



The Victorian 2004

Queen Victoria School



Pipe Band



'A' Company - Champion Company, 1948



Rugby football team, 1949-50

“ At Queen Victoria School, we have a mission which lies at the very heart of the school ethos, and which underpins everything we do here. That mission is to provide stable, uninterrupted and high quality education for the children of Scottish Service personnel, or those who are serving or have served in Scotland. In doing so, we aim to produce well rounded, articulate and confident young people who are better equipped to face the world outside the School. We achieve this by training and developing all our employees to reach their full potential which in turn enhances our aims. ”

Queen Victoria School

Queen Victoria School is a co-educational boarding school, which provides stable, uninterrupted and high quality education for the children of Scottish service personnel or those who are serving or have served in Scotland. Set in 45 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, Queen Victoria School is easily accessible by road, rail or air. Pupils may be registered for entry from the age of seven but our main intake is to Primary 7 in the Scottish system (equivalent to Year 7 in the English system), i.e. ten and a half to eleven years. Applications must reach the School by 30 November, so that they may be considered for the Admissions Board, which convenes in February. However, consideration will also be given, in particular circumstances, to applications made after these dates.

The School offers a wide and balanced curriculum following the Scottish education system, and includes courses at Standard Grade, Intermediate 2 and Higher Grades of the Scottish Certificate of Education. Pupils also have the opportunity to study in a number of subjects for the Advanced Higher Examinations. Increasingly, pupils move on

to Higher and Further Education but career links with the services remain strong.

Pastoral care is given a very high priority, along with careers guidance and personal and social education. The School aims to provide a stable 'home from home' environment in which pupils can participate in a full and energetic boarding life. Within this context Queen Victoria School is able to promote the welfare and happiness of each individual child and to develop his or her self-esteem. In addition, there is a full programme of sporting, cultural and spiritual development.

Queen Victoria School is a unique boarding school, which seeks to achieve the best that is possible academically for its pupils. The School prides itself also on developing the pupil in the widest possible sense and aims to achieve success academically, in sport, music, drama and many other extra-curricular areas. A very special and unique dimension of Queen Victoria School is the ceremonial side, which preserves the very best of the School's traditions.

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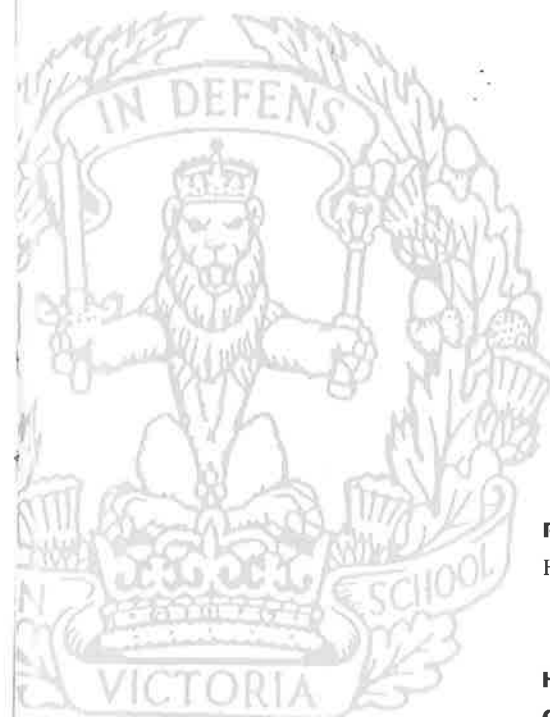
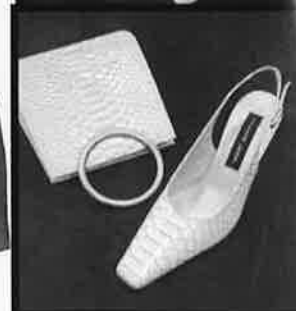
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Headmaster's Notes



HM, SSM & Colour Party. L-R; HM, Chris Soper, Greg Towns, Callum Harris, Stephen Carter, Euan Collins, Alasdair Page, Andrew Martin, SSM

The start of the academic session 2003/4 was a very bright one indeed. The Standard Grade results were very good with 68% gaining 5 or more Credit passes (National Average is 22%). More importantly, 41.5% gained a Grade 1 and 35% a Grade 2 – a total of 76.5% at Credit, which should augur well for the future. At Higher, 51% gained 3 or more passes at A to C (National Average is 33%). The combined S5/S6 pass was 86% which has continued the progression over the last few years from 68% to 76% to 77%.

In addition, for the first time Queen Victoria School took part in the Berwick Military Tattoo on August 30/31st. The Pipe Band, Highland Dancers and Colour Party had their own individual act but were an integral part of the massed pipes and drums and, in particular, with the Colour Party, the finale. Lt Col George Wood, the Tattoo Director, stated that, 'There was no doubt that the School stole the show'. Lt Col I McFarlane also commented that, 'Pipes & Drums, Colour Party and Dancers were all marvellous' and added, 'there are many adult ensembles that would have struggled to match the quality produced'. This was all achieved without a great deal of practice and it is a great credit to the pupils, Pipe Major Mr Ross, Drum Major Mr Tomkins, Highland Dancing Instructor Mrs MacDonald and School Sergeant Major Mr Duthie.

On the Estates side, much has been achieved since I wrote last. The dorms in Haig have been refurbished and we now await the final phase of the 10 year refurbishment programme of the boarding accommodation which will be completed this summer. Work has been carried out in the Science labs and on IT workstation facilities and improvements have been made to

Cunningham House common rooms. The Finance and Personnel office accommodation has all been upgraded and additional security measures have been incorporated throughout the School. Improvements have been made to the kitchen areas and we have reorganised the Dining Hall and entry arrangements to improve the overall ambience, presentation and quality. The newly completed long jump and high jump facilities should also provide an overall enhancement to the PE and Games department as, indeed, will the reinstatement of the upper grassed areas as training pitches and with considerable work also having been completed on drainage over the last few years it is expected that the overall condition of playing areas will be much improved for the future.

With the World Cup involvement and only two home Internationals – Scotland v England and Scotland v France – the Pipe Band's performances at Murrayfield were limited, although there were also warm-up games against Italy and Ireland. It was good to see the Pipe Band parading through Dunblane in October for the first time for many years. The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers were also very well received as a result of their



HM, School Monitors & prefects

performance at Edinburgh Castle on 4 February 2004 to launch the Centenary Appeal. The quality of performance of all who took part was very high indeed. Their performance was also very much appreciated by Brigadier Grant, who complimented the School on the outstanding display of piping and dancing that concluded the evening for the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association. There are, of course, many other engagements and before the end of this session the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers will perform for the Scottish Executive at Gleneagles and at St Andrews as part of their 250th anniversary. We will, as usual, be taking a lead role in the Combined Massed Pipes & Drums of the CCF and this year the Pipe Band and Dancers are also performing at the Garden Party at Holyrood. By anybody's standards, this is a most impressive list!

The Highland Dancers were also very successful at the Argyllshire Gathering. Our A Team (Callie McFarlane, Sarah-Louise McDougall, Andrew Martin and Alasdair Page) won Gold Medals in the Foursome Reel and our B Team came 2nd. In the open adult competition, Alasdair Page came 2nd in the Highland Fling and Sword Dance and he also won the Poltalloch Cup for the best individual performance. Andrew Martin came 2nd in the Sean Truibhas. The Highland Dancing UKA Exams have also produced excellent results, as always.

The 1st XI hockey side, captained by Claire McGillivray, continued to perform at a high level having lost only two games this season against the usual two difficult sides – Morrison's Academy and Strathallan. The other sides are also regularly performing well with only 6 games lost out of 18 among the 2nd XI, S2 and S1 sides. Fiona Coyle represented U18 Midlands hockey, Carly MacDonald and Emma Reid U16's and Karen Harrower and Carly MacDonald U15's.

The 1st XV's record of played 13, won 6, drawn 2, lost 5 illustrates that a winning consistency was not achieved. However, there were some notable victories against Madras College, Morrison's Academy, Marr College and Lomond, as well as some very hard fought drawn games with Wellington, St Columba's and Dundee HS and, although the 1st XV lost to Kelvinside in their last game, they played some excellent rugby. Matt Marshall was our sole representative in the Crusaders U15.

Cross Country continued its successful trend with Kayleigh and Karen Harrower coming 1st, Sean McGhee 2nd and Kieran Mackie and David Honeyman 3rd in a competition at QVS involving a number of Schools. At the road relay races at St Aloysius, we entered a girls team in this international event for the first time and they finished 4th (2 seconds behind the 3rd team). Karen Harrower, Katrina Leith and Leanne Bridgeman all finished 3rd fastest in their laps. At Glenalmond, Karen Harrower won the U17 girls (and Katrina Leith came 3rd); Kayleigh Harrower came 2nd in the U14's with Leslie-Anne O'Connor 3rd; David Honeyman and William Jackson were 5th in the U17 and U14 boys, respectively. At the Fettes Relays, our U13 girls team came 2nd and U17 girls 3rd, with David Honeyman the fastest lap of all QVS runners. At the Scottish Schools the U14 girls and O17 boys came 8th.

Last summer's athletics season, as can be seen by Mr McLay's report later in the *Victorian Magazine*, was a great success. Against the top independent schools in Scotland you will see that our boy and girl athletes performed very well indeed with a whole raft of 1st's in the various competitions. In addition, at the Forth Valley Championships, out of 12 teams the S1 girls, S2 and S3 boys came first and the S2, S3 girls and S1 boys all came second. At the Scottish Schools Brian Clyde gained a silver in the javelin and at



HM & Monitors. Back Row: L-R; Michael Gibb, John Campbell, Colin McNally, Laura Hadland & Katy McIntyre. Front Row: Ciara Watson (Senior Monitor), HM & Stephen Carter

the Eastern District Championships Alasdair Page gained a silver in the high jump.

Unfortunately, the Human Values Drama Competition did not run this year but we did compete in the Scottish Community Drama Association Festival of One Act Plays in February and our performance was very well received. Our S2 Team (Lindsay Hobson, Zoe Halliday and Scott Houston) performed extremely well at the BP Public Speaking Competition and we won the certificate of merit.

The Summer and Christmas Concerts illustrated the wide range of talent on the musical side with the Windband as the centre-piece. As always, our Junior Minstrels have shown at venues such as Erskine Hospital, Ladywell Parish Church and Dunblane Cathedral Halls that their talent, enthusiasm, as well as the ability to mix confidently and talk to older people are very much appreciated. At the Burns for Bairns in Dunblane, it was the presence of 22 QVS young pupils who carried the day. As Mrs Bremner of the Logie Kirk Guild stated, 'The music and dance of Scotland are indeed in safe hands'.

In CCF the Highland Tac Team, led by Stephen Carter, did very well in the ACF/CCF competition, coming 5th overall. In March we had our Biennial Inspection by Air Commodore S Bryant RAF who commented, 'I am pleased to report that I found the staff and cadets in good health and they displayed a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment during an extensive, well organised programme of activities.... I was impressed by all that I saw and

with the very high standard of professionalism, enthusiasm and, most importantly, the fun that was being had. I found the very high level of student-led instruction particularly interesting and impressive'. He concluded by saying, 'Most importantly, I believe that a successful cadet organisation should foster 4 key qualities: leadership, comradeship, discipline and confidence. Queen Victoria School affords an excellent environment for such development'.

There are, of course, other sports and activities going on throughout the year. We continue to take part in the Independent Football League and compete well at this level. It should be noted that David Honeyman has now played regularly for Dundee and Kieran Broadbelt for Stirling Albion. David was also asked to join the Independent Schools Select Football Team.

Tae Kwan Do continues to grow and is a very successful activity in its own right, running throughout the year and involving a large number of pupils. All those competing in the National Competition came away with gold, silver or bronze medals. We have keen golfers and, amongst many others, a horse-riding hobby run by the Cunningham Matron, Miss Chalmers. Mr Shannon continues to run a most successful Duke of Edinburgh organisation and, at present, we have 3 pupils completing gold, 8 silver and 16 bronze.

This session has seen a major change in that Mr Laing and Mr Carroll both retired as Housemasters of Haig and Trenchard respectively, after 10 years service in that position. The School,



HM & Orderlies: Euan Collins & Callum Harris



Murrayfield

parents and the many pupils who have been in their Houses over this period are indebted to them for their care and commitment in what is one of the most important roles in a boarding school. In my experience, it is certainly the most enjoyable! We have now moved in both Houses to a Houseparent and I was very pleased to be able to welcome Mr Coates and Miss Matheson to Haig and Trenchard, respectively. Both have considerable experience of boarding schools and being either a Housemaster or Houseparent.

Mrs Kettles, the Haig Matron, retires at the end of this term after 5 1/2 years looking after Haig boys. Her efforts on their behalf have been very much appreciated by all who have gone through the House, as well as Mr Laing, Mr Coates and myself.

Mrs Jones, a long-serving and valuable peripatetic music teacher also left at Christmas.



Murrayfield

Other changes in personnel have been Ms Rutledge for Mrs Wallace as the Personnel Manager, Mr Davies' appointment as CSO and Ms Willekens as Deputy Housemistress in Wavell. Our new GAP students for 2004 are:-

Danielle Ingle from Calrossy School, Tamworth, NSW(W)
Angus Fleming from Brisbane Boys College (Tr)
Patrick Leyden from Marist College, Brisbane (H)
Kerrie Spensley from St Rita's College, Brisbane (Tr)
James Marriner from St Andrews College, Christchurch, NZ (C)

Recent visits to the School by Commander Stenhouse, CO of Rosyth, Air Commodore Bryant, AOSNI, the Band Master of the Royal Marines, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Major-General Parker, GOC 2nd Division have produced very positive comments about the School, its pupils and its staff. Air Commodore Bryant's comments in relation to CCF have been



HM & gap students. L-R; Kerrie Spensley, Patrick Leyden, Angus Fleming, HM, James Marriner & Danielle Ingle



Moderator of Church of Scotland & pupils

noted above but he also added that 'the CCF Contingent is a well organised and well led organisation, populated by highly motivated and professional staff and cadets'. Commander Stenhouse was 'particularly taken with the cheerfulness and attitude of the students'. The Band Master of the Royal Marines said 'it was a pleasure to walk round the School and have a chance to chat with the students, each of whom was a credit to the School'. Major General Parker stated, 'there is a happy and businesslike air to the School and the pupils speak clearly, honestly and politely'. The Moderator, Professor Iain Torrance, commented 'it was delightful to experience such a happy atmosphere'.

Clearly, this does not just happen and I am indebted to the staff at all levels throughout the School, including our contract staff



Mr Carroll, HM & Mr Laing

who do such a good job to ensure that standards at all levels and in all areas are maintained to such a high pitch. The senior pupils also play their part in this scenario and I am equally indebted to the Senior Monitor, Ciara Watson and the Monitors and Prefects for the seen and unseen work that they do throughout the School. Without their positive contribution it would be extremely difficult to run a boarding school and I do not think that we would have such a good atmosphere.

Finally, in what has been a very good year in most respects, I would like to thank the Commissioners and, in particular, Mrs Nan Howe/Captain Smith for their Chairmanship of the General Purposes Committee and Mr MacLehose, whose support has been invaluable both to myself and the School throughout this year.



Mr & Mrs J Blyth & HM

Jim Blyth

Jim joined Queen Victoria School in September 1992 coming from the Royal Aeronautical Establishment (RAE) Bedford in England, where he served for over 30 years. In fact, if we go back a little further, Jim served his 5 year apprenticeship in airframes & engines at the Royal Naval Aircraft Yard (RNAV) Donibristle near Dunfermline, Fife between 1954-59. After a brief spell with a commercial company, he started at RAE Bedford in 1960 in the research and development area and was even involved in the Concorde development and other important aircraft of the time.

It is recorded that in 1968, at RAE Bedford, the Suggestions Committee considered his suggestion for a 'throttle control rod cover' and decided it was a useful, practical suggestion and awarded him the princely sum of £2. Furthermore, in 1972, he was approved for the appointment of 'Apprentice Master' in the College

and given a weekly allowance of £1 on this occasion. Twenty years later, in 1992, Jim and Helen came north and Jim took up his appointment as Maintenance Supervisor at the School.

Jim arrived at QVS 7 months before myself so we have been contemporaries for most of our respective working lives at QVS. I would like to pay tribute to him for his dedication to the job, the staff, the pupils and the School over this period. Nothing has been too much trouble for him and he has come back in to School at all hours and in all weathers. He is also one of those rare characters who gets on with the job, is always pleasant and helpful, and remains calm and collected whatever the pressure may be.

I would like to wish Jim and Helen a long and happy retirement when it finally arrives.

Headmaster

Doris Steinacher

Last August we welcomed into our midst Doris Steinacher from Salzburg as our foreign language assistant. Doris lost no time in making her mark in the teaching of German in the classroom and by dint of her ability and charm she has also done much to attract many customers anxious to increase their linguistic fluency on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in Wavell and Haig respectively.

Doris has also contributed enthusiastically to boarding school life in general, accompanying the Wavell girls to concerts, allowing

the Haig boys to sample her fine baking and also helping on the Bavarian ski trip. Queen Victoria School has again been fortunate in managing to recruit such an energetic and enterprising young ambassador for her language and culture. We bid her a fond farewell at the end of May and wish her all the very best in her future.

Jill Howie

Principal Teacher Modern Languages



THE STORY SO FAR...

The Centenary Appeal was launched with a bang in February in The Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle.

The party was attended by a number of patrons, the appeal committee, staff, pupils and, of course, a wide range of school supporters and potential donors. The evening was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyable for all those attending. It was also the first opportunity I had to see the pipers, drummers and dancers perform and they were, as I had previously heard, outstanding.

This was also the first chance to launch the appeal into the public domain and we were fortunate enough to have the *Scotland on Sunday* on board as our media sponsor. A few days prior to the launch they produced an excellent article promoting both the centenary appeal and the support and good work of all QVS staff.

The auditorium will be a multi-purpose hall embracing the needs of the school for daily assembly, musical and theatrical

performances attended by pupils, staff, families and friends. It will seat around 450 people and as well as being made available to The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland during the holiday periods, we hope that a number of other youth groups, both local and national, can benefit from the auditorium.

Over the course of the next three years we will be embarking on a number of fundraising projects. Those currently underway include summer concerts, a Glasgow launch, a Perth event, Grand Day Stalls, a raffle, a 500 club and many more.

We are extremely grateful for the encouragement and enthusiasm so far, but we have a long way to go to raise £2.5M! It will require sustained effort, momentum, dedication and determination over the next three years.

However, with your help, I'm confident we'll realise our goals to provide QVS with a state of the art facility of which we can all be very proud.

Lindsey McArthur, Appeal Director

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

Activities Report – 2002/2003

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

The Norman MacNeil Trust Fund is intended to attract interest from pupils keen to test their initiative, broaden their horizons and develop their skills in a variety of ways. In 2003 applications for grants from the Trust Fund ranged from supporting GAP years to a number of awards granted to pupils who were intent on obtaining qualifications and experience in music and dance, the latter reflecting that the emphasis is equally to spread over cultural as well as enterprising and adventurous pursuits.

The awards for 2003 totalled some £3,390 made up of seven GAP/Link Exchange grants and four pupils taking UKA Dance Qualifications.

For 2004, excluding a block bid from ten pupils to participate in a West Highland Way sponsored walk and ascent of Ben Nevis in support of charity, applications from pupils for grants have been disappointing, with only four pupils bidding. Jamie Friery is going forward for a Highland Dance qualification, which qualifies for an award as a cultural pursuit and there is one award for a GAP year (Claire McGillivray) and two for Link Exchange (Stephanie Gargan and Fiona Thomson). We wish them all success in their chosen pursuits and look forward to receiving reports of successful completion.

We also look forward to reports of another successful sponsored walk along the West Highland Way following the excellent

achievement of the 2002 expedition which raised over £1000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust. This venture is a creditable example of the sort of initiative which falls entirely within the scope and spirit of the Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund, not only because of the physical challenge and emphasis on teamwork, but also because of the intention to direct the effort to helping a worthy cause. This year's 'happy wanderers' are Andrew Abolins (S6), Maxine Cameron (S3), Leanne Bridgeman (S4), Ryan Flaherty (S4), Karen Harrower (S4), Adam Rainey (S4), Phillipa Roessler (S6), Chris Soper (S5), Gemma Scott (S6) and Elliot Wood (S5) and they are helping to raise money for Leonard Cheshire's work with disabled people, in conjunction with Chris Moon's 'One Walk'.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to be used; why not give it some thought, and if you want to know more, contact the Headmaster or the Bursar for details? Application forms are available from the Bursar's Secretary. The annual deadline for submission is the close of the Autumn/Winter Term each year, and remember that, if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and seek advice.

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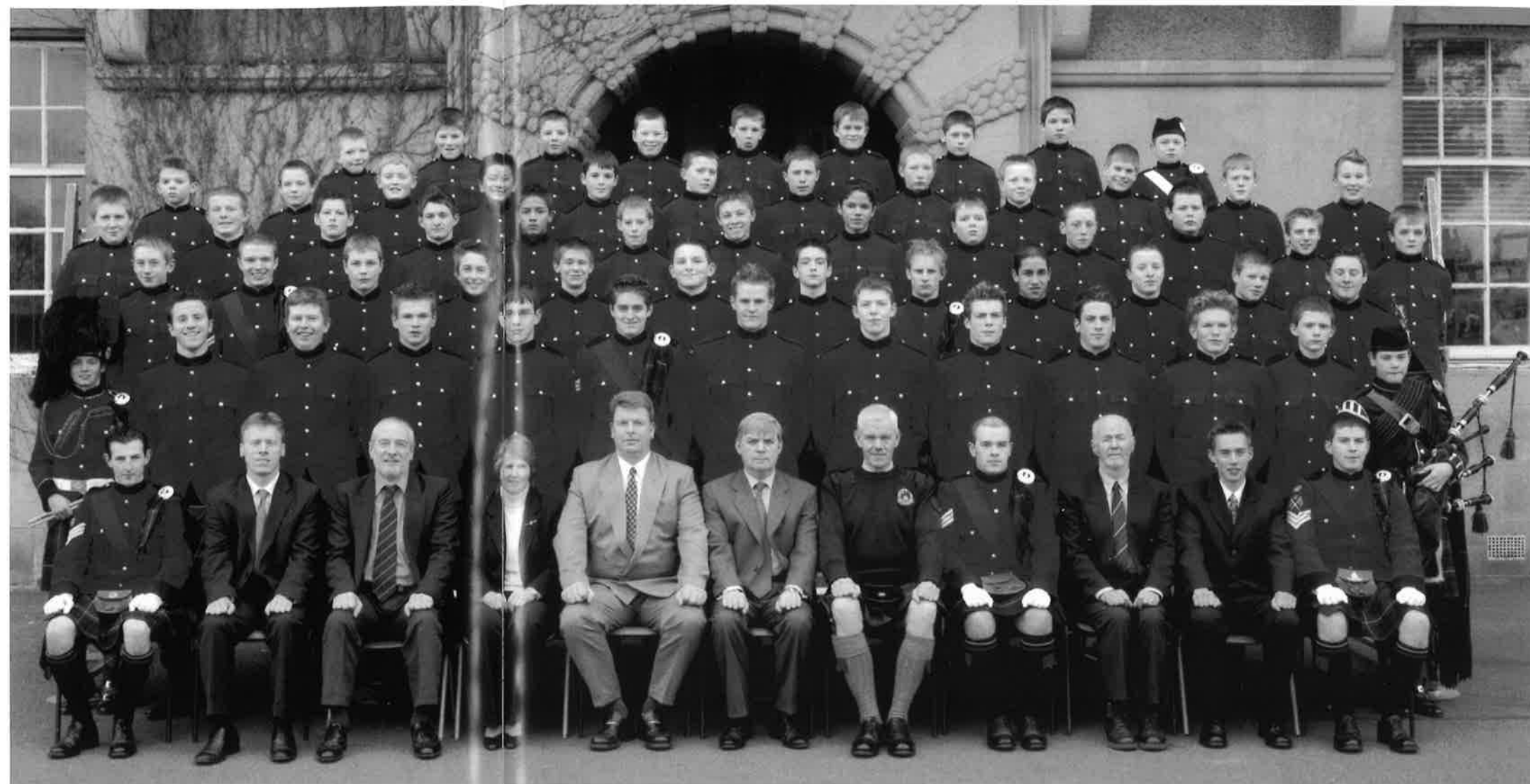
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Cunningham House



Cunningham House Staff & Pupils

Another academic year has winged its way by and it's time to reflect on one more year in the life of Cunningham House. This year, in addition to the full second year boys, we have had a number from S1, S3, S4, S5 and S6, with more senior boys who will take the time to encourage and help the younger lads in the boarding house. In the main this has happened with the selection of senior boys who had the ability and aptitude to cope with the younger pupils. This system has been a success and will continue through the next academic year.

The social life of the House has comprised of cinema and bowling trips, disco nights and visits to St Margaret's School and will culminate with a visit to the Alton Towers Theme Park. By contrast, many more boys are booking out for weekends which creates a more relaxed atmosphere for those staying in and a chance for the staff to focus on the smaller number in the House.

There have been two staff changes since last year's *Victorian Magazine* was published with James Marriner taking over from Edward Hope as the overseas Gap Student and Mhairi Chalmers returning to QVS after five years to take over as Matron. I would like to welcome James, Mhairi and her dog Tara to Cunningham and wish them all a happy and successful time with us. My good lady Catherine stepped in as Matron during

the interim period, between Mrs Graham leaving and Miss Chalmers taking up post, providing the continuity of care for the boys which was reassuring for them.

The House team, overall, this year has been particularly successful and I would like to thank them all for their support and help. The House tutors Messrs Dale, Lawrence, McLay, Shannon, and Stewart are often not publicly recognised for their input and support of the pupils in the House but do, in fact, provide the continuity and personal knowledge of the boys that is essential. The promoted House staff of Mr Ross D/ HoM and Mr Duthie A/ HoM have, as always, been available to step in and help at any time and I know Matron has appreciated the personal and professional support of Mrs McVey during her first year back.

I would like to use the medium of this article to pay my own tribute to Mr Carroll and Mr Laing who have recently retired as Housemaster of Trenchard and Haig Houses, respectively, after ten years in the post. Both were crucial to my own induction as Housemaster, almost six years ago, and provided me with valuable help, support and unconditional advice and friendship. I offer them my gratitude and thanks and wish them both the very best in their retirement as Housemasters.

Mr B Tomkins, Housemaster

Doesn't time fly in the House of fun. Another year has passed faster than Colin up the wing (just kidding mate). Helping me have been Stephen and John to whom I must give special thanks for making me look so good.

Cunningham has had a ball of a year, starting with the new jazzy and bright IKEA show room common rooms. With help from Colin and Pipey we were able to build up the furniture; Stephen helped by making the computer table the wrong way round (well done Stephen). Even after James moved into the seniors' common room we were all able to get a shot on the computer (but only when he was engrossed in *Hollyoaks*).

The House has run smoothly this year with the additional help of eleven seniors. Even though the House has been split on two floors the 5th years have been able to keep the rest of the middle floor under control. The House staff have had a large impact this year by adding new features to the boarding house, for example, Mr Stewart with that very impressive golf swing and Ti-Chi, and Miss Chalmers has pressured the boys into doing their laundry on time. Of course Tara (her dog) has nothing to do with it (however, it is not unknown for the boys to come to the dispensary clutching a handful of dog biscuits – just in case!).

Now as the year draws to an end, Cunningham House can look

forward to their end of year outing to Alton Towers (Brawl!) and also the end of year barbecue. Finally, I would like to thank everyone in the House team for helping to make my last year at QVS such an easy and enjoyable one. In particular, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Tomkins, Miss Chalmers, Mr Ross, Mr Duthie (especially for his in-depth tutor periods), Mrs McVey and James Marriner (the Gap Student).

All the best to everyone left at QVS. Hope you all have a good one.

Michael Gibb
Cunningham House Captain 2003-2004

GOODBYE MR CHIPS

Following his retiral as a Housemaster, Mr Laing was interviewed by the prestigious bicentennial slimmers' magazine *Scrawn not Scrán*. The following is an excerpt:

SnS: So Steve, how does it feel to have retired after ten years as a Housemaster?

SL: Bit of a surprise really. I thought I still had another ten years to go. But I certainly got the message when I arrived home one day to find a gentleman called Mr Coates using my shower. And my Colgate too, by the way.

SnS: You are a paragon of fitness. During your time as Housemaster, how did you manage to fit in your running and biking?

SL: Oh, that was quite easy. I managed to make time for my sport by juggling House reports, House duties and preparation for my second job as a technical teacher.

SnS: You are 46 and have managed to avoid an expanding waistline – unlike most of our readers. How come?

SL: Constant stress and worry, I imagine. Having a 16-year old daughter living and texting in a boys' boarding house is a definite calorie burner.

SnS: I imagine as a top runner your diet is exemplary. As a busy Housemaster, how did you manage the nutrition that must be an integral part of any athlete's performance?

SL: Actually I balanced my nutritional intake just about as well as I balanced the Haig books at the end of the year. There was always something that didn't quite add up. Always something missing.

SnS: Can you run us through a typical day's diet and routine as a Housemaster that has made you one of the country's top elderly cross country and road runners?

SL: Certainly. Normally I would wake up about 5am finding myself still sitting on the couch. I'd go to bed for a couple of

hours and then go in search of the elusive interesting breakfast cereal. My wife has many virtues, but let's just say she'd be at the back of the queue at the *Good Housekeeping* awards night. More often than not breakfast would end up being a bowl of Winalot. I have not investigated how much that has actually helped my running, but my nose is certainly always wet and shiny and I'd do anything for a tripe stick. The calories in my breakfast coffee (three teaspoons of sugar and a dollop of hazelnut syrup) were usually used up as it accompanied me swiftly across the main square to my first class. Neither I nor my coffee ever arrived on time in the teaching block despite a sprint start at my flat and an impressive dip at the Techy department door.

Mid morning break consisted of no tea or coffee as it was always finished by the time I got to the staff room, having been waylaid by an annoying boy with something trivial:

"Sir, I've just walked into the 'Green Doors' and I'm seeing double."

"Sir, can I get some money? I'm going to a University Open Day." ("Why Kenneth?")

These sorts of unnecessary hindrances. Still, a couple of Rocky bars and a four finger Kit-Kat would keep me going till lunchtime.

Lunchtime? Don't make me laugh. Always a bit of a misnomer since it very seldom included any actual lunching unless raking about in the bread bin unearthed a three-day old tattie scone. Certainly Clinique moisturizers and L'Oreal lipsticks came at the top of the wife's shopping lists while lunchables were evidently of very low priority. Unfortunately, manna from heaven also appeared to be very scarce in these parts despite living in close proximity to the school chapel.

I could always kiss goodbye to any sort of tea break in the afternoon as there was always an emergency such as:

- (a) Fire alarm going off due to a conflagration in the Wavell toaster (again)
- (b) The Cunningham showers flooding the Haig Office (again)
- (c) Me having to lie low to avoid the School Management Team because my House reports were not in on time (again).

Arriving at my flat for dinner, it would not be unusual to find a note pinned to a four day old 1"x 1" square piece of lasagne bearing the legend: 'Stick this in the microwave for a wee while xxx PS The dog's been fed – she's had steak pie and two veg.' Desserts in our house deserted me. However I could usually conjure up a Fruit Corner from the back of the fridge, well past its sell-by date.

It was normally a great relief to get up to the office on duty

nights. I would brandish the keys to the tuck shop with aplomb, let the shutter fall and get stuck in – Joosters, Crunchies, Strawberry Laces, Spicy Nik-Naks – nothing was sacred.

SnS: So what is the one piece of advice you have for our readers who are constantly looking for tips on how to lose weight?

SL: Definitely become a Housemaster and definitely marry a woman who has cosmetics and hair preparations high on her shopping list and only goes to Tesco's to buy Toilet Duck (quite tasty in an emergency, actually). I would have to admit, however, that her alphabet soup is definitely good for the vowels.

SnS: I believe your leaving present from Haig House was money to buy a bike. What kind will you get?

SL: According to the wife I'm buying a tandem so she can keep tabs on me.

SnS: So, Steve, what of the future?

SL: Like all good actors, I'm resting ... until the next Houseparent job comes up.

Mr S Laing, Housemaster



Haig House Staff & Pupils

Wavell House



Wavell House Staff & Pupils

This has been another hectic year for us in Wavell House – it's gone so fast that it's hard to believe that we'll soon be waving farewell to another crop of S6 leavers. To many of the staff, it must seem only yesterday that they were standing in the snow watching them at their 'Rookies Parade'.

As well as the pupils growing up, there have been lots of other changes in Wavell this year. The staff notice board (or as we like to describe it the 'Rogues Gallery') has seen quite a few reshuffles this year. Miss Willekens joined us, taking over the position of Deputy Housemistress from Ms Taylor and moving in to Flat 5, Wavell House. It has been an adventurous and busy year for her as she had to (very quickly) get used to communal living with all 86 of us, which has included lots of laughter, shouting, 'vegging out', shrieking and running through the house, umpteen re-runs of certain video tapes (I'm sure if she sees *Bring it on* or *10 Things I Hate About You* ever again she'll scream) loud music, complaints about loud music, chip runs and after-lights-out chats.

Mrs MacDonald was appointed first as Assistant Housemistress then as Deputy Housemistress, moving in and taking over from Mrs Adams who moved out to a family home after her marriage. This injection of new faces has meant that there have been lots of new ideas bouncing around and has brought lots of changes to our daily routines. Mrs MacDonald has been like the Carol Smillie of Wavell - tidying up notice boards, mounting signing-

out boards and buying mobile phone cabinets from B&Q. She's showed us that we can be more organised. Although we like to moan and groan – don't tell her but secretly we appreciate it.

The support staff of Wavell are one thing that hasn't changed this year and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Duthie and Mrs Henderson for all that they do to help us throughout the year. We make resolutions every year to keep our rooms tidier and keep our laundry up to date... but in the hectic weeks these good intentions usually disappear. We don't know what we'd do without our guardian angels; they must be the most patient people on earth.

As for the Wavell events calendar, as usual we saw another year of unforgettable talent in this year's Wavell Talent Show, organised by the 'Dynamic Duo' Mrs Adams and Mrs Howie. As well as having a lot of fun we managed to raise more money than ever before for our chosen charity. The show made over three hundred pounds for Struan House – the local school for Autistic children. This year we saw more talent than ever before with lots of memorable acts. I don't think the judges will ever forget the truly haunting version of *Wuthering Heights* that we were treated to and we will certainly have a hard time finding an act as memorable as the S5 girls' version of *Singing in the Rain*.

Miss Blackwood managed to bring some culture to the girls with

ballet trips and theatre visits, while Ms Taylor (our resident film addict) managed to keep us happy with frequent visits to the pictures. Miss MacDougall organised whole-house theatre trips to such highlights as *Stomp*, *Grease* and *Oh What A Night* – which gave us all lots of ideas for the Talent Show next year. Mrs Thornton cared for our nutritional wellbeing with our favourite weekend hobby... baking! And finally, not to be outdone, Mrs MacDonald treated us to outings such as the Dundee ice-rink which we really enjoyed. She says that she's used to us skating on thin ice – but we don't know what she means!

In March, we held the highlight of our social calendar – the Avon night. More make-up was scattered around Wavell than at the last Spice Girls tour. We learned all about cleansers, moisturisers, lotions, make-up and (to the despair of some girls the next morning) self-tanning spray. The guest beauticians showed us everything from proper skin care to how to straighten hair healthily (to some people's surprise, this doesn't involve an ironing board). This was a very popular evening, perhaps because the clever beauticians confirmed our own idea that we have at least 86 beautiful girls in Wavell House.

As well as trips and treats, we also held several unforgettable parties this year. November saw the Hallowe'en Party which we held as a 'Celebrity Looky-Likies night'. This meant that our humble disco and karaoke night had several very illustrious

guests, such as, The Mad Hatter, all five Spice Girls, Miss Congeniality, Ninja fighters, Katharine Hepburn, The Flowerpot Men, The Ab Fab ladies and, Mrs Anne Robinson (who certainly wasn't the 'Weakest Link'). The Christmas party was equally decibel-intensive, when the whole of Wavell House shook with our all time favourite carols shouted out rhythmically. Combined with the now annual Secret Santa ceremony it was, as usual, a 'roaring' success. Quite literally!

As you can see, we've had a very hectic year and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all that they've done for us this year in making Wavell a lively and happy place to live. They've been ably assisted by our Heads of House, Laura and Katie, who have tried hard to listen to us and to make sure that we toe the line – which we must admit can't be a very easy job! We'd also like to thank this year's Gap students Miss Cato and Miss Ingle who have brought their own bit of Aussie sunshine to Wavell and have joined in with all of our trips and events with such laughter and enthusiasm. We say it every year but we're really going to miss them.

As you can see, it's been an action-packed year and there are still lots of summer activities to come. We'd like to end our House Notes just like we end our year – by wishing you all a very happy Summer Holiday. See you next year.



Trenchard House Staff & Pupils

Closing Notes

'What are you going to do with yourself?'

'The golf course is going to get hammered, isn't it?'

'Will you not get awfully bored?'

These have been some of the things that have been said to me over the last few weeks since stepping down from the heady heights of being Housemaster. In short, the answers are, 'Plenty!', 'Probably!' and 'Definitely not!'

The House extends a big, warm and hearty welcome to Miss Catriona Matheson. The children have been looking forward to meeting her and they have all taken a shine to her very quickly. Many years of happiness is wished to her from everyone in Trenchard.

Looking back it seems incredible that 18 years of living in the boarding house have passed by. Early years in Wavell with 16 bed dormitories seem a distant memory. Then a few years later the bunk units replaced the dormitories, partly for care standards and partly in preparation for the girls' arrival in '96. Next there was a move from Wavell to Trenchard – those stairs in the main building – and the burst water pipe in the first week! Getting used to working with the older pupils was a real culture shock. However, there were lots of fond memories. Then it was down to the new building, which is now Trenchard – I hate flitting! Next, senior girls were introduced – (Is the word MUG tattooed on my forehead!) – but my fears were put to rest. However, not satisfied with that, the school authorities decided that the House should become co-educational. Mama Mia! I must have been mad. But again it all worked out well.

So over the years I've gone from P6 & 7 boys only to S1 to S3 with some S5 & S6 boys only, to P7 to S2 with some S6 boys only, to P7 & S1 boys with S5 & S6 girls to, finally, P7 boys and girls, S1 boys and girls with S4, 5 & 6 girls! I challenge anyone in the future to beat that for variety!

Of course there have been some lows but these are quickly forgotten, and there have been many long-lasting memories of the highs and I've been lucky to have the latter in abundance.

I have regarded myself to be very privileged and honoured to have been given the responsibility to look after so many people's children. My thanks, therefore, must be extended to all the parents, relatives and family friends whose support, co-operation, acquaintance and friendship I have valued very highly. I am confident that these relationships greatly assisted the children during their time in Trenchard.

My thanks go to all the pupils whom I have had the privilege to care for and my thanks to all the staff and colleagues for their help and without whose support I would not have been able to do my job. All your cards and messages warmed me greatly and were very much appreciated.

I hope that the pupils will continue to support Miss Matheson in the positive and kind manner that they did with me.

Adieu, and see you all in the Primary Department and over to you Miss Matheson!

Mr G Carroll, Housemaster



Rugby 1st XV 2003 – 2004

Rugby 2003 – 2004

1ST XV RUGBY REPORT 2003 – 2004

This has been one of the most enjoyable rugby seasons for a long time. There were several reasons for this, not least the positive attitude shown throughout the season by the players, both in practice and in matches. Even when we were up against superior opposition, we never gave up and our excellent team spirit shone through. The credit for this must go to all the senior players, but in particular to Robert Carmichael and Michael Gibb, who as captain and vice-captain respectively, led by example, were always well organised and left little to chance. From a personal point of view, it was a pleasure to work with both these players and I thank them for their efforts.

Morrison's Academy 1st XV: 13 – 10 (W)

The first game of the season was much awaited after the cancellation of the Madras training game. The new strips were unpacked and put on with pride and with a quiet optimism for both a good win and a good season. We exploded into action straight from the whistle and within the opening minutes, we pressurised the Morrison's defence and our hard work eventually paid off with a beautifully floated pass to the jinky speedster on the wing, Craig Mason. We gained an eight-point advantage from the boot of Greg Towns, with a converted penalty. Sadly, it was at this point that we lost Jamie Evenden with a serious knee injury, which was to keep him out for the rest of the season. However, the pressure was not maintained to the end of the first half, allowing them to hit back with a poorly defended try. In the second half we returned to the scoreboard with a superb solo effort from a kick chase by Richard Cooper. A penalty was then awarded for a high tackle five metres from our line, which allowed the opposition to take full advantage, bringing the final score to 13 – 10 in our favour.

Merchiston 3rd XV: 15 – 27 (L)

Several key members were suffering from injury and it was very much a development side going into this match. A hard-worked effort allowed Andrew Abolins to score the first try of the day. After that we relaxed a bit too much, underestimated their running ability and allowed them to score more tries than they deserved. By half time our heads had dropped but we went into the second half, confident we could produce a win. We scored the first try in the second half through hard work and good play amongst the forwards. The try scorer was the up and coming 4th year Daniel Gibb, who was taking the place of injured Jamie Evenden. A lapse of concentration allowed errors to be made, giving Merchiston the opportunity to steal the game.

Madras 1st XV: 65 – 5 (W)

Preparations for this game on the Friday evening displayed clearly how much everyone was fully focused, ready and switched on for this important match. Straight from the whistle we applied pressure, and scored in the first few minutes through Andrew Abolins. The rest of the half consisted of well worked tries from nearly every member of our back line. Going into the second half we wanted to keep the pressure on and do as much damage as we could. Overall, we kept up the high level of performance allowing them through only once. This, I felt, was one of the best team performances of the season.

Mintlaw (Cup): 22 – 0 (W)

Going into this game with the same focus as we had in the Madras match was difficult. We were maybe a little over confident which wasn't an ideal situation as they were a capable side, with a handful of district players.



Rugby 2nd XV

We started off positively, and scored a quick try gained through a solo effort on the wing by David Love and then challenged strongly against a very physical set of forwards. The hooking foot of Michael Gibb was priceless, stealing a high percentage of the opposition's ball against the head, giving us plenty opportunity to attack them. Good efforts all-round stopped any chance of Mintlaw putting any points on the board and contributed to a very successful game.

George Heriot's (Cup): 7 – 42 (L)

Against one of Scotland's best teams, we made a very positive start to the game but did not, however, break the gain line and were forced into pressure defence. Several players suffered injuries, including our hooker Michael Gibb, causing unsettlement. Frustration played a large part in errors that were made by the team as a whole. A consolation try came from a very skilful and decisive grubber and chase by Greg Towns and concluded the game.

Lomond: 32 – 12 (W)

A game which, in the eyes of the team, but most importantly Mr King, had to be won due to the unforgivable loss to them last season. We dominated from the start, especially up front, where the back row ran riot. Excellent work from the backs meant that we took our chances when the opportunities arose. Tries from Craig Mason, Andy Abolins and Greg Towns were highlights.

Balfon (Bowl): 10 – 15 (W)

Although gaining an excellent solo try early on by Andrew Abolins, it was not an easy game and Balfon proved to be organised and very determined. They came very close to stealing the game but Andrew Abolins scored for the second time in the match, to give us the win over our unlucky opponents.

Marr: 5 – 12 (W)

The first game after the holidays showed in the opening minutes, giving them a try advantage. Hard work and determination

allowed us to pull back with Andrew Abolins scoring once again along with the fullback Richard Cooper. Unforced errors were our only enemy on the day and were clearly highlighted at the end of the game by all concerned.

Stewart Melville (Bowl – semi final): 6 – 59 (L)

With the bad luck of the draw haunting us, it was the last season's cup finalists we were now facing and, as with George Heriot's we were aware of the much higher level of opposition. Very much out-paced in the backs, which was a major factor in the score line, and also organisation in the forwards, proved to be our downfall against a very good side. Positives to be taken from this were our determination and attitude which were exceptional.

Wellington: 25 – 10 (L)

With Mr McLay standing in for the rest of the season in the absence of Mr King, no enthusiasm or spirit was lost. The game was very much there for the taking with our tries being scored by Rab Carmichael and Mathew Lovell, which brought us very close to taking the win, but lapses in concentration allowed Wellington to take full advantage and win the game.

St Columba's: 17 – 17 (D)

'A game of two halves!' – St Columba's coach.

In the first twenty minutes we were outplayed and caught unaware, allowing them totally to dominate, putting their full 17 points on us very quickly. A quick change in organisation and a severe increase in intensity, gave Andrew Abolins time to score before half-time, making it 17 – 5 to them. Discussing our problems at half-time brought us into the second half in renewed determination. A try from Greg Towns and the equaliser from Andrew Abolins brought the game to a close, but not before a drop goal attempt by Richard Cooper shaved the post on the wrong side.

Dundee HS 2nd XV: 7 – 7 (D)

The conditions for this game (downpour onto an already



S2 Rugby Team

waterlogged pitch) were the worst we had seen all season, which affected the game greatly. Their powerful pack allowed them to play a tight rucking game in slow running conditions and stopped us from playing our dynamic continuity style. With Dundee taking the lead in the first half it put us in the chase. However the football skills of Darren Howie enabled a 'Thierry Henri' dribble up the pitch to bring it level. Hard worked defence from both sides prevented either team from taking the win.

Kelvinside: 15 – 21 (L)

Concentration and focus was the key to the last game of the season. Being piped out for the first time marked a special incentive to perform well. Although being down within the first 10 minutes, the forwards worked hard in stealing ball and dominating in the rucks and mauls with our first try coming from the prop forward, Peter Girvan. Good lineout drives gave us plenty opportunity to attack but a very well organised defence by Kelvinside stopped us from taking the lead. All credit to the team in the second half, where the intensity and focus was kept throughout, resulting in Richard Cooper getting a well-run try but it was Kelvinside's win on the day.

Conclusion

This group of players has been a pleasure to work with. The team spirit and commitment have been an example to us all, as well as their never say die attitude. In particular I would like to thank the long-suffering substitutes, who often had to sit out whole matches, especially in the Cup, without getting on the pitch. All the players involved in the whole Senior Squad can be justifiably proud of their efforts this year.

Once again I would like to thank all my fellow coaches for giving selflessly of their time and efforts:- Mr McLay, Mr Raine, Mr McNally, Mr Gilhooley, Mr Philson, Mr Carroll, and Mr Beattie. I would also like to thank Sister Skeith and all her medical team.

Mr King, Master i/e Rugby

2ND XV RUGBY SEASON

This was to be a real roller coaster season with heavy defeats one week, resounding victories the next and it was also a frustrating season as many games were cancelled due to cup ties or the inclement weather.

Morrison's: 0 – 0 (D)

A tough first match of the season. Our defence was solid, as is reflected by the score; however, our attack lacked penetrative power. The forwards' set piece play was impressive but Morrison's out-rucked us throughout the game. With an impressive break-away run by Brian Clyde, we very nearly won the game in the dying seconds, although a draw was a fair result.

Merchiston: 19 – 33 (L)

This was again a hard fought match, with a lot of superb defensive play and effective counter attacks. Soon after half time the score was all even, with every thing to play for; unfortunately, we lost a little focus and the opposition proved to be fitter than us up front which allowed them to spin the ball wide in their own inimitable way and take advantage of the gaps on the wings.

Madras: 33 – 7 (W)

By far the best performance a 2nd XV has given in many years at QV. The forwards' set piece play proved too much for the Madras players, opening up their defence and allowing our backs to punch holes through them with fast direct running and slick handling. This is the game where the team showed their true potential.

Lomond: 42 – 0 (W)

Even though the team had not played together for a while and we had a few additions to the team, the backs and forwards linked up effectively. The forwards played a tight close game, taking a lot from the recent rucking sessions they had been put through, which allowed the backs time to get the ball out wide and exploit the opposition's weaknesses.



S1 Rugby Team

Marr: 0 – 37 (L)

This match was always going to be tough as Marr are a well organised team. We didn't get off to a good start and, as a result, struggled throughout the match. Their forwards out-rucked us and their backs found gaps in our defence. Although we never let our heads go down and defended fiercely we couldn't find a way through their defence as our attacking options were weak.

Wellington: 36 – 7 (W)

A good defensive game where the S3 and S4 players came together. Lineouts were effective, as were the scrums, which allowed our backs space and time to move the ball wide. The players worked well together and the team spirit was commendable.

St Columba's: 0 – 7 (L)

Having not played together for a while the team was a little rusty. A lot of handling errors and missed tackles from both sides kept the game tight. The team played better in the second half, led by Nick Farr; however, the forwards failed to secure enough ball for the backs. All players in the team must be congratulated for their dedication and commitment to the side in both training and in matches. There is a lot of potential in this squad and hopefully we'll be able to build upon the work covered this year so that there is more consistency of performance next season.

S3 RUGBY

Another season and a whole raft of new experiences! It's been an interesting and varied time with the S3 team. Our main hurdle was trying to field a team each week due to small numbers in this year group and injuries. However, we fielded a team most weeks and fulfilled the majority of our fixtures.

Our results have been mixed but the one thing that cannot be questioned is the commitment of the players. There was a 'never say die' attitude amongst them and they always put in the maximum effort, whether winning or losing.

We were very fortunate in having a great leader and captain in Cameron Lee and his steadying influence produced a more harmonious team spirit. He was ably vice-captained by both Gavin Bonner and Edward Hodgson, at various points in the season.

The players have gained much from this season and they can take all that they have learned forward to 2nd XV rugby next year and channel their experiences in a positive way. Enjoy the summer break and good luck for next season!

S1 RUGBY REPORT

I would like to start by thanking the other players and our coaches Mr Carroll, Mr Philson and Mr Marriner. This year's S1 team have grown in every possible way from hard tackling to quick passes to create scores. We got off to a bit of a bumpy start but after a few positional changes (such as Euan Collins moving to fullback, where his speed and vision could be made better use of and Jack (Scud) Hendren moving to stand-off, where his well-timed passes could release the mid-field players more effectively) the backs blended much better. Also moving Tony Kerr and Sean Dougal into the forwards allowed the team to make better use of their brute strength, as well as developing them as utility backs to give us more positional options in team selection.

I think we won games this season because of teamwork, a great



P7 Rugby Team

team spirit and everyone giving 100% most of the time. This was proven in the game against Merchiston Castle whom we really wanted to beat. We were one point ahead in a really tight game and it was the last play of the game near to our try line. We won the ball, cleared the ball into touch and won a fully deserved and memorable victory.

However, this season wasn't all highs, as we suffered three heavy defeats. However, we always knew we could come back from these setbacks and we did. This season our main aims were to win more matches than we lost and to score more points than we conceded. I am delighted to report that both these targets were achieved.

Callum Harris (S1 Captain)

After note from G Carroll and C Philson

We both fully agree with Callum's report and would like to add that this year's team displayed a good willingness to learn and develop. The secret to the hugely successful second half of the season was the team's ability to tackle with purpose, learn their roles and positions better and discover how it is possible to create scoring opportunities rather than leaving things to chance. Furthermore, the team has been very well led this year, so well done Callum Harris for being an inspiring and motivating captain.

P7 RUGBY

Josh and I are very happy with the progress that our P7 rugby team have put in after just 6 months, as no one except Stuart Howell had played rugby before. Well done to everyone involved!

Our first 2 matches were very tight against Morrison's and Glasgow Academy, especially against Glasgow Academy where we gave away a sloppy try. Those losses made us more determined to win our next match, Beaconsfield, and we did!

We lost 5 out of 10 games throughout the season to very experienced teams (Glasgow Academy, Belmont House, Hamilton College, St Columba's and Dundee High) but we should still be proud of ourselves and without doubt we will improve.

In our last match against Kelvinside, everything worked well: our tackling, passing and rucking, gave us a clear advantage. We scored 2 tries by Lee Gallacher, and one each for Josh McCallum and myself which were very well worked. But for us it was a forwards' game and Callum Fraser, Grant Alexander and Perry Tagima gave us the win. Their rucking, driving and lineouts were outstanding which gave us the platform for our best performance of the season.

Some of the things that we will need to work on for next season are tackling, passing quicker to the wing and better communication.

Here are some of the achievements our players have earned.

(Picked by Mr Beattie)

Players of the Year: Danny Gillie/Josh McCallum

Most Improved Players: Lee Gallacher/Ross Anderson

Top Try Scorer: Danny Gillie

All the team would like to thank Mr Beattie and Mr Fleming for teaching and coaching us the basics of rugby over the last year.

Danny Gillie, (P7 Captain)



1st XI Hockey Team

Hockey 2003 – 2004

1ST XI HOCKEY

This season has yet again proved to be a very successful one, with 10 wins from 13 games and an overall total of 32 goals scored and only 8 conceded. We have seen the breakthrough of some of the younger girls, with Hayleigh Dumbreck (S2) making a number of appearances for the team. Our top 2 goal scorers were Fiona Coyle with a massive 12 goals, closely followed by Sarah Moore with 11. Some of our higher scoring victories helped Callie and Sarah H (finally) to get on the score sheet – good effort, girls.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank Miss Scott for her continuous support and enthusiasm towards the team and for coaching us for the last 7 years. Unfortunately, the team and Miss Scott will be losing 7 (possibly 8) of the starting line-up which will include all but one of the defence – good luck Fi!!

Good luck to those remaining on the team and also to those preparing to fight for a 1st XI place.

Claire McGillivray (1st XI Captain)

RESULTS

Glenalmond Tournament

QVS 0 – HS Dundee 0
QVS 0 – Madras College 1
QVS 3 – Bell Baxter 0
QVS 2 – Glenalmond 0

Midlands Cup

QVS 3 – Morrison's Academy 0
QVS 0 – Strathallan 5
QVS 3 – Fettes College 1
QVS 4 – St Margaret's 1
QVS 1 – Strathallan 2nd XI 0
QVS 6 – Lomond 0
QVS 2 – Strathallan 2nd XI 0
QVS 5 – Kelvinside Academy 0
QVS 3 – St Margaret's 0











S3/S4 Hockey Team

S3 HOCKEY REPORT

The S3 team have performed well throughout the season, benefiting from lots of coaching and many matches. We have definitely worked more as a team this season, which in turn has improved our overall confidence. This can be seen from many successful results.

We lost against Beaconsfield at the beginning of the season, then drew with St Margaret's and Fettes mid season and went on to beat St Margaret's in the return fixture right at the end of the season.

We feel the scores have improved because of the way we have trained; even in snow and rain we worked hard to improve our skills and tactics. Thanks to all the players for their continual hard work and to Miss Scott and Miss Smith for coaching us throughout the year.

M Cameron, S Kirkaldy, L McLean & M McInnes

S2 HOCKEY REPORT

This season has produced a mixture of results for the S2 team, but yet again we have worked hard and played to the best of our ability. We have proved that we are capable of winning tough games, for example the game against Kelvinside, which was

possibly the best performance of the season, winning 2-0.

We have only lost 2 games this season, against Strathallan and Mary Erskine's, with the latter being the hardest of the season, not due to the opposition but the adverse weather conditions.

As captain I am proud to play for this team and glad we had a reasonably successful season.

Nicole Howe (S2 Captain)

S1 HOCKEY REPORT

This season has been reasonably good for the S1 Hockey Team. We have won 3, drawn 2 and lost one game. We were unfortunate that the Scottish Schools' cross-country was on the same day as one of our matches; however, those players remaining put up a good fight and did the School proud.

In all games the team played well and have made progress as the season continued. We played a great deal better than last year, which shows what a lot of practice can do.

Kayleigh Harrower, (S1 Captain)



S2 Hockey Team



S1 Hockey Team



1st XI Football Team

1st XI Football

Once again the School was entered into the Independent Schools Football League and played in the Northern Sector. Our opponents included Dollar, Strathallan, Glenalmond, Dundee, St Leonard's and Gordonstoun.

We travelled over to St Leonard's for our first match, which was to prove a more difficult fixture than expected. The pitch was small, it was an extremely windy day and QV took a long time to settle. We played as individuals and, therefore, were unable to attack effectively and often were caught out on the counter attack. The St Leonard's goalkeeper kept them in the game as he controlled the 18 yard box with ease. Eventually, we came away with a win and also a lot to learn before our next match against Gordonstoun, which was a home match on the Astroturf. It was end to end football with both sides tiring noticeably towards the end of the second half. A draw was certainly a fair result.

Our next match against Dollar was away on their grass pitch. Last year they put 15 goals past us, so a new defensive formation was called for. We put Dean Patterson into sweeper and played with only three in mid-field. The team worked tirelessly throughout the first half, especially David Honeyman, Darren Howie and Dean Patterson and it was 1-1 at half time. Unfortunately, in the second half, with the mid-field tiring due to the added pressure, the Dollar forwards were quick to take advantage and the result at the end was 5-2. Overall, it was a much better performance, with many players starting to show their potential.

Next we faced Dundee who, incidentally, had drawn with Dollar. We kept the same formation, however, with it being on Astroturf

and made the decision to play route 1 ball over the defence for our very quick and very able strikers, Andy Abolins and Jason Wilson. We couldn't have asked for a better start, as within 30 seconds Jason had scored. Dundee were left in shock as we put a further three goals past them, one being a particularly well struck free kick by David Honeyman. The result in the end was 7-4 to QV and in this game we showed our real potential as a team.

Our last match was against Glenalmond, away, which would decide whether we went through to the knock-out rounds. It was a well matched game with both sides playing with determination and commitment. Although we dominated the first half we failed to make the most of well constructed attacks and, therefore, reached half time with a 1-1 score line. In the second half we changed our formation as the midfield felt they needed an extra player to create width. This worked for a time but they had a very useful right wing who took advantage of our defence lying too far up the field, managed to score and held on to this lead to the end, left us disappointed and, therefore, out of the competition.

All players improved their game throughout the season but the following must be congratulated for their determination and loyalty to the side in both training and in the games.

Dean Patterson for outstanding performances throughout the season and holding the defence together.

Andy Abolins for sheer grit and determination up front.

David Honeyman for displaying skills and control seldom seen at school boy level and working tirelessly in all games.

Last, but not least, **Jason Wilson**, the Captain, for his enthusiasm, loyalty and 'silky skills'.

The first fixture was a real success. We took 50 boys from S1-S6 over to Glasgow to compete against Hutcheson's, Lomond and St Columba's. The weather was most conducive to athletics and lots of individuals came away with personal bests. The U14 team proved to be very strong and departed with many 1st and 2nd places. Notable performances were:-

100m	R Robertson	1st	A string
100m	H McArthur	1st	B string
400m	A Batson	1st	A string
Long Jump	J Hobson	1st	
Shot	R Robertson	1st	
Javelin	J Flann	1st	
Relay Team		1st	
(J Hobson, R Robertson, H McArthur, L Gillie)			

The U15 team were too strong for the opposition once again and took many of the 1st places available. These were as follows:

100m	M Lovell	1st	A string
200m	D Love	1st	A string
200m	M Lovell	1st	B string
400m	D Love	1st	A string
400m	D Gibb	1st	B string
800m	A Rainey	1st	A string
800m	M Marshall	1st	B string
1500m	D Honeyman	1st	A string
Shot	B Clyde	1st	
Javelin	B Cyde	1st	
Relay Team		1st	
(M Lovell, M Marshall, D Honeyman, D Love)			

The U17 team came up against stiffer opposition; however, there were many fine performances including:

100m	G Towns	1st	A string
200m	G Towns	1st	A string
1500m	C Richardson	1st	A string
High Jump	A Page	1st	
Discus	J Evenden	1st	

With a lack of 6th years present, the O17 team, led by K Reid and R Carmichael, were not as successful. However, they competed with enthusiasm and determination and, in many of the events, were up against seasoned club athletes. Their attitude and effort cannot be faulted.

The second fixture was at the impressive venue of Scotstoun and against some stiff opposition. These included schools such as Hutcheson's Grammar, St Aloysius, Wellington and Douglas Academy. This year, at least, the rain stayed off and it was a reasonable day for athletics. Many of the athletes, once again, improved their own personal performances, and all enjoyed competing at the stadium. The following results are worthy of note:

S1	Girls		
Shot	L Hobson	1st	6.85m
S2	Girls		
800m	K Harrower	1st	2.43

1500m	K Harrower	1st	5.40
Shot	F McIntyre	1st	7.75
S3	Girls		
100m	K Leith	1st	15.1
1500m	L Bridgeman	1st	5.37
S2	Boys		
200m	J Hobson	1st	27.22
High Jump	J Hobson	1st	1.40m
S3	Boys		
100m	M Lovell	1st	11.95
200m	D Love	1st	27.22
200m	M Lovell	1st	24.97
1500m	D Honeyman	1st	4.48
Javelin	B Clyde	1st	30.30m

It was great to see our students competing at such a high level against schools who have twice, if not three times as many pupils from which to choose. The boys team came third in the whole competition beating St Aloysius and Wellington; however, our U15 boys team was only beaten by Douglas Academy and even then by a small margin.

The next fixture, against Glenalmond, Dollar, Fettes and Strathallan, involved a junior girls team that consisted of S2 and S3 students. The girls were split into two teams with each athlete only being allowed to compete in 1 field and 1 track event. Throughout the competition we were neck and neck with Fettes. There were great performances from Emma Reid winning the 100m, with a time of 13.67; Katrina Leith, winning the high jump with a personal best of 1.35m, and the 200m, with a time of 27.7; Karen Harrower fought hard throughout the 800m and came second, and Daryl Pearce put in a brave run over 300m. Maxine Cameron showed great character by stepping in at the last moment to run the 1500m and, thereby, achieving a valuable 2 points. The relay race was last and the team of Emma Reid, Carly MacDonald, Toni Guthrie and Katrina Leith were up for it. We were about six metres back from Fettes when Katrina, our 4th runner, received the baton. With a cry of 'Come on, girls!' from Cameron McLay (the mascot), it was almost as if she had a sixth gear, as she strode effortlessly past the opposition, winning the race by over 5 metres and in a time of 56.92. However, we were beaten by Fettes by only 3 points. Well done to all those who took part in what was to turn out to be a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The Forth Valley Championships were a great success once again this year, with most athletes achieving personal bests and often in the top three. Out of twelve teams the S1 girls, S2 and S3 boys teams came first and the S2, S3 girls and S1 boys teams all came second. This fixture gives us an opportunity to compare ourselves with a lot of other schools and, judging by the results, the time and effort spent training is now beginning to pay off.

I would like to finish by thanking Mr Laing and Miss Scott for all their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the term.

Mr McLay, Principal Teacher PE & Games



Cross Country Team

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS – 2004

The Harrower sisters were very much to the fore throughout the season. Both Kayleigh and Karen were top finishers in their respective age groups all winter. Kayleigh, well-supported by Lesley-Ann O'Connor, finished 44th in the Scottish Schools, with their under-14 team in eighth position. In the same event Karen was 13th and, if she shows the same improvement next year, selection for the Scottish Schools team beckons. The under-17 team – Karen, Katrina Leith, Maxine Cameron and Sarah Fennell – finished in seventh place.

One of our main achievements of the winter was the fact that we were able for the first time to put out a team in the girls' event at the St Aloysius Road Relay, which finished a very creditable fourth. The boys finished 19th. Other notable performers throughout the winter were William Jackson and Keiren Mackie in the U14's, David Honeyman and Leanne Bridgeman in the U17's. Special mention must go to John Campbell and David Thorpe for their unstinting loyalty to cross country throughout their time at school. They finished 32nd and 34th respectively, at the Scottish Schools, leading the over-17 team (including Stuart Mooney and Alasdair Page) to eighth place.

Many others competed (some even voluntarily!) and the Monday lunchtime training sessions were well attended. Well done to all who took part.

Mr Laing

COOL RUNNINGS (Why would anyone volunteer for it?)
We were runners once – and young
After seven years of hypothermia, exhaustion and many of Mr Laing's Gestapo training techniques it is finally our time to tell the truth. From the parks of Glasgow to the D-Day shores of Irvine, the QV running force (namely us pair) has attended and struggled round every 'voluntary' race with many surprising, nay, astonishing results. We sacrificed many a good day out and the

most important OV weekend of our lives, but it has all been worth it – CROSS COUNTRY COLOURS!! (a tie actually). We didn't win any races this year but commitment has been unfaltering and second to none. When we were first accepted into the team it seemed a good way to get out of Tuesday afternoon school. This, however, soon turned out to be very poor judgement on our part. We had Hobson's choice – academic study or suffer 'frost-bite'. We chose frost-bite and the story tells itself...

Dougie's exclusive –

Every Monday lunch-time training session, Chris Soper and I repeatedly practised our German skills by commenting on the weather - 'Ich bin scneeing' - I was never great at German. We gave up our Tuesday afternoons and Saturday morning games to pound the streets and hills of Dunblane, in preparation for our assault on the beaches of Irvine at the Scottish Cross Country Championships. As we struggled up yet another hill, we couldn't help being pleased we had given up football for all this.

John's exclusive –

My seven year struggle was not against other schools but Dougie. He always stole the limelight in every race from P7 to S5. But this year I can retire from QVS Cross Country a happy chappy – I finally beat him!!!! (not that I am one to gloat) and ... I got a mention in Chapel!

Athletic support –

Our awesome running talents aside, we couldn't have done it without Sarah F's contribution – organising strips and team photos. Thanks to coach Laing (Mr Scran-man himself), with his electrifying voice and man-eating dog Skye, who regularly chased us round the Laighills first thing on a Saturday morning. At that time of the day, in the middle of a hard run, Mr Laing's quick-witted comments and suspect jokes were as welcome as vaulting Wavell Burn with two laps to go.

QVS Cross Country Team Motto

Veni, Vidi, Vici – 'I came, I saw' I conked out'

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Highland Dancing



Highland Dancers

It's been a pretty hectic year, but for the dancers of Queen Victoria School, it always is! We started off the year with 'all guns blazing' when we took part in the Berwick Tattoo in September. It was a hard start for us and really tested the dancers, in particular the Assistant Principals and myself, who were 'thrown into the deep end', so to speak. As ever we had our instructor and teacher, Mrs MacDonald, behind us and backing us every step of the way.

As well as the Berwick Tattoo, 2004 saw two teams of four dancers go to the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. Both teams competed in the reels competition and came first and second, respectively. Alasdair Page and Andrew Martin both competed in the male open competition. Alasdair came second in three of the four dances and Andy received second in the Seann Truibhas. But they'll be the first to say, 'We wir robbed!!' Oh well, you can't win them all.

There were no losers when it came to the dancing exams this year, with Alasdair Page, Leanne Bridgeman and Sarah Louise McDougall picking up distinctions – a pass of 97% and above – and a high percentage of honours marks on top of that. As usual the results were excellent, keeping up our high reputation and rewarding the hard-earned skill of the dancers.

The school launched its Centenary Appeal this year for a new auditorium to be built for the school's 100th anniversary. The launch of this was held at Edinburgh Castle and Andy Martin graced the audience with steps that he and Mrs MacDonald had

created themselves. The assembled audience included Ian McGeechan – former Scotland rugby coach and Alistair Mackenzie from TV's, *Monarch of the Glen*.

Now the school year is coming to a close but, with so much to look forward to, there's no chance of a break just yet. In May the dancers will be gracing St Andrews golf course, but no, they're not going there for a round of golf – although I wouldn't say no to the 19th hole – they'll be performing to celebrate St Andrews R&A golf club's 250th anniversary. It doesn't stop there as they'll also be performing for The Lord High Commissioner of The General Assembly at a garden party – I just hope the weather holds.

Of course, how could I finish the dancing notes without mentioning the Nova Scotia Tattoo. In the summer of 2005, the dancers will fly off to Canada to take part in this prestigious event. I just know that they will do the school proud and back up its high reputation.

I would like to thank Mrs MacDonald on behalf of the team, as we wouldn't be half as good without her excellent guidance and teaching. I would also like to thank my Assistant Principals: Callie, Claire, Andy and Alasdair – thanks, guys; I couldn't have got through this year without your help. I would like to thank the dancers as well; you've made my job a lot easier and I know you won't let us down in Canada.

Jamie Friery, *Principal Dancer*

Minstrels and Music



Mr Breingan, Director of Music and the Windband

Another exciting year for music at QVS. In 2003 we said goodbye to both students and staff, but hello to all sorts of exciting new friends and developments.

Our longest serving instrumental tutor, Ruth Jones, left us at Christmas after more than twelve years teaching brass lessons, sometime playing organ and, I believe, looking after a few music classes. We are all sorry to see Ruth go as she was a great help to me when I arrived, guiding me round the department and some of the workings of the school. One of Ruth's finest students David McDougall also left this year having completed his Advanced Higher, with an A grade in fifth year. He has now moved on to St Mary's specialist music school before going on to a degree course in music.

Pam Johnstone, who founded our fiddle group, will also be leaving us, due to pressure of work, and I would like to thank her for all her hard work.

We have had our normal group of outings with both 'Senior and Junior Minstrels' performing in a range of venues around Central Scotland. We visited some old friends but also some new, with visits to Comrie and, also for the first time in recent years, a trip

just down the road to Dunblane Cathedral Hall for a very well received performance by the P7 Minstrels.

The number of pupils sitting SQA certificates in music continues to grow with twelve Standard grades, four Highers and one Advanced Higher this year. Nine of the S grades and one of the Higher candidates have taken advantage of music study clubs to complete their courses, as they had already a full time-table of subjects.

We just have to await the results, but as the practical examiner said, she had a charming day sampling all sorts of music from Isla McLeod's clarsach, through David Leishman's rock drumming, Keshia and Carrie-Anne Harris's performances to Ciara Watson's jazz flute. Therefore, I think we will be as successful as last year.

A group of our pupils was delighted when attending their first classical concert, at the Royal Concert Hall. Not only did they get to speak to the conductor at the interval but, in a vote of thanks at the end of the concert, they were mentioned in his speech.

The links with pipes and drums continue to grow and next year's crop of SQA candidates will include, for the first time, both S and



Minstrels

H grade pipers and drummers.

We have been joined by Gavin Sprowat, our new brass instructor, who is a lecturer for both Strathclyde University and Perth College and is enjoying the challenge of teaching a different level of student here at QVS. Annie Cockburn, a rising star in folk fiddling, will take over our fiddle group in the summer term.

In January, we launched the start of our £2.5m centennial appeal, which is to build a new auditorium and linked music department. The launch-night in the great hall of Edinburgh Castle was a great success and I finally fulfilled a life-long ambition to play in a pipe band, almost! I added the band parts to 'Highland Cathedral' on synthesizer!

I can hardly believe another year has passed, but was reminded that I'm no longer the new boy when on OVA's weekend, Scott Lawrie, an ex QV student returned to inform me that after a year at college he is now starting a music degree course. Thanks to all my musicians past and present for making music teaching such a rewarding job.

Mr Breingan, Director of Music





Photographs courtesy of Mr Silcox

The Biennial Review of the CCF took place on Wednesday 17th March 2004 with Air Commodore Bryant Inspecting. A very full and varied programme was undertaken that day by all the cadets to show off the activities of all our Sections, Royal Navy, Army, and Air Force. This started with a Parade and Inspection in appalling weather, followed by a Highland Dancing display in the Theatre. In the afternoon there were various exercises involving all sections, both inside and outside e.g. canoeing in the pool, map and compass, first aid, patrol harbour, signals, shooting range and a final briefing by Air Commodore Bryant.

Some extracts from the Contingent Commander's Report to the Inspecting Officer:-

'I have the honour to report on a full and very busy period of training by the Cadet Force at Queen Victoria School since our last Biennial Inspection. In many ways the Cadet World is a microcosm of the Armed Forces. Albeit to a lesser extent, we share many of the same difficulties and juggle the same priorities of finance, staffing, retention and time constraints.

'Since my last report two new initiatives have been undertaken. The first is a Code of Conduct for the CCF mirroring the standard procedures of the academic and boarding side of the pupils' lives. This involves the cadets 'signing up' to recognised and agreed

modes of conduct while on cadet training and provides both the cadets and the Senior NCO Instructor with clearly defined discipline procedures when things go wrong. Our main Instructor base is undertaken by the Cadets themselves and these positive procedures are to support them in their weekly tasks.

'Secondly, we began, this September, involvement with the BTECH qualification, The First Diploma in Public Service. This will run annually from September to March each year, being administered by myself. It is intended for the cadet in his or her fifth or sixth year. This is a very practical and clear incentive to stay within the ranks as well as an excellent opportunity for the cadets to demonstrate our community involvement via the Community Based Programme, which is at the heart of this award.'

As Contingent Commander I would wish to place on record to the readers of this Magazine my great indebtedness to every one of the Section Officers of the Corps. Without them nothing of what I have spoken about in this report would ever have taken place. It is indeed a very great personal privilege for me to be identified with them and to record the great spirit and bond of unity and comradeship which our work continues to generate among us all.

Mr J Silcox, Contingent Commander QVS, CCF



Photographs courtesy of Mr Silcox

The Annual Military Summer Camp took place in early July at Cultybraggan training camp near Comrie in Perthshire. Forty-three Cadets and four officers participated in this week's very varied training programme and we were all very thankful for a spell of really good weather, which naturally added to the enjoyment of the outdoor activities. Training included Bagging a Munroe; Kayaking and Raft Building; Command Tasks down the Bunker; Skill at Arms; Survival and Camp Craft; Assault Course Competition; Clay Pigeon Shooting; Tug of War Competition and a March and Shoot Competition, to name but a few. The final

day of the camp was taken up by an inter Corps competition followed by a barbecue.

I would like to express my thanks to CSM Stephen Carter for all his hard work during the Camp and for leading the Drill competition, for which he was highly commended. He was supported by an excellent group of seniors who also deserve my gratitude and praise for their exemplary behaviour, as do all the participation cadets.

Mr J Silcox, Contingent Commander QVS, CCF



Ski Camp 2004, Germany

Our most successful ski camp to date took place in February of this year when, during the Exeat week, the CCF took forty cadets and eleven staff to the REME ATC at Bergheim Lieb in southern Germany. It was a most enjoyable week's skiing.

Queen Victoria School Cadet Corps is very much indebted to the REME Facility in Bavaria for their most kind hospitality, especially to Capt Andy Harrower REME and his Secretary, Susan

Crossford; the Mess Manager and Chef, husband and wife team, Sgt Gary and Sandra Marsh; Chief Ski Instructor, Cpl Jon May and his team; SSgt Stef Hinds; Cpl Colin Edwards; L/Cpl Yan Thomas; Cpl Any Mortimore; Cpl Ally Smith and Sgt Ashfield. The visit was also assisted by two SATT's, Lee Tidd and Chris Devaney. Mr Raine served the cadets soft drinks every night from the bar! (Sgt Gary Raine, REME, that is!)



Christmas Fancy Dress Quiz

Each year the cadets of the Army Section hold a Christmas Fancy Dress Quiz. This is run by the senior cadets who organize the programme, judge the entries, and award the prizes. It is good to see the young people, who work so hard training every

Wednesday, also being able to enjoy themselves in such a relaxed and informal manner.

Mr J Silcox, *Contingent Commander QVS, CCF*



L-R: Joshua Flann (in the cockpit), Leigh Halley, Cameron Lee & Callum Wood at RAF Leuchars

RAF Halton was the venue for our summer 2003 camp where the sun shone solidly, but not as brightly as the shine on Sgt Martin's bulled shoes. Sgt Martin ran special 'bulling' sessions on the barrack block staircase in his spare time, so it was no surprise that he got awarded 'Best Cadet'. It was a good camp for everyone and all cadets got to fly – not just to Luton and back (that was a scary flight actually!) – but also at RAF Benson. We visited Duxford where we drove off without one of the officers – who never forgave Flt Lt Gilhooly because of it! We also went to the Battle of Britain bunker at RAF Uxbridge as well as the usual camp activities: swimming and drill competitions, section visits, shooting, nitex, orienteering, etc.

Flt Lt Gilhooly and Fg Off Sheerin 'volunteered' for the Air Cadet Leadership course run at RAF Stafford in July, which is designed to improve cadets' leadership skills through a huge variety of practical tasks. It is a very physically demanding course, with only a few hours' sleep over the entire week, but we felt it was an extremely rewarding one so we nominated some of our best cadets for places on the course. (We have just heard that Sgt Martin has been offered a place for this summer.)

Plt Off Johnston (a real pilot officer as she passed her private pilot's licence in January) has taken most of the flying and gliding this year, with every cadet getting a chance of air experience flying if they wanted to. Eight cadets also got the opportunity to go gliding: congratulations to Cdt Halley who gained his GIC3, Sgts Howie and Martin, Cdts Batson, Moles, Sheppard and Wootton who got their GIC1s. Many thanks to Plt Off Johnston for her enthusiasm and commitment.

In January Fg Off Wright left to head up the Army section. The RAF section is very grateful to him for all his help during his time

with us, especially for starting up and running the elite 'Cadre' course. He has already made his mark on the Army section and we wish him well for the future.

This year our training programme has been varied, starting off with adventure training and leadership exercises and lots of 'SMEAC' practice during the good weather, the Part Two lessons delivered by our committed bunch of instructors, the National Ground Training Competition in December and the Christmas Fancy Dress party organised and run by Cpl Fennell, stores-manager extraordinaire. The standard of fancy dress entries was extremely high – Cdt Elliott being particularly impressive as the Hulk – the best use of cam cream we've ever seen!

The Biennial took place in March and we ran three activities: a leadership exercise, navigation exercise and aircraft recognition.

Easter Camp this year was at RAF Lyneham, home of the Hercules. Fg Off Sheerin got the exciting opportunity of flying on the Herc during a night exercise 'drop' training mission. The cadets had a good time too and were recommended by the Camp Com who was very impressed by the standards of our QVS pupils and singled them out as being a 'credit to our school'! Well done lads! Summer Camp, with Flt Lt Gilhooly as Camp Com, will be at RAF Cosford in July. We also have one cadet attending camp in Germany and four going Adventure Training in Windermere, as is Plt Off Johnston.

We say 'Goodbye' this year to four sixth years who seem to have been with us forever, including our Flight Sergeant John Campbell and Sgt Broadbelt – we wish them all well in their lives ahead.

Fg Off Sheerin

SUMMER TERM WATER SPORTS

We were lucky with the weather last summer term and managed either sailing, windsurfing or canoeing each Wednesday evening. Loch Ore Meadows is the venue for the sailing and windsurfing and we use Loch Ard for the canoeing, both of which are ideally suited for their activity, providing us with a safe and fun environment. The Canadian canoes are the most popular with the cadets, because they are easy to capsize.



Rebecca Copland and Christopher Loch laugh at Luke Day as he falls off his windsurfer

NEW LAPTOPS

Lt Tony Ford, our parent establishment liaison officer from Faslane, managed to provide the section with two laptop computers, which have been a great help to the senior cadets in the delivery of their lessons. Most of the CCF RN syllabus has been written onto compact disc made up of power point presentations. There is also a CCF RN web site. This means the senior cadets can prepare and deliver a very professional teaching package.

Both Lt Ford and CPO Nordon have, as usual, given invaluable support throughout the session. In addition, the stores team at Faslane are always helpful. On behalf of Mr Borking and myself and the cadets we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

SKI CAMP

The CCF's first ski camp abroad was without doubt the highlight of the year. We were based at the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers adventure training centre in Bavaria Germany. The accommodation, facilities, food and staff were superb, as was the skiing. We used the Fellhorn ski resort, which had perfect snow conditions, allowing us to ski every day and follow runs from the top of the mountain at 1967m all the way to the bottom station over 1000m below. The resort covers an area which includes part of Austria as well as Germany, and the views of the Alps were breathtaking.

We all hope to return to REME ATC next year.



MARCH BIENNIAL INSPECTION

Air Commodore Bryant RAF enjoyed his visit and said he was very pleased with the inspection. When he visited the naval section coxswain Treejana Dewan escorted him round our activities, which included PO Jamie Greenwood instructing canoeing in the pool, PO Katrina Watson delivering a lecture on power point and PO Katy McIntyre running a practical leadership task.

AFFILIATED SHIP

HMS Superb, a nuclear powered hunter killer submarine is our section's affiliated ship and her Second in command Lt Cdr Bower RN visited the school to join in with the biennial inspection. Lt Cdr Bower RN came to the school to establish the affiliation with HMS Superb and has offered the cadets a visit to the submarine in the summer term and he hopes to keep up close links between Superb and our CCF RN Section.

Lt Cdr T Shannon RD RNR

Duke of Edinburgh Award

BRONZE EXPEDITIONS

Generally, the weather for most of the expeditions was good but a few wet days did help to develop character and reinforced the need to waterproof line your rucksack with a polythene bag to keep your sleeping bag dry, as well as spare clothes.

The Bronze training expeditions took place, as usual, in the Trossachs. The base camp was situated once again in an idyllic spot on the shores of Loch Achray where the pupils were able to develop their camp craft skills and discover the culinary delights of campsite cooking. The area around the Trossachs is ideal for navigation training with a wide variety of terrain. The girls group followed routes over Ben Venue (727m), Creag a Bhealaich (673m), Creag Innich (521m) and Ben Aan (454m). The boys group followed routes over Beinn Each (813m), Lochan a Chroin (730m), Stuc a Chroin (975m) and Aonach Gaineamhach (800m).



Charlotte Tervit, Carrie-Ann Harris, Shradha Limbu, Katrina Leith, Carly MacDonald, Jennifer Carter and Vivian Moonan enjoying the Scottish summer weather

The Bronze assessed expeditions were carried out on our local Ochil Hills, which present the participants with a challenging but safe environment, a real sense of adventure and develop their self-reliance and confidence.

Our groups all started on the south facing slopes and, via different routes, made their way to Ben Cleuch (721m), the highest point, and on to the campsite area by the river Devon. The second day of the assessed expedition involved the group navigating its way back to school. Over the two day expedition the pupils walked over 30km and climbed over 900m.

All our Bronze assessments were successful.

SILVER AND GOLD EXPEDITIONS

Everyone agreed that many valuable lessons were learned in their training expeditions, for example, always having plenty of midge repellent. Unfortunately, the Scottish midge has conquered and colonized even Dartmoor but this did not stop the pupils having a great time there. We had one Gold exploration group, (Laura Hadland, Nicola Bonner and John Campbell), one Silver (Philippa Roessler, Treejana Dewan, Stephanie Gargan, Katy McIntyre and Ciara Watson) and another Silver group (Stephen Carter, Craig Simmons, Daniel Farrish, Andrew Martin, James Elliott and Elliot Wood). All had great weather to carry out their various activities on the moors and the Dartmoor Ponies were very popular with the pupils.

This summer our Gold and Silver practice expeditions will take place in Scotland.

This session we started another option for the Service section of the Award. It is environmental work in the local community, in conjunction with the Dunblane Trust and the Dunblane Community Council. Our area of responsibility is the Laighills opposite the school. Each Sunday during term time a group of our pupils, with a supervising member of staff, carry out environmental work, which involves the removal of litter and inspection of paths and facilities. It has proved to be a popular option and we hope to develop it to include restoration work. On a number of occasions local residents and people using the Laighills have expressed their appreciation of the work the pupils are doing.



Next session we will be reintroducing the first aid course as part of the service section. This was always a popular choice with Bronze Award pupils and useful for their expeditions, knowing how to bandage up all those blisters.

Once again I would like to pass on my thanks on behalf of the pupils involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at the school to all the staff and helpers for their continued support in the Award, the Service, Physical recreation, Skill and Expedition sections. Thank you!

Mr. T Shannon, *Director of Outdoor Pursuits*

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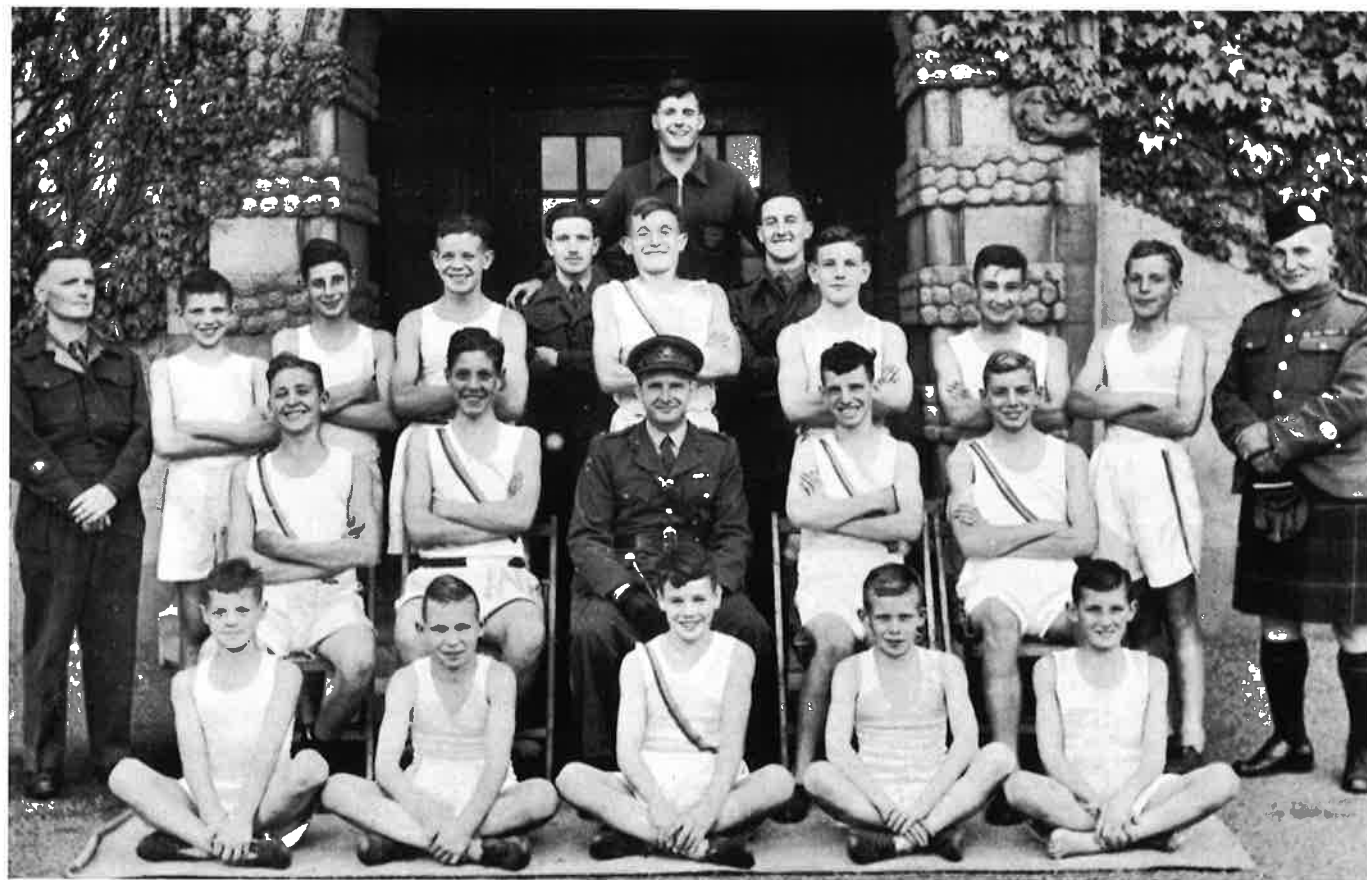
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Athletics team, 1949



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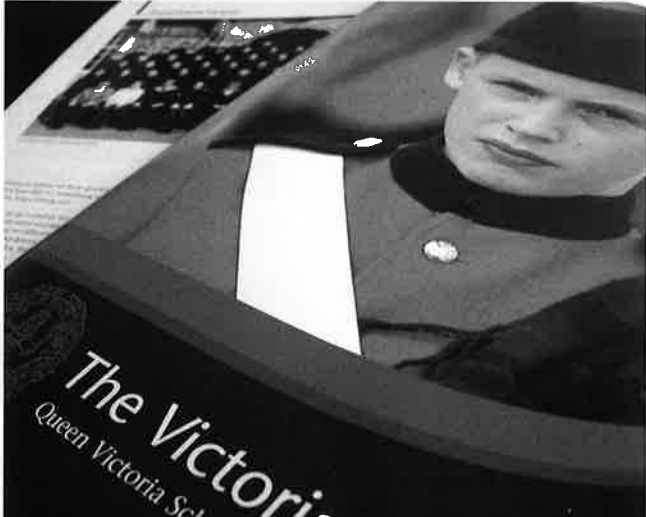
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The Victorians
Queen Victoria School

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Old Victorians' Association

IT HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

It really has been a good year for Lieutenant Colonels. Army readers will no doubt have realised that as summer proceeds their Majors become somewhat jumpy, the phone rings and, on answering, is put down with a sigh – where is my mail? Has the CO asked for me? It is that time of the year – The Promotions Board is meeting to decide on the promotions for next year. Six Old Victorians have recently undergone the anxiety this causes but all is well and very special congratulations and best wishes are extended for continuing success in their new appointments as follows:-

3094 Lt Col Bill Common Royal Highland Fusiliers, currently CO Support Regiment, Defence School of Transport

3541 Lt Col Bob Bruce Royal Scots*, currently British Liaison Officer British Defence Staff Washington DC

3571 Lt Col Jonathan Calder-Smith Royal Artillery, currently CO 19 Regiment RA

3610 Lt Col Ewen Mclay REME, currently CO 3 Bn REME

3587 Lt Col David Craft Royal Signals, currently SO2 R Sigs & Int

3506 Wing Cdr Neil Collie RAAF, as well as passing the Canadian Staff College Course has been appointed CO RAAF air traffic control and support element which provides air space management in Baghdad, his fourth operational deployment with the RAAF and first in command. (Wing Cdr=LtCol)!

* Bob works in the Pentagon and experienced a very warm welcome from an American Officer. 'Gee I love your Plaid Pants!' Royal Scots Tartan is Hunting Stewart as is that of the Queen Victoria School. We do speak the same Language but it makes you think!

Ian Graham – Principal of John Wheatley College, Easterhouse Campus, was awarded an OBE for Services to further education and community development.

The first honours list for operational service in IRAQ included an MBE for 3497 WO1 Stephen Welsh, RMP. Stephen had been promoted to WO1 in January and thus receives double congratulations from us. Promoted also are 3850 Donald Johnstone RLC, 3813 Callum Lane the Highlanders to Major and 3615 Andy Morrison S/Sgt.RMP to Captain, the first ever such promotion in the Corps.

Callum has been joined in the Highlanders by 4151 2nd Lt Richard Givens who passed out of Sandhurst in December. Many congratulations, as he was married the following week in the School Chapel. OVs are welcome to use the Chapel. e.g. 3337,

Gordon Griffiths and 3420 John Grant this year. If interested please contact the Bursar or Chaplain.

OVA UPDATE

Lt Col Ron Smith, President. Stewart Wilkie, Secretary. Ron Mackintosh, Treasurer.

This has been a year of change, expansion, progress and success. To begin with, we now have our own office, upstairs at 2 Nason Avenue. Not 'open at all times', but phone/email or write to arrange a meeting. We'll put the kettle on and look forward to meeting you and satisfying any of your needs.

Inevitably many Old Victorians have been deployed on the operational tasks currently ongoing but some OVs have managed to keep in touch despite the obvious problems.

A very informative bluey from 4115 SAC Bruce McEwen defined clearly that the task of the RAF Regiment was to take and hold ground, a task that his squadron in Iraq performed very effectively, thus enabling the helicopters to land/take off with minimum difficulty.

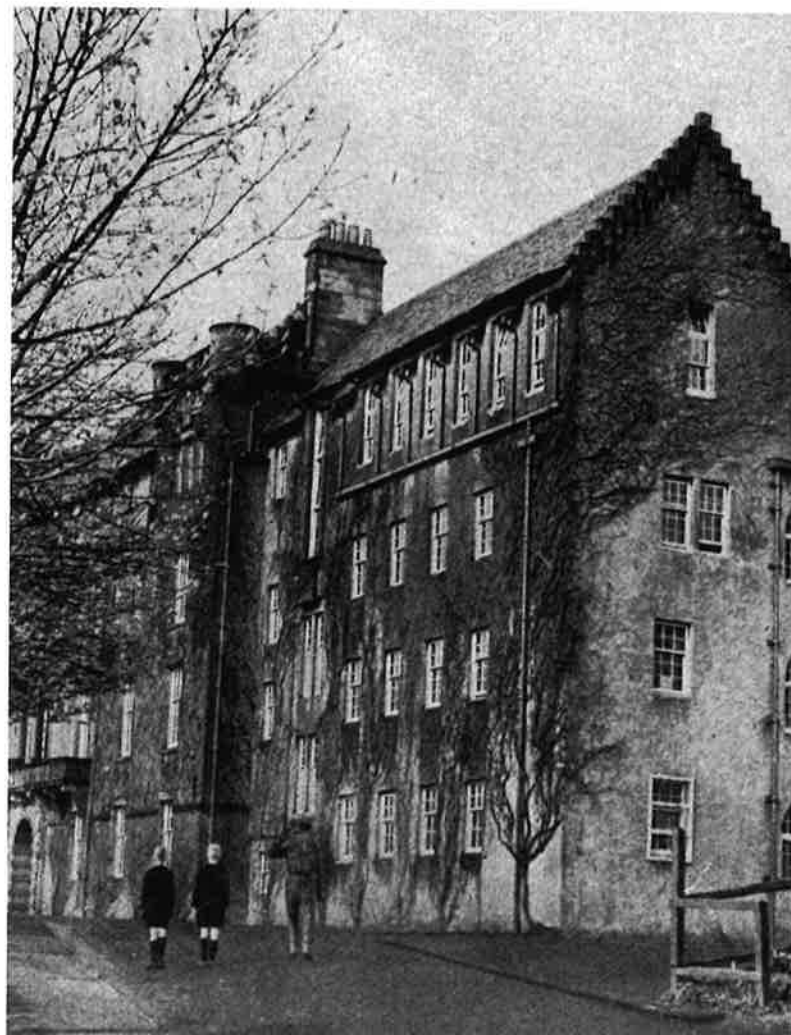
THE DUNBLANE CATHEDRAL PROJECT

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has updated its Church Hymnary and is to publish a new version in the near future. Inevitably, many favourite hymns will not feature in this new edition and such a deletion affects a hymn very closely linked with Queen Victoria School.

Hymn 501 'Far round the world thy children sing their song' to the tune 'Dunblane Cathedral' is very popular with children, especially here in Dunblane, and particularly so as it was composed by Captain Archie Fairbairn Barnes, Headmaster of QVS in the 1920s. The OVA Committee agreed that such an historic link with Dunblane could disappear if positive action was not taken to ensure its continuance.

Indeed, once research relevant to the tune commenced it was apparent that the link was not publicly recognised either in the Cathedral nor the Dunblane Museum. Accordingly, we took action to provide appropriate recognition through the presentation of framed copies of the tune, together with a description of the career of Captain Barnes. As an extra, OV2349, Donald MacDonald rearranged the tune to be played on the bagpipes.

Another OV, 2924 Mike Smith, our Master Mariner/cabinet maker, provided the final product, i.e. the frames which were presented to the School and Dunblane Museum on Reunion Sunday, both of which are now on show in the Museum and Chapel, respectively. The presentation for the Cathedral will be on 20th June.



Left: Two pupils stand to attention in front of the school as the Headmaster passes. If the boys are wearing head-dress they salute an officer; if not, they stand to attention while he passes

Above: In charge of school discipline is R.S.M. W. Watson, B.E.M. He formerly served with the K.O.S.B.

The Pipers of Dunblane

By Robert Hay

As you journey through Dunblane and top the brae which carries the road to Perth out of the historic little town, your eyes may light on a notice board which announces 'Queen Victoria School'. Some day, it may be, you will write to the Commandant and tell him you would like to see through the school. Your interest will be welcomed. You will be received with a courtesy not universally accorded these days.

Within the hospitable walls some 250 boys, ranging in age from nine to sixteen are receiving education and a training for life. The 'Queen Victoria' is their home. You may have seen some of them, kilted and green tunic-ed pipers, tiny figures against the vast greennesses and packed terraces of Murrayfield on international day. The great days of rugby would not be complete without a tune from the young pipers of Dunblane. The tradition, older than Murrayfield itself, goes back to Inverleith. This year they introduced their talents to a wider still audience – the 140,000 spectators at the international football match with England at Hampden Park.

Music and this School are as inseparable as Pan and his pipes.

As you go up the drive, the drone of the pipes and the pom-pom-pom of a military band are quite likely to be the first greeting you receive. If I say that of the whole 250 boys only some five or six do not play or are not learning some musical instrument you will see what music means to these boys – and their preceptors.

Often, watching and listening to the band at Murrayfield, a passing thought troubled me: 'What a strange sort of life for a boy.' To live some of the most impressionable years of your life subject to military discipline; a mild form, true, yet still military discipline, how could one be happy? My trouble, I suppose, is that I was an adult trying to think for a boy. Discipline is harsh or gentle, not so much according to the rules, as according to those on whom devolves the responsibility for administering these rules. Nowhere have I seen a smoother running organisation than the Queen Victoria School, yet nowhere seen trust and respect, indeed affection, so unstintedly granted and returned.

The main School building is distinctively Scottish. It is not great architecture, but it has the merit of blending satisfyingly with the pleasant pastoral surroundings of Dunblane. You might easily, if



Bandmaster F. Lax, late K.O.S.B., instructs a bass-player in the military band

you had the two together, confuse it with an Edinburgh barracks. It was opened in 1908. Queen Victoria had then been dead six years and the establishment of the School was one of the last of her Royal approvals. Think of the School as a war memorial, a tribute to the Scottish soldiers and sailors who fell in the South African War. It is still a war memorial, living, changing, but in essence, a tribute to Scotland's fighting men. It does not dispense charity. Every boy who goes there is there by right of his father's service. His claim may be a grave in a far-away country, or an unmarked spot in the depths of the ocean. He may be an orphan, though only a small proportion are. Or he may be the son of a father struggling unsuccessfully to make ends meet in civvy street. Whatever the reason he is there by right.

The School is run on military lines. This is neither a boast nor an apology but a plain statement of fact. 'Emergency only' service men may shudder at the thought of barracks rooms (though time lends curious enchantments!) but when one is ten life has far more important considerations to offer than the possible lack of privacy entailed by sharing a dormitory with thirty other boys.

Between the School and the various branches and units of the services there exists an affectionate and practical camaraderie. If a boy's father was a Seaforth then the boy is a Seaforth all his school life. Or a K.O.S.B., a Cameron, or whatever it is. Over each bed you will see a plaque bearing the name of a military unit or perhaps that of a group of Scottish 'exiles' – 'City of Tientsin' is typical – which signifies a gift of £250 to the funds of the School. Thirty or forty years ago £250 was a lot more money than it is

now and was accounted sufficient to put a boy through school. The School is now maintained out of funds voted as part of the Army Estimates. But there are, of course, many items which cannot be covered by the Army vote and these are met by the Commissioners who for this purpose draw upon the never-failing generosity of the people of Scotland.

Dunblane was chosen as the site of the School because it was easily accessible, because the town is set in the heart of one of the most healthy districts of Scotland, and also if the truth be told, to compromise between the conflicting claims of Edinburgh and Glasgow. The view from the School, backed by the Ochils, towards Ben Lomond and Ben Ledi is superb, and I do not think even the most unimaginative boy could leave School without carrying in his mind's eye a vision of the immensities of mountain and sky that unfold before the onlooker from an upper window.

Boys come into the School at the age of nine. The pangs of home-sickness are felt as they would be in any school, but they last no longer than anywhere else, and it is no new experience, at the end of the first term, to find the youngster who recently was so unhappy, now reluctant to go home for his holidays. And small wonder! Few homes can give a boy a choice of football, rugby, hockey, cricket, swimming, boxing, table tennis, roller skating, basket ball and a private cinema.

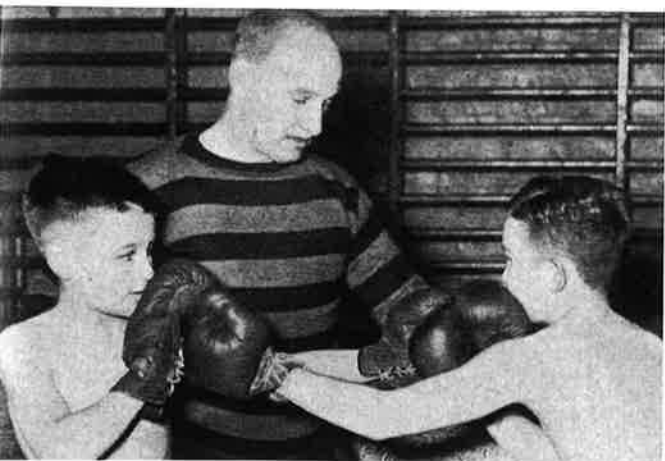
It is by no means the case that every boy who enters the School is destined for a military career. Probably three in four decide so,



Pipers practise the chanter under the guidance of Pipe-Major J. Sanderson, late Cameronians



The C.O.'s orderly reports for duty to the Headmaster, Major D. G. Washtell, R.A.E.C.



Boxing is so popular with the boys that the school's main difficulty is in finding sufficient opponents: the PT. Instructor CSM M.J. Gutteridge gives a few tips.

but the decision is one of free will and indeed it is specifically laid down in the constitution of the School that no compulsion to join the armed forces shall be exerted. Naturally, most of the boys leaving School are exceptionally fitted by training and association to move successfully into service life, but an enlightened discretion is exercised by the Commandant and Headmaster, who can do much to guide a boy's preferences. The boys stay at School till they are fifteen – this obtained even when leaving age in civilian schools was fourteen.

The general supervision and command of the School is under a Commandant, who must be an officer of not less than field officer's rank. The present holder of this command is Lieut.-Colonel R.F. Nason, late Seaforth Highlanders. A Headmaster – at present Major D.G. Washtell – is responsible to the Commandant for the efficiency of the teaching staff, of whom I shall have more to say later. The general staff, responsible for internal organisation, discipline and drill, consists of a sergeant-major and instructors selected from warrant officers and n.c.o.'s who have served in Scottish regiments.

In a sense the boys are the pick of the bunch. No boy suffering from a disability which would debar him from military service is accepted. The Headmaster and his staff are used to compliments on the energy and intelligence of their charges. Most visitors leave with the impression that, in both respects, the boys are well above the average.

While you are visiting a classroom you may hear a call on a bugle denoting the end of a period, three-quarters of an hour long. This will, in all probability, be followed by what you may at first think is a terror-stricken rush from the scene of a fire. The explanation is less dramatic but still rather unexpected. Each period is followed by a five minutes break during which the boys are



A class of boys have an out-of-doors drawing lesson in front of the school



A science lesson in the laboratory. The instructor is a member of the Royal Army Educational Corps, W.O.II C. S. Ennis

encouraged to exercise both voice and limbs. It works the fidgets out of them, the Headmaster will explain, and puts them in a more receptive state for the next period.

The School's method of education follows the syllabus of the Scottish Education Authority, but with the great advantage over most other schools of smaller classes. Thirty to a class is the most the Headmaster will countenance.

There is nothing 'institutional' in the teaching; the boy of parts receives every facility to capitalise his talents. He may go on to take a commission in the Regular Army or he may decide on a University career. The only distinction made is that if a boy opts for a career in civilian life it is clearly more difficult for the School authorities to enlist the same resources in his favour as they could were he to go to one of the services.

The emphasis on music may seem surprising. It used to be said in India that the greatest punishment to be inflicted on a Gurkha soldier was the exclusion from drills and parades. In the pleasure they find in making music, the boys of Queen Victoria School are almost as remarkable as the Gurkha in his devotion to drill. Practices appear to be affairs of great enthusiasm. The explanation is simply that it is not only talented boys who are encouraged to play. There are pipe, bugle, and military bands, and if a boy's ear is too insensitive musically, to allow him to be a piper or a cornet player, there is usually a place for him in the percussion section.



The drum-major of the Queen Victoria school Pipe Band

The players are caught young. Each year the oldest, and probably the best, members of the bands leave School, and if a core of trained youngsters, lacking only in experience, were not ready to take their places a continuing high standard of playing would be impossible. Thus, nowadays, boys of ten and eleven will play in the pipe band at Murrayfield.

The military band makes the greatest demands on the instructors. The bandmaster has fourteen groups of instruments to teach, and though it may be urged that pipers are born not made, at least a pipe-major has only two types of instruments. It should also be added that all members of the pipe band are taught Highland Dancing.

I still have not answered the question – 'Why teach all the music?' I don't know that I can. I'm not sure that the School authorities could either. Certainly, there is need for a steady flow of bandmen into the services and it can be shown that many senior n.c.o.'s reach that position via the band. There is also the reason that proficiency in music in early youth opens so many gateways to happiness and, perhaps, that is sufficient.

Forty-two years, not a great stretch of time, have been more than sufficient to allow the Queen Victoria School to lay the foundation of a worthy and deeply cherished tradition. Every boy on leaving school is encouraged to join the Old Boys' Association which is intended to foster the comradeships formed during school life. The Association has a branch in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow, both very active. A reunion is held at the School each May and Old Boys are also welcomed at 'Grand Day' in July. Whether they go into service or civilian life Queen Victoria School boys show outstanding ability to do well, both for themselves and their country.

In 1940, for instance, no fewer than fifty-seven former members of the School received commissions in the Army or R.A.F., and during the war thirteen gained decorations. Important as such things are they are only the outward and visible signs of the spirit of service which is fostered in the School, and, writing as one who had hitherto seen it all from outside, I would like to record the great pleasure it is to see teachers and boys thoroughly happy in their work, assured that every moment of it is well worth while.

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Staff List

HEADMASTER B Raine BA (Hons) PGCE
DEPUTY HEADMASTER C Philson BA (Hons) PGCE
BURSAR J Drysdale BA (Hons)
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER E Smith BEd (Hons) BA PGCE

HOUSEMASTER/HOUSEMISTRESS
Cunningham H W G Tomkins Cert.P.P.(BSA)
Wavell A MacDougall MEd BEd PGCG PGCE

HOUSE PARENTS
Haig J E Coates BA (Hons) MLitt Dip Ed PGCE
Trenchard C Matheson

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS
D Garden BSc (Hons) M Phil Dip Ed
D Gilhooly BA (Hons) Dip Ed
J Howie MA (Hons) Dip Ed
A M Kirk MA (Hons) PGCE Dip Ed Tech
J S Laing Dip Tech Edn
J Lawrence BSc (Hons) PGCE
D McLay BEd (Hons)
D Breignan D.R.S.A.M. Dip Ed (PT Music)
D Stewart BSc (Hons)

TEACHING STAFF
J Adams MA (Hons) PGCE
G Beattie MA MEd PGCE PGC in SFL PG Dip SFL
E Blackwood BEd
G Borking BEd BSc
G Carroll BA DCE PGCE
T A Dale BSc Cert Ed
G Johnston BSc (Hons) PGCE
T King BEd (Hons) T Cert
A MacDougall BEd
J McNally BA (Hons) Dip Ed
J Porter MA (Hons) PGCE
J Scott BEd (Hons)
T Shannon Dip Tech Edn HND Eng Mech
Rev J Silcox BD Dip Phil Ed CPs CPP CF TD (School Chaplain)
C A Taylor BSc (Hons) PGCE
R Wright BA PGCE

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN
C Sheerin BA (Hons) Dip Lib MCILIP

PART-TIME TEACHERS
G Edwards Cert Ed
S Johns Dip Ed
L Thornton Dip Art & Design Grad CE

VISITING MUSIC TEACHERS
R M Jones BA (Hons) LTCL ALCM Cert Ed
H Lockwood
Anne Scott
Alan Brown
John Dallas

HOUSEMATRONS
Cunningham M Chalmers
Haig H Kettles
Trenchard H A Devlin
Wavell H R Duthie

HOUSE ASSISTANTS
D Henderson
K McVey
C E Cullen
C O'Neill
H Heslop

HOSPITAL STAFF
Residential Hospital Sister M Skeith RGN
Hospital Nurse (Part-time) C A C Fitzgerald RGN RSCN
Hospital Auxiliary V Hiddleston

UNIFORMED STAFF
School Sergeant Major D Duthie (late SG) Cert P.P.(BSA)
Pipe Major G R Ross (late Gordons)
Drum Major H W G Tomkins (late Gordons)
Cert P.P.(BSA)
Highland Dancing Instructor E M MacDonald

ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF
Estates Manager D Dent
Maintenance Supervisor J Blyth
Personnel Manager S Rutledge
Finance Officer K Lawrie BA (Hons)
Headmaster's Secretary L Craig
Bursar's Secretary M Reid
School Secretary A Morea
Local Purchasing Officer A Macfarlane
Accounts Officer M Symon
ICT Technician B Harrison (HND Comp Studies)
AICT

Typist R Ainslie (HND Business Admin)
Reprographics A B Gauld BA (Hons)
Laboratory Technician D P Carrington-Porter NVQ
(Civilian Security Officer) (Science Lab Tech) MIScT

R Hamilton

R Hiddleston
F Wernicki
R Davies
R MacDougall
A MacDonald
MA Fleming
M Roy
W Stockman
P Warner



School teaching staff & gap students



School administrative staff



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