Leonard	Charlotte Gothard Oliver	Jason Galloway
3	German	Sophie Murphy	Lily Miller	Evie Clarke	Cerys Hutchison
4	Mathematics	Stuart Brown	Lily Miller	Rachel Spence	Olivia Dunbar
5	Science	Yancy Gurung	Caitlin Pedder	Evie Clarke	Niamh Beaton
6	Computer Studies	Yancy Gurung	Daniel Thompson	Ethan Rowe	Jana Copland
7	Technical Studies	Yancy Gurung	Marcus Wakefield	Ethan Rowe	Charlotte Gothard Oliver
8	Geography	Anna Gurung	Charley McMaster	David Burns	Niamh Cox
9	History	Suprina Gurung	Stewart Brown	Niamh Beaton	Tiernan Bark
10	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Yancy Gurung		Charlotte Gothard Oliver	
11	Business	Anna Gurung	Rhaea Clark	Cameron Crawford	Tiernan Bark
12	Fowler Art	Rhys Owen	Yancy Gurung	Rebecca Kane	Evie Clarke
13	Music	Christian Mcbrearty	Dannii Blyth	Charlotte Gothard Oliver	Evie Clarke
14	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Rachel Loudon	Christian Mcbrearty	Anjipa Malla	Elisha Bura
15	Physical Education	Alex Malcolm & Sophie Murphy		Cameron Crawford & Chloe Dowdles	

Prize List – Third Year 2015

		Attainment			
1	Biology	Richard Dunbar	11	German	Rachel Macpherson
2	Business Management	Rachel Macpherson	12	Graphic Comm	–
3	Chemistry	Lloyd Owen	13	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Georgia Forsyth
4	Classical Studies	Callum Pearson	14	History	Megan Cook
5	Computer Science	Richard Dunbar	15	Mathematics	Pabina Thapa
6	Design & Manufacture	Georgia Forsyth	16	Modern Studies	Madison Robb
7	English	Rachel Macpherson	17	Music	Callum Pearson
8	Fowler Art Prize	Keli Ramsay	18	Physical Education	Emily Collins
9	French	Charlotte Sowden	19	Physics	Richard Dunbar
10	Geography	Pabina Thapa	20	RMPS	Rachel Macpherson

2015 Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

		Form IV	Forms V & VI			
1	Art	Sushmita Gurung	Kiera Smith	13	Guildry Of Stirling History Prize	Francesca Cockburn
2	Biology	Imogen Powell Leonard	Sam Stockman	14	History	Samantha Rollo
3	Business Management	Cameron Houston	Prateeksha Khawas	15	HMC Centenary Quaich	Rebecca Leslie
4	Chemistry	Kirsty Aimer	Lachlan Bark	16	Information Systems	Hannah Sloan
5	Classical Studies	Imogen Powell Leonard	Rebecca Leslie	17	Mathematics	Jenna Galloway
6	Computer Science	Kirsty Aimer	Stuart Millman			Prateeksha Khawas
7	Design & Manufacture	Lora Marshall	Rebecca Mcquater	18	Mathematics - Lifeskills	Lora Marshall
8	English	Francesca Cockburn	Jade Mccartney	19	Modern Studies	Samantha Rollo
9	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Emelia Moore	Jasper Herbert	20	Music	William Adam
10	Geography	Ewan Searle	Jared Leckie	21	Photography	Lucy McNair
11	German	Jack Cole	Rebecca Leslie	22	Physical Education	Hannah Sloan
12	Graphic Communication	Imogen Powell Leonard	Rhys Clark	23	Physics	Rhys Clark
				24	RMPS	Lachlan Bark
				25	Williamson Salver For Girls	Caitlin Yool
				26	Dux Medal	Lucy McNair
						Cameron Arnott



Grand Day Trophies & Awards 2015

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|----|---|----------------|
| 1 | Cameronian Shield for Piping
(For The Best Piper) | Rhys Clark | 7 | Victor Ludorum Trophy
(For Best Sports Person) | Bradley Scott |
| 2 | Senior Drum Majors Shield
(For The Senior Drum Major) | Lucy McNair | 8 | The Ben Philip Senior Memorial Bowl | Callum Hunter |
| 3 | Highland Dancing
(Highland Dancing Society of London Cup) | Rhona Wilson | 9 | The Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl | Rosie Welch |
| 4 | Combined Cadet Force
(For The Best CCF Recruit) | Anjipa Malla | 10 | Annual Challenge Cup
(For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell) | Navino Gurung |
| 5 | The Silcox Trophy For Shooting | Connor Watson | 11 | The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver
(For Leadership 'On' and 'Off' The Games Field) | Rhys Clark |
| 6 | Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy
(For Outdoor Pursuits) | Lauren Wilton | 12 | The Prince Philip Medal
(For Outstanding Contribution, Participation And Achievement During Their Time At Queen Victoria School) | Cameron Arnott |



Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

It was pleasing to read recently that the main attribute for a successful entrepreneur and leader was the need for personal self-discipline. The article went on to say that those people who have willpower, can and will, control their own destiny. To also quote President Harry S Truman; "In reading the lives of great people, I found that the first victory they won was over themselves... self-discipline with all of them came first". What it shows is that the philosophy the Cunningham boys strive for will provide an extremely solid foundation in their future careers.

But I would like to add another fundamental skill that is important to our House community. This is the skill of Communication. Communication is and must be a two-way process between individuals. This is not just talking, but the art of listening and I do like what Mark Twain said:

"If we were supposed to talk more than we listen, we would have two tongues and one ear." Mark Twain.

What makes, in my eyes, Cunningham special and successful has always been the parts that make the whole and one of those major parts are the House team members of Tutors, Sarah our Matron and Karen our assistant Matron. They have excellent communication skills both getting a clear message and expectations over to the boys and more so being able to listen to the Cunningham boys. The number of times I have come across, both day and night, the House team deep in conversations with individual boys who go away smiling, reassured, happier and wiser. I would therefore, like to put on record, my thanks for all the hard work, dedication and going the 'extra mile' to my House Team who provide a nurturing and caring environment for the boys to ultimately develop and flourish.

I think also what makes Cunningham a home is the organising of whole house events. This brings all the boys together and the younger boys see the older boys as role models. The excellent Burns night – which was organised superbly by Mr Stacey and the S6 boys this year; Guests were invited, many of the boys read poetry in front

of everyone and the band members and dancers put on individual performances. The end of term parties, the Easter egg hunt, the 80's roller disco – yes I did get on a set of skates, the Hog roasts, the Christmas Tutor Pantomime written by Mr Kirk – Mr Renwick dressed as an ugly sister will go down in House folklore, but not as much as Cinderella (Mr Davey) for not turning up for the performance which left many boys baffled with the storyline.... Congratulations must also go to the great S5 year who, from scratch and an empty shell created an American Diner with red booths, black and white floor and even a wood bar! This facility is now being used by all the House to host socials and parties.

Our Cunningham leavers this year number only a handful, but I would argue Quality rather than Quantity is the mainstay of the year.

Cammie Arnott who has added to his excellent and bulging CV of School Monitor, Pipe Major in the ceremonial band, Captain of Rugby and House prefect by winning a prestigious scholarship from the RAF to read Aeronautical Engineering at Glasgow.

John Kane who has worked hard as House Captain, while balancing his commitments in the Ceremonial drum major role. He has also helped and supported the younger boys behind the scenes, which I am grateful for and I wish him well with his plan to join the Army next year.

Matt Asbridge who only arrived just over a year ago who brought 'etiquette' to his year, along with his remarkable enquiring brain and I wish him academic success at Edinburgh University where he will read History & Classics and then move onto his career choice as an Officer in the Royal Navy. He also plays a mean set of pipes!

Conor 'Captain Banter' Kelly who has had a genuine journey through the school and one who will use all the lessons, ups and downs and 'words of advice' to make himself successful in the years to come. I wish him well at Glasgow Napier University where he will read Business.



So the new extra buzzword the boys will be hearing in Cunningham from next year; along with building on more self discipline is to improve on genuine, honest, thoughtful Communication between everyone. To quote Rollo May:

“Communication leads to Community”

And this is what we strive for in Cunningham – Community.

Mike Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster

House Captain

In the past six years Cunningham has been a second home to my fellow sixth years and filled with many memories, good and not so good, that we will all carry with us into our lives after QV. I can still remember my first night in Cunningham being awakened by Connor Kelly after being sick all over his room. Out of all the people he could have chosen to go and see, like Mr Eastham, he had to choose me. You will be forever in my debt Connor. On behalf of the Cunningham sixth years, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Eastham for teaching us everything our parents would normally teach us, teaching us how to shave, how to iron our clothes, and helping us understand that self-discipline is the only discipline. Personally I would like to thank you both again for being a second set of parents to me especially

over this past year. Not sure where I would be without my very long chats with Mrs Eastham in the dispensary.

Now I would like to thank all the tutors in the house for not giving up on us over the years and a special thanks to Mr McLay for adopting six new sons in our first year. We have lost a few but gained the one and only Posh Matt. I would also like to thank Karen for being the best Matron's assistant anyone could have asked for and being an amazing person just to have a chat with when one is needed. Not too sure where we would all be without the scares from Mr Stacey though. I can still remember when Danny Theyers, Cameron Arnott, Connor Kelly and I were all staying in the common room while our rooms were being re decorated. One night Mr Stacey walked in and witnessed the state of Danny's couch/bed and shouted at him to tidy it up. What happened next was not expected by anyone. Danny thought it would be a good idea to tell Mr Stacey to calm down. Safe to say that was one of Danny's biggest mistakes he will ever make!

Overall my time here has been unforgettable and I will cherish every memory made. I'll be up to visit everyone that has made my six years in Cunningham amazing and Mrs Eastham; you can't get rid of me that easy.

John Kane, House Captain



Top to bottom; Keli Ramsay, S3, colour pencil drawing; Abigail Cairns, S3, pen and ink drawing.



Haig House.

Haig House

As a housemaster, I have the unique ability to influence the development of the house and pupils. You see the good and the bad along with seeing pupils grow into young adults. If someone had told me when I first started that seeing a group grow from first year through to sixth year would be as rewarding as it had been, I would never have believed them. It hasn't been all plain sailing; however this year's leavers have been a fantastic group to have in the house. They have been fully supportive of the house and have always helped to create the unique atmosphere we have within Haig. Whilst it is always a sad time, we wish the leavers the very best in whatever route they take next.

It has been an incredibly busy year in Haig, with various socials and events keeping the boys out of trouble. Some of the highlights included bubble football, six nation's rugby and also some of the many socials that included food of any description. Infact I'm sure most socials did involve food, perhaps it's a boy's house thing.

On the sports field, it was a year where Haig remained unbeaten again in the weekly Haig versus Cunningham football match. The boys also played against the girl's hockey team each Tuesday and if they are to be believed, were unbeaten in that as well.

A number of our pupils were involved in the various bands within the school. Even after five years, when I hear any of them play, I am reminded how special they are. Coming from a background where the pipes and drums were alien to me, I now could not imagine my life without them. I'm not sure there are many other places in the world you can be teaching to a backdrop of music the whole time.

Pupils are involved in so much within the school that often, they do not get the chance to sit back and look at their accomplishments.

I am proud of each and every one of the pupils in my care; they excel in different areas and are all unique.

This is the opportune moment to thank the staff for all of their efforts. The pupils and I appreciate everything you do for us all. In particular Matron and Carmen deserve a special mention for their tireless work looking after and helping everyone in the house. Whilst occasionally the boys do not show it, I know how fond they are of you both.

As we depart for the summer and our sixth form leave us for the 'real' world, I will give you a piece of advice that was given to me in my playing days. It still rings very true today. Whilst there will be good and bad times always try to remain an energiser, not a parasite.

Niall Lear, Haig Housemaster

As S6 prepare to leave, we can reflect on many "brilliant" memories from the past year. From a certain Haig House member being sick twice and reporting to the office in distress waving his jazz hands about to getting a new dog member to the house, Louie the French bulldog who is possibly the most disobedient dog ever. It has been "brilliant" spending time with Mr Lear in the office and we have definitely enjoyed the time we have spent with Mr Porter over the last year. From the pupils we are all grateful for the time and effort put into the house by the staff and we would all like to say thank you. The fish tank in the office has also been an amazing attribute of the house which allows pupils to admire the daily routine of a fish. Everyone has really enjoyed all the new gadgets that have been bought for the house like the PS4, new TVs and the Xbox.

Ryan



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

Another hectic year has gone by within Trenchard House, and what a year it has been. From fashion shows 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 give their time and efforts to help out at our many events. Although we have had to make some sad goodbyes, like the departure of Mrs Leask, Miss Stinson and Ms Milne, we have welcomed Miss Low back from her maternity leave.

The pupils in Trenchard House have been fantastic this year and definitely given the house a personality for all visitors to see. 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 especially my depute, Sarah Potter. They have all put in huge amounts of effort to organise house events to occupy the juniors throughout the year. However this house would certainly not run as smoothly as it does without the wonderful Mr Bush, Ms Edwards, Mr Bryce and Matron - they certainly all deserve a medal for putting up with us. I will definitely miss this house when I leave and I wish all the luck to the pupils and staff of Trenchard. A massive congratulations to the new house captain, PKay Khawas! Thank you for such a great year.

Hannah and Sarah

Well, we did it, another year of youngsters who are now settled into Queen Victoria School. The house staff and seniors all combine to wipe away the homesickness tears, explain our house and school customs and make the boarding house as much like home as it can be. As usual each dorm performed in the Christmas talent show (though I still don't know how I got into the 'naughty' side of the book!; danced the night away at the Burns Night disco; bobbed for apples and munched donuts at Halloween and enjoyed watching the P7s march by and pass off as Victorians in their Rookies Parade. We always like to try some new events and this year we included 'taste the apple' to introduce the children to some of the apples grown in this country; we baked microwave cup cakes in aid of the Nepal Earthquake Appeal and ate the produce of the Trenchard House garden (mainly carrots and potatoes!). I would like to echo Hannah's thanks to all of the house staff who combine to produce a great house environment. I would also like to say a big thank you to our seniors for helping out and especially to Hannah, Sarah, Rhona and Jenna as they head out into the big wide world.

We are eagerly anticipating what our refurbished house will look like next year. As I sit and write this house report, on the day after Grand Day, I can hear the workmen clearing the house of radiators and furniture so that the rebuilding can begin.

Paul Bush, Trenchard Housemaster







Wavell House.

Wavell House

Well, what a fabulous, fun packed year it has been for Wavell!

At the start of the year an early delivery saw Miss Appleyard a new mum to Jamie and Mrs Hiddleston a new 'mum' to 88 Wavell girls, as Wavell Acting Housemistress. Mr Gilhooly stepped into the breach as Deputy Housemistress in Wavell and Miss Taylor also took on a new role within the house, as Wavell Assistant Housemistress. Huge thanks to all for their hard work, superb organisation and fabulous good humour throughout the year!

We began events on a high with a whole house trip to Wicked on stage. This was followed by numerous tutor and house trips, a visit to Dunblane's Christmas extravaganza and the term finished with an outstanding Christmas party. Led by Miss Taylor, old school party games were played and pyjamas were worn by all!

The year continued on a high note with the Winter Formal, Spring Fling and Prom. Glamorous as ever, our Wavell girls proved to be outstanding role models and ambassadors for the school.

Our summer party, a 1970s themed roller disco and treasure hunt was fabulous. Led by Mrs Hiddleston and the S6 we all got disco fever and partied on down to traditional 1970s beats!

Also within our house, just when we thought there could be no more Wavell babies, another two appeared on the horizon. Congratulations to Mrs Thomson on the birth of baby Noel and grateful thanks to Miss Stinson for admirably covering Mrs Thomson's maternity leave. Also our best wishes go to Mrs McDonnell who is going on maternity leave soon, to have a little brother or sister for lovely Edith.

This has been a truly wonderful year in Wavell and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the outstanding Wavell staff for their dedication and commitment and for all they have contributed this year.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our Head of House and Deputies, Navino, Ashley and Hannah as well as our Deputy Senior Monitor Lucy. In the best traditions of Wavell they have led their house, proving to be a superb team and a very hard act to follow!

We have all had hugely memorable experiences within Wavell this year and look forward to many more next year. We would like to wish all of our pupils, parents and staff a wonderful summer holiday!

Miss Appleyard, Mrs Hiddleston and Miss Taylor

"This past year has flown by ever so quickly! We know that especially for the S6s with their busy timetables and busy free times this last year for us has sped by.

Being Head of House and Deputy Heads of House, we would first like to thank all the Wavell staff members. Without them, our job would not have been as easy or efficient as it has been this year.

We would like to thank all the girls in the house for making this year a memorable and enjoyable time. We've all had our ups and downs but we honestly wouldn't change it for the world!

We cannot forget about all the times we have gathered in the office with Mrs Hiddleston, sitting in the common room with Miss Taylor and running away from Matron! Thank you for your patience with us!

We all wish the best of luck to the new Head of House, Tarah, and her Deputies, Charlotte and Bethan. Sadly it will be difficult to beat our immaculate reputation but we are sure you will soon step up to the mark. Good luck beating our House parties!

We will miss you all and don't hesitate to keep in touch. See you all during parades! Love you long time".

Navino Gurung, Ashley McBroom and Hannah Sloan









1st XV Rugby.

Rugby

1st XV Rugby

This season has been one of the most enjoyable I've been involved with as a coach. There has been a culture underpinned by hard work and a commitment to improve by everyone who has been involved with the 1st XV this year. The journey from the start of the season has been quite incredible. Filled with ups and downs there has always been an element of humour in all that we have done as a group.

The season started with a loss to Morrison's Academy, who have traditionally been our bogey team over the last few years. During this game, in which we scored 34 unanswered points in the second half (and yes still lost), the boys realised that when they played to the structure they were a handful for anyone. In some ways it was a blessing in disguise that this 'Eureka' moment happened so early on in the season.

From then, wins against Carrick Academy, Wellington, Strathallan and Marr followed. Then next up was a rematch against Morrison's. A comprehensive fifty-point victory for us showed just how far the group had come as a team. Wins against Glasgow Academy and the regional plate final victory followed before we stumbled against St Columba's losing 32-30 in what was a great match.

Winning the regional plate meant we were entered in the National plate knockout competition where we were drawn against Plockton Academy. At the sixth time of trying, we managed to get the game played and were victors being drawn to play Kelvinside in the semi final of the competition. Unfortunately it was a game too far for the boys and Kelvinside advanced through to the final where they lost against a strong Earlston High school team.

On the whole it was an incredibly successful season for the 1st XV. A number of boys were making the step up from the under 16 squad for

the first time and that bodes well for the future. A special mention must go to Kyle Rowe for scoring over thirty tries in the season and being selected to represent Caledonia U18 in the inter district championship.

As a coach, there you get a great sense of pride seeing players develop and master their particular area. For some of these players, this is just the beginning of what will be a long career playing rugby at a social or a higher level. For some, this will be the pinnacle of their sporting career. For all, they can leave QVS saying that they were part of something meaningful. For those leaving, we wish you the best, for those returning; make sure you keep working over the summer.

Under 16's Rugby

The under 16's had another great season of rugby this year. The experience of the previous year for the S4's really helped the squad develop and they encouraged the S3's to improve for the season ahead. Our team this year was considered as 'underdogs' compared to the previous years but we were determined to prove this wrong.

We had many great performances throughout the season and many wonderful tries scored from the team. We performed week in and week out, putting what we had learned into practice. Although we played to the best of our ability every Saturday our intentions were focused on the regional and national plates.

After a relatively easy semi-final against a weaker opponent we made it through to the Regional Plate Final to face our competitors from the previous year McLaren High School. We played some amazing rugby and defended superbly, eventually winning the game 22-21. This was a great result for us and gave us confidence to take into the Brewin Dolphin National Plate!



U16 Rugby.

In the quarter-finals we headed four hours up the road to face Gordonstoun. We had a good warm up to wake up after the long journey and started the game off superbly with tries from winger Lewis Young, centres Lennox Baselala and Arras Mathieson and scrum half Jordan Oatley along with kicks from Jasper Herbert. We led at the break 22-7 and started the second half as we meant to go on with Lewis Young crossing the line for his second try in the game. After this we let our opponents back into the game with silly mistakes meaning the game ended 27-27. Luckily for us we advanced to the semi-finals as we were the away team.

We headed to Edinburgh to face The Royal High School for the semi-final of the plate. The boys who played in the final the year before we're going seeking revenge after they defeated us at BT Murrayfield. Unfortunately we lost the game but left with our heads held high as we knew we had performed as well as we could throughout the season.

Thank you to Mr Mclay and Thomas for coaching us throughout the season and good luck to the under 16s boys next year.

Jordan Oatley, Under 16's Captain

S2 Rugby

With a gritty determination displayed throughout the season, the boys have worked hard on individual and team development; promoting the importance of team spirit and resilience to overcome challenge. The boys have tried to develop a strategy of simple, fast and exciting rugby and though this approach didn't pay off during every game the boys must be commended for their positive mind set to challenge themselves.

The boys took great encouragement from their first win against Glasgow Academy with a try from Campbell Morrison and two from Josh King. However they were not able to capitalise on that performance and had to dig deep to hold their own, often against stronger, more physical teams. Throughout the season, the squad started to develop a strong camaraderie, with players becoming more

confident in their own ability and trust in their teammates to perform and provide continued support for each other. The forwards often out battled the opposition and worked hard to create scoring opportunities. Josh King, Cameron Crawford, Sam Drummond and Shafal Dura led with relentless commitment, aggression and positivity throughout the year. The backs continued to develop and attack in a more dynamic and exciting manner as the season progressed, with Craig Duncan and Jack McNeilly creating opportunities for Harry Searle, Ben Berry and Jamie Thompson to provide the 'gas' to expose gaps in the opponents defence.

The point's difference this year may not have been in our favour, but the boys clearly enjoyed themselves and made huge improvements. It was certainly a squad performance, demonstrating the fantastic attitude of the boys to represent the school week in week out, come rain or shine, and for that I must congratulate them all. Well done to all of the players who contributed so much to the 2014/15 season.

Mr Adams

S1 Rugby

We started the year with a game against Carrick Academy. The game was tight but we sadly lost. We had sloppy tackles and were a bit rusty on the tackling but the team had been working on their fitness and we beat them in the running and stamina. After that the next couple of games were ups and downs. One of our games that we wanted to win was against St Columba. The game started and instantly Rhys Owen sprinted down the wing and scored our first try. After that Alex Malcolm pushed down the wing and scored another try, QV were putting in hard hits by Ross Merrick, Ayup Malla and Alex Hoilday. Conor Kirkwood, Joshua Powell-Leonard were making extremely good runs. The first half finished and the second half started. St Columba got two tries instantly but only converted one. QV kicked the ball and St Columba thumbed it backwards but Ayup Malla was there to pick it up and place the ball down and get a final try. The score was 21-19 QV. The winter term came in and most of the games that we were going to have were cancelled but the the games that we had we fought hard for in the frosty pitches. Our coach Mr Bryce



Top to bottom: Year 1 Rugby; Year 2 Rugby; Year 3 Rugby.



made us work mainly on fitness and stamina, so in all our games we were ready to tackle hard and run hard. One of the games in the winter was against Morrison. The day was a frosty one but QV came with determination in their Hearts. The game started with fast hands to Alex Malcolm who then sprinted down the wing. Morrison's started but fumbled the ball forward but Alex Holiday picked it up and sprinted down the wing scoring a try. With some sloppy defending by QV Morrison's got a try. Half time was called and the second half started Morrison's got another try with some sloppy defending again

by QV. We started to put pressure on Morrison's and Cameron Dowdles ripped the ball out of a maul and planted the ball for a try for QV. Morrison's sadly got a last try but 30 seconds was left of the game and Alex Malcolm sprinted down the wing scoring a last try for QV. The final score was 13-12 to QV. The S1's season has been a good one and we can't wait for S2 rugby. Special thanks to our coach Mr Bryce and gap students for the help over the year.

Ross Merrick



1st XI Hockey.

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

I think it is fair to say the past season has been exceptionally successful for the 1st XI compared to previous years. Finally being known as a 1st XI team again, and presenting the school with mainly successful reports in chapel. Although we never won every match with an incredible score, there were only a limited amount which were lost with scores that will never be mentioned; which for us is unreal as last year it was our performances that were always better than our achievements, however that changed this season and I think it is safe to say the results mostly reflected our team effort.

The team has been captained by myself and with the helpful hand of Lisa Graham, who has done a great job helping me organise practices and strip handouts throughout the season, and helping to settle some of the bickering that always comes with a team full of 'enthusiastic' players. Gladly we always get over what happens on the pitch and can say throughout the year we have all developed as a team and have worked amazingly together; especially Anais Scott and Lora Marshall who seem to have a telepathic connection while playing.

I am also so pleased to say we, the majority of 1st XI plus a few guest players, we're pleased to be awarded the trophy of the winning team against the Old Victorian Hockey Team. A great achievement of the year and a great day against old team mates, full of laughs and bruises. Hopefully another will be arranged for next year.

We were happy to finally have Mrs Scott-Laing back with us and thankfully not bringing her beloved pyramids back with her and a big thank you as always to Raymondo and Miss Crossan for helping us progress to the ability we achieved with the continuous full pitch practices followed by our favourite phrase from Ray "Okay, so we are gonna play a game."

A special thank you to all players of the 1st XI. I can honestly say the

S6 girls will all miss playing with everyone and playing with another team will never be the same. You have made our final year so special, filled with laughter, arguments and great banter. Good luck to next year's team. I'm sure it will be an amazing season, and try not to ruin our winning streak with Clifton Hall.

U15 Hockey

This season has been extremely successful for the U15 squad, with many victories. We began the season very unsettled as Mrs Scott Laing was still on maternity leave and a couple of our players moved up to play for the 1st XI. The team managed to adjust to this change and we settled into our new roles very well. Our first few matches resulted in defeat. However, as the season progressed our skills developed and we became a much stronger team. We had many great victories and a highlight was beating Beaconsfield 10-1!

I would like to thank the team for all of the hard work they have put in this season and I would like to thank Mrs Scott Laing and Miss Crossan for putting up with us! Good luck for next season and I hope it is successful as this one.

Emily Collins, U15 Captain.

U13 Hockey

The U13 team started the season with a game against Clifton Hall, who are from just outside Edinburgh. We really didn't know what to expect as for many of us this was our first game of hockey. We played 8 a-side on a smaller pitch and tried really hard to keep to our positions. After the match we were very pleased we had done so well and all really enjoyed the experience.

We had lots of games in the first half of the season, some were really tough, for example against Strathallan who have been playing hockey



Top to bottom: U15 Hockey; U13 Hockey.

for a lot longer than our team. One of the matches where we played particularly well was against Wellington. We managed to draw 1-1, and played far more as a team and communicated with each other, rather than everyone chasing the ball.

Several P7s have played in the U13 team this season which is great to see. Olivia Oatley has played exceptionally well using her high level of fitness to our advantage. Caitlin Smith, Megan Adams, Rosie Welsh and Hollie Scott who are all P7 played many times for the U13s. This should be a great advantage going into this season.

U13 team



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

Football

As Coach of the 1st 11 Football Squad, I have to say that this squad have been a joy to work with. Both in training and in games they have given their all. I have to give special mention to Rhys Clark who came back into the squad after a personal event and helped shore up our defence. He also did a great job in helping me with the coaching side of it. We had another good season reaching the quarter finals of the SISFA Cup. There were some really good performances and we finished second in our group. Two of our boys James Work and Kyle Rowe made it into the SISFA Scotland squad and represented their

country playing against England. I have to mention Sam Stockman. Although not technically football minded Sam had a fantastic season and played in nearly every game of football we had last year with a lot of good solid performances. Lastly the rest of the squad although not mentioned all did exceptionally well both on and off the field representing their school. I am looking forward to another good season this year. Well done to all.

Paul Warner, Snr Coach



Athletics

QVS v Wellington v Lomond – 2 May 2015

For our first athletics match of the season we travelled down to Wellington school in Ayr. This is always a tough fixture as the pupils have not done a huge amount in athletics at this point in the term. However, it is always a good marker and the pupils generally set their early PBs at this point.

Hurdles kicked off the track events, where we had Thomas Main, a P7 pupil, competing in the S1 team. Despite never having done hurdles until he came to QVS, Thomas stormed down the track and took 1st place; an excellent start to the morning.

There were many personal bests set on the day and many pupils who won in their respective disciplines. A great morning, and it stayed dry!

Winning Performances

Thomas Main	80m Hurdles	14.70s
Reece Owen	100m	13.02s
Cameron Crawford	Long-Jump	4.20m
Morgan Leatherbarrow	High-Jump	1.45m
Ross Merrick	High-Jump	1.30m
Alex Malcolm	Long-Jump	4.56m
Leanne Myles	Shot-Putt	5.22m
S1 Boys	4 x 100m Relay	58.49s

QVS v HGS v TGA v St A v DA – 9th May 2015

The following weekend saw us travel to Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow. Excitement rose as the pupils saw that they would be running on an 8 lane synthetic track and competing against 4 other schools; Hutchesons', The Glasgow Academy, St Aloysius and Douglas Academy. We had six teams competing across the S1, S2 and S3 year groups for both boys and girls.

Again many pupils recorded new PBs, especially those on the track.

Winning Performances

Ellis Majid	100m	12.08s
Alex Malcolm	100m	13.51s
Ross Merrick	200m	28.49s
Olivia Williams	200m	29.63s
Alex Malcolm	800m	2.31:31s
Alex Malcolm	Long-Jump	4.86m
Henry Aldwinckle	High-Jump	1.45m
Josh Beard	Javelin	28.40m
Josh King	Discus	25.86m

QVS v Hutchesons' Grammar v Wellington v St Columbas – 16th May 2015

The next match on the calendar was away at Hutchesons' Grammar again, however, this time we had only two teams of S1 and S2 boys. We had some excellent performances yet again and were up against some very strong competition.

Winning Performances

Reece Owen	100m	13.28s
Alex Malcolm (B string)	100m	13.16s
Alex Malcolm	200m	28.10s
S1 Boys	4x100m Relay	56.25s
Alex Malcolm	Long-Jump	4.26m
Henry Aldwinckle	High-Jump	1.45m
Thomas Main	Javelin	29.65m

QVS v Lathallan – 23rd May 2015

This is the first athletics match we have held at QVS for some time, due to the condition of our fields. Therefore, it was great to see the pupils competing on home soil for a change. We were blessed with glorious weather, which was extremely unusual this year!



We had the S1 and S2 boys and girls teams competing against Lathallan's S1 and S2 teams in Hurdles, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, Long-Jump, High-Jump, Discus, Shot-Putt and Relays. We were narrowly beaten in the S1 & S2 girls' competitions and the S2 boys' competition; however, our S1 boys exceeded all expectations and won the overall competition comfortably.

Winning Performances

Thomas Main	80m Hurdles	14.90s
Chloe Dowdles	100m	14.5s
Alex Malcolm	100m	13.10s
Ross Merrick	200m	30.5s
Olivia Oatley	800m	3.00m
Alex Malcolm	800m	2.42m
S1 Boys	4x100m Relay	57.2s
Henry Aldwinckle	High-Jump	1.40m
Alex Malcolm	High-Jump	1.40m
Cameron Dowdles	Shot-Putt	7.19m
Rhys Owen	Long-Jump	4.70m
Rhys Owen	Discus	18.63m
Josh King	Discus	25.03m

QVS v Strathallan v Dollar – 9th June 2015

Our next match was held at Strathallan on a sunny Monday evening. We had U13, U14 boys and girls and U15 girls competing in a vast number of disciplines. As usual the Strathallan staff ensured this was an extremely successful match and again our pupils excelled in many of the events they were competing in.

Winning Performances

Daniel Thompson	200m	29.8s
Ross Merrick	200m	27.4s
Caitlin Smith	300m	55.3s
Connor Kirkwood	400m	70.0s
Olivia Oatley	800m	2.59s
Thomas Main	1500m	5.36s
Cameron Taylor	Discus	20.10m
Alex Malcolm	High-Jump	1.50m
Treshing Gurung	Shot-Putt	9.94m
Josh King	Discus	25.16m
Alex Malcolm	Javelin	32.80m

Stirling primary Schools Track and Field Championships – Wednesday 27th May

Ten of our Primary 7 pupils ventured down to Stirling University to compete in the annual Stirling Schools event. This year saw the biggest number of schools competing; 36 out of the 40 schools in the Region were in attendance. Each team was made up of five athletes who were only allowed to compete in one event plus the 5 x 80m

relay. Again we did remarkably well this year with Sam Raikadroka winning a gold medal in the Long-Jump with a jump of 4.03m and the Boys relay team taking a Bronze medal in the 5 x 80m relay. Well done to all those who participated.

Pupil	Event
Jake Leatherbarrow	60M
Rajeb Thapa	150M
Thomas Main	600M
Sam Raikadroka	Long-Jump
Marc Barber	Javelin
Erin Sim	60m
Caitlin Smith	150m
Olivia Oatley	600m
Megan Adams	Long-Jump
Pratistha Khwas	Javelin

Scottish Schools Athletics Championship – Grangemouth 11th/12th June

This year we took nine athletes to compete in the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships. This is the greatest number of pupils who have made the qualifying time/distance for several years. The competition runs over two days; Friday and Saturday the 11th/12th June and it was certainly those who were competing on the Friday who hit the jackpot with regards to the weather. Grangemouth was baking in glorious sunshine for those competing on Friday, however, in typical Scottish style Saturday's athletes and staff had to contend with rain, wind and cold conditions (unlucky Mr McLay).

Our athletes competed extremely well over the two days with Josh King winning a gold medal in Discus with a throw of 24.76m and Alex Malcolm winning a Bronze medal in Javelin with a throw of 34.72m. Very well done to both boys. We also came close on three other occasions with Bradley Scott (5000m), Ellis Majid (100m) and Cameron Crawford (Shot-Putt) all in 4th place.

Scottish Schools Competitors

James Buick	100m
Ellis Majid	100m
Rhys Owen	100m
Bradley Scott	5000m
Josh King	Discus
Morgan Leatherbarrow	High-Jump
Lloyd Owen	Discus
Alex Malcolm	Long-Jump & Javelin
Cameron Crawford	Shot-Putt

J Scott Laing



Sports Day – Tuesday 16th June 2015

The pinnacle of the Interhouse competition at QVS is always sports day. Once again the skies cleared and we saw what was a rare outing for the sun during the summer term.

After a term of practice and competition the pupils were geared up and ready to compete for their house team; Liddell, Ormond or Bannerman. The competition got off to a flying start with the Senior 100m Hurdles. The place-judges certainly had a tough time on their hands in this race, however, Ormond took the first points with Tony Harvey in 1st place.

Throughout the afternoon there were many close competitions with James Buick running 11.66s in the Senior Boys' 100m, Kyle Rowe jumping 5.80m and 11.70m in Long Jump and Triple Jump respectively, Campbell Morrison ran 2.23s in the intermediate boys' 800m, Sam Raikadroka in Primary 7 jumped 9.02m in Triple Jump, Olivia Oatley also in P7 took maximum points in the 800m with an excellent run of 3.02s, which is just outside her personal best. In addition there were several sports day records broken this year, which is great to see.

New Record Holder	Event	New Record
Bradley Scott	Senior Boys' 800m	2.12:7s
Olivia Williams	Intermediate Girls' Long Jump	4.59m

Alex Malcolm	Junior Boys' High Jump	1.42m
	Junior Boys' Javelin	34.00m

The final event of the afternoon was the Leavers v Gaps v Staff 4 x 100m relay. The staff team were looking lean and mean this year, the Gaps were colourful and the leavers nervous! Mr McConnell was first out of the traps for the staff team and held on well to the leavers' first leg runner. Mr Adams was on the bend for the staff, his three years away from the PE Dept could have taken their toll on a lesser athlete, however, he powered around the track and handed over to the staff's not-so-secret weapon, Mr Lear. James Buick couldn't catch the flying machine, so Mr Bryce only had to keep position for the staff to take the title (who knows where the Gaps were at this point). Mr Bryce eased over the finish line for the staff to be crowned champions. Well done to all of the staff and pupils who competed on the day and a huge thank you to the staff who officiated/scored/ran the strawberry tea and came down to support. The final results were as follows:

	Senior	Intermediate	Junior
1st	Bannerman	Liddell	Liddell
2nd	Ormond	Bannerman	Bannerman
3rd	Liddell	Ormond	Ormond

J Scott Laing



Cross Country

Thomas Main who was the 5th counter for Stirling Schools (10th overall), who won the Forth Valley competition. Congratulations to Olivia Oatley who was around 15th and Rajeb Thapa who was around 30th.

Ryan Thomson was a counter in the winning Stirling Schools team for the S3/4 boys. Anais Scott 3rd place, Sam Stockman 3rd place and Bradley Scott was the Forth Valley Schools champion. Well done to all competitors.







Ski Trip – February 2015

Courmayeur

Pupils

Ben Adam, William Adam, Caitlin Adams, Fraser Arnott, Cameron Arnott, Mathew Asbridge, Lochie Bark, T-Beau Bark, Joshua Beard, Leon Boylan, Rhys Clark, Francesca Cockburn, Collie Freya, Emily Collins, Ross Dickson, Joshua Dobson, John Dougherty, Cameron Dowdles, Robbie Hope, Callum Hunter, John Kane, Connor Kelly, Connor Kirkwood, Morgan Leatherbarrow, Ellis Majid, Lewis McAuley, Ryan McGuinness, Lucy McNair, Mari McPherson, Campbell Morrison, Jordan Oatley, Lloyd Owen, Rhys Owen, Brodie Patterson, Madison Robb, Anais Scott, Bradley Scott, Ewan Searle, Harry Searle, Flynn Suggett, Logan Suggett, Daniel Theyers, Sophie Tytek, Olivia Williams, Lewis Young.

The team had mentally prepared itself over the year for yet another punishing 24 hour Coach Trip with little to no room available due to the coach being at capacity. On the run up to the day of departure, Mr Stacey had tried numerous excuses to try and get out of the trip, however eventually realised that once you've committed there was no turning back. His only demand was that Miss McIlkenny was not allowed to run the "Who is the most like a fluffy bunny?" competition at any point during the week.

Apart from waking up in the middle of the night and seeing a snowy owl hit the windscreen, (one less message for Harry Potter) the journey was pretty uneventful. Most of us went through a variety of positions and shapes to acquire the ultimate sleep position, however eventually the pins and needles or cramp kicked in and we sadly realised that our Holy Grail was unattainable. That is with the exception of Mr Bryce of course who has an uncanny knack of hitting hibernate mode and only waking when he smells food near by.

On our arrival we made our way up to the slopes to get kitted out for the week, the local good looking, fashion conscious Italians stared disparagingly at us as we paraded across the slopes in our joggers

and 'comfortable' clothes, looking like we've been dragged through a hedge backwards...and then forwards and then backwards. It was here that met our Rep. Morven who enthusiastically introduced herself and excitedly told us about our weeks skiing and entertainment.

'So everybody, ARE YOU READY!' she cried (to a few mumbles and tired 'I think so's) apart from Mr Stacey who was ready to kill her.

Fully kitted out and ready to go we headed down to the hotel for a rest and a hot shower. It turned out that indeed there was a hot shower but only one and it was on the ground floor. Not good news! We had lots of girls who were desperate to shampoo and condition their hair and Mr Lear...who just needed to moisturise. Anyway after a hearty Italian meal and a few games of ping pong where Mr Stacey was convincingly beaten by young Andrew McLay it was off to bed.

We awoke to blue skies and perfect snow conditions and the group quickly finished off their continental breakfasts and headed for the coach. Up until this point we were used to two very well turned out bus drivers with shirts and ties, however, on this morning Will was kitted out head to toe in 'trendy' snow boarding gear, including pink trousers (looked upon jealously by Mr Bryce and Mr Lear) and proceeded to DJ and karaoke from the wheel all the way up to the slopes. We were treated to 'Don't Stop Believing' and....which I have to admit I couldn't help but join in at times.

We then were released onto the slopes for the week with day after day of blistering sunshine and immaculate snow to ski on. I would come across groups carving beautifully down red runs or other groups falling over or crashing into each other through the bunny run. I sometimes had to avoid the Owen brothers travelling at Mach 3 with the occasional turn thrown in. Callum Hunter eventually realised that skiers can be cool and don't have to ski with their braces hanging out, doing 360's twizels. We would meet up in the restaurants with



pupils demolishing pasta or pizza after a hard morning in the moguls or the jump park or sitting down in the middle of the slope (snowboarders). Every pupil put a tremendous amount of effort into the trip and even when some were suffering with throat infections and headaches they still managed to make it up to the slopes and get something out of the day. This was also true in the apres-ski activities where we were involved in ice skating (no injuries this time, not through lack of trying Rhys), karaoke, pizza eating, table tennis competition and an ice cream night. All the group threw themselves whole heartedly into each night with some very interesting renditions of popular songs, particularly whole group sing alongs to 'Sweet Caroline' and '500 miles'. Mr Stacey, however, liked to sing his own songs even though they weren't on the list.

A huge thank you to the staff, Mr Lear, Mr Bryce, Miss McIlkenny, Mr Scott and Mr Stacey, who gave up their time to come on the trip and for all of their support before during and after. It is a great team and as a result the pupils are able to relax and enjoy the week. I would also like to thank the pupils for being such good ambassadors for the school and for making the week a real success. Time and time again people comment on how well behaved and mannered our pupils are, which always makes for an enjoyable trip.

Mr McLay



Peru

Our adventure began with acclimatisation in the beautiful town of Cusco in the Peruvian Andes. Although we were excited and ready to explore, the exhaustion of two long days of travel, got the better of us. After the hustle and bustle of Lima we were ready to start our acclimatisation at the height of over 3000m.

As we prepared to embark on our community project, we received an unexpected phone call claiming a strike had been organised for the next day. Instead of waking and departing late in the morning, we were shocked to discover our wake up was now 3am.

After a long four hour drive, listening to Mr Stacey sing Celtic songs the whole time, we were relieved to get off the bus and stretch our legs. We were greeted by the Presidente and his villagers who were extremely excited to see us. Entering the large community hall we soon found out the empty hall was our accommodation for the next four nights. For the first few days the children, were fascinated with us, we played games with them almost every free minute we had.

On the first day it rained so we went on a trip to Ollytantambo, where we explored the sights and stalls, of the town. On our way back we were invited to a Peruvian wedding where people from all over Patacamcha gathered, in their brightly coloured traditional ponchos and hats. We even got to experience Peruvian delicacy first hand as they offered us a plate of soup with a large slab of meat in, which wasn't to everyone's taste. For the next two days we endured a thirty minute trek, till we reached where our future bridge would lie. Our work included collecting stones with the women and building them up, whilst the boys and the village men made the foundation of the bridge. We watched children as young as three helping out. On the last day it was time to say goodbye as speeches were made and contact details were exchanged. We received alpaca bracelets as a token of their gratitude.

After resting in Cusco whilst preparing for our trek we were ready to face the last part of our expedition. After our further five hours of Celtic songs we arrived at our first campsite where we were given the opportunity to visit a nearby glacial lake of blue water. Our guide, Miguel, told us about the damaging effects of global warming and how it was affecting the mountain glaciers. On our four day trek we

witnessed many different landscapes from high glaciers to grasslands and valleys to jungles. This offered the chance to take some amazing photos. However, the highlight of the trek for many of us was the gift of the Santa Teresa hot springs. Here we were able to bathe in the hot water for long hours and have our first hot shower in many days. Here also lay the opportunity to eat something that wasn't pasta and tomato sauce. For a few however the trek continued the next day, as they trekked to Hydroelectrica while the rest travelled by road to meet them to get the train to Aguas Calientes. We stayed in a hostel for the night and the next day set off to Macchu Picchu. That morning we faced the dreading 2000 stairs up to Macchu Picchu, through the high jungle in the gradually rising heat.

Once we all arrived we were given our tickets and a few hours to explore the ancient Incan ruins. We climbed to the top and were given more chances to take beautiful photos of the ancient city. The afternoon heat was almost unbearable, several of us had to sit down and take in the view, whilst others explored deeper into the city. As time flew by, we explored the ancient wonder and soon it was time to descend back down the winding stairs of Macchu Picchu.

Macchu Picchu concluded the scheduled part of our trip and the next day we began our long slow journey back home.

One month on our opinions have drastically changed. While at the time it was difficult and we simply wanted it to be over, now we see the great benefit of our expedition and everyone one of us got something out of it. It is something that in the end we would have all regretted if we had missed out on this brilliant experience.

Finally, we would like to say a thank you on behalf of all of the Queen Victoria pupils who attended the 2015 Peru Expedition, especially to Mr Stacey and Ms Crossan for putting up with nine pupils day and night for 3 weeks, which is more than any teacher, should have to deal with in a life time. Also we would like to give Mrs Bellars our appreciation for allowing the trip to go ahead.

Caitlin Yool and Rebecca Leslie





Français 2014 – 2015

The second QVS trip to Paris, which ran from the 11th – 15th October was the highlight of the year. On the 11th October, as most people headed home for the school holidays, the Paris Trip pupils remained in school and spent a creative evening decorating matching red backpacks to wear around the fashionable French capital! The packs made everyone in our group easy to spot, and lots of people in Paris commented on them – we're expecting similar backpacks to hit the runways at Paris Fashion Week in the near future.

The trip was jam packed from start to finish, starting almost as soon as we arrived with a visit to the Champs-Élysées and to the top of the Arc de Triomphe, which allowed us a great view of the Blood Moon over the Sacré Cœur that occurred that night.

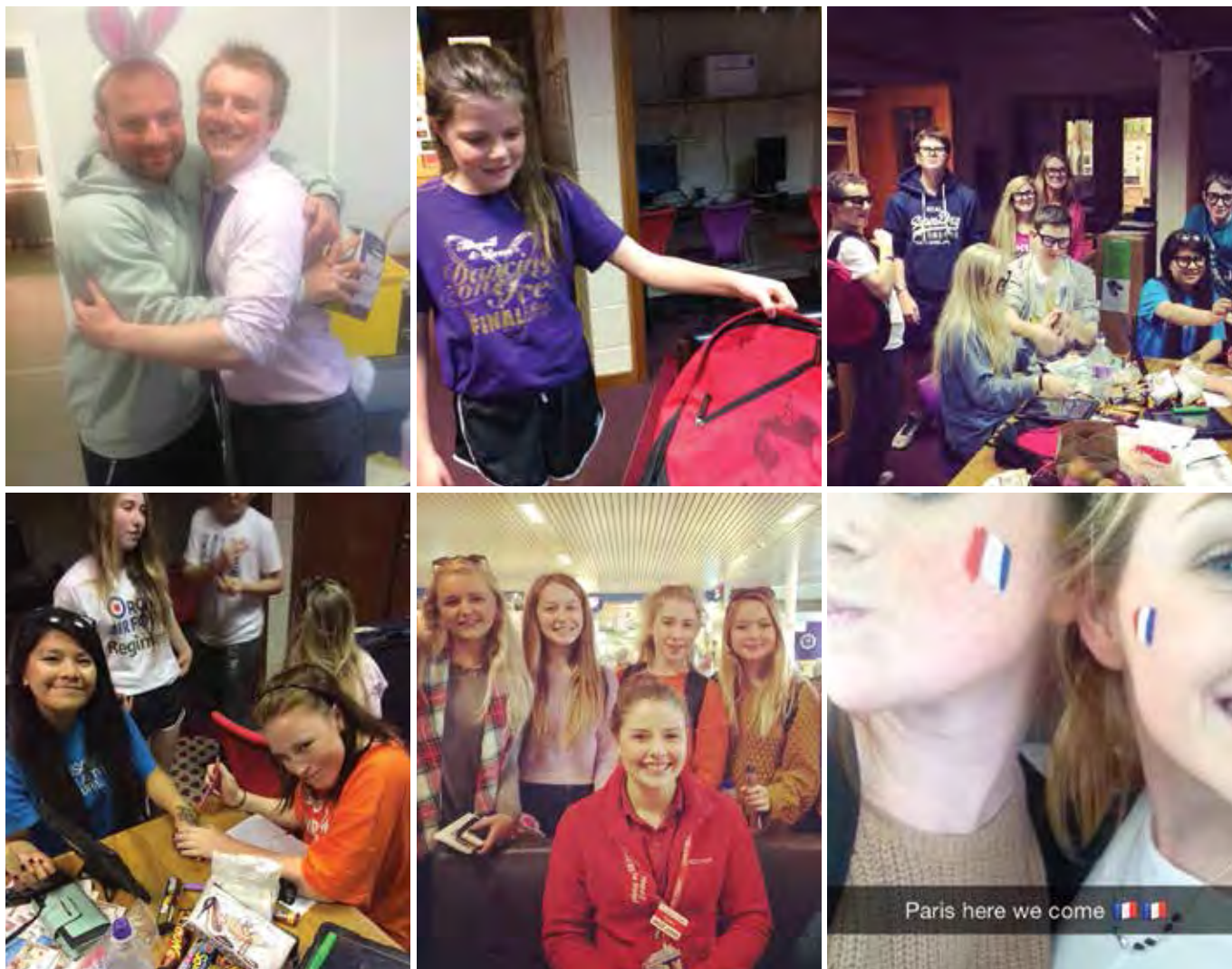
The next day visits included A LOT of walking, as well as several trips on the Paris Métro, and we took in the Mur de Je t'aime at Montmartre, the Sacré Cœur, the Moulin Rouge, the Louvre, the Tuileries and Place de la Concorde.

The sun shone on Monday, and we spent the morning walking along the Seine, over the 'Padlock Bridge', Le Pont des Arts, and through Le Marais, the traditional Jewish area of Paris, where we ate at the famous L'As du Fallafel! This was followed by more food, as we stopped for crêpes with a view of the Pompidou Centre. Newly kitted out with our Paris hoodies, we spent the rest of the evening at the Eiffel Tower. Thanks to a generous donation from the Norman

MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, we were able to experience Café Kleber where we, in typical French fashion, enjoyed a late-night dinner which included a starter of escargot!

Tuesday was spent at Eurodisney Paris, which was an exciting day filled with rollercoasters, balloons and rave paint! We managed to cram in a trip to the Catacombs on the way to the airport on Wednesday morning, and the bus ride to the airport afforded us a view of the Stade de France! Many thanks to the Old Victorians Association for their donation towards the trip, and to the numerous people who supported us in the running of the trip. Mrs Sheerin took care of SO many important aspects of the trip, so merci infiniment à toi. Merci also to Mr Bryce and Mr Lear, who were such a great help (read: source of entertainment) on the trip, that they have already signed up for Paris 2016!

The other exciting news from French this year is the formation of French club. The club is at maximum capacity with most of S1 attending lunchtime sessions. So far we have constructed Eiffel Tower models out of uncooked spaghetti and mini marshmallows (somehow more ended up in mouths than on the constructions!), we have made sunflower posters to represent the fields in France and we organised a French Club Photo Shoot! The club is in its infancy, but with plans for many more French cultural and linguistic sessions, French Club looks set to have a great year ahead!



Clockwise from top left: Mr Bryce and Mr Lear in Easter Bunny make-up and costumes; Keli and her customised unicorn bag; Wearing French 'Geek' spectacles; Lora unveiled her talent for henna hand-painting and decorated Sushmita and Miss McKenny; Keli, Abigail, Chloe, Olivia, Madison, Emily with Tamara in her Jet 2 uniform; Face paint of the tricolore flag on our cheeks.

John Deacons S4

On the Paris trip we got lost in the Métro, by getting on the wrong train. I led the others to safety by getting off at the next stop and waiting for the rest of the group to arrive on the following train.

I am now really confident around foreign people and feel I can talk to them without being awkward.

My parents weren't on the trip, so I got some freedom for once which allowed me to express myself and showed what I could do on my own.

Paris is a very scary city, however, there are many famous sites and fabulous places to go and visit. The Eiffel Tower is the best landmark I've been to and it was the first time I've been to Disneyland so that was very exciting.

Being in a country where English isn't spoken made me feel a bit scared at first but the French locals are very nice to be around, so they quickly made us feel at home. I can also speak better French after the trip.

The activities I really enjoyed were going to the Eiffel Tower, going to the Sacré Coeur, going to visit the Catacombs, going to Disneyland Paris and feeling like I was living in the ghetto because of the location

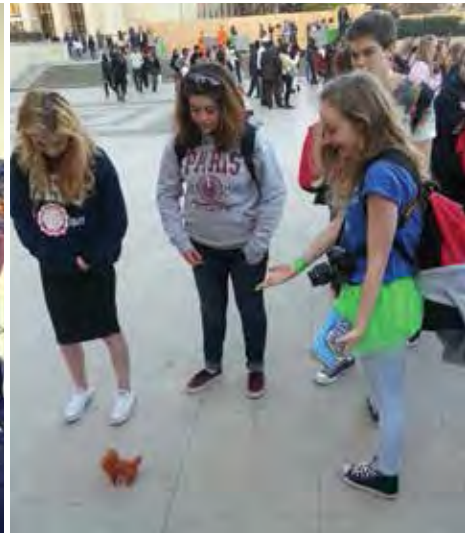
of the hotel (where there are many homeless people sleeping under the bridges).

The Paris trip has helped me understand how to travel around France easily and what to expect when travelling, such as the fast transport provided by the Métro and the business, etc.

I was more confident by the end of the trip and less afraid to talk to French people and I realised that not every person in France was looking for my money! I also learned to relax and enjoy myself rather than worry about getting robbed or lost!

The Paris trip has definitely brought my self-esteem up. I am more confident with communicating with someone who is not very confident in English. Also I am more prepared to meet new people from different countries. I've learnt how to keep a good conversation going, how to talk about myself, etc.

The things I noticed about Paris were there are so many pretty girls in the city! Everything is expensive. You should not photo-bomb people in the Métro and if you drop your bottle lid you should not pick it up. You cannot touch any of the paintings in the Louvre museum. If you buy a balloon from Disneyland, it is probably going to fly away! If



Clockwise from left to right: Will and his French look-a-like; Will, John, Chloe, Madison, Lauren, Olivia and the staff; Lauren, Emilia, Harry and Kirsty-Jane check out the Parisian puppy; Will, Lauren, John, Madison, Olivia, Chloe and Abigail at Disneyland; Group photo outside the main entrance at Disneyland.

dark-skinned men try to sell you toys for one euro, then tell them to go away. Besides all these negative things, Paris is more beautiful in real life than in pictures.

I'm glad I can speak English because many people speak it in different places. I love how people can speak more than one language. I loved listening to people speaking French.

The places I particularly enjoyed in Paris were Disneyland, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower and the Catacombs, the food, the shopping and basically everything!

William Adam S4

My map-reading skills certainly improved in Paris! When we were going through Disneyland, we nearly got lost but I managed to read the map and get us to where we wanted to go. I also had the opportunity to help some others to try and speak French when they weren't that confident.

My self-confidence has increased enormously by being able to confidently speak to people that do not speak the same language as me. So, back at school, I now feel more confident in my French lessons, as I learnt a lot of new vocabulary.

I have become far more self-reliant because I can now hold a conversation in French, and it is a lot more fluent. It has made me realise that French people help you to try and speak their language, this made me believe in myself.

I discovered that the Eiffel Tower is very scary. The monuments are very interesting, and the French people are very nice.

I realise now that languages are important to learn. It's difficult at first to speak to the French, but they do try to help you, and this therefore made me more confident in speaking to them. There was a boy on the Métro who was my spitting image and I had the courage to go up to him and ask if I could get a photo with him.....

As we got off the train, the two French boys started discussing where they thought we came from as we spoke French so well!

The highlight of the trip was going to Disneyland and managing to speak French in as many situations as possible.

I loved finally getting to see the Eiffel Tower (and conquering it). I also found the Catacombs very interesting and the Arc de Triomphe was very cool.



Clockwise from left to right: Madison, Abigail and Chloe on top of the Arc de Triomphe; Georgia Clark; Rebekah and Megan trying some French food; Lora in the Louvre; John eating in Disneyland with Chloe, Abigail, Lauren, Will and Olivia; Joshua, Chloe, Mrs Sheerin, Mr Lear, John and Will on the Eiffel Tower.

Lora Marshall S3

I had lots of opportunities to lead others in Paris for example; I had the chance to lead others down in the subways to get the train and to make sure that I was leading them the right way. I also had to go down to the hotel reception to ask for a room key because we got locked out.

Speaking French to people helped me gain confidence and it widened my vocabulary. I think I have improved when speaking and in general communication with my French class and others.

After going to Paris my self-esteem has improved and now I have more confidence in and outside France. Because of the trip I now am more confident to put my hand up or answer questions in class. The trip has also boosted my confidence outside the class room as well. I realise how important learning French could be, and how beneficial it will be if I ever go back to France. It also will benefit me in other things like on my CV and also gives me more variety when it comes to applying for jobs in later life.

I particularly enjoyed the Eiffel Tower because of the amazing view and the atmosphere. I loved travelling up on the elevators and I found it scary walking down! I also loved going to the Arc de Triomphe. It had amazing views of the city and was all together beautifully structured and simply breath-taking.

Pabina Thapa S3

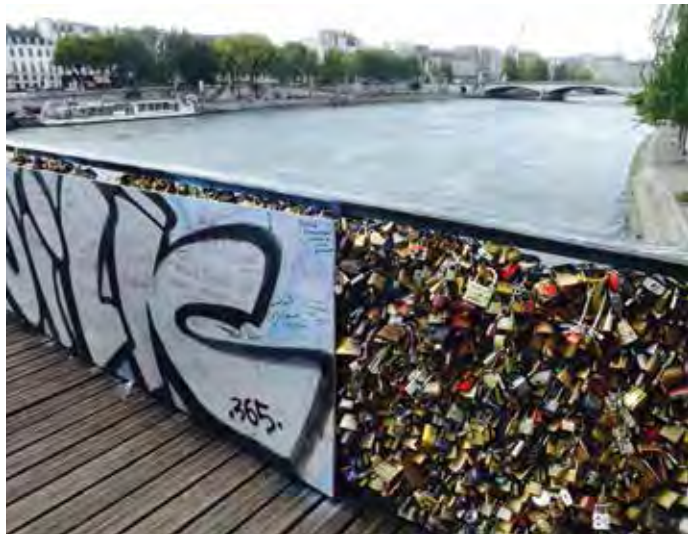
The Paris trip provided me with the opportunity to lead others and to contribute to decisions on where to go when we went in groups around places, for example in Disneyland, the Louvre and around the Sacré Coeur.

The trip has helped me be more self-confident because I had to get self-confidence to be able to go talk French to people! I have become more reliant on myself by being able to order my own food in French in restaurants as well as asking for other stuff, for example "Puis-j'avoir encore une cuillère sil vous plait?"

There were many things that I learnt in Paris, so here are just a few: if you drop a penny from the top of the Eiffel Tower, it can kill someone, so it is banned to do so. The Eiffel Tower lights up every hour. The Eiffel Tower 'shrinks' and 'grows' during the different seasons.

I also learnt that snails taste like mussels! I also discovered that before graveyards and burial grounds, people used to pile up bodies underground in Paris. This is called the Catacombs.

Being in a country where English isn't spoken has made me feel so curious about all the other languages in the world and how people communicate. It has also made me appreciate the languages I can speak: Nepalese, English and a little bit of French and German.



Clockwise from left to right: Sushmita and John; Alex and his green tu-tu with Mr Lear and Jamie; Alex and Mr Lear up the Eiffel Tower; View of the Seine from Le Pont des Arts; Madison and Lauren being photo-bombed by Harry in Montmartre; Keli in the Catacombs with Georgia and Mr Lear; Sushmita, Lauren and Lora in Monmartre; Selfie on the plane to Paris with Pabina in our French 'Geek' glasses.

I enjoyed everything in Paris very much so it is quite hard to choose one thing that stands out, but if I had to choose, it'd be Disneyland. I have to say that as I went on an amazing roller-coaster at least four

times! I'd also have to include seeing the Eiffel Tower in real life for the first time and not as a picture! It was flabbergasting when I first saw it.



The Kelpies.



National Mining Museum Scotland.



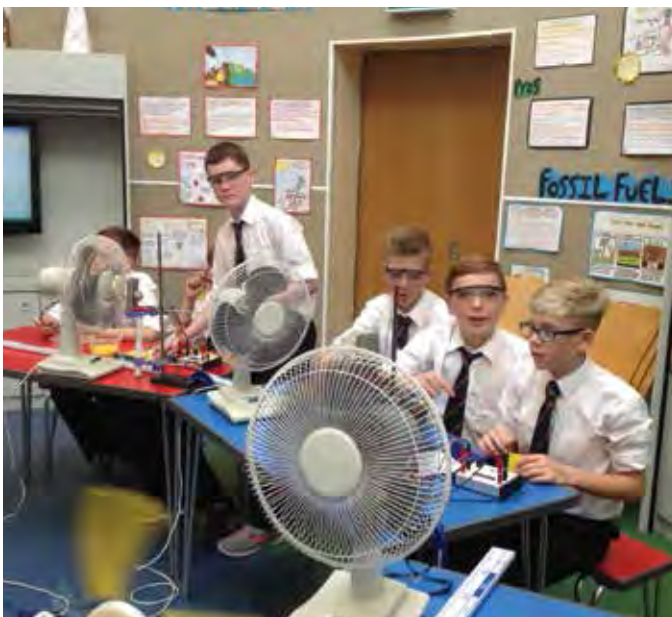
Geography

This year, Geography trips have stayed close to home with the Higher class carrying out their field work days in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Glasgow whilst the new National 5 class have visited Lerrocks Farm in Doune.

There were two stops in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, visiting Balloch's Loch Lomond Shores centre and the newly branded 'The Lodge' in Aberfoyle. At both places, pupils gathered data, did questionnaires and took photographs. We were guided by the Forestry Commission ranger at The Lodge and took advantage of the

good weather. It was slightly more snowy by the time we went to Glasgow in January, but pupils managed to stay warm enough to visit Buchanan Street, The Clyde Waterfront and Glasgow Fort to do an urban study.

The new National 5 class enjoyed spending time at Lerrocks Farm on one of the sunniest days of the year so far. They took a tour of the farm and had the opportunity to interview the farmer in preparation for their National 5 assignment.



S2 Maths

Today we visited Whitelee Wind Farm; it was very interesting and informative as it told us about many facts on wind turbines. Furthermore, we also went right up to a real turbine and it ended up being wayyyyyyyyy taller than what we imagined. Having been split into two groups, one went into the turbine field, the other into a classroom experimenting with a mini turbine to see how to make

it work faster. There was also a hands-on room where we enjoyed doing the experiments with the features that were there. Overall, it was a fun day out and S2 enjoyed it thoroughly. We strongly recommend it for other schools!

Yancy Gurung, Anna Gurung and Rhys Owen





Clockwise from top left: Shannon Hutchinson, S4, NAT 5, textile design; Phoebe Foley, P7B, self portrait; Rajeb Thapa, P7B, self portrait.



The Rota Kids

The Rota Kids, led by President Anjipa Malla held a fantastic Winter Fundraising Fair at the Rookies Parade on Sunday 30th November. They had four stalls: a lollipop tree, tombola, treasure hunt & lucky

dip and managed to raise more than £150 for Aberlour Christmas Appeal which gives gifts to underprivileged kids at Christmas.



Beat Beethoven 2014.



Family Day

The total raised was a few pence short of £650 – an excellent effort, I hope you agree. After costs are deducted I have send £250 to Scotties Little Soldiers and £250 toward House funds.

Just as importantly the children had a great time and for many it will have been a new and educative experience.

We got as far as Bonar Bridge – well done to Mrs Bellars for guessing the closest. The first shows that motorways hadn't reached as far as today in 1986!



The dog was won by Leanne Myles and the sweeties by Mr Clark.

Paul Bush, Trenchard House Housemaster



Emily Furguson, S4, NAT 5, jewellery design.



Top to bottom; MacMillan Coffee Morning; Nepal earthquake donations.



The Big Dinner 2015

500 Miles aims to support the delivery of prosthetic and orthotic services and surgery which promotes mobility and function for amputees and other disabled people in Malawi and Zambia. Prostheses are devices which substitute for body parts which are missing and orthoses are devices, like splints, which support body parts which are present but which are weak or do not function properly. 500 Miles helps people to access and afford prosthetic, orthotic and surgical services today – but, through training and education, it is also trying to develop the future capacity of these services in Malawi and Zambia.

The seniors met the founder of this charity, Olivia Giles in November and were so inspired by her story that they vowed to have their very own 'Big Dinner' here at QVS.

Olivia Giles the founder is herself a quadruple amputee.

After a severe bout of meningitis in her late 20s she wanted to ensure that amputees in the developing world were also helped to gain dignity and independence through having access to prosthetic limbs.



It costs around £15 for a child in Africa to get prosthetic limbs – we hope to raise enough to make a difference for around 20 people.

We held an Own Clothes Day and at tea Lucy talked about the fundraising to the pupils as well as a 'lucky ticket' raffle for all pupils taking part.





Likhubula Coffee Morning

Can I offer the thanks for the Dunblane Likhubula Partnership for the superb contribution of the girls on Saturday.

They arrived promptly, well presented and genuinely open to do whatever may be required. I received many compliments about their input. One retired teacher had noted that those charged with refilling cups were not only vigilant, but made conversation wherever they went. We couldn't have raised close to £700 without the help of those on the baking stall, and friendly delivery of bacon and egg rolls was the final touch to a great experience for the visitors.

I was pleased that on this occasion the girls were able to meet some of their counterparts from Dunblane High School.

Our committee has come to value the contribution from Queen Victoria School at our coffee mornings, but I have to say I felt proud to be associated with the school.

Please pass our thanks to the girls, and if I can help with statements for CVs etc, I shall be happy to do so.

Dr J E Barr, Dunblane Likhubula Partnership





Farewell Ardgour

Thank You for the Memories.

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to the Aberlour Activity Centre at Ardgour. For many years the Primary Department has organised a week of team building and outward bound activities at Ardgour. You will see, from this year's collection of photographs, a few of the activities the pupils enjoyed.

Peter and Louise, who manage the centre, along with a fantastic team of instructors give the pupils an experience and adventure to remember forever.

Farewell and a huge thank you to everyone involved in our trips to Ardgour over these past years.

Ms Edwards and the Primary Staff



P7 – My First Year at QVS

My first year at QVS has been pretty eventful!

We have been to so many places and there have been so many opportunities to do new things. In my first week at QVS I found it pretty strange but the one thing that I hated and probably the only thing that I don't like is hockey and even now almost being here a year I am still not that fond of hockey.

I remember on our first parade just standing around. It is better now as we get to march with the rest of the school since our Rookie parade.

One of the house trips was when we went ice skating where to be honest with you, I must have fallen over about 10 times. In Primary 7 you go on a lot of trips but the highlight for me was going to Ardour which was so much fun because it is like an outdoor adventure place. We got to do lots of cool things like archery, orienteering, canoeing and they even have their own zip wire, which was pretty scary but fun at the same time.

In the summer term we do athletics and because we have such a big playing field we can fit a 300m track on the field which I do not like as I am not a very keen runner but we also do discuss, javelin, shot putt and many more.

This school is a great place and I have really enjoyed my first year and cannot wait for the many more years to come and all the cool things to do.

Amber Goodall, P7

When I first arrived at QVS I was a little bit nervous of what was going to happen and whether I would make any friends. I think I got along well with my new roommates as we were all in the same boat. I didn't really want to say goodbye to my parents as I was a bit homesick but also super excited to settle in and start my new life in this boarding school.

In Trenchard house we have been on lots of house trips before parade Sundays but my favourite one would have to be the shopping trip we did near Christmas. We got to go around in groups and go wherever we wanted to go in the Thistle Centre.

My favourite trip with the Primary Department would have to be between going to Ardour and Blair Drummond Safari Park. At Ardour we were outside for most of the time doing activities which also meant we got to know the people in our year a bit better. At Blair Drummond Safari Park we were also in groups but groups that we got to choose ourselves so we were allowed to go with our friends. Rookies Parade is very important for the new pupils and was quite fun as it was just the P7's doing the parade. The not so good part of it was that we had to do lots of extra drill to get ready for the parade!

Sports day was amazing as we were all cheering on our teams and all had an amazing afternoon.

Erin Sim, P7

My first year has been awesome!

On my very first day I had so much fun. I came to QVS with Holly Jackson (a girl in my class) and her mum and my mum. When we got here Holly and her mum disappeared and my mum and I just followed the house master, Mr Bush to my room. Then everyone who is new went to a house meeting in a room called BCR (bottom floor common room) then we went to a big room called MCR (middle floor common room) and met the person who looked after us called Rookies Keepers. All the pupils who are new are called Rookies and Rookies get someone to look after them after your parents leave. So after we met our rookies they gave us a tour and took us to stores to get our school uniforms. Then I had to say goodbye to my mum.

I wasn't upset at all because I am a young carer (because my older brother is disabled) and I go on holidays with other young carers with two or more adults who are in charge and usually go without my family.

After my mum had left I met Nieve, one of my roommates, I met the other two girls later on. Nieve's parents left after she met her Rookie Keeper. We had a lot of fun so we didn't get upset. After the first two weeks we got to see our parents again.

There are parades which were boring as we had to just stand while the rest of the school marched but then came the second most important parade, Rookies Parade, when we aren't newbies any more but Victorians.

For our house (Trenchard) activity day where we went white water rafting and gorge walking which was so much fun. We also had a fun sports day and I had to do 200m which was easy but I still came last. Then after that there was only a few weeks left and the countdown started to Grand Day which is the last day of school before the summer holidays. This day is the most important parade and then we can go home.

Trenchard House has started to look bare because the house is getting refurbished in the holidays and I am looking forward to seeing it all done up.

Kaitlyn Martin, P7

I really enjoyed boarding at Trenchard because I made new friends such as Phoebe Foley, Lauren Donaldson, Kaitlyn Martin, Megan Adams, Eleanor Codd, Gabrielle Codd and Kristin Sibeth. I also enjoyed the company of my friends when I was homesick.

We have had many school trips throughout the year but my favourite out of all of them is Glasgow Science Centre with the Primary Department. My favourite part was the IMAX because I like the space movies that were on.

My tutor trips were good, but I wasn't so keen on my first tutor trip because I don't like Nandos and I also don't like frozen yoghurt. My second tutor trip was bowling and that was a bit better because the boys won by two points then the girls won by ten points.

I enjoy PE and games because there is a mix of activities. During the summer term we do lots of games such as football, swimming, badminton/tennis, hockey and athletics. I chose badminton this year because I thought it would be fun.

We had an activity day and that was fun because we went white water rafting and canyoning. I personally prefer canyoning because I got to jump off a cliff into water.

We also followed our S1 timetable on the third last week, before the summer holidays, and our only new lessons were German, Business Studies, Geography, History and Science.

Other than that my first year has been a lot more enjoyable than I thought.

Holly Jackson, P7

My first year here has been so much fun and we have had so many trips. Some of my favourite trips were to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and some other trips nearer to the end of the year like Ardgour and Blair Drummond Safari Park. We have also been on lots of house trips as well when it is parade weekends and have been to the cinema, Ice skating, go carting and the pantomime.

The house is a really friendly place and the people in it always make you feel better when you are home sick or just feeling upset. The Staff on duty make it feel at home as well and you start to just feel like you aren't actually away from home. The S1's there make you feel better

about things because they have been through it before. You do so many house activities that you just start to forget about home sickness or anything that happens in the house.

School isn't actually that bad because you basically spend your life in the Primary Department which you realise is good when you have to do other subjects. The school terms always go really fast because you are never thinking about when you are going home.

Sports are probably my favourite part of the school because they do so much of it at QVS and I really like sports. In the winter term and the other terms you do hockey if you are a girl and rugby if you are a boy. You normally get picked to be on a hockey team and then go away to somewhere and have a match or sometimes it is actually at school. Then in the summer term, which is the best term, you do athletics and you can also join the athletics club for games, which I have done. You can get put on the team and go away and compete for the school against other schools.

I really enjoy being here at QVS.

Caitlin Smith, P7A

My first year here has been amazing!

When I first got here I thought I would be really homesick, but I was absolutely fine because there is so much to do. We go on house trips, to the cinema, go carting, ice-skating or to see a pantomime. We also go on class trips to Edinburgh Castle, Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Centre, Bannockburn, Blair Drummond Safari Park and many others.

In the year that I have been here, I have made lots of friends such as, Hollie, Caitlin, Greer, Rosie, Pratistha, Carley, Erin, Gabrielle, Eleanor and many others. The teachers always say when you make friends here they are likely to be friends for life. Whenever you are upset your friends are always there to help you as well as the teachers. The Staff are always trying and make you feel welcome and happy.

There are lots facilities, such as, the playing fields, the astro turf, swimming pool, sports hall, and much more. The sports at the school are open to everyone. In the first term the girls do hockey, and the boys do rugby. In the summer term everyone does athletics, and I think it is the best term. The sport is good because you get to go away to fixtures and matches. At the end of the year we have sports day which is good because the whole school is involved and it is great fun!

When you arrive you get a choice of doing Highland dancing, the bagpipes, or drumming. I chose Highland dancing because I had done it before I came to the school and I love it. It is great because you can dance at events and parades, and I danced at the Christmas Concert.

It is a great school and I have really enjoyed my first year here!

Olivia Oatley, P7





Classical Studies

This year the Classical Studies classes visited the Edinburgh Fringe, Hadrian's Wall and the British Museum. The Fringe provides us with an excellent opportunity to watch versions of the Greek plays that we study and this year's version of *The Penelopiad*, a woman's version of the story of Odysseus, gave the children plenty to think about. Our visit to Hadrian's Wall was a cold and blowy affair, which explains some of the looks on the children's faces – the gift shop was much

warmer! However the children were inspired by the artefacts there when producing their Roman project. Finally we managed this year to venture to the British Museum in London. It was an excellent opportunity to study the development of the Greeks around the classical period as well as Panathenaic procession, as depicted on the frieze from the Parthenon.





English

Seaworld was founded in 1953 on March 15th. The company's website colourfully proclaims that they are a "family entertainment organisation" where "imagination meets nature", however, really how natural is it to take animals out of their habitat and tear them away from their families so we can 'enjoy' watching a wild animal perform 'party tricks'? Throughout this essay I will be discussing whether we should boycott Seaworld or not after examining the often disturbing evidence.

In my opinion the answer to this question is very simple: Yes. Seaworld takes innocent animals and causes them to become violent and unpredictable. For example: there is no record of an orca in the wild ever attacking a human; however there have been over 100 incidents in Seaworld where a instructor was harmed due to a violent orca. Also, there have been at least three incidents where dolphins have bitten children whilst in the Public 'Feeding Dolphin Program'.

These incidents are not accidents: these vulnerable animals are lashing out due to being held inhumanely in captivity for so long. Can this act of violence really be blamed on a wild animal who has had their freedom revoked? You could answer this question by saying that nature caused these intelligent animals to have a dark unpredictable side - but on the other hand was it nurture? In my opinion Seaworld has damaged nature by forgetting that animals are in the ocean for a reason, and that reason is not to fulfil our imagination.

Although Seaworld is an entertainment company, is mere entertainment worth people's lives? Dawn Brancheau was just one of many to be affected by the orca named Tilikum, who still performs to this day. Dawn was brutally attacked whilst performing a show with the 12,000lb whale; witnesses of the attack have said that she was simply stroking 'Tully's' head when he violently took her waist and pulled her underneath the water. Dawn could have been any other instructor performing a show - and who's to say it won't happen again? Tilikum has proved to everyone he has the corrupted mind set to kill. An orca is an intelligent animal who can swim up to one hundred miles a day; they are sensitive and their social lives play a huge part in their individual lives. These animals are not mere entertainment. Dawn Brancheau was an instructor with 16 years of experience with killer whales: she wasn't the one who cruelly removed Tilikum from his family and yet she paid the ultimate price: her life.

Seaworld keeps trying to tell us that although they keep animals in captivity they have a 'well respected' animal rescue program. The company made approximately 1.4 billion last year, and over 40 years they have only saved 18,000 animals. If Seaworld made around 1.4 billion each year, over 40 years they would have made 56 billion dollars. 56 billion dollars in profit later and Seaworld have only managed to save 18,000 animals! This tells us very clearly that Seaworld has only invested pocket change into their rescue program. It is hard to describe this rescue program as being "well respected" when in 2013 the RSPCA saved 245,590 animals in just one year. In addition, the RSPCA are a charity and work on donations alone; there would have to be a miracle for them to raise 1.4 billion a year. Although Seaworld isn't a rescue shelter for animals, it takes around £500,000 a year to keep RSPCA shelters open so Seaworld's 'rescue program' is more of a "Save the odd animal to keep our (undeserved) good reputation" program.

Although Seaworld receives a lot of negative feedback, it would be a lie to deny that Seaworld does have some positives: for example

there are hundreds of people who have had much joy from visiting these parks and they have made some people's dreams come true. Although training killer whales is often seen as cruel, Seaworld has contributed to a lot of research, this is good for educational services. For example teaching in schools and enhancing training is a benefit. Although many people speak of letting the animals free from Seaworld, this would in some ways be more cruel than to keep them there: this is because the majority of the animals have lived in captivity for so long they would not be able to cope in the wild. This is why Seaworld is difficult to debate because what if we let all the animals free? How can we be sure that this is the safest option for these majestic animals?

In conclusion, I would say that although Seaworld provides entertainment for a lot of people, the cost that the animals have to pay is much more than just an entrance fee, it is a lifetime of unhappiness. Orcas only live around half their life expectancy when they are in captivity! How much more proof do we need that Seaworld is not good for animals? Admittedly, Seaworld makes young children happy but if that child knew what the Orca was thinking and it could tell us how it felt, do you really believe each orca would tell that child it was happy? Animals are not objects and we do not have the right to dictate nature or define what nature does. You wouldn't make a vulnerable child live in a box so why sentence a dolphin to a lifetime in a pond? Boycotting this cruel and unnecessary place might be the start of an era where animals' wellbeing begins to be taken seriously. It's the least that they deserve.

Anais Scott

Should Corporal Punishment be Tolerated in This Day and Age?

A topic that always has varied reactions, inputs and feelings on both sides of the argument is the method of disciplining your child using corporal punishment. I believe that this teaches children that what they did was wrong and that they shouldn't do it again. They will teach them what is right and wrong and the difference between the two outcomes. However sometimes parents abuse their right to discipline their children and this can cause children unnecessary harm and suffering.

One of the main reasons for my argument for it is that the British law allowing parents to smack or spank their children is used commonly by parents to teach their children the best they can about being naughty by using this method as a deterrent. The number of parents that have chosen to smack their children after a disobedient or naughty action confirms the effectiveness of corporal punishment. 65% of modern parents would rather take another sanction, although a large percentage of these parents have admitted to reacting to their children's bad behaviour by smacking when they are tired or stressed.

On the other hand, some children can actually be traumatized into worse behaviour or hardened from being disciplined this way and grow to think that violence is something that is tolerated; this may lead to them having behaviour problems, being bullies throughout their school and might even result in them committing crimes in later life. Also some parents beat their children with little provocation,



Top to bottom: Sophie Murphy, S1, pen and ink drawing; Georgia Forsyth, S3, colour pencil drawing.

which may cause the child being abused severely, having mental and in some circumstances physical side effects to this cruel behaviour.

Corporal punishment has been banned in British Schools since 1967 because a lot of teachers were hitting and hurting their students and also perhaps because they were using the cane/belt for minor reasons. Also with the increasing number of children revealing that they have formerly been abused in modern society, I feel it wouldn't be suitable for teachers to give teachers this ability and power to hit children that are not theirs.

However, some people still argue that teachers aren't getting any more power than others if they were able to hit their pupils and if someone does misbehave in their class then they should be able to carry out the appropriate punishment and if it is a smack with the cane then it should be allowed. They feel that restoring corporal punishment might bring back an era where young people respected their parents and teachers much more and would lead to better discipline in wider society.

Although I think that hitting your children as an extreme measure is wrong and immoral; there are less severe punishments which are more acceptable, I think that a short, sharp and forceful smack or spank that doesn't permanently damage a child in physical or emotional way, but it does leave a message in their head that what they did was naughty and that they shouldn't do it again, can be an very effective strategy to tell children off. It can also be used to make sure that they grow up knowing how to behave in a good and acceptable manner.

In September 2011 the Times Education Supplement did a survey asking over two thousand parents if they think corporal should be seen in classrooms again. The result showed that 49% of parents asked would like to see corporal punishment being part of a school once more; 45% of parents didn't want it to be introduced again and 4% didn't mind, however 95% of the respondents felt that teachers should be a lot harder and sterner on their students.

The TES also asked five-hundred and thirty school students if corporal punishment is something that should be accepted in schools: only 19% of them thought that it is something that teachers should be able to do and 79% percent disagreed with what had been stated. Yet a reasonably high 62% thought that the teachers should be stricter. This is an interesting contrast with the parents' views.

Evidence suggests that since the ban of corporal punishment in schools, the vandalism rates, offence towards teachers and general behaviour has improved and I feel that this is because the pupils are given more freedom, more trust, fewer restrictions and are being treated more like equals rather than children that will be hit if they're naughty.

Although I accept that some parents hit their child to an extreme, my view is that this type of 'disciplining' is not corporal punishment, it is child abuse. It is something that is incredibly difficult to control but not something that is undefeatable. I personally think that corporal punishment can be a good and effective way of teaching children right from wrong.

In conclusion, corporal punishment is a useful and effective method if used appropriately; but children need to learn from a young age how to behave in an acceptable manner. This is so that they don't cause any harm towards others or themselves from their actions which might seem acceptable in their eyes because they have never been

taught in a different way before. I think that all parent should use corporal punishment as a method of discipline for their children throughout their primary years to help them grow up to be someone that knows that there are certain ways to behave and that there are some actions that aren't acceptable and will not be tolerated. This would undoubtedly make society a fairer and better organised place in the future.

Aoife Dillon

The Vanishing Gate

Okay so I was doing my paper round as normal and as I was passing the big hedge – the one that no one knows what's behind. I cycled past on my BMX and there's this big black gate there with the number 23 in big gold numbers.

I thought nothing of it until the next morning it wasn't there! It had completely vanished! I wondered, what do I do? Do I go in? Who do I tell? Mark? My best friend, John? My second best friend, Callum? My best friend's friend? Nah, I get along fine with them but they like to gossip and plus they wouldn't believe me. I thought about it for a while when I got home that night and then the doorbell goes (this is normal at this time of night as it's probably mum's takeaway).

The next morning I woke up as usual, to do my paper round I got dressed, grabbed a bit of toast I opened the front door, and there's Rosie.

I said "what are you doing here! It's 6:30 in the morning!" She said she was here to do the science project Mr Neil had set us "AT 6:30 IN THE MORNING?!" I bawled at her.

Eventually I invited her in and we talked for a bit for some ideas. I looked at my watch and it was 7 o'clock. I was late for my paper round. She helped me do it which really took some pressure off me and we passed the hedge. This time it was there! But I didn't notice it first, it was Rosie who asked me "has this gate always been here?" I pretended to know nothing. She suggested that we went in, so we chained our bikes up and we opened the gate in. And there it was. The most beautiful garden I had ever seen in my entire life.

We walked down the path by a nice pond with a fountain, a few rosebushes and a vegetable patch. I heard something. Something strange. It sounded like a poem or a chant. We walked a little further down the path and then I saw an old man holding a wand. He was digging up soil without touching it!

It was magic!

He looked at us and screamed. Me and Rosie screamed and we ran way as fast as we could, leaving our bikes behind. Because of this we were late for school. Mr Neil wasn't in a good mood so he gave us both an after school detention and a punishment exercise. The detention actually wasn't that bad. He gave us a worksheet and left us to go and sit in the teachers' lounge.

When it was over me and Rosie walked home together but stupidly, we went the long way deliberately to see if the gate was still there – it was. We entered hesitantly and walked down the path past the rosebushes, keeping our wits about us as we continued. We walked for a good five/ten minutes until we came across the man again. Rosie said "Hi".



Top to bottom; Georgia Forsyth, S3, water colour drawing; Devon Taylor, S3, water colour drawing.

He jumped about twelve feet in the air, then he went running off into the distance. Me and Rosie hid behind some shrubbery. The creepy old man returned about five minutes later and looked around suspiciously. We slowly emerged from our hiding spots we had chosen and this time I said "hi".

He turned around and replied inquisitively "Hello?".

I seen his face and I ran for my life. I think Rosie ran as well but I was just concentrating on running.

The next day nobody was in the garden so I ventured a bit further to the castle doors and they opened giving out a huge CREAK!

I was dying of curiosity so I walked in down the dimmed hallway. The door battered shut behind my, causing me to almost jump out of skin. I walked down the hall and my eyes adjusted which revealed bookshelves from the floor to the ceiling stacked and overflowing with books. I could hear that chant thing again. I continued down the long hallway and the bookshelves started to curve inwards at the top turning into an archway. I just kept going down the hall the chant getting louder and louder as I went. The books were moving and re-arranging themselves floating above my head. There was a shadow getting closer as I walked and it revealed the hunched figure that I recognised from before. He hadn't noticed me yet and then I seen his lips moving and waving a wand which was moving the books. I gasped very loudly. He obviously heard me and the books plummeted to the ground. CRASH!

He shouted at me "What are you doing here!?"

"I was just passing and I noticed a gap".

"SO DO YOU WALK INTO PEOPLES GARDENS AND HOUSES OFTEN?!?" he interrupted.

And then he vanished! I stood in absolute shock. I felt so strange. I think I fainted or it was a dream because I woke up the next morning in my own bed but not remembering getting home.

The next day I went back to speak to the magic dude because I was so amazed the day before when he vanished. This time Rosie came too and when we got there with our bikes we locked them up. We walked down to the dilapidated castle and as before, the doors opened themselves. We walked down the hallway, and there was a cold whisper, getting louder as we progressed. The floorboards were very squeaky which made it creepier. The whispers got louder and more chilling.

Suddenly BOOM! The floorboards fell through and we fell right through the floor. I was unconscious for a few seconds but once I regained consciousness we were in a big hall which had banquet tables all the way down filled with the most luxurious foods you could ever imagine! Cream cakes, mini sausage rolls, and little finger sandwiches with the crusts cut off. I was too dazed by all of the deliciousness to notice the old wooden throne-like chairs with what looked like holograms sitting in them. I rubbed my eyes in disbelief but, they were there! They were talking to each other but I couldn't make out what they were saying.

After a few seconds it occurred to me – they were ghosts! Me and Rosie looked at each other screaming our heads off like banshees and then we ran yet again for our lives (not knowing where we were or

where we were going) eventually we found our way back to the path outside and ran home.

Christian McBrearty

What's the score with football players' wages?

A highly controversial modern topic is whether or not football players should be paid the extortionate and quite incredible amount that they are paid. Personally I believe that they shouldn't and that most of the money should go to more worthwhile jobs. In this essay I will examine the astronomical sums that they are being paid and consider the ramifications of this disproportionate reward for their efforts on the pitch.

While there are men and women in the Armed forces risking their life and limbs for the country there are people getting paid millions merely to kick a ball where the only thing they have to worry about is at worst a broken arm or leg. This seems completely unacceptable as the amount of rewards seems in no way linked to the sacrifice, bravery and danger associated with their job. It is staggering to consider that in our society this is seen as acceptable.

The Plymouth Herald claims that some footballers earn over 200 times what a soldier does. Now considering that the Armed forces protect our country's interests, and help out in areas of natural disasters what in comparison do footballers do to deserve more than members of the Armed forces? The comparison of saving a dying child in the Tsunami to winning a game against 11 other overpaid tattooed 'legends' is quite frankly disgusting.

In addition to this, if footballers were paid less and the money sent to the government then the government would be able to better fund the NHS meaning even better health care as nurses and doctors would be paid more. I firmly believe this would be a much better use of money than going into a footballer's pocket so that he can spend it on yet another pointlessly expensive car.

Opponents to these views might argue that some footballers do spend their money wisely like Mesut Özil who has donated £237,000 to Brazil: allowing 23 Brazilian children to be able to receive medical treatment for the rest of their lives and have actual benefits from his sky high earnings. But on the other hand there is a larger number of footballers who waste their money like Cristiano Ronaldo who reportedly spends on average £8,000 a month just on clothes: that's around £96,000 a year that could have gone to charity to benefit the less fortunate in society.

The BBC website hosts a fascinating and terrifying page that allows you to see how long it would take a professional football player to earn your wage and considering that a Private in the Army only earns around £20,000 it would only take Cristiano Ronaldo 11 minutes to earn that much money! When I saw the figures tick around I was staggered. How can we view this as a fair distribution of wealth? It is quite honestly disgusting and unfair, to imagine that these figures 'add up' in terms of fairness or 'value'.

There is also an increasing number of footballers with a criminal record like Ched Evans, and considering how much they are paid they should be setting an example not making the headlines of the newspapers for all the wrong reasons. You'd think that with a wage that swollen they'd be able to have manners and discipline but in some cases obviously not.

I understand that their supporters might argue that footballers deserve their wages since it isn't easy to become a professional footballer, it requires skill dedication and practice and most of the world watches football so they are entertaining millions of people – but even then they shouldn't be paid thousands of pounds a week. Some of the legends of the past – such as George Best – only earned pocket money compared to some of these modern day footballers and they were just as skilled and respected.

I also accept that people might argue that football is entertaining and that professional footballers are the best at their profession. Even though they might well be, I counter that with the fact that some soldiers are the best at their profession and doctors the best at theirs so why do footballers get paid so much more?

People also argue that football isn't funded by the government and that football clubs are funded by private companies and also from all the brands, food, drink and tickets that people buy, and it's all true. However I believe that this money from the food, drinks and tickets would be better used if it went to charities because they would be able to do so much more than footballers could with that amount of money. It could also help so many people who have illnesses, disabilities or are just struggling to make a living. Footballers would still be able to earn a living comfortably; they just wouldn't be earning this ridiculous and unnecessary ridiculous amount of money.

In conclusion I understand that the entry requirements for being a professional footballer is a niche market but a lot of the money they earn would be much better spent elsewhere, where it is badly needed rather than lining the pockets of footballers and their WAGs.

Conor Willis

Are Beauty Pageants Exploitative?

Beauty pageants are a controversial subject which many people hold very strong views about. I believe that they are incredibly wrong and are merely vehicles used for objectifying women and young girls. On the other hand, there are many people who think quite the opposite. Some think that they encourage girls to have more confidence. I do not think this is the case at all; I feel that these outdated, ridiculous and sexist competitions have no place in modern society and should be banned as a negative influence on young people.

When a contestant is training for a pageant, the practice sessions are extremely long and gruelling. Especially when it is a child competing, they have no time to go out and play with their friends and have fun. Their time is spent practising model walks, different poses and fake smiles. Part of their childhood has been senselessly torn away from them. Whilst all their friends are out innocently playing in the park or at each other's houses, the pageant contestant is trapped inside the house, posing in front of the mirror practising her 'perfect smile' and learning how to apply flawless makeup. I think that this lets the child grow up with fewer social skills; they might not even be able to hold conversations with their peers because they have not had these opportunities when they were young.

On the other hand, the winner of the pageants can be given school scholarships, which might cancel out the vast expenses spent to enter a pageant. Although this is a fair prize, the average contestant spends a staggering \$2000 on each pageant they enter. As most contestants enter far more than one a year, the debt racks up. A single scholarship isn't going to cover the financial outlay spent per

year on pageants. For each event, money has to be spent on entry fees, dresses, spray tans, hair and makeup, pageant coaching, shoes, accessories, transport fees and hotel costs. This is a ridiculous amount of money to be spent on something that the child isn't going to gain anything from in the long run; except the ability to apply fake tan and 'smile' at the 'glamorous' judges.

I understand that some parents enrol their children into beauty pageants to encourage them to dream bigger and want more for themselves. They might also do it so that the child realises that the real world is full of competition and they have to prepare for it. This is all good and fair, but there are different ways to embark upon this than making your child prance about on stage in pretty dress with their faces caked in makeup and fake teeth jammed into their mouth. If a lot of the contestants didn't grow up to develop eating disorders such as bulimia and anorexia to make their body look 'perfect', then maybe I might believe that it is all for the child's own good; but until they grow up and prove that they are better people for taking part in these competitions, I will stick to my argument that they are more damaging than worthwhile for impressionable young girls.

In spite of the fact that most beauty pageants are well organised and and make sure to "cater for the needs of the children" by arranging activities and snacks backstage, this still doesn't justify the fact that the children then go up onto the stage wearing completely inappropriate outfits for their age. If seven year olds are allowed on stage in tiny bikinis and make up, this gives them the wrong message about how little girls should look. In my opinion, they shouldn't be wearing these provocative outfits on stage in front of judges. It sends worrying and sexualised messages about innocent little children and should definitely stop.

In recent research by Girl Guiding, it was found that 20% of 7-11 year olds are unhappy with their appearance and 30% have been on a diet. I think that this is a disgusting amount of children and no child under the age of fifteen should feel inclined to go on any sort of diet. Every TV channel that you go onto, there is a young girl who has a "perfect" body, hair and overall appearance. Because children are so impressionable, they are 'inspired' by programs such as TLC's 'Toddlers and Tiara's' and Lifetime's 'Dance Moms'. These girls might feel as if they have to look as synthetic as them to get anywhere in life. I do not think that this should be encouraged by anyone. Children just need to live their lives as children until they are old enough to make the right decisions.

I think that beauty pageants of any kind are wrong and exploit children in a way that should not be permitted. Statistically, children that have been brought up in the beauty pageant world grow up to develop more mental problems than children who haven't. In my opinion, this shows that the pageants are obviously not there to bring out the best in the child. They make children grow up too early and act like an adult too soon in their life. Not only does this destroy their childhood, they also don't have an appropriate transition between child life and adult life. I believe that, whilst some pageant contestants turn out to be balanced kind and lovely adults, these outdated excuses for 'glamour' should be left back in the past where they belong. Being a girl is about far more than the colour of your tan or the way you can 'rock' a bikini and it's high time that the world recognised this! Seriously. It's the least that they deserve.

Emmy Moore



Top to bottom; Mhari Sebeth, S3, water colour drawing; Freya Powell-Leonard, S3, water colour drawing.



Clockwise from top left: Ethan Rowe, S2, still life painting; Cerys Hutchinson, S2, still life painting; Anjipa Malla, S2, still life painting; Chloe Dowdles, S2, still life painting.

The Pursuit Of Perfection: A Unbearable Burden?

As a teenager your shoulders are laden with burdens; exams, school, relationships, parents, the list is endless. Just when you think that's enough add concern over your weight and the way your body looks to that list. I believe that there is far too much pressure on young people to achieve the perfect body. I understand people are striving for attractive and fit bodies but demanding unrealistic standards from ever evolving bodies is ridiculous.

One of my main reason why I think there is too much pressure on young people to achieve the perfect body is because of shops like Hollister and Abercrombie & Fitch. These stores demand unrealistic expectations from everyone. Often parading malnourished and gangly women, or a pill pumped man to advertise their products: telling our youth that they should look like this. Abercrombie & Fitch's women's large is a women's UK size ten tops. A men's size medium is the same as an average size small. The crushing weight of realising that you have to go up a size or two slams any youth's psychological wellbeing. Should we let Abercrombie & Fitch get away with this?

Furthermore the ideas of what magazines suggest are ludicrous. Most models are airbrushed, with things edited. These magazines are targeted at young people telling them that they have to become this unfeasible image. Young people start to think that the only way to achieve goals with relationships and social aspects is to become a gaunt, hollow and inhuman husk that is seen as the 'perfect shape'. As the glossy pages are flipped through a youth's self-worth decreases steadily as he or she stare at the edited models, then at themselves with self-loathing. Studies from Harvard university and the university of Alberta found that 1 in 13 children out of 4254, 10 to 11 year olds answered 'never or almost never' to the statement: "I like the way I look".

In addition, everyone is aiming for this perfect body of, for girls big breast and large bottom, flat stomach, thigh gap and healthy skin. For men: rock hard abs, tight pecs, body builder obliques and sleek, hairless abs. Many teenagers forget that everybody's body is different; not everyone has the right makeup to achieve certain aesthetic goals. In girls if your hips are set wider apart it is easier to achieve a thigh gap. Some boys find it easier to put muscle on whereas others stay slim. Youth often forget that their bodies are constantly changing: the shift from adolescence to adulthood and can impact on a body greatly.

Moreover the constant barrage of weight loss diets, pills, laxatives and drinks just tells young people that they need to lose weight or become a certain size. Girls and boys start trying these fads and see no results; they feel fat and start developing eating disorders. Self-esteem drops and they feel worthless.

On the other hand, having an ideal body age can curb obesity and make young people aim for something. Also the ideal body image spectrum has widened recently, with curvy figures becoming more prominent from female celebrities and men aren't required to be 'ripped' like action man as before. Plus size models are on the increase and even the first plus size female sports model has appeared. Even shops are offering plus size areas, as well as petite and tall sections. This tells young people that there is a wider body spectrum and you don't have to be a stick or an action figure to have a nice body.

It can be argued that people just want to maintain a body that they want. Some people find stress relief in fitness and sports activities.

Various girls find it hard to put on weight because of high metabolisms or sport is very prominent within their lives. Boys find it easier to put on muscle and have many sports that they take part in which gives them a nice body.

Although I accept that the body spectrum has widened and people have become more accepting of different figures; there is still too much pressure to live up to standards set by celebrities then applied by society to normal young people. Many young people forget that celebrities are airbrushed, nipped and tucked constantly to create that guise of perfection. Celebrities say that you can be different and proud but then go and promote a diet or exercise regime to 'get the look' it's ridiculous, shameful and downright disgusting. The burden to live up to something that is fake is exhausting. When celebrities distort their 'natural photos' on social media sites, young people images of what is considered perfect or normal becomes twisted into the implausible; however they don't realise this and strive to grasp the celebrities look. Girls and boys will constantly compare themselves to the celebrities that they are told that they should aspire to. The juxtaposition between a healthy young girl with pubescent acne, undyed unstyled hair, untinted teeth with a normal figure and no media alterations to Beyoncé, who claims to have no alterations: long slim limbs, pristine teeth and hair, clear skin, lush full lips and flat toned stomach. People would instantly say that Beyoncé is aesthetically more pleasing not realising all the work that goes into that facade. The scary thing is we as humans have forgotten what natural beauty is and prefer fraudulent ideal instead.

In conclusion, I believe there is too much pressure on young people to achieve the perfect body. The youth of today are being advanced on from all sides insisting that this is the perfect body and this is how you get it. People can claim in society today that everyone is accepted but are they really?

Francesca Cockburn

Social Networking – Useful Tool or Dangerous Pleasure?

Social networking is becoming increasingly popular and it's not surprising due to the overwhelming benefits that it seems to offer. Despite this surge of popularity, there is an increasing awareness of its many dangers and concerns about the idea of its invasion of people's privacy. These issues can affect people at any age in spite of how much knowledge they have about the dangers of social networking. No matter how safe a website claims it is, any website is open to being hacked and your information can be taken by these hackers: whether it's your date of birth or your bank details everything is vulnerable and you might be the next victim.

Another issue which concerns people about social networking sites such as Snapchat, Instagram or Twitter is child safety. I believe parents need to be more aware of what their children are doing and what they have access to or – more frighteningly – who might have access to them. A new study tells us around 59 percent of children will have used a social network by the age of 10 and 43 percent will have messaged strangers online by the time they are 12. This shocking fact clearly shows that children are operating in an unsupervised 'e world' that their parents might know very little about. On the other hand, we are seeing the benefits of a more connected society: having online friends isn't necessarily such a bad thing, some children find it difficult to make friends at school or at home and I don't think cutting them off from any type of friends is at all acceptable. It has been a lifeline for children who live in rural areas or



who have interests that are not shared by the people in their street or class.

Social networking isn't all bad, after all. It has its positives just like any other form of media. It can entertain and make long lasting friendships. It makes sure that however far you might be from friends and family, you can catch up over FaceTime, look at their holiday snaps over Facebook and tweet them a birthday message all over the world. It has also done the economy a great deal of benefit too as it has created jobs in every line of work.

Many people are able to complete their jobs more economically and quickly thanks to the Internet and its many social media sites. Advertising for example has been transformed by these methods and we can't imagine a world now where we are not seeing the latest movies, drinks and cars advertised on our social networks. On the other hand 51% of employees admitted to using social media during work when they shouldn't have been. This shows that for every benefit there can be a weakness and this is something which employers will need to deal with to make sure it does not affect their profits too much. Things like firewalls could easily solve this and allow businesses to get the benefits of social media rather than see the negatives.

A different way in which social networking helps society is how it can help senior citizens feel more connected with society but these senior citizens can be easily misled into giving out personal details. A latest survey says that women over the age of 74 feel more connected with family such as grandchildren who they don't see so often. People often become confused when reading comments, reports etc on social sites due to the lack of correct English grammar known as Internet slang such as lol, gtg, brb. Despite this, these 'silver surfers' are learning whole new worlds through the miracle of technology and can feel less isolated and alone through these 'virtual' connections too. There is a lot of good as well as bad as regards technology. It really needs to be looked at in a balanced way.

On a personal level I believe it is "worth the risk" to use social networking although I do strongly believe that there needs to be a stricter way of setting age limits and prevent hacking. The positives just seem to overwhelm the negatives here due to the possibility of many of those so-called negatives being easily preventable. Giving someone the gift of connecting with the outside world in a way they couldn't do before is a huge thing. WE must ,make sure that the safety measures that we have in place seek to make people more comfortable in the e-world so that they can get all the many benefits without feeling unsafe, intimidated or fearful.

When we have developed this, the online world really will be a safer, more connected place for everyone to enjoy and that they deserve.

Lewis Young



Mhari Sebeth, S3, repeat pattern designs.



Maths Challenge

All S1 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: Lily Miller, Charley McMaster, Alex Malcolm and Brodie Paterson.



Left to right; Mhari Sebeth, S3, repeat pattern design; Freya Powell-Leonard, S3, repeat pattern design.





Gallipoli 100 Trip

The main aim of the tour was to visit the battlefields of Gallipoli, to hear about the campaign, and to pay respects to the fallen on both sides in the 100th anniversary year of the battle. The group consisted of 4 serving soldiers from 1 Scots, 24 "Old and bold" of the KOSB Association, Carys, Jamie, Pabina, Richard, Mr Ross, and Mrs Dunn from QV. Our very well informed tour guide was Keith Dolan.

Day 1

We departed from the school on the 14th May down to T5 Heathrow. After spending the night there we were up at 0415 for our flight to Istanbul. We had a very long day ahead of us. A long flight and at the other side a four hour coach trip down to Canakkale. Glad to say P, C, J, & R didn't complain thanks to the long battery life of their iPads.

Day 2

Every day would start the same. Alarm call at 06.20hrs, breakfast then a very pleasant ferry ride over to the Peninsula. We visited Cape Helles where on W-Beach 6 VCs were won. One of the six, Lance Sergeant Kenealy VC was buried there. Pabina and Pipey played their pipes. It had a deep effect on all who were present. Our guide didn't believe in sticking to the well beaten routes. He took us round fields and ditches giving us the feeling of walking in the footsteps of a hundred years ago, although the terrain has changed due to irrigation and planting of thousands of pine trees. At 17.30 we boarded the ferry back to Canakkale.

Day 3

The battles of Krithia. We walked through the Turkish rear areas with the heat beating down. Jamie and Pabina read actual accounts of the battles. Very moving! Carys and Pipey played and the sound of pipes rang out over the quiet countryside. Then ice creams were definitely needed. Ice cream would be a staple for the entire group and the discussion about who had the best flavour could be quite intense.

Day 4

Would our packed lunch be cheese rolls again? YES!!! Off to ANZAC bay. Went to Green Hill Cemetery, where there were more than nine Thousand burials. All these cemeteries are beautifully kept by the CWGC. Richard stepped forward and read an account of the life of someone who was not much older than himself when he died. Then onto Cape Helles. This commemorates all the British and Indian forces whose burial places are not known, those cremated or buried at sea, and Australian servicemen who died in the Helles region.

This was the formal closing of the tour. There was a commemorative service lead by Stephen Blakey and the laying of Wreaths.

The pupils of QVS were outstanding throughout. They are great ambassadors for their school.



Music

Another year, another new exam system, another set of music students, another P7 minstrels, another Christmas Concert another Summer Concert, pupils visit another concert hall, some more ABRSM exams, more new music, more new instruments, some new tutors, possibly another replacement music hut! I think I've written all of this before but that's what working in education is all about so here is the music report for 2014 – 2015.

Concerts

We took advantage of a kind offer from the RSNO to take some pupils to one of their concerts in the Perth Concert Hall. A coach full of our young players travelled to Perth to hear the RSNO perform symphonies by Sibelius and Tchaikovsky and a new clarinet concerto by Linberg one of the world's greatest clarinetists Karri Krikku. Karri was kind enough to talk to four of our school clarinetists, Lachlan Bark, Robina Ferguson, Francesca Cockburn and Freya Collie. It is not often that you get advice about your Nat 5 or Higher exams from a world superstar. All our pupils had a great experience including some of our youngest pupils at their first real concert.

We had our very own end of term concerts with excellent work from all involved; P7 all the way to our sixth year. It would seem that 2014 Christmas will be our last traditional 'Whole School Christmas Concert', sadly. Thanks for all the support from parents, staff and pupils over the last thirteen years.

Exams

We had the first of the new Nat 5 music candidates last year, with eight candidates we had a good set of passes with four As and four Bs

Our higher candidates also had excellent results with four As, one B, and one C passes.

In external ABRSM exams we once again had some outstanding results with our three piano candidates this Spring with Francesca Cockburn and Evie Clark passing grade 3 and 2 with distinction and Caitlin Jones gaining a merit pass in her grade 1.

All of this year's exams are over and, fingers crossed, I hope we get similar results with this year's crew. It has been a pleasure working with Robina, Lochie, Alex, Lauren, Lucy, Caitlin and Ryan in Higher and Advanced Higher and my two Nat 5 classes. It's probably goodbye to Jack Gemmell who has completed excellent work in music with stylish guitar playing and some 'wicked' work on the drum kit. Good luck Jack. Freya Collie, my best ever bass clarinet, who is also leaving and I hope she keeps playing and developing her musical talents in her new school.

Instruments

Once again we were able to expand and strengthen our range of instruments. We now have all clarinets from bass to high C with a super new wooden Alto clarinet, one of the last ever produced by the famous French manufacturer Leblanc. We have also strengthened the bass end with a new bass clarinet and a wonderful new tuba. Over the last few years we have also built up our collection of tuned percussion and now have a number of full orchestral xylophones, a marimba and a vibraphone giving our certificate students a choice for their performances. We recently received a very kind donation of a professional level drum kit from neighbours of Mr Coates, our retired Modern Studies teacher. So many many thanks to Mr and Mrs N Sinclair for their fantastic gift.

Tutors

We continue to provide a wide range of music lessons, with our tutors covering all woodwind and brass instruments, tuned and untuned



percussion, violin, viola and harp as well as singing, piano and all styles of guitar. Our ukulele self help group has around ten players and continues to gain strength led by Cathan Clark.

This year we have lost the services of one of our piano tutors with Deanne Kirkpatrick having to leave us due to family reasons. Deanne will be sorely missed by the music staff and pupils alike as an enthusiastic and motivational teacher with outstanding teaching and performing skills. We lost our percussion teacher Michael Bryans last year and have finally replaced him with the very talented Mr Martyn Hodge, who is already making excellent progress with the drummers and percussionists.

We are hoping to increase the instrumental provision with a replacement for Deanne, and extra guitar tutor and a 'cello teacher.

The Year

Alanna MacFarlane, bassoonist, who left two years ago is now nearing the end of her second year at the Royal Academy in London and has already played with the BBC concert orchestra and performed at Buckingham Palace.

After a costly rebuild the Chapel organ is sounding better than ever and, despite the heating in the Chapel doing its best to destroy all the good work by cooking the wooden pipes, we are now able to use this instrument again in our assemblies and acts of worship.

Room 20, our multi purpose main music space may finally be on its

last legs! I arrived one morning to discover the WiFi servers hanging from the wall by their cables, having smashed through the sound-bar to finish resting against the smart TV. The holes where the large steel cabinet had been attached to the wall were weeping water as the rain water had been draining down the inside of the walls instead of the gutter. The man from DIO, he say you need a new hut! We are standing by for yet another major flitting for the musicians and their instruments.

The P7s are now nearing the end of their windband unit and we have some excellent young musicians. The saxophone, clarinet and flute players as well as our trumpet, horn and trombone players have all made progress with some exceptional work by a large percentage of our youngsters.

Georgia Clark S4 spent a week working with the Royal Marines Band at Rosyth this term. Georgia is considering a career in military music and the band seem keen to have her join their ranks. The band master was so impressed with her skill and attitude that Georgia was invited to take part in the marines home town concert in Dunfermline. Almost matching the marines uniform in her school red jacket she was made to take not one but two bows by the conductor.

Well that's it for another year, best wishes to all this years leavers. It's been a pleasure knowing you all.

D V Breingan



Summer concert.



Top to bottom; Wind band; Highland dance.



Pipe Band

This year the Pipes and Drums of Queen Victoria School have had to really adapt and make changes for the future. At the end of the year five S6 pipers and six S6 drummers will be leaving the band. This will leave a big gap in experience for the rest of the band. This has come as this year's challenge for the seniors to help the younger members of the band progress in their abilities and help them mature to become good professional performers. I am pleased to say that the seniors and younger pupils have done well and succeeded in this challenge.

The band this year once again competed at the Scottish Schools Pipe band championships being once again moved up a grade from last year. The band practised well leading up to the competition and all members were focused and looking forward to the event. With our school being so unique and competing against other schools with greater numbers to choose from, our school has done superbly in managing to create a junior and senior pipe band for the event. I am pleased to say that the juniors gave a very commendable performance for their first competition. Each pupil gave one hundred percent and even though a top three finish wasn't achieved it gave

them great experience and an idea as to what competing is like. The senior band again performed really well competing with the other big schools and managed to come second out of eighteen. Everyone was delighted and it was a great last competition for the S6 members of the band.

Coming towards Grand Day it will be sad to leave the band for all members of S6. All of us have done at least one Tattoo and some of us have done four in our time in the band. Doing countless band jobs, three competitions and many bus journeys from place to place I would say that my time in the band has given me some of the best experiences of my life and I believe all S6 band members would say the same. With S6 leaving it is a great privilege to see how many new members of the band there are this year. So many younger pupils work hard to join the band and many have succeeded this year. So to conclude this Grand Day it will be sad to see the older faces leave but it is outweighed by the great number of new faces who I hope will have as much fun in the band as me and my S6 friends have had.

Rhys Clark, Pipe Major

Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

As part of a strategy to help pupils with E-DofE I had regular meetings with the S3 pupils starting their Bronze Award. This has significantly increased the numbers completing their Bronze Award. I hope to continue this strategy with the new S3 group.

The 24th / 25th April saw the first of the Bronze Award training expeditions.

The boys group was made up of; Fraser Arnott, Josh Beard, Ross Dickson, Joshua Dobson, Jason Gurung, Morgan Leatherbarrow, Lewis McAuley, Jack McNeilly, Lloyd Owen, Callum Pearson, Jamie Thompson, Sam Drummond, Richard Dunbar, Shafal Dura, Ryan McGuinness, Campbell Morrison, Aron Slade and Ellis Majid.



The girls group was made up of; Abi Cairns, Emily Collins, Megan Cook, Carys Dodd, Georgia Forsyth, Jasmine Gurung, Ellie Hutchinson, Mari Macpherson, Rachel Macpherson, Emily McNair, Freya Powell-Leonard, Keli Ramsay, Madison Robb, Mhari Sibeth, Charlotte Sowden, Pabina Thapa, Chloe West and Olivia Williams.



When it came to the assessed expeditions in the Ochil Hills the boys, in mid May enjoyed a dry sunny weekend. Unfortunately in June the girls had a wet weekend.



The weather this year favoured the boys. On their practice expedition in April it was warm enough to take a dip in the river, when only a week earlier the girls had to brave a hail shower and walk through a thin layer of fresh snow.



Perhaps next year the tables will be turned.

The silver expedition training and assessments are again planned for August / September. Last session the training took place in the Trossachs with mixed weather and lots of midges.



The training expeditions follow the same structure; all pupils get the chance to put into practice the skills they learned over the winter. Each pupil leads a section of the training expedition. First the chosen leader has to orientate the map and identify their position in the form of a six figure grid reference, then having been given the next waypoint they must measure the distance and use Nasmyth's Rule to calculate the time the leg will take. The rest of the group are then gathered round and the chosen leader briefs the group on the fourth coming leg including a description of the route and any special features to watch out for. During their leg each leader is encouraged to enthuse the group and watch out for group welfare.

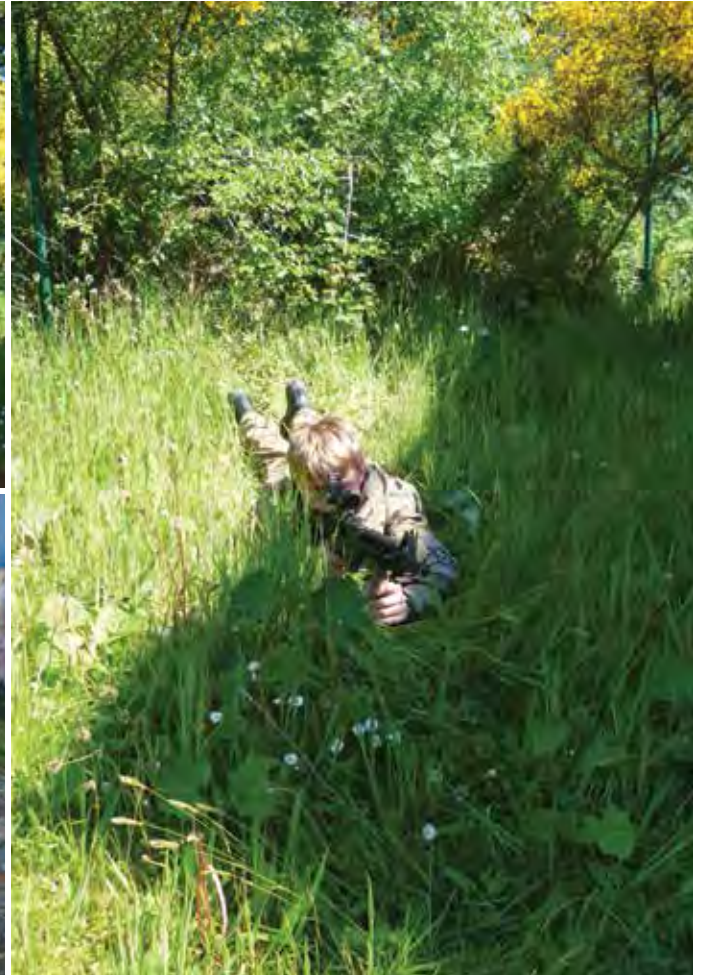
At the camp site the focus is on camp craft including pitch selection, tent erection and food preparation as well as personal hygiene.

On the Assessed expeditions the pupils must produce group route cards.

Thank you to all staff who help support our pupils with the Award not only in expeditions but all areas; skills, sport and volunteering.

Tom Shannon, Director of Outdoor Pursuits





Contingent Commander's Report

This year has seen a number of exciting opportunities for our cadets and many achievements. As you will read in Lt Scott Harrison's reports on summer camp, shooting and military skills competitions our cadets have excelled themselves. As well as the cadets excelling themselves Lt Harrison has shown dedication, commitment and effort above and beyond. Thank you Scott for all your hard work. Everyone had a great time in Normandy as we visited the D-Day beaches, the 38 cadets and five staff all agreed it was an amazing trip.

The session started with our cadets taking second place in the Scottish cadet's military skills competition, a fantastic result for such a junior team. On the 1st of November a group of cadets took part in the Festival of Remembrance in Dundee. Ryan McPherson carried the QVS Standard. Following taking the salute at our Trafalgar Sunday Parade Commander Mike Duneen RN second in command of HMS Queen Elizabeth returned to the school to give a compelling presentation on HMS Queen Elizabeth. The field days saw cadets visit Edinburgh Castle, Barry Buddon, Faslane, Leuchars and the water sports centre at Port Edgar.



Then there was the fantastic result at the National Military Skills competition at Welbeck with the QVS team winning first place. Brigadier Harkness congratulated the team and presented each cadet with a medal of achievement.



QVS hosted the Beating Retreat at Holyrood Palace. Brigadier Harkness who was in the audience presented Navino Gurung with a medal of achievement for her outstanding performance leading the mass pipes and drums but also for her lead in raising aid and funds for people of Tibet following the devastating earthquake. This session was finished off with an enjoyable summer camp and another successful shooting camp at Bisley.

Normandy

In June 2014 our cadets took part in a commemoration parade and service to remember D-day 1944. The ceremony was held in Dunblane because above Dunblane on the Ochil Hills is an area which played a crucial part in the preparations for D-day. Thanks to secret information smuggled out of occupied Europe the allies were able to reconstruct sections of the defence structures the Germans had built along the Normandy coast. Many of these structures are still there today and clear evidence can be seen of the demolition effects of shells and bombs.

The interest of the cadets in all of this prompted the trip to Normandy. 38 Cadets and five Staff took part in the visit, made up of five groups;

Sword Callum Gilbert, Donovan Blythe, Francesca Cockburn, Kirstin Hughes, Emelia Moore, Roderick Watson, Samantha Rollo.

Juno Joshua Dobson, Jack McNeilly, Richard Dunbar, Jason Gurung, Campbell Morrison, Dipen Ghale, Ryan McGuinness, Ellis Majid.

Gold Carys Dodd, Ellie Hutchinson, Callum Pearson, Charlotte Sowden, Rachel Macpherson, Alexander Holliday, David Burns.

Omaha Elisha Bura, Evie Clarke, Adam Conway, John Dougherty, Olivia Dunbar, Craig Duncan, Jason Galloway, Scott Burns.

Utah Charlotte Gothard-Oliver, Alexandra Barron, Sam Irwin, Sam Irwin, Steven Rae, Louise Rankin, Caitlin Richardson, Calum Shannon, Matthew Meechan.



Our first stop on reaching Normandy was Pegasus Bridge, which ironically was the first place liberated by the allies in the early hours of 6th June 1944. It was a fascinating and moving visit; our guide gave emotional accounts from veterans and explained in great detail the whole operation to capture the bridges and surrounding area. The museum had extensive displays, equipment and artefacts to explore and research.

After lunch we made our way to our hotel in the village of Lion sur Mer immortalised in the film *The Longest Day* by the image of the mayor welcoming the British troops with champagne. The hotel was less than 100 meters from the beach where we all spent each evening after dinner paddling and building sand castles.



Next day we spent the morning at the Battle of Normandy Museum in Bayeux. Here we were given the overall picture of D-day, Operation Overlord. The museum was interactive and had a large collection of tanks, trucks and artillery pieces. Bayeux is also the home of the Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the story behind the Norman

invasion of England and shows the famous battle of Hastings in 1066, on the tapestry you can make out King Harold with the arrow in his eye. The visit to the tapestry gave the pupils the opportunity to discover another aspect to Normandy and its medieval history. Later in the afternoon it was back to 6th June 1944 and a visit to Arromanches where the famous mulberry harbours were positioned to deliver the supplies to help the allies push in land and liberate France.



A 360° cinema gave use a unique perspective of D-day and the days which followed.

The following day we ventured into the American sector and visited the village of Saint-Mere-Eglise where we found the village filled with hundreds of re-enactment people all dressed in vintage uniforms. Then much to the delight of our cadets we came across serving members of the 101st and 82nd airborne troops who had come over to take part in commemorations. The troops chatted to our cadets and handed over some insignia and badges.



While we were in the village it was over flown at low level by four American Hercules aircraft, a very impressive sight.



To see another side of Normandy we left Saint-Mere-Eglise for a visit to a chocolate factory where everyone was delighted to sample the handmade chocolates. We ended the day with another moving visit when we made our way to Ohama Beach and a visit to the American cemetery which was used in the film *Saving Private Ryan*.

All the visits to museums and other attractions were excellent, however the trip was enhanced by the staff at the hotel who were friendly helpful and generous and I must not forget our coach driver John who managed to get his coach through some very tight places and was always cheerful.



Thanks

Thanks to staff for helping the CCF; Mrs Rodger and Miss McIlkenny for the Normandy trip, Mr Ross, Mr Clark and Miss Stinson for the CCF Beating Retreat at Holyrood Palace.

Royal Navy Head Quarters Staff RN Area CPO Stevie O'Neal
Army Head Quarters Staff SO2 Carron Bucannon, Major John Kerr,
WO1 Gavin Mooney RSM CTT, Sgt James Galloway CTT.

RAF Head Quarters Staff and Srgt Steph Richardson.
And finally thanks to all the cadets for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Commander Tom Shannon RD RNR, Contingent Commander







QVS Shooting Team – Bisley 2015

This year a team of eight cadets attended the School's Imperial Meeting at Bisley between the 5th July and 10th July. The team was captained by WO2 Connor Watson, who took charge of administration, aided by Sgt Ewan Searle and Cpl Alexander Johnstone who put their recent coaching course into practice. Also shooting for QVS were S/Sgt Joshua Conroy, Sgt Emily Ferguson, Cpl Leon Boylan, L/Cpl Lewis McAuley and Cdt Charlotte Barron.

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. Several of the QVS team won Bronze medals in the Marlborough Cup, all the team were awarded GP Badges and Cpl Leon Boylan earned a prestigious Cadet GP Rifle Top 20 Badge. We also entered 2 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). S/Sgt Conroy, Sgt Ferguson and Cpl Boylan were awarded NRA Target Rifle Skilled Shot Badges. The London Scottish Vase is awarded to the top Scottish school attending Bisley. QVS came fourth, but with only 20 points separating us from the winner, this is definitely in our sights for next year. 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 was a little kinder this year with sun cream even required on occasion. However, high winds on Tuesday and Wednesday did make for difficult shooting conditions at times. Despite this, all eight cadets achieved a place in the top 100 of the Cadet Champion at Arms (top 49 to be exact). The cadets displayed commitment and enthusiasm throughout the event and particular recognition needs to

be given to WO2 Watson who demonstrated excellent leadership skills throughout the event.

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 17th 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 'pizza', where the cadets enjoyed some down time and swapped stories about their shooting prowess. We managed to make time for a bit of recreational shooting with cadets having a go at clay pigeon shooting. This resulted in lots of laughter but there was some serious business too, as Cpl Johnstone received a cup and gold medal for achieving the highest cadet score.

I know that the team would want to say a big thank you to Mr Mike Barton who provided us with invaluable coaching assistance and Cl McIlwain who provided administrative support 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
Cpl Boylan	15
S/Sgt Conroy	28
WO2 Watson	31
Sgt Searle	35
Sgt Ferguson	41
Cdt Barron	42
L/Cpl McAuley	44
Cpl Johnstone	49

Lt Harrison, QVS Shooting Officer



Top to bottom; Army; Navy; RAF



Army

The past year has been a busy one for the Army Section, with a number of new recruits being shown the ropes by our more seasoned cadets. We have participated in an even greater variety of activities and competitions this year. These have included: a Kayak Course at CCAT (Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training); the Military Skills Competition; the Skill at Arms Meeting; the Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge; a visit to 43 Commando at Faslane; and the Annual Cadet Summer Camp.

Cadet Summer Camp – 2015

As in previous years, Summer Camp was held during the first week of the summer holidays at Barry Buddon training area near Dundee.

During their first full day at camp cadets participated in Exercise Shakeout which gave them an opportunity to practise their skills in weapon handling, patrolling and section attacks in preparation for Exercise Striking Lion. There was an opportunity for those cadets who had not already passed their weapon handling test on the Light Support Weapon to do so, and new recruits were given their first taste of army rations with a lesson on how to prepare and cook food in the field. The afternoon gave us an opportunity to test some new kit. The cadet issued helmets and PRRs (personal role radios) were put to good use in an activity where the cadets had to guide their team mates to 'stalk and find' the opposing team and stop them advancing into their position.

A round robin of events was provided on Monday. The cadets took part in a variety of activities including obstacle course, live firing, mine clearance and camouflage and concealment. The cadets spent Monday evening preparing their kit for the forthcoming 36hr exercise.

Tuesday morning saw the start of Exercise Striking Lion. QVS teamed up with Dollar Academy and Robert Gordons to form 3rd Platoon and was tasked with the mission of attacking and clearing several enemy buildings. Firstly the cadets had to march with full fighting kit to establish a harbour area approximately 1.5 miles out of camp. Next we undertook a series of reconnaissance patrols to gather as much intelligence as possible regarding enemy movement. This involved making sketch maps and ground models to inform our plan of attack

for the next morning. However, a hasty night ambush had to be planned and implemented at short notice due to new intelligence about enemy movements in our area. Using blank ammunition and pyrotechnics, the cadets put their training to good use and executed a well-disciplined ambush on the enemy. They returned to the harbour area exhausted but ready for the final phase.

Wednesday morning saw us up at the crack of dawn, ready to strip down our harbour area and go over our final plan of attack. QVS 3rd Section was tasked with clearing the enemy positions from a variety of buildings. TIBUA (training in a built up area) is a new experience for the cadets but one which was performed with great enthusiasm. QVS 3rd Section managed to finish the exercise on a high, even after the two mile march back to camp.

R and R was the order of the day on Thursday. QVS teamed up with Dollar Academy for a trip to Air Space (with over 100 inter-connecting trampolines) in East Kilbride and then M & D's Funfair in Glasgow. The two schools had great fun, especially convincing the adults to have a go on the rollercoasters. We returned to camp for a barbeque which, in typical Scottish fashion, finished up indoors due to inclement weather!

Friday saw us off to the ranges where QVS cadets fired the GPA2 rifle and the LSW. This provided an excellent practice opportunity for the cadets who would be attending Bisley the following week. As always, QVS cadets demonstrated excellent weapon handling and high marksmanship skills. 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 Tiernan Bark achieved 'Best QVS Recruit', Cpl Alexander Johnstone achieved 'Best QVS Cadet' and Cpl Leon Boylan achieved 'Best QVS Shot'. The cadets displayed enthusiasm and keenness and were a credit to Queen Victoria School. I know that they would all like to say a big thank you to Cpl Allan and S/Sgt Paul for helping with summer camp.

Lt Harrison, QVS Army Section





Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge 2015

Queen Victoria School CCF entered a team of eight cadets in this year's Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge. The event was held at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College over a weekend in late March. A total of fifteen teams from across the UK participated in this competition of round-robin challenges aimed at testing the cadets' skills in leadership, teamwork and the ability to think under pressure.

The QVS team participated in all thirteen challenges with great enthusiasm and particularly enjoyed the raft building challenge which involved getting all team members across the indoor pool and back using only two canoes and three paddles. Through perseverance and good humour they finally completed their challenge, scoring full

marks. Other challenges included command tasks, observation, clay pigeon shooting and orienteering, all of which the cadets thoroughly enjoyed.

On the final day, we took a tour around the Sixth Form College and the cadets noted many similarities with Queen Victoria School. Sunday afternoon saw all teams gather for the final parade and prize-giving. The QVS team were quite rightly delighted when it was announced that they had achieved first place. The cadets were presented with individual medals and a plaque for display back at school. A well-deserved result for the individual cadets involved.







Dance Competition

Two dancers representing our school, Rachael Spence and Charlotte Olver won their categories in the Highland Dancing competition. Cameron Crawford came third behind two players who have won National titles in pipeband drumming.

All the pipers, Josh King, Ben Adam, Craig Duncan, drummers Alex Malcolm and Henry Aldwinkle performed superbly up against high class performers and they were a credit to our school.



Clockwise from top left: Rhys Owen, S1, pen and ink drawing; Cristy Pun, S1, pen and ink drawing; Cameron Dowdles, S1, pen and ink drawing.







Staff List

Senior Leadership Team:

Head A Bellars MA(Hons) DipEdMA(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 to Febuary 2015

Finance & Business Manager S N Cunningham AdvDipBFM(CIPFA) from June 2015

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Wavell R L Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE

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

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 McBlain BSc DipEd

D McLay BEd(Hons)

K L Rodger MA(Hons) MSc PGCE

R C Wright BA PGCE

Teachers:

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

S Crossan BSc(Hons)

B Cusack BA(Hons)

A M Downey BA(Hons) PGDE

M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE

L G Edwards CertEd Cert PP in BE

S A M Hastie BEd(Hons) PGCE

S C B Johns DipEd

N Lear BSc(Hons) MScPGCE

V M B Low BEd(Hons)

L MacLeod BA(Hons) PGDE

A V McDonnell BSc(Hons) PGDE

L A McKenny BA(Hons) PGDE

J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE

S W Renwick BSc(Hons) PE

S K Ronald BSc PGCE

E Ross BSc(Hons) 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

Ceremonial:

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 S S Stinson Associate BATD

School Librarian:

C Sheerin BA(Hons) DipLib MCLIP

Visiting Music Teachers:

G Baillie	M Hodge	AM Lynch
J Bamforth	I Hood	H McIntosh
J Greer	J Leavey	G Spowart

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:

Sister M A Skeith RGN

Sister A Brennan BA RGN DipHV

Auxiliary V J Hiddleston

Foreign Language Assistant:

N Kussau

Overseas House Assistants ('GAP' Students):

M Hoggard	T Kalin
G Lawrence	M MacKenzie

Business Management:

Business Support Manager R McKinnon Associate MCIPD

Facilities Manager J Robinson

Accounts & Administration Manager K Lawrie BA(Hons) to January 15

Accounts & Administration Manager I M Mair MAAT

Deputy Facilities Manager M A Stephen

ICT Manager N A Penrose

Business Support:

G Carr	B McCluskie	M Symon
A B Gauld BA(Hons)	A Paddon	T Thomson
A MacFarlane		

Academic Support:

L M Craig	A Morea	C P Rankin
M Leask BSc		

Facilities Support:

M Brailey	R G MacDougall	G R McConnell
T Carr	G Marnock	P A Warner
S Harrison		



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