



The Victorian 2005

Queen Victoria School



Members of Haig House reach new heights of sartorial elegance



QVS Dancers at Burns for Bairns in Dunblane

“ 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.

Queen Victoria School
Dunblane Perthshire FK15 0JY
Email: enquiries@qvs.org.uk
www.qvs.org.uk

Front & back cover: Informal photographs preparing for Holyrood
Front: Craig Farquharson, Scott Graham, Callum Henderson, Stuart Mooney & Jamie Evenden
Back: Callum Henderson, James Martel & Pipe Major
Photographs courtesy of Mr B Raine, Headmaster

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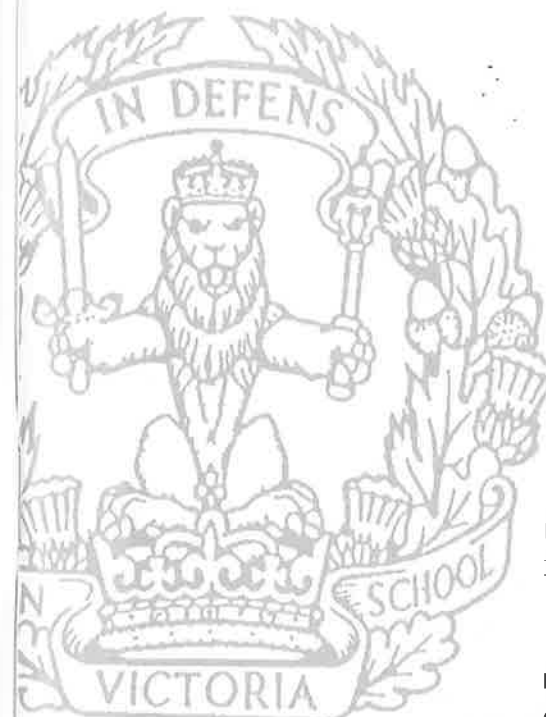
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Headmaster's Notes



HM, SSM & Colour Party. L-R; HM, Rea McGown, James Hobson, Adam Rainey, Greg Towns, Matthew Marshall, Edward Hodgson, Emma Read, SSM

One of the main focal points of the 2004/5 academic session was the HMle Care & Welfare and Full Inspection. With the two inspections operating concurrently, it was a very thorough process. For those who may not have seen these reports the key strengths noted were:

- Very good attainment in S3 to S6
- The strong partnerships with the Board of HM Commissioners, parents and the community
- The strong ethos of achievement in the School's ceremonial traditions of highland bag-piping, pipe band drumming and highland dancing, and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities which enabled pupils to broaden their experiences and increase their self-esteem
- The highly-committed staff
- Pupils' confidence, motivation and pride in the School

And on the pastoral side:

- The hard work and commitment of staff
- The quality of the School's partnership with parents
- Access to a broad range of extra-curricular activities within the School campus and the wider environment
- Pupils' pride in, and commitment to the School
- The facilities and provision for medical care

Fortunately, our 2004 examination results were good overall with 63.6% gaining 5 or more Credit passes, marginally down on the previous year (National average is 35%). 72.5% of these grades were in credit. At Higher we had a considerable improvement in 3 passes at A to C in S5 with 60.6% compared to 51% last year. (National average is 23%).

The Inspectors, however, do not just look at one year, rather the trend over a few years, and were pleased to see an improving trend over the last 5-10 years. As a result, we were also pleased to see that the overall teaching was described as good and the overall quality of attainment for the examination groups as very good. The proportion of pupils achieving credit awards at Standard Grade is well above the National average in 14 out of 17 subjects and at Higher well above the National average in 16 out of 20 subjects.

The bottom line in Care & Welfare, as commented by one of the Inspectors, is that the average pupil in the School is happy and that is certainly the case at Queen Victoria School. This is borne out by reference to the fact that in questionnaires parents were very satisfied with all aspects of the school's provision and the boys and girls felt safe, secure and enjoyed being at school. Almost all pupils felt that their Houses were good and friendly places to live in and almost all parents felt that the care provided for pupils was good and their children felt safe and cared for: e.g. 99% of pupils enjoyed being at the School and 98% of parents stated that their child enjoyed being at the School.

The School has already started acting on various points recommended for improvement by the Inspectors, e.g. revision of boarding school duties, improvement to School development planning, and management of Wavell House. However, an Action Plan has been compiled in conjunction with the board of Her Majesty's Commissioners and with assistance from Stirling Council Children's Services to address the main findings of these reports. Overall, the School has received very fair reports on the academic and pastoral areas and staff and pupils can be justifiably pleased with the very positive comments.



HM & Orderlies: Rea McGown, HM, Emma Read

On the Estates side, the final phase of the 10 year refurbishment programme of the boarding accommodation was completed in the summer of 2004. Thus, Haig, on the first floor, was completed and has a large common room including a kitchen where the North Annexe used to be. The Adjutant General has also provided money for two years, against which the School can spend to plan, design and push forward the Establishment Development Plan. Lt General Sir Alastair Irwin, the outgoing AG, wrote in March to say that his Navy and Airforce colleagues were broadly supportive of our proposals, seeing QVS as a welcome additional option to the policy of choice between BSA, mobility and state and day school as well as stability and essential development work for the long term future of QVS. However, whilst Defence Estates move forward with planning and preparations, we are still awaiting funding.

For the second year running, the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers continue to be extremely active and the culmination of their activities will be their performance in June/July in Halifax at the Nova Scotia Tattoo. This year the Pipe Band has performed at five rugby internationals including Australia (twice), Japan, South Africa, Ireland and Wales. In addition, the musicians performed along with the Highland Dancers, for the first time that anyone can remember, in George Square, to mark the Centenary Launch in Glasgow.

Once again, the Pipe Band paraded through Dunblane to help the local community promote the City for its Tartan Day. Other events included Stirling Castle for Brigadier Jackson's farewell fundraising event and the opening of the Scottish Parliament with Highland Dancers.

As before, the Highland Dancers were very successful at the Argyllshire Gathering with Claire Greenwood, Leanne Bridgeman, Gavin Bonner and Andrew Martin winning the Alasdair McLean Challenge Cup. Our B team, Callie McFarlane, Mhairi Toole, Finlay Smith and Alasdair Page came 2nd. Claire Greenwood won the Poltallach Cup, the first time a girl has won this award and in the adult male competition, Alasdair Page gained 3 seconds. The UKA Dancing Exams included 5 Pre-Bronze, 25 Bronze, 10 Silver, 11 Gold; 6 2nd Gold Bar, 5 Laurel Awards, 4 Presidents Awards, 6 Premier Victory and 3 Premier Awards. Some of the marks were truly outstanding with Fay Anderson gaining 97% and a Gold Distinction, Leanne Bridgeman 97% and a Premier Victory Distinction, and Alasdair Page 97% and a Premier Award Distinction.

The 1st X1 hockey side, captained by Sarah Harrower, have held the sporting flag high losing only to 3 sides and recording some very good victories, as can be seen in the Hockey report. Junior teams continue to hold their own with the S2 side performing best. In the Junior Midlands Hockey Tournament they drew all their matches and lost only one. Hayleigh Dumbreck and Karen Harrower were put forward for a Scottish trial. Katrina Leith and Carly McDonald also made the Under 18 training squad.

The 1st XV have had a disappointing season winning only three matches. However, the 2nd XV had a much better season and considering the small number of the boys in the School it is quite remarkable that we are still able to field two senior sides. All the other sides have won more than they have lost and the Under 15s (S3) led by Michael Goodman, performed extremely well in the Cup and throughout the season. Matthew Marshall, Callum Anderson and David Love represented Midlands Under 16s and Craig Mason, Alasdair Page and Greg Towns the Under 18s.



HM & Monitors L-R: Fiona MacLeod, Andrew Martin, Jamie Evenden, HM, Elliot Wood, Claire Greenwood, Callum Henderson, Stuart Mooney

Cross Country continues to be very successful at all levels, e.g. all teams competing at Stirling Schools Championships qualified for the Forth Valley Schools Championships. At the Scottish Schools Championships Kayleigh Harrower came 40th and the Under 15 girls 9th overall and Adam Rainey 32nd in the Over 17 boys.

The 1st X1 football team has also been successful; in fact, the most successful that I can remember for a while. They made it to the quarter finals of the Scottish Independent Schools Competition and Darren Howie, David Honeyman and Ben MacGregor were all selected to represent the North District football team. Unfortunately, they lost in the quarter finals to Hamilton College.

Drama continues to thrive within QVS. This year a group performed as part of the St. Blane's Drama Group Pantomime in Dunblane and the S2s performed *The Gruesome Tale of Bishop Hatto*. In addition, an S4 group took part in a Scottish Community Amateur Drama Festival of new plays, performing *Friends and Neighbours*: those involved were Fay McIntyre, Helen MacMillan, Carrie-Ann Campbell, James Hobson, Dane Conneely and Finlay Smith. They did very well and the author was happy with their performance of his play and as a bonus they met Richard Wilson – better known as Victor Meldrew. They were also involved in a Youth Competition at Grangemouth.

The Windband continues to be the focal point of musical performances and its involvement in Parade Sundays and the Summer and Christmas concerts is very much appreciated. The Junior Minstrels also continue to fly the QVS flag in local venues,

e.g. Liz Speedie stated: *'I write to thank you again for the excellent programme provided for the members of the Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church Thursday Circle ... Last but not least thanks go to the pupils themselves – their enthusiasm and expertise in their chosen field were infectious and I can say without a shadow of a doubt every one in the audience had a really tremendous afternoon.'*

The CCF also continues to provide a good vehicle for many young people at QVS to exercise team work, leadership skills and field exercises. The Highland Tac Team, this year led by Chris Soper and Jamie Evenden but with a very young crew, including James Hobson, Callum Anderson, Cameron Johnston, Josh Flann, Daniel Gibb and Edward Hodgson, came 6th. For the second year running Mr Silcox took a CCF group (43 pupils) skiing to Bavaria during the February break. It was a most successful trip with excellent skiing. The latter was followed by an equally successful skiing party led by Mr Laing and Mr Beattie to Switzerland at Easter.

In other areas Zoe Halliday and Michael Goodman narrowly lost out in the *Dundee Courier* Schools Junior Debating Competition. Wavell, Trenchard and Haig Houses all held talent shows – Wavell raising money for breast cancer and Haig the Tsunami appeal. Finlay Smith gained a 3rd place in the National Tae Kwon Do Championships and is now the Under 17 under 6ft bluebelt Scottish Champion. Matthew Sheppard came 3rd in the over 6ft sparring at the same championships and Sarah Harrower gained a Gold in all 3 disciplines in the National Competition.



HM, School Monitors & Prefects

Staff changes this year included Mr Allan joining us as Estates Support Officer, Mr Thomson as our Principal Teacher of Social Studies, Miss Jastrabikova joining us as a teacher of Maths and I.T. and Deputy Housemistress in Wavell. Mrs Rankin became Acting Headmaster's secretary, Mr Mair Deputy Finance Manager, Mrs Tomkins Haig Housematron, Mrs Walker Modern Languages Teacher, Mr McGuire CSO, Mr McConnell General Hand and Mr Boyle Experimental Worker. Our new House Assistants for 2005 are:

Miss Creighton from Pymble Ladies College, Sydney
Miss Hoffman from Walford Anglican Girls School, Unley Park, South Australia
Miss Lovett from St. Andrew's College, Christchurch, New Zealand
Mr Martel from Scotch College, Sydney
Mr Stokes from Scotch College, Melbourne.

Mrs Duthie retired in December 2004 after 13 years' service to the School, latterly as Housematron of Wavell.

Mr Hamilton retired in March 2005 after serving 24 years at QVS, first as a Patrolman and subsequently as a Civilian Security Officer.

We wish both a long and happy retirement.

Mrs Fleming was presented with a quach by the Chairman, David MacLehose, after 25 years' service to Queen Victoria School. Initially employed as an assistant to the Hospital Matron she moved to the Stores in 1984. Like Bob Hamilton, Mary Anne

Fleming has a tremendous knowledge of the School, and with her control of the Stores until she retires, we can always rely on everything being in order.

Looking back on Grand Day 2004, I thought it was one of the best for quite some time. Apart from the problems that Ronnie Corbett had with the microphone, all went very well indeed and we were blessed with good weather. Lt General Sir Alistair Irwin certainly enjoyed the day, commenting that *'the Parade was excellent, the pipes and drums and dancers were first class. Thank you very much for including me in such a splendid occasion – all in all it was a day to remember for a long time.'*

We do have a committed staff, as acknowledged by the Inspectors, at all levels at QVS. The staff and their contribution are valued both by parents, myself and the Commissioners. Staff here do realize the important role played by QVS in supporting armed forces personnel, who are increasingly pressurized, which has a knock on effect on the families. Thus the importance of QVS as an anchor and a supportive family environment in sometimes unstable circumstances is crucial. This was exemplified perfectly by the Fun/Fund-raising Day on Saturday 28th May: despite atrocious weather it was an outstanding success, thanks to the tremendous joint efforts of staff, pupils and parents.

This is, undoubtedly, a unique School which does well in all areas and pupils do leave QVS well prepared to face the outside world. The Second Sea Lord, Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, KCB, CBE, ADC, commented after his visit to the School: *'What an*



HM & House Assistants L-R: Miss Hoffman, Miss Lovett, Mr Martel, HM, Mr Stokes & Miss Creighton



Canada Fund-raising Dinner: HM & Guest Speakers:- Rear Admiral NHL Harris MBE & Ian McGeechan



Sports Day – Winning Houses 2004

excellent visit to your excellent School. I congratulate you whole-heartedly for all you are doing there and was most impressed by all I saw.'

Although there is still much to be done, as can be seen by the action points in the Inspection Reports, and we cannot afford to rest on our laurels at any stage, staff should be justifiably proud of the wide-ranging and considerable achievements which are covered above.

Pupils also play their part throughout the School and, increasingly, through the School Council, as well as individual House Councils. I would like to see more input into important School developments. It is after all, the pupils' School. At the top of the tree the Senior Monitor, Andrew Martin, the Monitors and Prefects contribute considerably and I thank them for their invaluable efforts on behalf of the School.

Finally, in what has been a most challenging year in a lot of respects, I would like to thank the Chairman of Her Majesty's Commissioners, Mr MacLehose, for the support he has personally given to me, my wife and the School. Commissioners support the School in various ways and it is good to have such considerable expertise at hand. One such Commissioner, Major General J.D. MacDonald has retired from the board this year and as the Chairman of the Admissions Board I would like to thank him for the tremendous care and consideration, let alone the time involved, in what is a crucial exercise in the life and continuity of the School. I know that many parents and pupils who have met him and sat at the other side of the table will recognise what I say and reiterate my message of gratitude.

Mr B Raine, Headmaster

As usual, it is all systems go in the Centenary Appeal Office. We have currently raised almost £400,000 and are battling on to reach an ambitious £2.5m. It has been a busy year so far, with a number of successful fundraising events taking place.

The 500 club is proving popular with many people in the School community although we haven't quite reached 500 members. If you haven't already done so, please sign up now!

I am pleased to report that all three of Scotland's largest Charitable Trusts have agreed to pledge money to the Appeal (at the time of printing the final amounts had not been confirmed), which will undoubtedly encourage support from a variety of other smaller trusts and organisations.

Fundraising events planned for the coming year include The

Faslane Fair, a concert with The Lowland Band in Dunblane Cathedral, Leuchars Airshow and many more.

Finally, I must extend my thanks for the support, encouragement and enthusiasm that have been demonstrated within QVS so far. The whole School community needs to work together to ensure that we can realise our ambitious goals – and it is evident from the commitment to the Fun/Fund-raising Day on 28th May that this is indeed the case.

Miss L McArthur, Appeals Director



Officer Cadet, now 2LT Lee Curson (1RHF), on the day of his commissioning parade from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (10/12/04) with his father – Mr Robert Aitken and younger brothers Craig Curson (Old Victorian) and Darren and Blair Aitken (P7 and S3, respectively)

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

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 MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is intended to attract interest from pupils keen to test their initiative, broaden their horizons and develop their skills in a variety of ways. There are no limits or boundaries to the types of activity presented to the Trustees, provided that they can be shown to require a significant measure of effort and enterprise on the part of the applicants. Strong evidence of personal commitment to succeed, achieve a demanding goal, or make a contribution for the benefit of others are taken into account. Activities can extend from obtaining special qualifications in music and dance to adventurous pursuits such as expeditions or charity walks. Applications for support for work experience overseas through the GAP and Link Scheme also make regular appearances.

The awards made in 2004 totalled some £4,000, of which £1,000 was allocated to a group of nine pupils and two staff participating in another West Highland Way charity walk following the excellent achievements of a similar expedition in 2002. Included in the aims of the 2004 challenge were: to raise money for charity through a very demanding activity, gain pleasure from real achievement, build teamwork skills and develop leadership skills and responsibility. Grants also went to support a pupil taking a Highland Dance Teachers Exam, another for a GAP Year in Australia and two pupils each embarking on a 6-month Link Exchange. We look forward to receiving their reports of successful completion.

The bids for the next round of challenges reflect greater variety, with awards being made to Claire Greenwood (UKA Association Teaching Exam), Andrew Martin and Callie McFarlane (UKA Association Teaching Exam and Premier Cup Award), Isla MacLeod (Edinburgh College of Art Portfolio Preparation Class), Mark Braceland (6-week Conservation Expedition, South Africa), Fiona MacLeod (Link Overseas Exchange, Sri Lanka), and Scott Graham and Craig Farquaharson (GAP Year, Australia). We wish them all every success in their chosen pursuits and anticipate receiving accounts of their adventures in due course.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund exists to help pupils at Queen Victoria School achieve ambitions, and perhaps help others in the process. The Fund could help to bridge the gap in funding any enterprising, adventurous, or cultural pursuit where the applicant can demonstrate personal commitment to succeed and undertakes to submit a report to the Trustees on successful completion of the activity. Why not give it some thought, talk it over with friends, and if you want to know more, contact the Headmaster or Bursar for details? The award deadline for applications is the end of the Winter Term each year, and bids are considered by the Trustees normally the following February. Application forms are available from the Bursar's Secretary and remember that if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and to seek advice.

Mr J Drysdale, Bursar

"... by a Royal Warrant of His late Majesty King Edward the Seventh under His Sign Manual dated the 27th day of June 1905, an Institution was established in Scotland for the reception and education of the sons of the Scottish Sailors and Soldiers, with a Memorial Chapel attached to the said Institution, as a National Monument to the Sailors and Soldiers who fell in the [South African] war."

Extract from the Queen Victoria School Royal Warrant

Few people, if any, will be unaware of the events and programmes marking 2005 as the sixtieth anniversary of the ending of World War II. Clearly, this anniversary has worldwide significance, and there will be many closely associated with Queen Victoria School today for whom the events of 1945 have very personal and special memories. Our School Colours, ceremonial, uniform and strong family links to all three Armed Services are a constant reminder of the best of our military traditions, past and present, which underpin the ethos of Queen Victoria School and act as a visible expression of pride in its unique status amongst other boarding schools.

It is only fitting, therefore, to note that the year 2005 marks another important anniversary, albeit a little closer to home. On 27th June it will be one hundred years ago to the day when King Edward VII signed the Royal Warrant establishing the School. A fund had already raised, by public voluntary subscription, sufficient money by 1905 for a National Memorial to Queen Victoria and the Scottish Soldiers and Sailors who died in the South African war, and the foundation stone for the Queen Victoria School was laid in the same year. However, it was not until 28th September 1908 that the School was formally opened and the first fifty pupils took up residence.

With centenaries and anniversaries in mind it is, of course, the latter date which is the focus of our attention for the Queen Victoria Fundraising Appeal, now in its second year and aiming to raise £2.5m for a new assembly and performance hall. It is an ambitious target, and a salutary thought that some £39,837 was sufficient to proceed with the existing Main Building and Memorial Chapel in 1905. The challenge of matching the gestures of our predecessors by providing a new and suitably distinguished building in 2005 is a daunting one. However, our small fundraising team is now making headway, although new ideas and support are always welcome, from parents, staff and pupils alike.

Turning to more routine matters, it has been another very busy year for the staff in the Bursar's Department as they wrestle with the everyday routines of recruiting staff, paying bills, processing orders, providing transport and dealing with the myriad of tasks which running a school in the unique organisational context of QVS involves. Most of the work is unseen and unsung, particularly during the School holiday periods when the aftermath of the previous term merges imperceptibly with preparations for the forthcoming term. Elsewhere, attention has turned to 'life without Agency status' following the decision that QVS would cease to be a Government Agency with effect from 1 April 2005. Broadly, the effects of this change on the support staff will be fairly neutral, with the main impact falling in the Accounts Section. Nevertheless, our Support Staff are facing a period of substantial change as Personnel, Accounting and Estate Management systems elsewhere in the MOD move forward. Once again I would like to thank them all for their efforts and support during what has been another very challenging year.

To close, and in this year of significant anniversaries, I would like to return to the importance of the traditions at QVS, as exemplified in the Queen's Colour, the ceremonial of Grand Day, and the excellence of the School's Pipe Band and Highland Dancers. In a previous magazine I wrote that, for traditions to survive, they need to remain relevant, and to continue to add value. The traditions at QVS are firmly rooted in the strength of our past and present links to the Armed Services, and will remain so. Thanks to the experience and efforts of our 'Uniformed' Staff – Sergeant Major Duthie, Pipe Major Ross, Drum Major Tomkins and Mrs MacDonald – the consistently high standards achieved when the best of our traditions are on show are a source of pride for all, a source of benefit to life in general at the School, and evidence of living tradition, which can be continually refreshed, always relevant and capable of adding considerably to the value of an education at Queen Victoria School. Long may it continue.

Mr J Drysdale, Bursar

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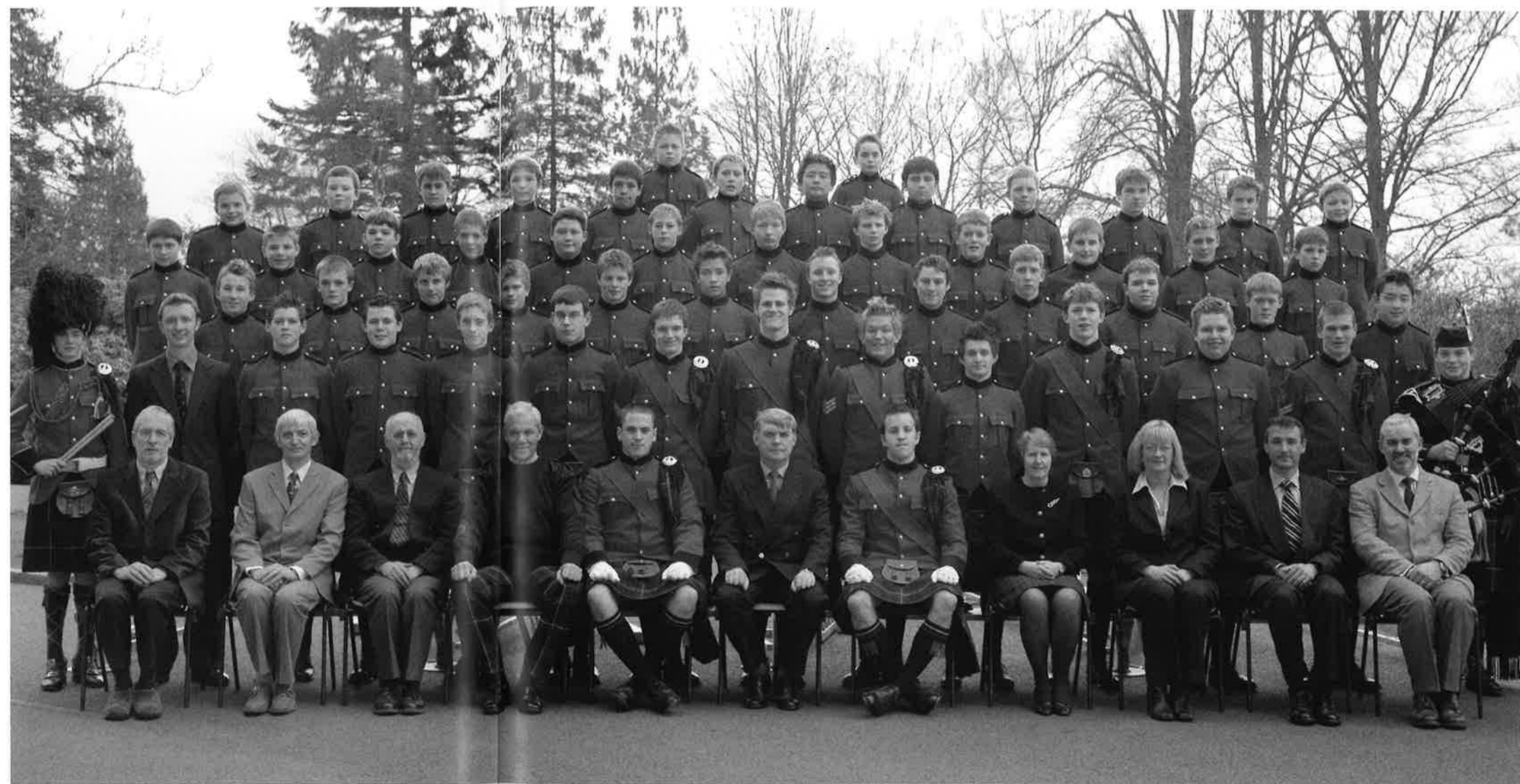
Cunningham House

Sitting in the office with fingers poised over the keyboard, it's hard to imagine that another year has passed in the life of the pupils and staff of Cunningham House. There are many aspects and periods of time in the House which could be recognised as similar to any of the previous years. I suppose this highlights the consistency of our routines, Parades, social events, sports and activities. However, the colour added to this tapestry of events is the boys themselves, who provide the dynamic that ensures diversity, variation, humour and the life and soul of the School.

We have experienced a relatively stable academic year in the House with the vertical system of operating Cunningham House in place, giving us a mixed House of first to sixth year boys, providing stability and continuity of staff for the whole of a pupil's School career. Other than the first year boys who arrive from Trenchard, the domestic routine and structure of the House is familiar to most of the boys and this assists in providing a 'safe happy environment' in which they can 'grow in confidence towards adulthood.'

The HMIe Inspection team arrived on our doorstep in September/October and spent the next two weeks scrutinising our policies, procedures, routines and documentation. I am pleased to report that, thanks to positive comments from the boys, parents and Inspectors, Cunningham House received a favourable report. This was thanks to all the House team, who have worked hard over a period of years to set such a high standard. My thanks go to them for their continued support and help.

A major change to the boarding house duty system was implemented in January with two members of staff now in the House during the key time over prep and prior to the main bedtime routine. Combined with the overseas House Assistants this provides excellent care and academic cover during the busiest evening period. A roving member of staff is now also free after prep, to supervise and patrol around the outside areas of the School and link in with other staff members from different Houses. Cunningham has also had the benefit of having Captain Smith, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners, attached to the House. Since April last year Captain Smith has attended various House events and meetings and has provided me with support and advice when required. The trial has also enabled him to



Cunningham House Staff & Pupils

have a closer insight into the workings of Cunningham House.

James Mariner returned home to New Zealand in December 2004 after a very successful year as our overseas House Assistant. He contributed in all areas of the House and was extremely popular with both staff and pupils. I would like to thank him for his hard work, dedication and loyalty during his time with us. In his place we have been joined by James Martel from Scotch College, Sydney. I'm sure he will also enjoy his time in Dunblane and benefit from the whole experience of a year with us. Mr Andrew Thomson, the new Principal Teacher of Social Subjects, joined the House team in August and has settled in well. We welcome him to Cunningham House and hope he enjoys his time with us.

Finally, I would like to thank our sixth year seniors for all their help and support over the last year. The smooth running of the House is dependent on their enthusiasm and loyalty and I hope that: House Captain Craig (I'm going to be a pilot) Farquharson, Vice Captain Callum (I should have been Captain) Henderson, Jamie (are we having a pizza night) Evenden, Scott (the music man) Graham, John (is it time to get up) McCulloch, Chris (the tuck shop supremo) Soper, have enjoyed their final year in the House.

Mr B Tomkins, Cunningham Housemaster

This year we thought we would try to be cool and write something funny that all the other Houses would like and finally realise that Cunningham actually is the fun House.

For six of us in Cunningham it will be our last year as we move on to bigger and better things, i.e. less money, and student-style insanitary living conditions. It is thanks to the sixth year Prefects in the House that things run so smoothly, we think. So, firstly, we would like to tell you about the elite team of seniors that has helped this year. Scotty usually keeps us all entertained by telling us stories about himself, his 'superbike' and Sammy, but I won't go into too much detail. Just ask him about them sometime! Next is Jamie, our very own Einstein. We are still trying to stop Jamie from unleashing his weapons of 'maths destruction' on us. Hopefully, the biohazard experiment he is conducting in his room will be able to calm him down. Now Chris, who has done well this year and managed to cut himself down to just one story a day! Hard to believe I know, but he has. (Yeh right!) I'm sure there was another Prefect. Any takers? Going, going, gone! Just kidding John, the biggest thanks must go out to you for keeping us right with your and Jennie's life-saving fashion tips.

Not much has happened in the wonderful world of Cunningham this year. Not that that is such a bad thing! It means that this year we have been quite lucky to have such a decent group of

guys. I'm sure that is because they are lucky enough to have us sixth years as good role models, giving them all something to aspire to!

On behalf of all the seniors we would like to thank Mr Tomkins, Mr Duthie, Mr Ross and the rest of the Cunningham House staff who have made our lives easier and been there for us throughout this year. I think we need to say a huge thank you to Matron and Mrs Heslop for being so forgiving every week when we didn't do our laundry (especially Craig and Jamie!). So, finally, we would like to say another massive thanks to everyone in Cunningham for making it easy for us and letting us enjoy our final year. Well, that was until we discovered we actually had to do some work!

Craig Farquharson and Callum Henderson

Haig House

Harold Wilson (Labour Prime Minister 1964 – 1970 and again in 1974) once famously remarked that "...a week is a long time in politics." If such is the case, then a year ought to be an eternity, but that is not how it appears to this observer, who will have completed more than a twelvemonth by the time you have this copy of *The Victorian* in your hands. The year since the last edition of the School's magazine was published has vanished faster than naughty boys seem to when they are fleetingly glimpsed disappearing round a corner having been half-apprehended in some misdemeanour or other. The paradox is that while the months fly by and if you blink you will have missed most of them, some days can take forever!

Before the academic session 2003 – 2004, Haig House had been used to the presence only of boys from S4 upwards, but a tectonic shift took place in that year and pupils who were in S3 joined their elders (but not necessarily betters!) for the very first time. It is generally recognised (except by themselves) that pupils are inherently a conservative group of beings, but eventually Haigians became reconciled to the fact that "juniors" were breathing the same rarefied atmosphere as themselves. However, if that had been seen as a dramatic movement of the Earth's crust, then what took place next was truly a cataclysm similar to Armageddon: S2 arrived in 2004! Nevertheless, it proved *not* to be the end of the world as we know it, and whilst some curmudgeonly old hands even now can occasionally be heard muttering darkly about how "it's not like the old days," life does indeed go on.

The membership of the "team" of House Tutors has remained unchanged (an important factor in the maintenance of consistency, stability and a sense of security), and the support given by them to the incoming Housemaster has been gratefully received and warmly acknowledged. Two departures did take place over the year: the end of the Summer Term witnessed the retirement of Mrs Helen Kettles after six years' service as House Matron; her help over that time was much appreciated by all who benefited from it (this writer included). Patrick Leyden, Haig's GAP student, left at the end of 2004, after a hard-working but enjoyable and very successful year. Their leaving created challenging vacancies to be filled and the House was most fortunate in securing the services of Mrs Cath Tomkins as House Matron and Luke Stokes as House Assistant (GAP student as was!). They have immediately become valued members of the



Haig House Staff & Pupils

Haig "family", working tirelessly for the good of one and all in the House, in ways that go largely unsung, but which contribute enormously to the wellbeing of the rest of us.

The summer holidays of 2004 saw the House turned into a construction site for the final phase of its refurbishment and when the current session 2004 – 2005 began last August, it was almost complete! After a period of sorting out a few teething problems, Haigians now inhabit some very salubrious quarters (though no one will claim responsibility for the bold and dramatic colour scheme!).

If the French phrase *plus ça change, c'est plus la même chose* is true anywhere, then a boarding school is as good a place as any to test its validity. Names and faces might change, old might be replaced with new, but verities remain the same: standards of behaviour are there to be maintained, pupils must be cared for so that they are happy and secure in the knowledge that there exist for them opportunities to grow and develop, explore and excel in the many academic, social and extra-curricular avenues all the Houses and the School open up to them. To those who will very soon be leaving, goodbye and good luck; to the rest of us, why, we have the chance to do it all again next year! Happy holidays.

Mr J E Coates



Gymnastic Display Team (1955)

Trenchard House

So, Mr Carroll, what have you done with all that spare time? Or has it, like so often, disappeared into a dim and distant dream? As I have become more deeply involved in life at QVS, certainly I have found that my own time is very precious and sometimes all too rare. I've now been here just over a year – a year that has been a steep, occasionally vertical, learning curve. It's not always easy to follow, as a completely 'new kid on the block', the foot-steps of one who has been here almost for ever! But it has been a wonderfully enjoyable year and I have no regrets at all about my move here.

The youngsters in Trenchard House made me very welcome and were most helpful. We went to rugby matches together, to Alton Towers and, on a P7 trip to the Scottish Deer Centre, together we saw a deer being born. I got to know the children who needed more encouragement to settle down at night and then the same extra encouragement to get out of bed in the morning – they got to know that I too am not always at my best in the mornings and sometimes operate only on auto pilot.

A swift and hectic summer term, with Grand Day on the one dry day of a fortnight, led to the holidays and then to a new academic year, with most of my House being new: maybe for a while they wouldn't realise that I was only just one step ahead of them. Really, throughout this year, we have all learnt together, what each event in the School calendar entails and how the School functions. For guiding me through the year I am most indebted to all the members of the House Staff Team, especially Ms Edwards, who have led me gently by the hand, at other times diplomatically cajoled and left me to manage. I think everyone was pleased when it was agreed that Mr Carroll should stay on in Trenchard as a Tutor – I know I was delighted and have very much valued his support. This academic year also saw Ms Taylor moving from Wavell to strengthen the female tutor numbers in Trenchard – we were pleased to be able to increase the evenings when both a male and female tutor are on duty.

In Trenchard, the end of the Christmas term means the Rookies' Parade and finishing the term as Victorians. A big day for all of us! At this time we, sadly, said goodbye to Kerrie Spensley, after her year as our GAP Assistant, as she returned to sunny Sydney, and in the New Year we welcomed Emily Creighton. Emily soon settled in and is a welcome addition to the House team.

Soon into the Spring term we had our annual trip to the Pantomime, this time a Krankies' version of Jack and the Beanstalk, but without the Krankies. It was excellent all the same



Trenchard House Staff & Pupils

– the staff and senior pupils certainly enjoyed their night out and I think the younger ones did too. We've seen several rugby matches - almost all the home internationals, only missing that one inconsiderately played during the mid term and P7 have had several trips, arranged by the Primary department, but which Matron, Ms Cullen and I are kindly invited to join – we really enjoy our days out. It was some wind that very nearly blew Ms Edwards and myself off the top of the Wallace Monument when we did a recce to see if it would be safe to let the pupils climb to the top. It would have taken some explaining to parents that their children had blown away - so we settled for a climb almost to the summit.

Thus, as I complete a year at QVS, I ask where has the time gone? It has been a super year and I have really appreciated being a part of it all. I should say a very big thank you to all the House team, and to all the pupils, especially the Senior Girls who have done a wonderful job this year; thank you for your patience and help. I do very much appreciate all the support and help I have received from parents, friends and families in this year of much rapid learning.

Miss C Matheson

PS I hear Mr C's handicap is still at the work-in-progress stage!



Mrs Devlin, Miss Matheson, Ms Edwards & senior girls L-R Mhairi Toole, Vivian Noonan, Sarah Harrower, Sarah Fennell, Shrada Limbu & Nicola Findlay

Wavell House

This has been a very eventful year in Wavell, with a considerable number of changes to the House staff. For my part I have moved into the position of Acting Housemistress and have thoroughly enjoyed taking on this new challenge.

With a change in House positions, we also welcomed Mrs Adams back to her role of Assistant Housemistress and, as expected, she has done a marvellous job. Her happy and lively personality has rubbed off on the girls and has helped to create a cheerful atmosphere in the House.

At Christmas time, we said farewell to our Matron, Mrs Duthie. During her time in Wavell House, she was greatly respected by all girls and will be missed. We pass on our best wishes for all her future endeavours. Mrs Henderson has become Acting Housematron and is doing a fantastic job, for which we're all very grateful, ably assisted by Mrs Galletly who has stepped in as Housekeeper.

Christmas also saw us saying goodbye to our much-loved GAP student, Danielle, who was a popular member of the House staff. After the holidays, for the first time in Wavell history, we said hello to *two* new House Assistants, Miss Lovett and Miss Hoffmann. On behalf of the House, I wish them good luck for the year ahead and am sure that they will gain as much as they give from their time with us. Miss Jastrabikova also joined the House last August, from Slovakia, to replace Miss Willekens as Deputy Housemistress.

As the Headmaster is always telling the pupils, "Things Don't Just Happen." The unsung heroines of Wavell House are the Tutors who put a lot of time and effort into making things happen for the girls. The list is long: talent shows, theatre trips, ice skating, swimming, bowling and shopping. I would like to say a big thank you to the Tutors on behalf of all the girls in Wavell House and take this opportunity to record my own appreciation for all the help and support the Tutors have given me during the past year.

This is the time of year when we have to say goodbye and thanks to the girls of S6, Claire the House Captain, Fiona, Callie, Sadie and Kate for all their contributions to life in Wavell House over the past 7 years. To all girls leaving Wavell this year we wish you all the best as you move out into the big, bad world outside QV. My verdict on my first end of year as Acting Housemistress? I'm definitely "shaken but not stirred" and very much looking forward to the summer holidays. Look out Skye – here I come! (After Canada obviously!....)

Mrs E MacDonald



Wavell House Staff & Pupils

Wavell Waffle

Well, what a time to be a Wavelite! It's been such an eventful year, with a lot going on behind Wavell doors.

Mrs MacDonald took over as Acting Housemistress with the aim of creating a calmer and more homely environment in Wavell. She soon turned into mother of the House, with the office always open for a chat. She purchased a lovely new sandwich toaster for the top common room, which instantly became Kate (toasty queen) Trousdale's most important responsibility in the House – protecting it from the intrusion of sticky jam and smelly tuna.

Fiona – our very brainy Assistant House Captain – has been dubbed 'Master' of stupid comments during her time at QV so here are some of the best: Where does the Loch Ness Monster live? Fiona's answer: LOCH LOMOND! Also, according to Ashleigh it was reported in the news that it moved between the two Lochs – of course Loch Ness in the summer, Loch Lomond in the winter! Also Fiona thinks that to double space a word processing document you hit the space bar between each word. It has therefore become apparent that, unfortunately, three As and a B don't come with common sense!

Our senior girls showed their creative skills by decorating the top common room in the fine art of finger painting. Oh yes, the playgroup task is not too childish for us Wavell girls. A pot of blue paint can keep us entertained for hours.

The TV has provided a more restrained source of entertainment as O.C. fever swept the House. The two die hard S6 fans – Sadie and Fiona never move from their personal sofas during the hour-long episode. We've also had an S4 DVD work out group, spending many hours jumping around in front of the TV in an attempt to improve their repertoire for making some shapes on the dance floor.

As some girls were trying to become healthier, others made full use of the broken lock on the tuckshop to buy food at any moment possible – mainly in 'study' periods. Isn't it good to know that the pocket money you pay is being put to good use?

When our resident pie munchers had emptied the tuckshop it was surely time to refill – but no! For the first time in history, the senior girls of Wavell did not want their guaranteed source of nutrition to be filled.

BOYS have also invaded Wavell on a few nights this year. Social events have been organised to allow senior boys and girls to spend more 'quality' time together outside School hours. Our 'social' event consisted of food and a DVD – obviously the ingredients for a very social occasion.

Another event the boys took part in was the annual Wavell Talent show – and unlike the boys we do have some talent. It showcased a variety of acts ranging from Sheona and her

beautiful assistants Beccy and Fay, to Courtney D strutting her stuff on the stage. We 6th year girls are seriously considering starting a Spice Girl tribute band – the Wannabe Girls – after our stunning opening performance. All jokes aside, the night was a great success, raising over £500 for Breast Cancer. It couldn't have been done without the help of the hostess with the most-est, Mrs Adams and the backstage beauty, Mrs Howie.

Not looking to give away too many secrets, information is still required to find the criminals of these shocking offences:

1. The throwing of a chip paper at the bin, while its contents splattered on the wall behind it. We are not allowed another chippy until the villain is apprehended.
2. A pink plastic cup was stolen from our resident hoarder – Miss Brunton – that she had in her possession for 10 years (see what I mean).
3. Although, the perpetrator of the hit and run incident on the Senior Monitor involving a fajita and sour cream has been caught I will reveal to you all that it was I, with the help of the other 6th year girls! No revenge attack has been launched yet; but it's coming! So as this waffle comes to a close, all that remains for me to say is, 'I'm not a cabbage' – ask Mrs MacDonald.

Thanks for the memories, Wavell,

Claire Greenwood, House Captain



Rugby 1st XV

1ST XV RUGBY REPORT

This season looked promising for the 1st XV, retaining many of the previous year's team. However, throughout the year we were riddled with inconsistency in team selection and training due to injuries, which had a huge impact on our confidence and ability to compete as well as expected. Some games were positive, and we managed to put together some fast, fluent rugby which was capable of disrupting any defence. But this was another area of our season that was inconsistent. One area of our game this season which was impressive was our powerful defence, most evident in the centre partnership of Matt Marshall and Greg Towns. Both put in some huge, individual and team tackles that often spurred the rest of the team into more aggressive tackling. As a result of this strong defence, even the better teams we played would only score tries through great ball retention and building up phases. Despite having very few wins this season, I have enjoyed my last year of rugby at QVS, and would like to thank everyone in the senior squad for the season. I would also like to wish the teams for the future the best of luck.

Madras College v QVS: 5 – 22 (W)

This is always a good fixture for the start of the season, providing good entertainment from two sides aiming to start the season on a high. Once again, it was QVS that came away with victory. The forwards provided a good platform for the backs to use their pace right from kick-off, and the defence was solid throughout, letting in just one try early on.

Lomond v QVS: 38 – 0 (L)

This was a very tough game right from the first whistle. Lomond took the initiative early in the game and didn't let us play our rugby. They were organised in defence and threatening in attack, causing us all sorts of problems both in open play and the set piece.

Morrison's Academy v QVS: 29 – 3 (L)

Like Lomond, this was a well drilled side that knew how to keep the ball away from the contact area. When they were in attack

there were very few breakdowns as they kept the ball moving around the pitch. However, the score isn't a great reflection of the game, as we stayed focused throughout and produced some promising attacks, spoiled by vital last passes.

N. Berwick v QVS: 26 – 3 (L)

This is a score that didn't reflect how well we played. We produced some expansive rugby and contested well in all areas of the game and deserved a few tries. However, Berwick had a well organised defence and took their opportunities much better than we did.

QVS v Morrison's Academy: 3 – 29 (L)

We were more prepared this time around but Morrison's had increased their intensity from the last game. The score flatters them a bit but they did play great rugby.

QVS v Hamilton: 71 – 0 (W)

This turned out to be more of a training match for us. Due to the lack of tries scored so far in the season, we weren't confident with the ball in hand and this showed in the mistakes we made. After half-time, we came out far more confident and built up phases in attacks that resulted in a total of 15 tries. The forwards dominated throughout and the defence was tight.

QVS v Lomond: 17 – 31 (L)

This was another good performance by the 1st XV and we did match Lomond for most of the game but at 17 – 26 their final score sealed the game once and for all in their favour.

Hillhead/ Jordanhill v QVS (Cup): 19 – 13 (L)

This was a game that we should've won. We were faster and fitter than they were; however, they were more aggressive at breakdowns and we let that get the better of us. Well done to John McCulloch for a great individual try. Unfortunately this win was followed by two further defeats to



Rugby 2nd XV

Kelvinside v QVS: 35 – 7 (L) and Linlithgow v QVS: 65 – 5 (L).

QVS v St Columba's: 40 – 7 (W)

This was a well fought game in the first half. We went in at half-time with the score at 7-0 and everything to play for. In the second half we came out more confident in our abilities and ran in some very well worked tries.

Callum Henderson, 1st XV Captain

53 RUGBY REPORT

Howe of Fife: 7 – 15 (L)

It was unfortunate that we lost the first game of the season but it wasn't really a bad result. We conceded an early try but we all kept our heads up and managed to pull one back, Darren Aitken being the scorer. Fraser Newbury also got off to a good start with his kicking, slotting it between the posts. Due to our lack of fitness in the last 10 minutes we conceded two more tries.

Madras: 40 – 5 (W)

After some more training we managed to cruise to a 40 – 5 victory, scoring six tries and five conversions. Probably the most notable player on the field was Daniel Flaherty; Blair Furnace, also came from the bench and had a very good game. Fraser Newbury's kicking was exceptional throughout the game.

Morrison's: 12 – 24 (L)

Morrison's are probably our biggest rivals and losing to them was disappointing. We conceded two tries very early on. We scored twice with some nice rugby being played, the last of which was by the forwards from a lineout. Due to a lack of communication, though, and a few unforced errors, Morrison's managed to come straight back at us and score a further two tries.

Madras: 38 – 7 (W)

It was our first home match of the season and we celebrated it

with a win, scoring six tries, all of which were due to the basics being done well.

Dunfermline: 31 – 10 (W)

This was our first time playing in the Scottish Schools U15 Cup and against Dunfermline. Our performance was really inspiring and the players who played exceptionally well were Chris Milne, Dean Milne, Mike Goodman, Blair Marshall, Liam Gillie, and Scott Fretwell. The team kept its focus and scored some well worked tries.

Howe of Fife: 14 – 5 (W)

In the return match we really wanted to win, to prove we were better than them. Unfortunately they scored a try first but missed the conversion. But from a penalty Blair Marshall ran through the middle of the opposition and scored. Fraser Newbury also scored and again kicked the conversion.

North Berwick: 7 – 19 (L)

The pitch at North Berwick was narrow and muddy, which was quite bad because we're better on wider pitches as it allows our fast backs to attack out wide. Due to this it was a forwards game and most of the time we contested well for the ball and would have scored on numerous occasions, if we had managed to get the last pass in.

Hutchesons: 3 – 7 (L)

In this Under 15 Cup game, Fraser managed to get the three points from the penalty early on but, unfortunately, we let our lead slip conceding a try and a conversion. In the last ten minutes we played some of our best rugby to date and were five yards from scoring, but Hutchy managed to gain possession and kicked the ball dead.

Morrison's: 12 – 0 (W)

After losing the previous game against Morrison's due to silly mistakes we were not going to lose the home encounter. Both



S3 Rugby Team

sides played very well in the first half and it ended up at 0-0. The second half started and straight away we went on the attack and about 10 minutes from time Liam Gillie scored a well worked try, shortly followed by Fraser Newbury's try.

Boroughmuir: 32 – 0 (W)

Because we had not played Boroughmuir before we did not know how good they were so we went out and played our best and managed to beat them convincingly. We scored some well executed tries and the backs and forwards linked up well in the game.

Fettes: 7 – 14 (L)

In this Schools Plate Competition we were drawn against Fettes, who had been knocked out by North Berwick (who went on to win the cup). We thought the game would be cancelled because of frost but it wasn't and we coped with the conditions admirably. We managed to take the lead but soon after Fettes equalised. It looked as if was going to be a draw but, sadly, they scored right at the end.

Lomond: 0 – 17 (L)

We were up against a much older side this time and although we lost, we played particularly well. Our defence was solid, but we were always up against it in 3rd and 4th phase ball, as it often took two of our men to put down one of theirs.

Kelvinside: 31 – 10 (W)

Kelvinside were not a bad side; however, we played well as a team and overcame their defence with strong running and powerful rucking. Ben Johnstone did well to combine the forwards and backs. The line-outs were good and we managed to gain excellent possession from them. Our defence was sound, especially Liam Gillie in the mid-field and Scott Fretwell up front in the thick of things.

Linlithgow: 46 – 0 (W)

We had not had a game in a while and because of this we were a

little rusty. This showed, through handling errors and a few missed tackles. However, our line-outs, rucks and general set piece play were sound, with some great penetrating runs from players in deep positions.

Wellington: 31 – 7 (W)

The Wellington team was a mix of S3 and S4; they also ended up with 13 men on the pitch due to injuries. Although we should have won by more the team was pleased with its performance, as we got a lot of the basics right and managed to ruck and maul the ball well. The lineouts provided a solid platform for the backs to attack, which they did by using the width of the pitch.

St Columba's: 50 – 0 (W)

Our last home match and we recorded our biggest win of the season. Our tries were scored from doing the basics really well, including mauling over the try line and scoring.

Dundee: 5 – 35 (L)

Our last match together as a team was disappointing. We all got off the bus and nobody seemed really up for it. It showed in the first half, which we lost 21-0. We did not want to go out on a bad note and managed to score a try from a line out in the second half. Players started to take responsibility for tackling their opposite man and the team began to show their true potential.

Points for 366 Points Against 175

P7 RUGBY

The P7 rugby team broke the record by winning three consecutive games at the start of the season. We have played eleven games, won 5 and lost 6. The team played much better at home than away. Over the season we worked on positioning and tackling and in the last match at home against Dundee H.S. it all came together with a great win.



S1 Rugby Team



P7 Rugby Team

We have had some very good tries, especially from Dale Boylan, Blair Aitken, Thomas Wilson and Tom Rainey. A few of our team also represented the School in the S1 rugby team e.g. Tom Rainey, Thomas Wilson and Blair Aitken.

We would like to thank our coaches Mr Beattie, Mr Martel and Mr Leyden.

Tom Wilson, Captain

Player of the Year: Tom Wilson (picked by Mr Beattie)

Team List: T Rainey, O Hunter, K Moles, A Newbury, B Aitken, C Dumbreck, T Wilson (Captain), A McFaulds, J Brown, J Halliday (Vice Captain), D Boylan, C Sloan, H Fairgrieve.

Subs: J Fleming, S Hamilton, D Maillardet O'Neill, P Hurlstone.

DRUMMING AND BUGLING

On the formation of the Scottish regiments in the 18th century, drummers and buglers were found and recognised on the same paid basis as the English regiments. Basically they kept time on the march, conveyed messages and orders and were mustered round the regimental colours. Around 1854 drummers were united with pipers to form a band and play music together, but still kept as their main role the communication of messages and orders.

Drummers have been an integral part of Queen Victoria School since its foundation and have maintained an almost mirror image of how drumming and bugling have progressed within the Scottish Division regiments. They also bugle at special ceremonial occasions, for example Grand Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Unlike the bugle, which has changed little over the years, the three drums played in the Pipe Band have changed enormously, as have the actual drumming techniques.

Originally the first production of the drum consisted of a skin, cleaned and cured, stretched over two objects until tight, and beaten. Today's drums, however, are an ingenious invention of plastic waterproof skins and metal hoops with built-in tension rods that produce a high-pitched tone, which complements the pipes. At every step of development the School has kept pace with both military and civilian progress in playing and equipment. An example of this has been the introduction of the SQA Standard and Higher Grade exams in side drumming.

At QVS we are lucky to have the tradition and encouragement of the system that promoted tuition and playing of drumming and bugling to the highest standards. During our visit to Canada we hope to display a level of playing ability that will compliment the School's high reputation in the field of Pipe Band drumming.

Drum Major H W G Tomkins

HIGHLAND DANCING

Highland Dancing has been taught from the first days of Queen Victoria School. A high standard was very quickly attained and this level of accomplishment continues at the present time. Highland Dancing is a demanding discipline, requiring high standards of physical fitness, concentration and stamina. The dancers only have one year in the Junior School in which to learn the basics of the Highland Fling, Gillie Chaluim, Seann Triubhas and Reels. In the Senior School the dancers go on to study the intricate steps of the main Highland and National dances as well as the theory of dance and an introduction to choreography. In keeping with the military tradition of the

School, dancers also learn a special version of the Argyll Broadsword called the Victorian Broadsword. To help with motivation and to give structure to individual levels of achievement, the dancers take the United Kingdom Alliance grade exams annually, with many taking Associate Teachers exams before leaving the School.

Over the years the School dancing teams have taken part in varied engagements, performing in locations ranging from Royal Palaces to the local village hall. They have danced for an Edinburgh Tattoo audience of 10,000 per night and, no less important, for small gatherings of 12 pensioners in an old folks' home. In order to achieve the required standard, pupils have given willingly of their free time; this dedication has brought rewards of its own and pleasure to audiences of all backgrounds. A proud tradition of excellence in Highland Dancing is very much part of the character of the Queen Victoria School.

Mrs E MacDonald, *Highland Dancing Instructor, QVS*

THE BAGPIPE

The beginning of the simple form of bagpipe has been traced to a period between 2000 – 1500 BC in the area between Syria and Egypt. This took the form of a simple chanter and drone, being played continuously by the attachment of a reservoir of air (the bag) and a blowstick, enabling the performer to breathe and play without having to break the flow of music.

Roman adoption of this version of the instrument, and its use by their legions, enabled its spread throughout most of Europe where, by the beginning of the 5th century AD, the bagpipe was known and played in various forms where Roman influence had penetrated and can still be seen and heard today.

The same pattern of development followed in Britain with the adaptation of the Northumbrian pipe (including bellows), but it was in Scotland that the instrument was perfected and which today is extremely popular, and played almost universally.

The Scots used its music over the years to stir men into battle and thus it became known as 'An Instrument of War,' being outlawed in the Highlands except to Regiments loyal to the Monarchy and Government of the time.

Happily, this law was rescinded in time to allow the art to continue, allowing several Regimental Pipers to distinguish themselves in the field of battle, gaining such awards as the Victoria Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal.

Pipe Major G Ross



The Lord High Commissioner's, Garden Party, Holyrood



The Opening of the Scottish Parliament









Photographs courtesy of Mr J Silcox



1st Hockey Team

1ST XI HOCKEY REPORT

With the end of the 03/04 season witnessing the departure of 8 key players the forthcoming season appeared daunting. However, with rigorous training, exceptional coaching and enthusiastic young players fighting for a place, all apprehension disappeared and success followed.

It took us a game to discover one another's strengths and weaknesses, losing 3-0 to Fettes in the process. This, however, did not dampen spirits and the weekend after we went on to beat St Margaret's 7-0. This game allowed four players to mark their territory on the score board; Heather Peters (S3) gave an amazing performance scoring 2 goals in her first game, Carly Macdonald and Katrina Leith, continuing their excellent contribution from last year, scored a further 2 goals each. Congratulations also to Callie McFarlane for her goal – surprisingly getting on the scoreboard nice and early! With further credit being awarded to the defence, courageously led by Fiona Macleod who worked extremely hard in getting them into shape.

Due to personal reasons I missed 2 games this year, and must thank Callie McFarlane for stepping in and motivating the team. She did such an excellent job and made sure that both

games were won; I had to fight for my place back, as Captain, when I returned!

It has been a privilege to Captain such a passionate and hard working team this season. On behalf of the team, and in particular those of us leaving this year, I would like to thank Miss Scott for her support and enthusiasm throughout the years on and off the pitch.

I am very pleased with the efforts of the team this year as a total of (29) goals were scored and (15) conceded – a very positive result.

Good luck to Katrina, Carly and Leanne in keeping the attitude and performance of the team positive for next year. Also good luck to the up and coming; I'm sure you will have another successful season and wish you all the best.

Congratulations must go to those who attended U16/U18 Midlands trials:

Carly Macdonald

Katrina Leith

Hayleigh Dumbreck

Karen Harrower (also selected for Scotland Training Squad)



2nd XI Hockey Team

Results:

QVS 0 – Fetes 3
 QVS 7 – St Margaret's 0
 QVS 4 – Blairgowrie 0
 QVS 2 – Morrison's 1
 QVS 1 – Mary Erskine's 3
 QVS 1 – Morrison's 0

QVS 5 – Loretto 2
 QVS 2 – Strathallan 6
 QVS 6 – Gordonstoun 0
 QVS 3 – Beaconsburst 0
 QVS 2 – Watsons 0

Sarah Harrower, 1st XI Captain

2ND XI HOCKEY REPORT

It's been a quiet season for the 2nd XI Hockey team, due to the adverse weather conditions. However we did play some memorable games against Kilgraston, St. Margaret's and Mary Erskine's.

Although there were few matches, the team has remained positive and motivated, despite having a mixed set of results. Whilst we lost two of the games played, the team has gained experience from some challenging opposition, the hardest match perhaps being the away game against Mary Erskine's which proved to be difficult in both halves as the grass pitch added an extra pressure. They had a strong defensive line which challenged us, but we remained confident.

Our goalkeeper, Chloe Swan, has performed a difficult and vital role within the 2nd XI, including some superb saves. Well done! Every player has progressed in developing new skills and

techniques, which will become very useful next season.

We would not have been able to have such a prosperous season without the help of Miss Scott and Miss Lovett, who have supported us throughout the hockey year. Thank you.

Jenny Carter, 2nd XI Captain

S2 HOCKEY REPORT.

Although many games were cancelled this year, due to poor weather, S2 had a very successful season.

We lost only to Stathallan (2-1), with the winning goal being scored in the final minute of the match. Many of the games we did win we had complete control of, for example our match against Kelvinside was won by 6 goals! Our final game was played against St Margaret's from Edinburgh. The team performed extremely well together and won by 3 goals to one.

The team and I would like to thank Miss Scott for coaching us this year. I would also like to thank the House Assistants, Miss Lovett and Miss Hoffman, for taking us for many additional practices after prep.

Well done to all of the S2 hockey players this year.

Kayleigh Harrower, S2 Captain



1st XI Football Team

1ST XI SEASON REVIEW

The season 2004-05 has proved to be one of the most successful times for the 1st XI, with plenty of exciting changes, developments and achievements being recognised, as well as changes in our coaching staff. Many thanks to George for his continued support and best of luck next season with the 1st XI. After a slow start, the 1st XI finally began to develop into a very entertaining and tough team, which has seen us progress into the quarter-finals of the SISFA cup. Furthermore, the achievements were not just of this outstanding team, but also three individual players: Darren Howie, David Honeyman and Ben MacGregor, who were all selected to represent the North District Football Team. Here is a brief description of how the 1st XI progressed from the group stages of the SISFA Cup for the first time.

High School of Dundee 5 – 3 QVS

This was our first game of the season and already we were struggling with injuries, several of our main players having pulled out just hours before kick-off. We scored the first goal within 5 minutes and the score was 3-2 at half-time. The second half was extremely disappointing and Dundee showed their superior match practice and, finally the game finished with a 5-3 defeat. On a more positive note though, some of the younger members of the team displayed great courage and determination which would stand them in good stead for team selection next time.

Gordonstoun 6 – 1 QVS

The players who could be bothered to endure a four hour bus journey were extremely disappointed at the end of this tiring day,

and quite rightly so. QVS started with such determination that we could easily have been 5-0 up after 20 minutes, but the reality was that we had scored one. The scores were level at 1-1 at half time, then the tiredness kicked in and they simply passed the ball through the team. The less said about the second half, the better.

QVS 7 – 3 Dollar

After such a poor start to the season, this seemed like the worst possible team to play as in previous years, Dollar had beaten us comfortably. But like a real team, hard work on the training pitch and much needed encouragement from the coach resulted in the best performance by a School 1st XI for many, many years. In particular, the midfield duo of David Honeyman and Stuart Mooney dominated the match which made it easier for the rest of the team. This match drew one of the largest crowds at School I have ever seen and they weren't disappointed. Well done to the 1st XI on a terrific display of football. The attitude of the team had moved from, "Oh no, not another football match," to "We will make it out of the group stages."

QVS 6 – 4 Strathallan

The first match of 2005 and the excitement of playing another game of football was beginning to tell. Several players were out early in the morning clearing ice from the astroturf so that the game could be played.

QVS started brightly with so many chances being created but, in the end, falling to the wrong person – Ben missed an open goal from all of a yard out! Never mind Ben, at least you redeemed yourself later with that 35-yard volley into the top corner. In the

end, a fantastic display from the defence, with team spirit conquering all obstacles, resulted in another magnificent win.

QVS 4 – 3 Glenalmond

Despite Glenalmond's phenomenal defensive record, we still put four past them. The first came after about ten minutes, a lob from captain Darren Howie. For the rest of the half, we simply bombarded their 'keeper with shots, showing some great passages of play in the process. Half time approached and the score was 3-1 to QVS. The second half proved to be much tougher, with all the elements going against us. But as all good teams do, we challenged this problem and finally scored another goal. 4-1 with 5 minutes to go seemed an easy enough lead to hold, but we became too complacent and two quick goals from Glenalmond soon alerted the team. We held on and won the fixture to set up a deciding match against St Leonard's.

QVS 9 – 2 St Leonard's

QVS needed to beat St Leonard's by four clear goals to progress to the next round of the SISFA Cup. The game started very slowly and St Leonard's made us pay for our lack of commitment by

scoring twice in the first ten minutes. Then, after some helpful encouragement from the senior members of the team, QVS began to play the way we should, and simply destroyed St Leonard's. Going into half time with the score at 6-2, it seemed all over. In the second half, QVS simply kept possession, scored three more goals and showed our far superior football skills and fitness. Overall, a satisfactory performance but a fantastic result. QVS 1st XI progressed to the quarter-finals of the SISFA and knocked Dollar out in the process!!!

Our quarter-final match with last year's winners, Hamilton College, will probably be the toughest match of the season, but I have great hope for this team. Well done to the team this year and in particular, the senior members of the team for helping the new players to progress and develop.

Darren Howie, Captain

P.S. Unfortunately the 1st XI lost to Hamilton College in the quarter finals.

Cross Country



Cross Country Team

What is the world of sport coming to? Cross-country being postponed or even cancelled! This was unheard of in the good old days when the weather was "really bad."

What looked like a fairly full programme for the Spring term quickly became quite fragmented, due mainly to adverse weather predictions on race day. Dangerously icy courses, high winds or bad road conditions brought the issue of safety to the fore, in this safety-conscious world. Nevertheless, whether by choice, the excitement of a packed lunch or the prospect of missing double French and double Maths, a good number of runners experienced this arduous and testing activity.

The District and Regional schools' competition proved to be our two most successful outings. In the Stirling Schools' competition both our S2 girls and Primary 7 boys teams finished 3rd in their respective races, with the S2 boys and Primary 7 girls both coming in 5th. All teams qualified to compete in the Forth Valley finals in Sauchie. Although we did not win any medals, Kayleigh Harrower (18th), Lesley-Anne O'Connor (26th) and Kirsty Laidlaw (27th) finished in a creditable 5th place and our Primary girls team, consisting of Alison Harrower (21th), Anoushka Rai (27th) and Cerys Docherty (44th) finished 6th. Best results from the boys' races were Dale Boylan (36th) in the Primary event and Fraser Newbury (22th) in the Senior race.

For several years we have taken part in the St Aloysius road relay, with this year being no exception. On paper, the girls team looked strong but, unfortunately, could not match the performance of last year, finishing 8th. After a poor start, the boys picked up a few places to complete the six stages for 24th place.

Our furthest journey, once again, was to the scenic Lathallan prep school, near Montrose, for an U14 competition. William Jackson showed his potential and was our best finisher in the boys' race. He finished in 7th position with Kirsty Laidlaw (14th) closely followed by Natasha Hughes (18th) in the girls' event. No prizes here; however, we would have won the sprint for the after race food!

A smaller than usual, but still competitive, group went to the Scottish Schools' Competition in Irvine. Adam Rainey forwent his rugby commitments in order to complete the 2 laps, coming in a respectable 32nd place in the Over 17s race. Kayleigh Harrower (40th) led Leslie-Anne O'Connor, Natasha Hughes and Alana Crawford to 9th team in the Under 15s race. In addition, William Jackson, Stuart Day and Sanjeev Paudel all ran well in their respective races. This proved to be a good experience for all, over the wind-swept, sandy and very testing course.

Inter-House cross-country results

	Winning boys	Winning girls
P7	Jack Halliday (L)	Alison Harrower (L)
S1	Josh McCallum (L)	Alana Crawford (O)
S2	Kieran Mackie (B)	Kayleigh Harrower (B)
S3	Liam Gillie (L)	Kerry McAuslane (L)

Finally, it is good to see so many runners, of all abilities, turning out for a jaunt across the Laighills on Monday lunch-times. Thanks to Mr McLay, Miss Scott and Riley for their continued support. Maybe what is really required for the future is under-soil heating for the X/C courses!

Mr J S Laing

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P7 Cross Country Team

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Highland Dancers

As always, the Dancing Team have been "reely" busy this year, performing at many high profile events. Firstly, Claire must be congratulated for being appointed the first girl Principal Dancer, although this was joint with myself.

Our first engagement was the annual display and competition at the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. We put out two teams to compete in the Broadswords competition, and Claire showed she deserved her new position by winning the Poltalloch Cup, again being the first girl to do so.

Obviously, the new home of the Scottish Parliament was opened in October and our dancers were invited to perform at the Grand Opening. We performed a variety of dances, with the Seniors dancing a traditional Victorian Broadswords and some of the younger ones getting their first taste of public attention dancing a Highland Fling. Callie and Mhairi were lucky enough to be interviewed by a newspaper journalist, giving their honest, on-the-spot, completely made-up views about the new building!

Throughout the year, we have danced on many occasions to raise money for the Centenary Appeal. The most memorable of these was the launch in Glasgow, where we performed alongside the School's Pipe Band in front the Cenotaph. I danced a mix of steps that had been created especially for the occasion, while a group of 5th Year girls danced their way through one of our new dances, "Lizzie's Jig". The spectators included many titled persons, including the Mayor of Glasgow.

Our results in the UKA Dancing Exams have also remained high, with Alasdair Page keeping up his personal standards with another Distinction of 97% at Grade 12. The four senior dancers Callie, Claire, Alasdair and myself are all in the middle of studying for our Teacher's Certificate at the end of the year and I am sure that we will all find a use for it somehow in the world outside of QVS.

But, of course, our main focus this year has been preparing for our trip to Canada for the Nova Scotia Tattoo this summer. We have a newly choreographed dance, the working name of which so far is "The Victorian Assembly". There is no doubt that there is still a lot of work to be done before we jet off across the Atlantic, but I am sure that the dancers will literally dance their socks off!! Good luck to everyone involved.

Finally, how could we not mention Mrs MacDonald?

Andrew Martin, Principal Dancer

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Callie, Claire, Andrew and Alasdair for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Dancing Team over the past seven years. The 2004/5 school year has proved to be a very successful one for the Dancing Team. The preparations for the Canada display are well underway with all dancers giving 110%. I can confidently predict that the Dancing Team will have a successful tour. I wish all leaving dancers the best of luck for their future endeavours."

Mrs E MacDonald

Minstrels and Music



Mr Breingan, Director of Music and the Windband

Another year comes to a close and the music department is as busy as ever. Last year's summer concert saw the departure of a number of 'key players' from QVS: Jenna McAulay, Ciara Watson and Pippa Roessler had all made great contributions to music in the School. Their contributions to this and other concerts will be long remembered by their contemporaries.

This year, due to popular demand, we have had to employ a second drumming teacher, with Grant Thomson from Perth College, joining the instrumental staff.

The Christmas concert included many new members in the Wind Band and after a slightly shaky evening performance the pupils performed well for their parents before going home.

The Minstrels have been out and about once again with performances in Sauchie and Bannockburn, as well as helping out at the Burns for Bairns performance in Dunblane.

The Senior Minstrels have also been performing in a variety of venues. The ladies of Dunblane were entertained with a mixed programme including dance, piping, piano, trumpet, baritone, fiddle as well as a short quiz on the history of the school. They

then treated the staff and pupils to a traditional Burns supper – the sherry trifle proving very popular!

Last year was a most successful one for the department with all thirteen Standard Grade pupils passing, twelve of them at credit level. The Higher students, all doing a single year crash course in sixth year, also scored 100% pass rate.

Stytch the sixth year boys band, after lots of hard work, have now made their first CD, *Until the Sunrise*, and have also performed in a number of venues around Stirling. Gordon Cook, drums, Peter Girvan, lead guitar, Robert Cooper, Bass Guitar and last but not least the vocals of Mark Braceland, will be missed by all in the School.

Once again I was asked to help in both the *Wavell Talent Show*, and the *Haig Talentless Show*. Both shows were a real treat with far more live material displaying yet another facet of the musical life at QVS, and quite a few surprise performers. The involvement of Callum Henderson, Craig Farquarson, and Jamie Evenden, two pipers and one pipeband drummer in Higher music indicates a real growth in collaboration in School music, as well as necessitating visits by three different SQA examiners this year.



Minstrels

We have just had the first of those examiners and he was treated to a varied programme, including Sarah Harrower playing Satie on the piano, James Elliot on drums, Greg Swan, Callum Henderson and Mat Shepherd on xylophone as well as Jamie Evenden and Mike Frame on electric guitar. The Standard Grade pupils also had their recitals, with some excellent singing from Carla Fyfe, Electric Guitar from Fay McIntyre and some splendid playing from Sheona Kirkaldy on Baritone. Sheona's playing was some of the best I have ever heard at this Grade. It has been an interesting year with the visit of the two inspectors to the music department, the large number of fifth and sixth year pupils opting to attempt Higher music in one year, most of whom had not taken music previously, and the ongoing development of a complete music department encompassing both the traditional pipes and drums as well as the class and instrumental sides of the department.

Next year I will be looking forward to even more Standard and Higher grade candidates, the formation of a school Samba Band, as well as being one step closer to the building of our new home in the Centennial Concert Hall Complex.

Mr D Breingan



Pipe Band in George Square Glasgow 2004





I would like to start this article by saying a big 'thank you' to all the parents and members of staff who have made possible the trip to Halifax for the Nova Scotia International Tattoo at the end of this term. It has been a roller-coaster ride these past 18 months but, at last, the final bill has been paid and the flights confirmed. All that's left is a ton of music to learn and four different show items to perfect and, of course, we still have a busy summer term to get through.

The band at the moment is as strong as it has been since I took up the Pipe Major's post in 1999. Unfortunately, this year I will be losing seven seniors who have been totally committed to the band since joining in their S2 year: P/M Callum Henderson, P/Sgt Craig Farquaharson, P/Sgt Scot Graham, P/Sgt, John McCulloch, Drum Major Jamie Evenden, Gordon Cook, Sarah Harrower. I hope the future goes well for them.

However, the S2 is very strong at the moment, with virtually all the class due to play in the CCF Beating Retreat at Stirling Castle on 24th May; unfortunately, this event was cancelled. The current S1 are showing real progress, with nearly all going on to pipes (I'll apologise now to all the concerned parents). The Highland Dancing classes have seen an upsurge in boy dancers over the last couple of years, much to the relief of Mrs MacDonald; hopefully, this trend will continue.

On the return from the summer holidays the band will have to

regroup and move on after the loss of some very strong band members. With some very important band engagements to follow we will not have much time to achieve this; however, I am confident the more senior pupils of the band will raise their game and meet the challenge.

In the next issue of *The Victorian* I hope to have lots of tales to tell you about our trip to Halifax.

Piper Major G Ross

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51 (Scottish) Brigade Combined Cadet Force Military Skills Competition

The 2004 Military Skills competition (better known to the cadets under its old name of 'The Highland Tactical Competition') took place over the period 1 – 3 October on the training grounds of Barry Buddon Camp, Dundee.

This annual tactical competition is designed to test the military skills of a team of ten senior cadets from each participating School cadet force who participate in a round robin of stands over the three days, which include: First Aid, Section Attacks, Map and Compass, Patrol Skills, GP Shoot, Assault Course – March and Shoot, Observation, Ambush Skill at Arms, Command Tasks, Country Code, Fire Control Orders, Stretcher Building and General Military Knowledge.

This year the School was represented by an eight man team led

by CSM Chris Soper, and 2 i/c Jamie Evenden together with Edward Hodgson, Joshua Flann, Calum Anderson, Daniel Gibb, Cameron Johnston, and James Hobson. Despite the weakness of being two team members short, the team acquitted themselves very well over the very difficult and demanding conditions of the competition, coming in sixth overall. The team was particularly strong on the GP Rifle and the Ambush Stand, where they picked up maximum points, but were weak in the areas of First Aid and Fire Control Orders. These, and other identified areas, have been especially singled out for preparation for next year's competition.

The competition was organised and staffed in a most efficient and competent way by the staff of 21 Cadet Training Team.

Mr J Silcox, Contingent Commander QVS, CCF



where he is currently helping supervise and instruct the Highland Tactical Team in the specific areas of navigation, fire orders, drill, dress, first aid and basic bush knowledge for their annual competition later this year.

Mr J Silcox, Contingent Commander QVS, CCF

House Assistant Mr L Stokes

Luke started his Military Cadet endeavours in 2000 while attending Scotch College, Melbourne in Australia. He entered the School's well renowned Military band, performing on many high profile ceremonial duties. After two years in the band, and having attended a Senior NCO cadet promotions course with the Australian Army, as well as having helped instruct and run two of the unit's own promotions courses, Luke then decided to transfer across into the Cadet unit where he undertook the role of leading the Recruit Platoon. Here he trained the new cadets in the many elements of navigation, first aid, arms, team work and drill.

Luke has now brought his Australian knowledge and general love of the bush to Queen Victoria School's own Army CCF Unit,



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Adventure Training (Skiing) Germany

The CCF's Adventure Training week in Feb 2005 proved to be the best in living memory! This was thanks to a combination of excellent facilities – we were accommodated and looked after by the staff and skiing Instructors of the REME Facility Bavaria – and exceptional snow conditions.

On arrival in Southern Bavaria the whole region had already received a fresh covering of deep snow. This made for very special skiing conditions throughout the whole week. For the first two days, although the visibility was poor, it continued to snow daily and the pistes were in pristine condition. Not only was there thigh-deep powder to ski through, but due to the fact that it was very cold, minus ten degrees up the mountain, the skiers ran through the powder as if it wasn't there! This remained for the whole week and the skiing conditions were so good that even our instructors admitted that they seldom appear in Europe. It seems that we were there just at the right time.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all the forty-three cadets who took part and congratulate them all on achieving their Ski Competence awards. I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to all the staff, without whose continuing hard work and commitment such events would just not take place at all: Lt Cmdr Shannon, Lt Borking Ski Party Leader (QVS CCF Ski Director) and Mrs Borking, Capt Wright, Flt Lt Gilhooly, Plt Off Johnston, SSM Duthie and Mrs Duthie, Mr McLay, PT Physical Education, Ms Skeith, Hospital Sister, together with Sgt Stuart of 21 Cadet Training Team.

I would like to acknowledge on behalf of the whole party the generous donation from the Army in Scotland Trust which enabled the individual cost to each family to be reduced. This was of substantial assistance in ensuring that the individual costs remained at the 2004 level.

Mr J Silcox, *Contingent Commander QVS, CCF*

CCF BTEch

Session 2003/2004 witnessed our first awards in the Cadet's BTEC Educational Programme administrated and funded by the CVQO (Cadet Vocational Qualification Office) at the Army Cadet Centre, Frimley Park and attested by Edexcel.

Following a written course on the Public services and noting the outdoor activities, expedition skills and achievements of the cadets during their years of CCF training, the following were awarded the prestigious, 'DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICES', John Campbell, Laura Hadland, Alan Batson and Sarah Fennell.

This is an excellent example of the Combined Cadet Force in its educational partnership with the School to develop, stretch and maximise the full potential of our young adults.

As Brigadier, The Duke of Westminster KG OBE TDD, the Director of Reserve and Cadet noted in his letter to the successful cadets:

"Successful completion of the BTEC course reflects your commitment to continuous personal and professional development and is an achievement of which you should be very proud. The BTEC Diploma is an internationally recognised qualification that is well respected in both the workplace and institutes of higher education and this award is, therefore, a platform on which you can build a successful future. I would like to offer you my personal congratulations and wish you every success."

Session 2004/2005 has eight potential candidates in process of completing this course, which is only open to cadets within the CCF.

Mr J Silcox, *BTEch Assessor QVS*



Watersports and a barbecue at Loch Lomond kicked off our RAF programme this year, thanks to the Navy Section who kindly invited us! In fact, the spirit of tri-service co-operation has been particularly high this year, with combined activities on a number of occasions, such as the navigation exercise in Aberfoyle, the ever-popular Bavarian ski trip and the Valentine's social evening.

In the summer holidays, four of our cadets attended one week of our very first experience of the RAF Adventure Training Camp in Windermere. Cadets had a brilliant time abseiling, mountain biking, participating in watersports and learning how to micro-navigate. Congratulations to Robert Cooper who, throughout the week, showed great endurance and leadership skills and consequently was awarded the Best Cadet Prize. Other cadets attended the Summer Camp at RAF Cosford where Flt Lt Gilhooly was the officer-in-charge and ensured that cadets enjoyed a varied programme of events which was interesting and fun for all. Our thanks to the Contingent Commander, Lt Col Silcox who was interested enough in our activities to drive down and join us on camp. Due to the safety checks on the tutor aircraft propeller, there was no air experience flying on camp; however, all the cadets got a flight in a squirrel helicopter.

Our Flight Sergeant, Andrew Martin, attended the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership Course over the summer and surprised no one by doing extremely well! Fired with enthusiasm at his success on this elite course, he has been an exceptional section leader this year and an excellent role model for all our cadets. The weekly programme has run very smoothly thanks to the willingness, adaptability and dedication of the best bunch of NCOs we have had for a long time and as a result we have had the best-ever examination results at Part Two (a massive 11 passes) in the section's history! Well done to all and to Callum Wood and James Wootton who, like their predecessors, Peter Girvan and Peter Goodman, managed to teach themselves the Part Three element of the course.

A special mention should be given to James Wootton who took on the arduous task of running the National Ground Training Competition and whipped a bunch of raw recruits into very commendable shape in very little time. Good effort! As a



complete contrast, James and Callum ran a very funny fancy dress quiz at Christmas. In between our weekly sessions several cadets have visited RAF Leuchars for air experience flying.

Another tri-service venture was the popular Bavarian ski trip in February. This is such a worthwhile venture, as all cadets experience excellent skiing instruction from trained army ski leaders while skiing in fabulous snow conditions.

We finished the year at Easter with another camp at RAF Cosford, where there was plenty of opportunity to fly and Leigh Halley impressed the regular RAF ground staff with a spectacular show of aerial aerobics – he entertained everyone with a series of barrel-rolls, loop-the-loops, Cubans and stalls! Our cadets also did well in the swimming proficiency, shooting, climbing and drill competitions.

After years of dedicated service to the CCF, Sergeant Dave Taylor left us in April to resume his RAF career with the photographic interpretation branch. Very many thanks to Dave from the Officers and cadets for his enthusiasm, guidance and good humour throughout his time with us and in particular his assistance on Field Days. A warm welcome to Sgt Mark Pearson who replaces him. Our thanks also to the PE Department who have kindly allowed us to use their facilities on an *ad hoc* basis throughout the year.

Last, but not least, our many thanks to the eight S6 pupils who will be leaving us this summer, who have faithfully been with us since their second year and have all worked so hard to run such a great section, especially Andrew Martin, who has been 'simply the best.'

PS A personal thank you from Fg Off Sheerin to the senior girls in the Army for their excellent leadership example at summer camp in Cultybraggen. In torrential rain, they faced their 'sleeping accommodation' of a totally bare Nissan hut with a leaking roof and no beds, furniture or curtains and organised it into a cosy home for all the first-timers on camp, with such a cheery enthusiasm that has to be commended – well done Jenny, Mhairi and Katrina!

Fg Off Sheerin

This has been another exciting year with lots of different events and activities and with thirty-three cadets in the section Lt Borking and I were kept busy, sailing and windsurfing at Lochore, canoeing on Loch Ard, helping to host the beating of retreat at Edinburgh Castle, training camps with recruits, Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, skiing, ship visits and field days.

Summer Term Field Day

The section once again spent the day on Loch Lomond with a mixture of water sports and shore-based activities.



Toppers and Windsurfers on Loch Lomond



The Barbecue

Everyone enjoyed the day. Although it was cloudy, it was mild and dry – except for those in the water! The treasure hunt was won by Cadet Tom Austin.

Field Day at Aberfoyle

The November Field Day was a joint forces day with all three sections competing in an orienteering competition spread through the Queen Elizabeth forest. I am proud to declare that the two Naval section teams took first and second place. The Army and RAF teams tried their best but just could not catch the Senior Service.

MCM Sea Day

Just before Christmas we joined Sections from all over the country at Faslane Naval base for a sea day onboard the Mine Counter measures vessels based there, MCM 10.



Mine Hunter in the Clyde

The cadets spent the night before the sea day in the Gairlochhead Training Camp. The evening was spent with some sport and then a social evening meeting other cadets and playing some games before an early night as 'call the hands' was at 0530.

Sea Day with FOSNNI

Three cadets, Scott Graham, Elliot Wood and Craig Farquharson joined HMS *Smiter* when she took Rear Admiral Nick Harris MBE to sea and then accompanied him to HMS *Dalriada*, where the Admiral presented Gulf War medals to RNR personnel. It was dark when the ship returned to Faslane with the Admiral and the cadets found it a different experience navigating at night, operating the radar and spotting the various lights and beacons.

Sea Day with Commodore Stait

Three cadets, Claire Greenwood, Sheona Kirkaldy and Laura Morrison joined HMS *Smiter* when she took the Director Naval Base Clyde, Commodore Stait, to sea for the day in the Clyde Estuary. The cadets put their navigation training into practice, helping navigate the ship as well as operating the radar and helm the ship. Lt Watts, Commanding Officer of HMS *Smiter*, was impressed by our cadets and said they would be welcome back onboard *Smiter* any time.

Field Day to the Royal Yacht

On Wednesday 9th February the Section went on a visit to the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, now based in Leith docks, Edinburgh. It proved to be a fascinating visit, giving an insight into the ship and her past.

Lt Cdr T Shannon RD RNR



Karen Harrower, Carla Fyfe, Stephanie Craig and Maxine Cameron on Mayar



Nicola Findlay, Shradha Limbu and Carrie-Anne Harris on Drieshe

This session the following pupils started the Award.

Cunningham House – Steve Mallet, Stuart Evenden, Callum Toole, Niall Day, James Burch, Ben Johnstone, James MacDonald and Adam Rainey.

Haig House – Connel Burt, Ben MacGregor, Mark Docherty, Alan Craig and Brian Clyde.

Wavell House – Kirsty Day, Zoe Halliday, Babeeta Gurung, Chloe Swan, Hayleigh Dumbreck, Kerry McAuslane, Nicole Howe, Natasha Anderson, Alana Carmichael, Lindsay Hobson, Jordan Cox, Alexis Watson, Heather Peters, Sophie Burns, Katrina Hall, Fay McIntyre, Lyndsey MacLean, Toni Guthrie, Alix Laidlaw, Laura Hurlstone, Lisa-Mare Alexander, Kerry Honeyman, Sarah Houston, Holly Tagima and Helen McMillan.

All these pupils have been undergoing expedition training over the winter in preparation for their practice and assessed expeditions in the summer term. The expedition will involve two days, with an overnight wild camp. These expeditions will take place at weekends, one for the practice and one for the assessment. Last year all the participants had successful expeditions in the Trossachs and the Ochil Hills and we intend to use these areas again this year.

Pupils who have completed the Bronze Award can advance to the Silver Award which also involves training over the winter and a further two expeditions for practice and assessment. For the Silver expedition three days and two nights wild camping are required.

Gold and Silver practice Expedition in Knoydart

Pupils who complete the Silver Award can proceed to the Gold

Award. This again requires training over the winter followed by the two Expeditions for training and assessment. These Expeditions are made up of four days and three nights wild camping. This year's Gold and Silver groups have planned their assessed Expeditions on the Island of Mull.

Quotes from pupils;

"Whoever thought this was a good idea was wrong! It was wet, cold and Andy's tent broke. I loved it!" Elliot Wood

"I hate midges!!!" Maxine Cameron

"Although it was hard going, wet and full of midges I can't wait to go on my next expedition to Mull." Terry Moles

"Is this lightning dangerous?" Carla Fyfe

In the other three sections of the Award, Service, Physical Recreation and Skill the pupils have taken advantage of the huge variety of activities offered by the staff. Here are just some of the activities.

Service; First Aid, Bronze Medallion Lifesaving, Fundraising and Environmental Work.

Physical Recreation; Rugby, Hockey, Football, Basketball, Squash, Golf and Cross Country.

Skill; Pottery, Woodwork, Needle Craft, Baking, Model Making and a variety of musical instrument tuition.

I am very grateful to the staff who help train and then supervise the young people in all sorts of conditions.

Mr T Shannon, Director of Outdoor Pursuits

P7 Educational Trip to Dunfermline



As part of our Environmental Studies project about William Wallace and Robert The Bruce we went to Dunfermline with Miss Edwards and Miss Thornton. When we arrived we went to Abbot House and dressed up in very old style clothes, from about the 1200s or maybe even further back in time. They were very simple designs and the richer you were the better the material and the more colourful the clothes became. After we dressed up we made a procession, as it would have been long ago, to Dunfermline Abbey. The Abbey is massive and there are the old and new parts going back for hundreds of years. Many kings were

born and buried in the Abbey. In the new part, Robert the Bruce is buried under the pulpit with a beautiful brass-engraved covering on the top. Outside the Abbey, William Wallace's mother is said to be buried under the large hawthorn tree. We went to the ruins nearby, where the monks once lived, and walked through the kitchen, refectory and the palace. Everyone enjoyed the day but most of all we enjoyed dressing up and buying things for our project at Abbot House and the Abbey shops.

Alistair Newbury and Chloe Hendren, P7

Old Victorians' Association



Unfortunately, they also dropped a bomb on our camp in mistake and killed 15 of us; a direct hit on the building which blew all who were in it to smithereens. Well Jean we are eating gigantic meals and wonder of wonders I sat down to dinner at a hotel last night and actually had a real whisky and soda.



Sgt T Hunter

The past is a foreign country ... An Incredible Story

The following letter came into my possession exactly 58 years after the day it was written. My cousin Isabel, Jeannie's daughter, unearthed it when searching for family information on my behalf. She and her daughter Beryl immediately recognised its importance and forwarded it to me. I was blown away by its contents and I was left feeling very proud of my father. During my visit to the School last year I showed the letter to Brian Raine and Bert Tomkins. They too were most impressed and suggested that I incorporate the letter into an article for the School magazine. Interested readers should read the letter first then move on to my comments.

Sgt T. Hunter
Police Headquarters
Hong Kong
5/9/45
Dear Jeannie,

Freedom has come both sudden and unexpected. When the Japanese collapse came about the British battle fleet raced from Sydney to Hong Kong and averaged a speed of 25 knots an hour all the way, with the engineers practically sleeping on the safety

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Football Team (1953-54): Back row, W McColdrick, R Beveridge, W Corcoran, T Hunter, D Cramb, C Carcary, T Simpson. Front row: A McDade, P Gibson, Captain Maxton, J Morgan, W Haggart

valves all the time. It was a truly remarkable performance and when we saw our carrier planes racing over the camp and then the warships on the horizon our hearts were too full for words. To mark the fleet's arrival Admiral Harcourt raced straight for Stanley camp and personally hoisted the Union Jack amongst scenes unprecedented in the history of Hong Kong. Since then the sick police (or rather what is left of that body) have been transferred to a hospital ship and are leaving today for Australia whilst others are being flown away.

A few of the die-hards including myself have been handed arms and ammunition and we are back again at work – as though we have not had enough already. However, our great city is in shambles and it is a case of all hands to the mill to try and do something to help. It looks as though the entire city will have to be dynamited and rebuilt. Even our beautiful harbour is nothing but a mass of funnels and masts sticking up above the water as the result of a great American air raid some months ago in which they sank 26 ships – everything the Japanese had here. Unfortunately, they also dropped a bomb on our camp in mistake and killed 15 of us; a direct hit on the building which blew all who were in it to smithereens. Well Jean we are eating gigantic meals and wonder of wonders I sat down to dinner at a hotel last night and actually had a real whisky and soda.

I went to my former home this morning and there was not a scrap left of all my worldly possessions. Everything had gone but it was just what I expected. When I was taken prisoner I had not been home at all for several days and so I did not salvage as

much as a handkerchief (*sic*). I only hope my poor kitten which had been locked in did not die in pain of starvation; maybe my servant took it away but the servant has also disappeared. I will pass over the battle of Hong Kong except to say that men fought to the last without anything to look forward to except death. It was only on the instructions of the home government that Hong Kong finally surrendered; however, it could only have gone on for several hours more at the most.

Of the last three years eight months I will say nothing. The world will know soon enough and it is not my way to add to the total score.

Dear Jean, I have only had six letters altogether: Two from you – two from Curly – two from Ada, and I forgot, one from Isabel's young man. I trust you are all fit and well & I hope Ada & Tommy are too. I have no word from Ada for three years and none from anybody for nearly two. Is Dad alive? – If so give him my regards. I do not know how I stand for leave at present, as everything is upside down and the chaos is beyond description. However, we will know more in a few days. Freedom is the main thing, especially when the Navy have brought good tinned food & real cigarettes with them. Do not worry about me on any account because I am full of the joy of spring and as soon as I know you are all O.K. then the situation will be perfect. Loss of property means nothing to me now – even my prizes, medals, certificates etc. I have long since ceased to care. The great thing is that these yellow swine have been taught a lesson. God knows they deserved it.



Cricket Team (1955): Back row, Mr R Bowen, M Duncan, A Quinn, T Hunter, J Baxter. Front row, R Anderson, W Jones, J Wilson, N Poulson, W Corcoran, P Gibson

A first class power they called themselves; heavens above they could not even run a fish & chip shop decently. Well Sister all your & Charlie's A.R.P. worries should be over now and I trust things will return to normal. The Japanese have built a huge war memorial on top of the mountain on the island. We will have much pleasure in tearing it down. Cheerio Jean & love to all. I will write later when things are clearer.

Love to all

Tommy x

I was a pupil at Queen Victoria School from September 1949 to the autumn of 1955 when I left to join the Metropolitan Police cadets. The school song, which we sung with great gusto, was called *Sons of the Brave*. This article is a tribute to my father who, in his own quiet way, was one of the brave.

My father was born in 1905. Two of his older brothers, William and James, were killed in France in the First World War. William Ross Hunter was in the Seaforth Highlanders and was killed in action in the first few months of the war. He was a magnificent looking man. He was probably a regular soldier as the original British Expeditionary Force, affectionately known as the 'Old Contemptibles,' was made up of regiments from the regular army. James Durward Hunter was in the Royal Scots. He was killed in action during the last few months of the war. As an only child I still feel a great sense of loss for the cousins I don't have. Scotland's losses in the Great War were horrendous and were the

second highest per capita in all of the nations that fought in that conflict. We lost over 147,000 of our finest young men including 30 Scottish rugby internationals. The whole of the Heart of Midlothian football team volunteered.

My father left school at 14 in the last year of the war and enlisted in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He trained as a drummer, highland dancer and infantryman. Dad was good at cricket and football and represented the regiment in both sports. He took his discharge after nine years service but found himself in the middle of the Great Depression when work was difficult to obtain. He spotted a recruiting advert for the Hong Kong Police and lodged an application. As luck would have it one of his former commanding officers was on the selection panel. He had fond memories of my father's sporting prowess and the rest, as they say, is history. My father served in the Hong Kong Police from 1928 until 1946 retiring with the rank of Inspector. He represented the police in football and cricket and became operationally competent in three Chinese dialects. Throughout his service his military training stood him in good stead in maintaining law and order. During his 1938 furlough he met my mother in Blackpool. They had a whirlwind romance, married and set up home in Hong Kong where I was born in 1939. My wife Sylvia reckons I'm a rolling stone, which is not surprising, considering I was conceived in Edinburgh and born in Hong Kong.

At that time Japan and China were engaged in all out war and the conflict was moving towards the New Territories, Kowloon



Military Band (1954): Back row, R McLeod, P Gibaon, M McNally, J Blackie, I Davidson, A Bethune, N Duncan, R Rennie, R B Alexander, G Welsh, D Dempsey, R Grieve, J McKillop, B Fitzpatrick, J Forbes, T Ward. Centre row, J Wood, M Wood, T Murphy, G C Firie, T Simpson, W Maggart, A Bell, J Feirbsim, B McQue, R Tasker, A B C McConnell, R Watson, D Cromar. Front row, T Hunter, J White, A Tulloch, J McArthur, J Wilson, H/M FH Lax, Lt Col R F Nason, D H McNeill, B/Sgt K Gavigan, J Morgan, N Paulson, E Anderson, A Quinn

and Hong Kong. A decision was made to evacuate women and children. At the beginning of 1940 my mother and I were evacuated to the Philippines where we were well looked after by a friend of my father. The war with Japan did not commence until 7 December 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor. By that time a significant number of families had returned to Hong Kong and were interned by the Japanese. My mother kept on going to Australia and we arrived in Sydney on 22 August 1940, on my first birthday. To cut a long story short I didn't see my father again until about the spring of 1946 when we were repatriated to the UK. (Since taking on the role of husband and father I have often wondered how my father felt on bidding farewell to his glamorous young wife and infant son, wondering if he would survive to see us again. I would have been devastated and would have had to dig deep to survive).

Family reunification did not work out, as my mother had got used to being independent. She took me to Bolton where we set up home with my auntie Anne (mum's older sister). My aunt, to say the least, was singularly unimpressed by my mum's decision to separate from my father after all that he had endured.

I proved to be a bit of a handful for my mother and she returned me to Edinburgh to the care of my father, who was a tall gaunt stranger to me, damaged by the war and the loss of his wife. Despite those losses my father was always easy going and gentle with me. Only once did he resort to physical punishment for telling a lie. Even then it was just a symbolic slap on the behind. During my childhood years with dad he would entertain me with

his juggling skills, acquired as a form of self-discipline during his three years eight months incarceration. I now realise he had tremendous resilience and will power that helped him to survive in relatively good shape compared to his comrades. His sense of humour was infectious and he was a good raconteur. My favourite story was about his long beard that he grew whilst in captivity. He had me convinced that every time he sneezed he disturbed the sparrows that were nesting in his beard! He introduced me to football and we were regular supporters of Hibernian FC at Easter Road at a time when it was truly a great side, boasting eight Scottish internationals, including the famous five of Gordon Smith, Bobby Johnstone, Laurie Reilly, Eddie Turnbull and Willie Ormond.

Unfortunately, my father moved around a lot and we found ourselves residing in a succession of dreary lodgings and I lost count of the number of primary schools that I attended. Fortunately, at one stage dad came to a temporary foster care arrangement with one of his old army friends, by the surname of Wright, who was an Old Victorian. In the summer of 1948 or 1949 Mr Wright took me to visit our School on Grand Day. The weather was beautiful. I was enthralled by the setting and most impressed by the musical and military skills of the boys. I had the good sense to ask my father if he could enrol me in the School. The previous commandant to Colonel Nason interviewed us, my application was accepted and I commenced at QVS in the autumn of 1949.

During the School holidays my father arranged for me to be

boarded out with responsible friends and relatives. In addition, at my request, despite serious misgivings on his part, he reunited me with my mother and auntie Anne during the Easter vacation of 1950 and after that I would spend every second holiday with my mother and her side of the family in the north of England.

I kept in regular touch with my dad during my years in the Royal Marines. I was fortunate enough to be seconded on full salary to Edinburgh University to complete my social work training (1970-71) and that was when I really got to know him. We would meet after lectures late Wednesday afternoon for a few drinks in one of those great pubs near the university. We would then move on to our lovely rented cottage in Lasswade for a great spread prepared by my wife Sylvia. During that year I came to the conclusion that my father was a man of honour and integrity, some of which he had passed on to me as I found I shared many of his values. I found out from other sources that as a POW he would go out under the wire at night and with his local knowledge, together with linguistic skills, he was able to build up a more realistic picture of how the war was going. This, of course, helped to keep up the morale of his mates. During the Battle for Hong Kong he was in charge of an observation post supervising Chinese colleagues. He could see that the battle was lost and surrender was inevitable. He ordered his men to get rid of their uniforms and return to their homes. They were most reluctant to do so until dad explained that they could be tried as colonial collaborators and executed by the new order. They shook hands, exchanged salutes, got rid of their uniforms and returned to their homes. My father stayed at his post until the surrender took place. There are many more stories that I could share as my father was a natural raconteur. He died, unexpectedly, at the beginning of 1975 in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. At the time I did not know he was ill. He knew I was under tremendous pressure at work having just commenced a new job. He instructed hospital staff not to bother me but I wish he hadn't, as I would have wanted to be there with him in his final hours. He was a resident of Whiteford House in the Royal Mile. His fellow veterans organised a good funeral for him and I'll always be grateful to my cousin Isabel and her husband Wattie for laying on a wake for family and friends. My father's letter has inspired me to track down his grave at Easter Road Cemetery in order to add a headstone inscribed with the words: 'He fought a good fight. He stayed the course. He kept the faith.'*

From my father I inherited a basic sense of decency, honour and athletic ability. My QVS days further developed my genetic and emotional heritage that continued to develop during my service in the Royal Marines, my career in social and community services and in a successful marriage that has stood the test of time (42 years in December). Thanks dad and thanks to QVS.

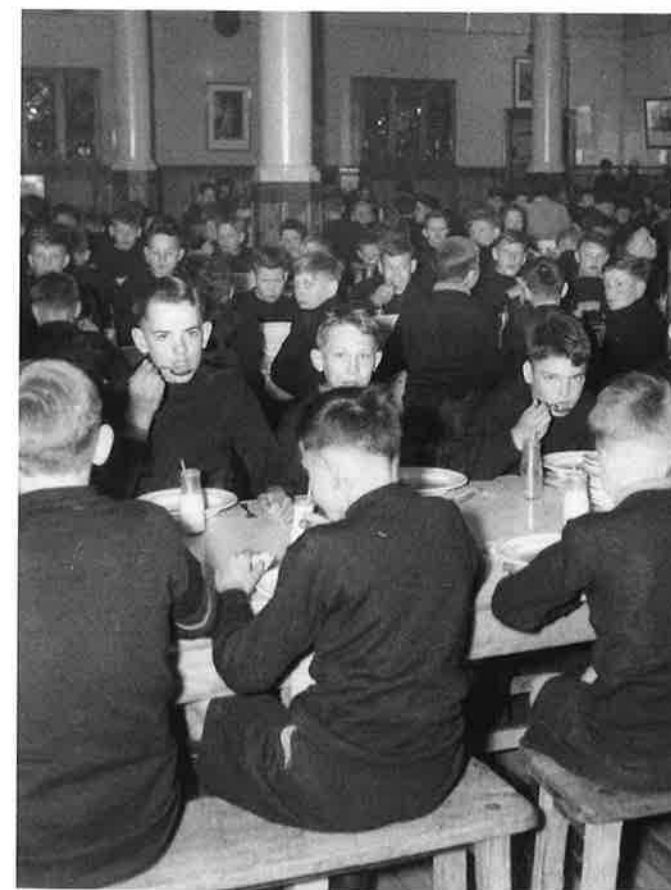
As my father mellowed he recognised that the Japanese were great soldiers. He acknowledged that some of the guards did their

best to protect the POWs. At the end of the war they were treated with respect by the former prisoners especially their warrant officer who was a man of honour. By way of contrast, the former prisoners executed a guard with the sobriquet of 'Slap Happy,' without trial.

A fuller account of my QVS experiences, 'Reflections from Afar', and what it meant to me can be found in the 1997 edition of *The Victorian*. There is an updated version under 'Stories, Myths and Legends' on the unofficial web site.

* Based on Saint Paul's address to Timothy.

Editor's note: I have typed this out as my father wrote it. The reference about Ada and Tommy is of course to my mother and me. Jean/Jeanie is my Dad's older sister. The A.R.P is the Air Raid Protection Service. Isabel's young man was in the R.A.F. and was killed in action over Germany. Isabel is my Father's niece. Curly no doubt was either bald as a coot or his hair was absolutely straight.



QVS pupils in the Dining Hall 1954/5



Jamie Alexander Graham 1984 – 2004

Jamie came to Queen Victoria School in August 1996. Academically, he was very strong and did extremely well in both Standard and Higher Grade exams. His overall contribution to the School was immense. In sport he was a regular member of 1st XV rugby and represented the School at athletics. He was involved in a lot of outdoor activities achieving the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. He was also a good Highland Dancer, performing at Edinburgh Castle for the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday Celebration. Thereafter, he took over duties in the Colour Party for the Edinburgh Tattoo and in his last year at School was in charge of the Colour Party.

As one of a small group of School Monitors and Head of Cunningham House, he played a crucial role in QVS boarding School life and, as such, he accepted responsibility well, was extremely reliable and always smartly dressed. Although a quiet young man, he was very positive, determined and always willing

to help out whenever required. He was equally well respected by pupils and staff alike and was a very good role model for the younger pupils.

Jamie left School in 2002 and entered the Royal Navy and was an operator mechanic on HMS *Montrose*.

Jamie was tragically killed in a motor accident in August 2004 whilst home on leave from HMS *Montrose*. He will be remembered with great respect and affection by all who knew him at Queen Victoria School and on HMS *Montrose*. His death, at such an early age, is even more keenly felt by his parents Jim and Elaine, his brother and sisters Scott, Julia and Christina and his fiancée Ashley.

Mr B Raine, Headmaster

Colonel Gordon Simpson 1917 – 2005 Her Majesty's Commissioner 1982 – 1992

Gordon Simpson was born in Tayport, Fife, and was educated at Rugby School. His father served with the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. Gordon Simpson commanded B Squadron of the 2nd Lothian and Borders Horse, which was equipped with tanks, when they took part in Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of French North Africa. The Lothians served with the 6th Armoured Division in Italy and distinguished themselves when supporting the 6th Black Watch in the advance on Cassino in mid May 1944. Gordon Simpson took over as Commanding Officer for the drive north when his Commanding Officer took ill and won his first DSO for inspiring leadership of the Lothians in the advance to Perugia in June.

He was appointed to command the Lothians on 9th July 1944 for the next drive on Arezzo, part of which was to seek a crossing over the River Arno. On 16th July, 'fighting with dashing assurance', the Lothians under Simpson captured the historic

bridge over the Arno – reputed to be older than Florence's Ponte Vecchio.

Having survived unwounded in continuous fighting through the summer and autumn of 1944, Simpson commanded the 2nd Lothians and Border Horse in the last great battle of the Italian campaign – the break through the Argenta Gap into the valley of the River Po in April 1945. He received the immediate award of a Bar to his DSO in recognition of his leadership and skilled handling of his regiment.

He returned to civilian life to the Edinburgh stockbrokers Bell Cowan, later to be Bell, Lawrie McGregor and later became a senior partner. He was also Chairman of General Accident from 1978 – 1986. In addition he was a member of the court of Stirling University and one of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Queen Victoria School.



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ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER	E Smith BEd (Hons) BA PGCE

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Cunningham	H W G Tomkins Cert PP(BSA)
Haig	J E Coates BA (Hons) MLitt DipEd PGCE
Trenchard	C Matheson DipMan Studies
Wavell	A MacDougall MEd BEd PGCG PGCE

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS

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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 Stewart BSc (Hons)
A Thomson MA PGCE

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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
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J Porter MA (Hons) PGCE
J Scott BEd (Hons)
T Shannon Dip Tech Edn HND Eng Mech
Rev J Silcox BD Cert PS Cert.P.P.(BSA) CF TD (School Chaplain)
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R Wright BA PGCE

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S Johns Dip Ed
L Thornton Dip Art & Design Grad CE
M Walker

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G Spowert
H Lockwood
A Cockburn
A Brown
G Thomson
F Chapman

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Haig	C Tomkins
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Wavell	D Henderson

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C E Cullen
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L Galletly

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Hospital Nurse (Part-time)	A Addison
Hospital Auxiliary	V Hiddleston

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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

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Maintenance Supervisor	R Allan
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Finance Manager	K Lawrie BA (Hons)
Deputy Finance Manager	I Mair
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Bursar's Secretary	M Reid
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AHT's Secretary	C Rankin
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	R Ainslie (HND Business Admin)
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	D P Carrington-Porter
	F Wernicki
	R Hiddleston
	R Davies
	J MacGuire
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	W Stockman
	P Warner

Typist

Asst Personnel Officer
Laboratory Technician
Civilian Security Officer

Experimental Worker
Leading Hand
General Hand
General Hand
General Hand
Storekeeper



School teaching staff



School administrative staff



Queen Victoria School
Dunblane Perthshire FK15 0JY
Email: enquiries@qvs.org.uk
www.qvs.org.uk