



The Victorian 2006

Queen Victoria School



P7 Rugby

Photograph courtesy of Mr Allison

“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

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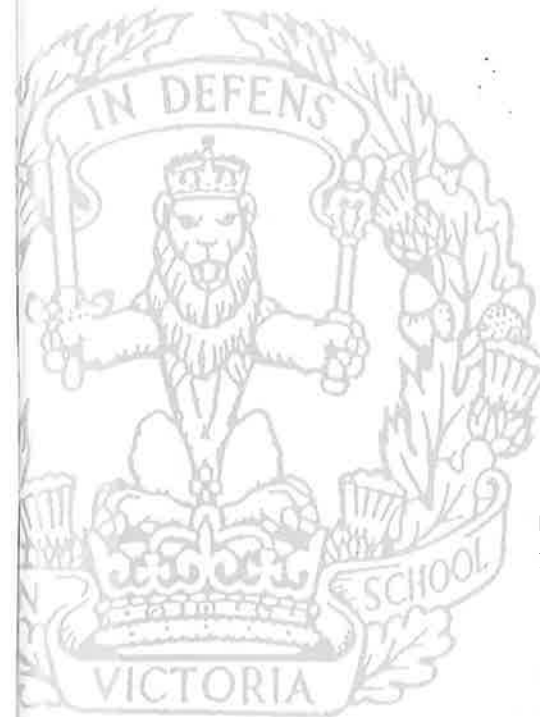
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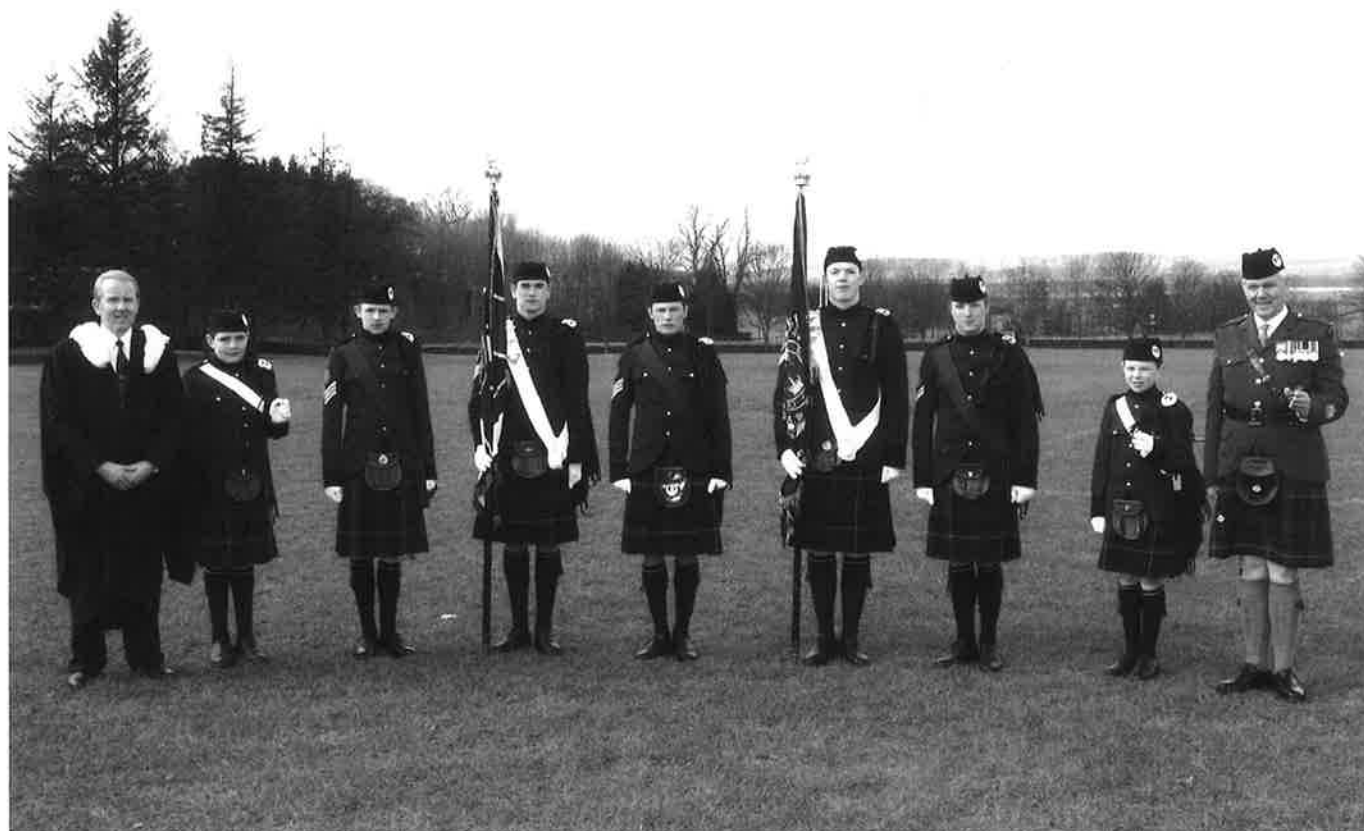
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Headmaster's Notes



Colour Party L - R: Headmaster, Owen Hunter, Ben McGregor, Adam Rainey, Matthew Marshall, Edward Hodgson, Callum Anderson, Tom Wilson & School Sergeant Major

As I write this summary of the year's progress and achievements we are also in the process of preparing for the HMIE Follow-up Inspection from October 2004 and the first visit of the Care Commission. Reflecting on what has been achieved in this period I am struck, once again, by the very high maintenance level that is required in a boarding school merely to keep pace with events and progress. However, there has been considerable forward movement, with one of the major developments being the appointment of an additional Deputy Headteacher Pupil Support, Miss Phipps, for which Mr Philson and I had fought for some time. In addition, Mr Carroll was appointed Deputy Headteacher Pastoral & Guidance and, in a very short space of time, has made a dramatic difference in PSE and other areas. Another change in job title and remit was in the appointment of a new School Business Manager, Stephen Dougan, who replaces the Bursar and whose job it is to secure the necessary funding for the School's development and future.

In Wavell, Mrs MacDonald has been Acting Housemistress but was successful in gaining the position in open competition and she, along with Mrs Adams, Miss Jastrabikova and the Housematron, Mrs Henderson, have restored good working relations in Wavell and with House staff there have been notable improvements. Also in fair and open competition, Mr King and Mrs Rankin were successful in gaining the Principal Teacher Primary and the Headmaster's Secretary's posts, respectively. We have also secured good appointments for English and Maths teachers in Mr Ronald and Miss Templeton, respectively.

Another major event for which we are planning, as I write, is the Presentation of New Colours on Grand Day. As you will know by

the time you read this we are being honoured by the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, but because she has to go to France the same day, as Colonel Commandant of the Newfoundland Regiment to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, there have been some necessary adjustments to our usual timings. However, I am sure that Grand Day 2006 will not only be a great success but also a Royal occasion.

Our 2005 examination results were somewhat mixed with 50% gaining 5 or more credit passes (National average 35%), well below last year's 63.6%. At Higher 53% gained 3 or more passes at A to C in S5 (National average 23%) again down on last year's 60.6%. However, the overall pass rates were higher e.g. in S5 85% compared with 77% last year and in S6 71% compared with 64% last year. Combined S5/6 pass rate was 80% compared to 70% last year.

On the Estates side, the remaining areas of the ground floor of the Main Building have been refurbished to provide a Conference room and disabled toilet and staff changing room at the South end and a new Deputy Headteacher and secretarial office next to the Library at the North end. On the Establishment Development Plan we are, at present, being given financial backing to improve the infrastructure, e.g. utilities etc, prior to the design and development of a new Teaching Block, which we expect to commence next financial year and continue until completion. The footprint for this is at the rear of the present block, e.g. 1-6 Nason Avenue inclusive.

The Centenary Appeal goes from strength to strength and we are now approaching £1.2m. As always there is a wide range of events planned in the near future, including a Musical



Headmaster & Monitors L - R: Vivian Moonan, Ben McGregor, Katrina Leith, Headmaster, Ashleigh Hughes & Leanne Bridgeman

Extravaganza at Boturich Castle, a Charity Reception at the House of Lords, a reception with His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh at Edinburgh Castle, Faslane Fair, Leuchars Airshow and a champagne reception at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder. One of the events that was a great success, all round, was The Big Fiddle and Neil Buchanan deserves great credit for the idea and organisation of this event. It is, however, with great sadness that Lindsey McArthur, our Appeals Director has moved on and we wish her all the very best in her new appointment. Emily Pelham Burn has taken over as Appeals Director.

One of the highlights for Queen Victoria School since the publication of last year's *The Victorian* was the Pipe Band/Highland Dancers tour and performance at the Nova Scotia Tattoo. Col Ian Fraser, the Tattoo Director, stated in a letter that, 'the QVS Pipes, Drums and Dancers did a tremendous job, their display was excellent and they were splendid representatives of the School'. Mel Jamieson, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo Director, who was out there to see the Tattoo commented, in a letter to myself, that he was 'delighted to see the QVS Pipes, Drums and Dancers in Nova Scotia - I thought their act was the best I have ever seen' - high praise indeed from Mel. The Pipe Band are also taking part in the Basel Tattoo this summer.

The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers have had another very busy year and performed at major events such as Perth Race Course, Dunblane Cathedral and Boturich Castle on behalf of the Centenary Appeal Fund; the official opening of the Royal Bank of Scotland by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Murrayfield Internationals for Scotland/Argentina/Samoa/France and England. Naturally, there have been other occasions involving Pipe Band

and Highland Dancing including Parade Sundays, Junior Minstrels, Burns Night etc. Highland Dancing continues to be a feature of excellence in the School and on May 16th at the Parade Sunday a group of P7 Dancers performed extremely well in public for the first time.

The 1st X1 hockey team has had another good season, having lost only four matches and, thanks to some very good assistance by Miss Lovett, Miss Hoffman, Miss Creighton, Miss Vickers, Miss Maynard and Miss Pegus, all teams have developed well. Thanks must go to the last three aforementioned, House Assistants, who did such a good job in Miss Scott's absence. The 1st X1 came 3rd in the Midlands tournament having beaten Dollar en route. Natasha Anderson, Hayleigh Dumbreck, Kayleigh Harrower, Zoe Halliday and Heather Peters were all in the Midlands U16 squad and Hayleigh went on to a Scottish Schools trial. Kayleigh Harrower, as captain, along with Ainsleigh Piggot and Katherine Wilson represented the Midlands U16 team in the District tournament recently.

The 1st XV have had another difficult season but did beat Madras (twice), Lomond (twice) and Giggleswick and reached the semi finals of the Hutchesons' 7 a side competition. The S1s have been the best of the junior teams but having been involved this season, myself, with the S3/U16 side there has been no lack of effort and determination and, for a side which quite often found itself confronted by much bigger opposition, they performed extremely well and only just missed winning a number of the close matches and finished the season against Dundee HS with an excellent victory. At the representative level Fraser Newbury, Liam Gillie, Rio de Sherpa, Callum Toole, Scott Fretwell, David Ure and



Headmaster, Monitors & School Prefects L - R: Back Row, Isla MacLeod, James Wootton, Jennifer Carter, Ryan Flaherty, Callum Wood, David Leishman, Rebecca Copland, Leigh Halley & Shradha Limbu Front Row, Vivian Moonan, Ben McGregor, Katrina Leith, Headmaster, Ashleigh Hughes, Matthew Marshall & Leanne Bridgeman

Michael Goodman all played for the Crusaders U16s and Adam Rainey, David Love and Matthew Marshall the Scorpion U18s. It should be noted that all of the U16s named above played 1st XV rugby this season.

Our athletes performed very well in a competition against Hutchesons' Grammar School, St Columba's, St Aloysius and Lomond, dominating the throwing events and the U14 and U17s coming first in their competition. In another competition involving Hutchesons' Grammar School, Wellington and Douglas Academy, we dominated the throwing events again, coming first, second and third in many of the competitions and the S2 4 x 100 metre relay team won their race, with the girls coming fourth overall and the boys second. In the Forth Valley Championships our S1 boys won their competition and the S2 boys came third.

At the Scottish Schools Pentathlon Championship, Fraser Newbury came sixth and in the Scottish Athletics Championship, Blair Aitken came 5th in the triple jump. Jamie Meiklejohn 5th in the javelin, Kayleigh Harrower 6th in the triple jump and Katrina Leith 4th in the 100m and 7th 200m.

There is considerable coverage of the CCF in other parts of *The Victorian* but it is worthy of note that the Highland Tac Team, led by Adam Rainey, came 4th in the CCF/ACF competition and, as you will see, Col A Lapsley, was very impressed by 'the standards of dress and drill' which he thought 'were very high' and throughout his visit he 'was struck by the feeling of family and community in the School and the total commitment of the staff

and senior pupils.' Also worthy of note is that James Wootton and Callum Wood passed the Air Cadet Leadership course – James with distinction.

Drama and Music continue to be strong with a group of pupils again performing as part of the St Blane's Drama Group. The S2 performance of *Oliver Twist* before Christmas was also a very good effort which I enjoyed very much and the Christmas Concerts were also well received.

Tae Kwan Do continues to be a very successful extra-curricular activity and Finlay Smith (S5) deserves credit for his assistance in ensuring that it is so. In the Scottish Championship our pupils gained 4 bronze, 3 silver and Jordon Cox and Finlay a gold each.

As can be seen above, with our involvement in Burns for Bairns in Dunblane and the various performances of the Junior Minstrels, QVS is very well involved in the local community. Mr Carroll and myself are also involved at another level with the Dunblane Children's Community Partnership. In addition, pupils and staff did extremely well to organise and put on the Trenchard and Wavell Talent shows raising over £300 for Yorkhill Children's Hospital. Non-uniform days have been held on behalf of the Pakistan/Indian Earthquake Disaster and Stirling Youth Project.

Our House Assistants for 2006 are Mr Green from Scotch College, Melbourne; Mr Hilton from Marist College, Brisbane; Mr Sutherland from Marist College, Ashgrove; Miss Maynard from All Saints College, Bathurst; Miss Pegus from Monte



Headmaster & House Assistants L - R: Back Row, Jonathan Green, Stefani Schindler, Prudence Maynard & Andrew Martin Front Row, Paul Sutherland, Tahlia Vickers, Headmaster, Kelly Pegus & Peter Hilton

Sant'Angelo Mercy College and Miss Vickers from Scots PGC College, Warwick. In addition, our Senior Monitor 2005, Andrew Martin, joined our House Assistants in August and leaves us at the end of this summer term. Miss Schindler and Miss Miresteanu also joined us in August for the academic session as Modern Languages and House Assistant and Maths Teacher, respectively. We have also been very ably assisted on a temporary basis by Mrs Elliott in IT, Mrs Shannon in History, Mrs Bell in the Primary Dept and Mrs Carter in English.

One retiral which is very worthy of note is that of Mr Stewart, our Principal Teacher of Maths, who has given almost 34 years service to Queen Victoria School. His commitment and loyalty to the School have been outstanding, as he has always contributed fully on the games and extra-curricular side, as well as offering to help with extra sessions, such as S5 library prep and any request to help within the House. We wish Douglas and his wife Janice a long and happy retirement.

Jock Drysdale, our Bursar, also retired in October 2005 after over 4 years at QVS. His enthusiasm for all forms of Scottish Music and Dance and ceremonial clearly found expression during his time at QVS. We wish Jock and Agnes a long and happy retirement.

One of our major staff achievements this session was securing the IIP Revalidation which was one of our main aims at the start of the session. I would agree with our Assessor that 'The School has achieved a great deal since the last assessment' and we continue to strive to improve in all areas. The IIP Committee and staff, as a

whole, are to be congratulated on playing their part in securing this National Standard.

I regularly receive many complimentary letters, which are very encouraging. For example, Major General Mark Mans, Deputy Adjutant General, commented after a visit, 'I was most impressed by everyone I met, staff, and pupils alike. I also much appreciated being able to talk with so many pupils. Their attitude was refreshingly enthusiastic and they are clearly happy with their lot and a credit to the School.' One parent who was commenting on a weekend out with three girls and her daughter not only agreed with the last phrase but added, 'I found them to be very well mannered and courteous throughout the weekend and they were a pleasure to have as visitors.'

My thanks, as always, must go to staff and Commissioners for the work which they do on behalf of the School and, in particular, to Katrina Leith our Senior Monitor this year, and the Monitors and Prefects who help to keep the School in order.

As this will be my last Headmaster's Report for *The Victorian* Magazine, I would like to conclude by thanking the pupils and parents, both past and present, for their considerable support and friendship throughout my time at QVS. I would also like to thank my wife, Jean, for her unstinting support at all School events, until she took ill but, more importantly, for her support and encouragement through some very difficult times.

Brian Raine, Headmaster



Headmaster presents Jock Drysdale, Bursar, with a gift on his retirement



Inspecting Officer Capt W A Colquhoun (Black Watch), Headmaster & Orderlies. Remembrance Day Parade November 2005



March 2006; Queen Victoria School Junior Minstrels on their Scottish Tour, 'Gigging Around'. Here they are being transported on the 'Cool Us' minibus to Comrie Parish Church. The Junior Minstrels programme is organised by Mr D Breingan (Music Director), Ms G Edwards (Primary Teacher) and Mrs E MacDonald (Highland Dance Teacher)



Queen Victoria School Junior Minstrels Primary 7 Highland Dancers performing at Comrie Parish Church



The last occasion for the Harrowers and MacLeods – from left to right, Karen Harrower, Isla Macleod, Fiona MacLeod, Alison Harrower, Susan MacLeod, Sarah Harrower, Lorna MacLeod, Kayleigh Harrower



Open Door Heritage Weekend at Holy Trinity Church, Stirling. Queen Victoria School exhibits its display about one of Queen Victoria School Old Victorians, William Lawson Crichton. This was part of an exhibition of remembrance for those who fought for their country. William Crichton was probably the youngest sergeant-major in the army and was killed in battle, at only 18 years old, on the 2nd or 3rd March 1916



Primary 7s Environmental Studies Outing to Abbot House and Dunfermline Abbey. We all had a super day dressing up in typical 12th Century clothing, depicting the trades and people of that time



P7s at Abbot House and Dunfermline Abbey. A procession leads the King and Queen and townsfolk of the 12th Century to Dunfermline Abbey



Ms Edwards's P7 Tutor Group at Perth Pool

Centenary Appeal Update

It has been another busy year for everyone involved in the QVS Centenary Appeal. We have now passed our first million with the running total standing at around £1.2m. As always we have a number of exciting events planned for the year. These include an evening reception with HRH Prince Philip in the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle, a box at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a musical reception at Thirlestane Castle in Lauder as well as a

number of Service-related events, including the Faslane Fair and The Leuchars Airshow. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those within the school family who are working hard to ensure that we reach our target of £2.5m.

Lindsey McArthur, Centenary Appeal Director, May 2006

Reminiscences of QVS



First fifty at Dunblane 1909. Cross above Michael Joseph McGregor



Postcard posted 29th July 1910 from MJ McGregor, showing QVS boys doing Highland dancing on the quadrangle (now built over)



Card posted 17th September 1911 by MJ McGregor to his mother, just writes "I thought you would like this PC of Yule and I"



Queen Victoria School in the early 1930s

The following information was passed on to me, as Headmaster, as result of a meeting between one of our Commissioners and Mrs Prince. She has very kindly allowed this to be reproduced:-

My father, Michael Joseph McGregor, was a founder pupil at the School then, later, in the 1930s, Deputy Headmaster.

Our conversation triggered a lot of memories, as we 'staff children' all lived on the grounds and joined in School activities, sometimes going to Chapel, the weekly cinema programme (I could do a PhD on early Chaplin films!), sledging on 'Lairdies hill'... one evening a week we had access to the School swimming baths and, at Christmas, I remember the School gave a lovely party for the staff children. Of course we watched the boys parading and the pipebands, on a quadrangle now built over.

My father was pipe major in the School pipe band, including the time in 1913 when the QVS band played at the Royal Naval Military Tournament at Olympia, London. He also became a very

good Highland Dancer and a good swimmer, thanks to QVS.

Most of the boys left at 14 – then 15 – then 16, but quite a few stayed on till 18. The more academic ones went to the Royal Hibernian College, Dublin to do a four year course to become army school masters. As army school masters had to do everything from running schools for army children to preparing soldiers for various exams, their training had to cover a wide range of subjects, and was much better than the two year courses done by civilian teachers.

I'm not sure when QVS boys started sitting the Sandhurst entrance exams, but they were certainly doing this in the 1930s when my father was back on the staff.

Although the School gave the boys an excellent education, they didn't sit any outside examinations, e.g. Highers, or whatever the equivalent was then. This meant they had no qualifications with which to apply for university entrance or, for example, work in a bank. My father regretted this and, when he was Deputy Head,



Card posted 22nd July 1914 from Miss Beenie Gow, a Dunblane lady who had 'adopted' a pupil at QVS, MJ McGregor. She says on it "Where are you in this picture?"



Postcard sent by MJ McGregor posted 29th September 1911, apologising that he could not get down to meet his mother when she arrived at Dunblane because "none of us are allowed down town". The best time for her to come up on Saturday is "about 11am, we will be on parade then". Mrs McGregor stayed in Dunblane with the Misses Gow. Dunblane people were encouraged to "adopt" a QVS pupil and these 2 sisters not only "adopted" the pupil but proved hospitable friends to his mother when she came over from St Andrews

he persuaded the Headmaster, a Captain Clark, to bring in civilian examinations. The Commandant, at the time, was a famous Black Watch figure, Colonel Innes, who had seen action as a young lieutenant in the South African War, then again in the 1914-18 war. When the Second World War started in 1939 Colonel Innes came off the reserve and took charge of the Black Watch HQ at Perth. I can remember him and Mrs Innes quite well, also the brace of pheasant the staff were always given by Colonel Innes. Being a mile out of Dunblane the School was a little world on its own and everyone was friendly.

My father had expected to retire in 1940 and get a job as Headmaster of some small school in the country. Instead he was commissioned (army school masters were warrant officers then though, amusingly, army school mistresses, like Queen Alexandra's nurses; were officers). He spent the rest of the war at various army colleges, training army instructors how to teach and, finally, retired in 1946 from what had become the Army Education Corps – later the Royal Army Education Corps. By then he was Major McGregor.



Royal Naval & Military Tournament Olympia, 1913



This postcard was sent 7th May 1912 to Mrs McGregor, mother of MJ McGregor. The Pirie boys had an aunt in St Andrews, they were school friends of MJ McGregor. All three boys went onto train as army school masters

I am always struck, nowadays, how, when I mention QVS, people always say "that is a very good school". Once, talking to a friend who had been educated at Glenalmond, he said, "We used to play matches against the Queen Victoria School". He added, and I could hear the fear in his voice still, "They were very good at games". Well, considering the stock from which they came, they probably would be.

Oh yes, something else I remember my father telling us – each boy's bed was inscribed with a brass plaque – his said his place had been sponsored by the Second Battalion Black Watch (his father was in the Black Watch, and was killed in 1899 at Hagersfontein).

Mrs Masry Prince

Mrs Prince was also kind enough to copy a number of QVS postcards, most of which were sent by her father to his mother when he was at School and some with the captions provided by Mrs Prince are reproduced above.

Headmaster

Cunningham House

Once again the year has flown by and it is time to reflect on another twelvemonth in the Boarding House. In many respects this has been a very stable time in Cunningham with the vertical system of having first to sixth year boys in the House established and our staffing levels and majority of personalities unchanged. The additions to the team have been Mrs Elliot, who is standing in for Mr Lawrence, and Jonathan Green, our new overseas House Assistant from Melbourne, Australia. Andrew Martin, last year's Senior Monitor, returned as a member of staff and has been superb in bridging the gap from pupil to staff member. Mr McConnell from the Maintenance Team has also helped out with House duties.

Following on from our successful HMIe inspection our domestic routines, House procedures and overall structure remained the same, with the double manning of House Tutors ensuring consolidated supervision in the House.

In many respects the atmosphere and dynamics of the Boarding House are hard to encapsulate and may vary immensely. In the main the boys see things differently from staff and can be difficult to pin down to a definitive answer but, overall, they are happy and content in the Boarding House environment and benefit from a structured regular routine.

On the other hand, staff sometimes feel they are constantly "fire-fighting" problems and chasing up pupils to be on time, complete their homework and, generally, comply with the rules and routines of the House and School – basically the parental role. I imagine little has changed over the years in this respect other than the introduction of mobile phones with cameras,



Cunningham House Staff & Pupils

iPods, laptops and most importantly, Attitude!! Boys are more aware of their rights and are more than happy to debate issues or decisions. There has to be a happy balance between ensuring discipline is maintained and providing the boys with a mechanism for listening to their views, openly and fairly.

Prior to submitting this article to the Headmaster for publication in *The Victorian*, I informed him of my decision to step down as Housemaster of Cunningham House. I have enjoyed my time as Housemaster and have experienced a multitude of highs and lows in the job that are too numerous to mention. I have been fortunate to have a successful supportive House team and am grateful for all their help. The promoted House staff of Mr Ross, Mr Duthie and Matron have been unrelenting in their support and flexibility. The senior management have consistently been aware of the needs of the House and, in particular, the Headmaster has provided me with personal advice and loyalty through some difficult and testing times.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife Cath for her unwavering support throughout my time as Housemaster. Without her, there is no doubt, that I could not have sustained the level of commitment required to remain in post and focused on the job.

B Tomkins, Cunningham Housemaster

Once again, time flies – or '*tempus fugit*' as Mr Stewart likes to say – and it is now that occasion where we have to look back and contemplate all the things that have happened from August 2005 to March 2006.

This year, last year's Senior Monitor, Andrew Martin, came back to spend another year with us during Mr Tomkins' absence. He claimed it was to help out around the House, but we knew he wasn't ready to leave good ol' QVS just yet.

On the social front we have had cinema outings to Falkirk, our usual Christmas shopping trip to Stirling and, recently, two invitations to Kilgraston School at Bridge of Earn.

The sixth year Prefects would like to thank all of the House Prefects for doing a great job all year round and to Eddy Hodgson and Cammy Lee for playing their roles and doing the 6th year duty with us. We would also like to thank all the staff for all their hard work throughout this year. We'd especially like to thank Matron and Mrs Heslop for looking after all the boys and making sure that they don't continue to live in squalor, Mr Ross who took over as Housemaster for a spell and got us through the tough Christmas period and Mr McConnell, who joined the House team before the New Year, did a great job of looking after the boys and helping out around the House. He also arranged

and organised a Quiz Night which was a great success and the House would like to thank him for that.

Finally, after eight years, Mr Tomkins has decided to step down as Cunningham Housemaster. We would like to say a very big thank you for all the time and effort that he has put in over these years, and the care and compassion that he has shown throughout this time.

David Leishman, Cunningham House Captain

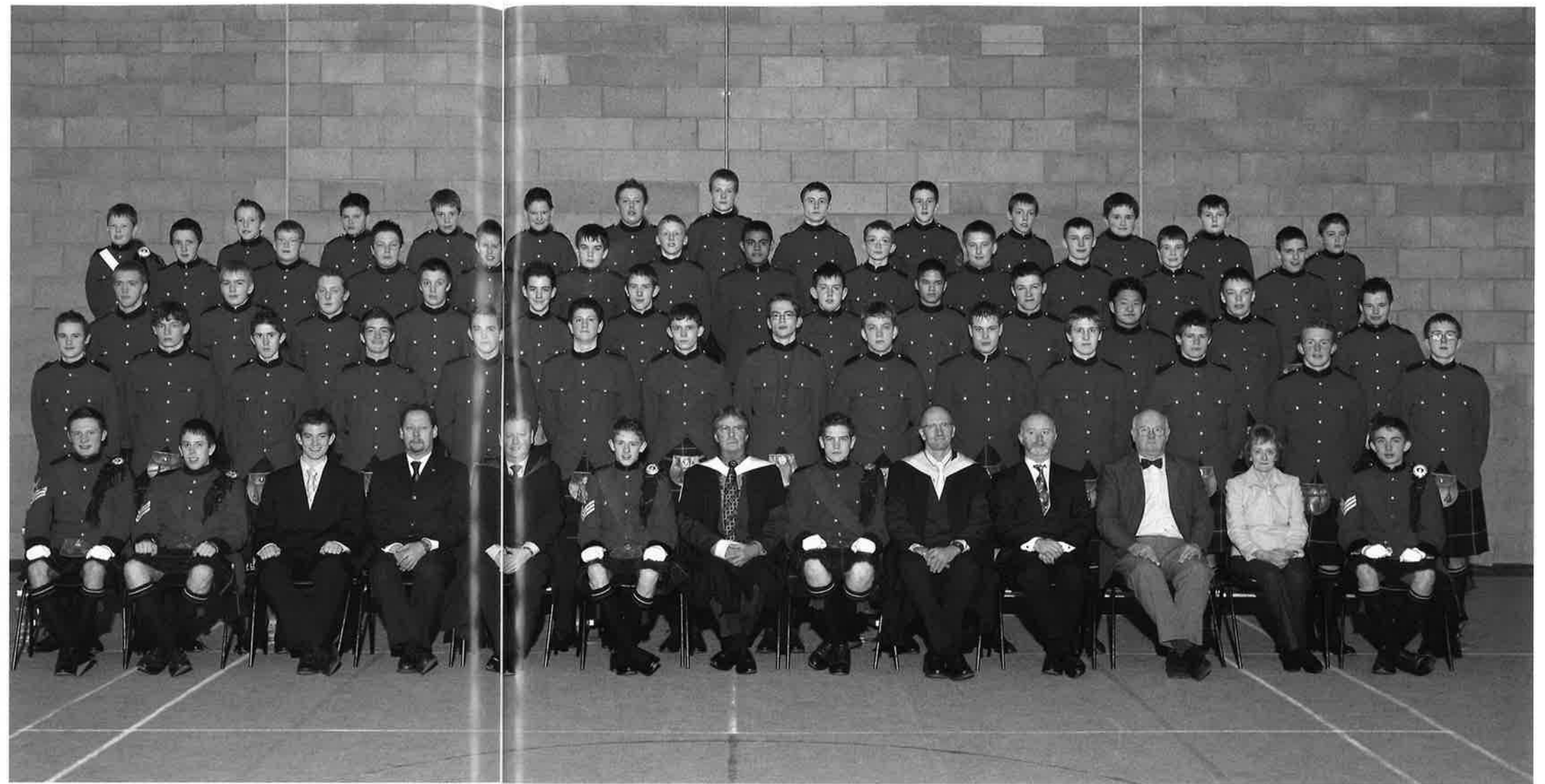
Haig House

The opening lines of a well-known twentieth-century novel begin thus: "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." I wonder about the universal validity of the quotation above, but it can be tested against many of our own experiences. For example, it certainly can be examined against the evolution of Queen Victoria School as a whole, for think back only just over a decade and there used to be no female pupils among our number. Its premise remains relevant also if we look at the continuing development of Haig House. Before 2003 the House contained pupils from only the final three years but, over time, S3, then S2 and, lastly, S1 boys have all been assimilated into the House and its routines. Such sea changes have not been achieved totally painlessly: feelings have been aroused and opinions expressed in forthright language. Inevitably, the nature and character of the House have had to alter in response to the need to adapt to new and different circumstances.

Hence the use of those opening lines at the beginning of this report. Former pupils of the House and School from previous generations might shake their heads in dismay and mutter how "...it wasn't like that in my day...!". They might not recognise some of their old haunts as refurbishment, redecoration and rebuilding all combine to produce what might look like a changed environment. Thus the installation of fixtures and fittings has proceeded apace and we now have a new fridge, freezer, kettle, microwave oven, pictures on walls, curtains and blinds at windows, combi VCR/DVD player and what for some must take pride of place – a 42" flat screen, HD ready, plasma TV!

Yet even with all the above items being tangible and clearly visible, there must remain the ideal of the development of bright, happy and confident young people, passing their years in the House and School productively, committed to the notions of decency, courtesy, consideration towards others and service to the community - not just to self. Therefore, while the past might sometimes feel like "a foreign country", some aspects of our past should not feel alien, for some things simply should not change!

I am, as always, deeply conscious of the efforts of those connected with Haig House and of their commitment to it: the Tutors, Cath Tomkins as House Matron, Carmen O'Neill as



Haig House Staff & Pupils

Housekeeper, and all who work for the good of the pupils. Peter Hilton arrived in January as the House Assistant in place of Luke Stokes and quickly settled in. Luke was a hard act to follow, but Peter has succeeded admirably and I am grateful to him. The House Captain and Deputy - Ben MacGregor and Callum Wood respectively - have given sterling service, as have (on most occasions!) the House Prefects. The so-called "Talentless" Show was a contradiction in terms, for all the performers displayed talent in abundance and, while it would be invidious to single out any individual, James Wootton was one of a small dedicated team who expended much effort to ensure that all of it was "all right on the night"! The pupils have chosen to donate all the funds raised from that evening to Alcohol Focus Scotland, a national charity working to promote responsible drinking behaviour and discouraging drinking to excess.

Another year will soon have run its course and there will be those to whom we bid farewell and best wishes. There will be some sadness but, equally, there will be excited anticipation about what the future might bring and for those of us who remain behind lies the prospect of lazy summer days and the comfort of the daily round that will recommence in August!

JE Coates, Haig Housemaster



Trenchard House



Trenchard House Staff & Pupils

Each year seems to get busier in Trenchard. But to start at the beginning, or rather the end of last year, which finished on a high note with the House summer party, complete with jelly and ice cream and chocolate fingers. The evening started off with a treasure hunt, kindly organised for us by the senior pupils going to Peru this summer and with seemingly unending prizes for just about everyone, followed by a party tea – outside as the weather was so very kind to us for our evening – then off to the playing fields for a quick game of rounders; we thought maybe 20 minutes or so would be enough. So, one and a half hours later, back from the ‘quick’ game of rounders, to devour ice cream and more cakes. A really good evening that everyone enjoyed.

Throughout the year, as usual, there have been various trips and activities for the House, with the annual pantomime and trips to the cinema, ice skating and swimming at Dundee, shopping in Stirling, talent shows, discos and parties. Tutor group outings have included bowling, Jimmy Chung’s Chinese Buffet, the ballet and the German Christmas Market in Glasgow. The seniors had a supper evening in the House with guests from the other Houses when vast quantities of fajitas were devoured. The upcoming whole school trip to Lightwater Valley in Yorkshire promises to be another good day.

The Scotland rugby matches have been popular, with trips to three Internationals and the two home Six Nations Cup matches.

So, yes, we saw Scotland win their two home matches and Murrayfield full, almost to capacity with a tremendous atmosphere for both matches.

This term has seen the arrival in the House of two new, large televisions which will be great for the long winter nights to come and just in time for the World Cup! We’ve also got a load of new pictures around the walls and the House office has seen a change with the door moved into the main hall area – just so much easier and a lot more pleasant to work in.

The new year, along with the new pupils, also saw the arrival in the House of Miss Miresteanu, who joined the Maths Department for a year from Romania and was a welcome addition to the Trenchard House staff. Also, Stefani Schindler joined us as German assistant and House Assistant for a year. Her work in the Modern Languages Department is very popular and much appreciated and, here in Trenchard, she is a popular and very hard working personality. We do wish them both well when they move on from here at the end of this year.

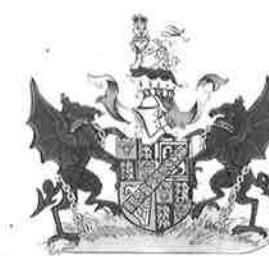
Christmas saw our usual swap over of House Assistants from the Antipodes. We bade a sad farewell to Emily Creighton after her year in the House and, in January, said hello to Kelly Pegus and Paul Sutherland. They soon established themselves well in the House, and it is good to have a male House Assistant again –

saves me thinking I might have to go out and play football! So we are indeed very fortunate, having a total of three House Assistants in Trenchard.

As ever, I should like to thank all the House staff for working so very hard in the House, helping the pupils to settle to the demands of a new school and being away from home, often for

the first time; and also the senior girls in the House, especially Vivian Moonan, our House Captain for this year and Shradha Limbu, her deputy. Each one of the seniors has contributed something very special to the House, not just noise and laughter, but there has been plenty of that along the way.

C Matheson, Trenchard Housemistress



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Wavell House

As years go, 2005-06 has been very busy for Wavell House. The House has been going through a period of refurbishment. All of the dorms and main areas of the House have been painted and I have had a great time spending money on new furniture and pictures; we've even managed suede beanbags!

In December, we said goodbye to Abby Lovett and Liv Hoffman, our two Overseas House Assistants for 2005. During their time in Wavell they both became very popular members of the House team. We wish them well in their future endeavours. In January we welcomed Prudence Maynard and Tahlia Vickers as the 2006 OHAs and we hope they will enjoy their time at QVS.

In June this year Miss Jastrabikova, who has been resident in Wavell for the past two years, will leave us. She has contributed a great deal to the well-being of the girls. We wish her every success and happiness in the future. At the start of the summer term Miss Carole Phipps joined the House team as a Tutor.

As always the girls owe a great deal to the Tutors of Wavell House for their unstinting efforts on their behalf. The Tutors this year have organised many trips to "Jimmy Chungs," the Cinema, Ice Skating and a ghost walk – the Tutors' imaginations seem to be never-ending! Last of all, who could forget the marvellous Wavell Talent show. A big THANK YOU to all of the staff of Wavell for all your help and support for the girls; they really appreciate it.

As the School year comes to its end, we have to say goodbye to yet another group of S6 girls: Ashley (House Captain), Beccy, Leanne, Katrina, Laura, Isla and Jenny. I thank them for all their contributions to the life of Wavell House over the past years. To all of the girls who are leaving this year, I send with you my earnest hope that you will have a happy and successful future.

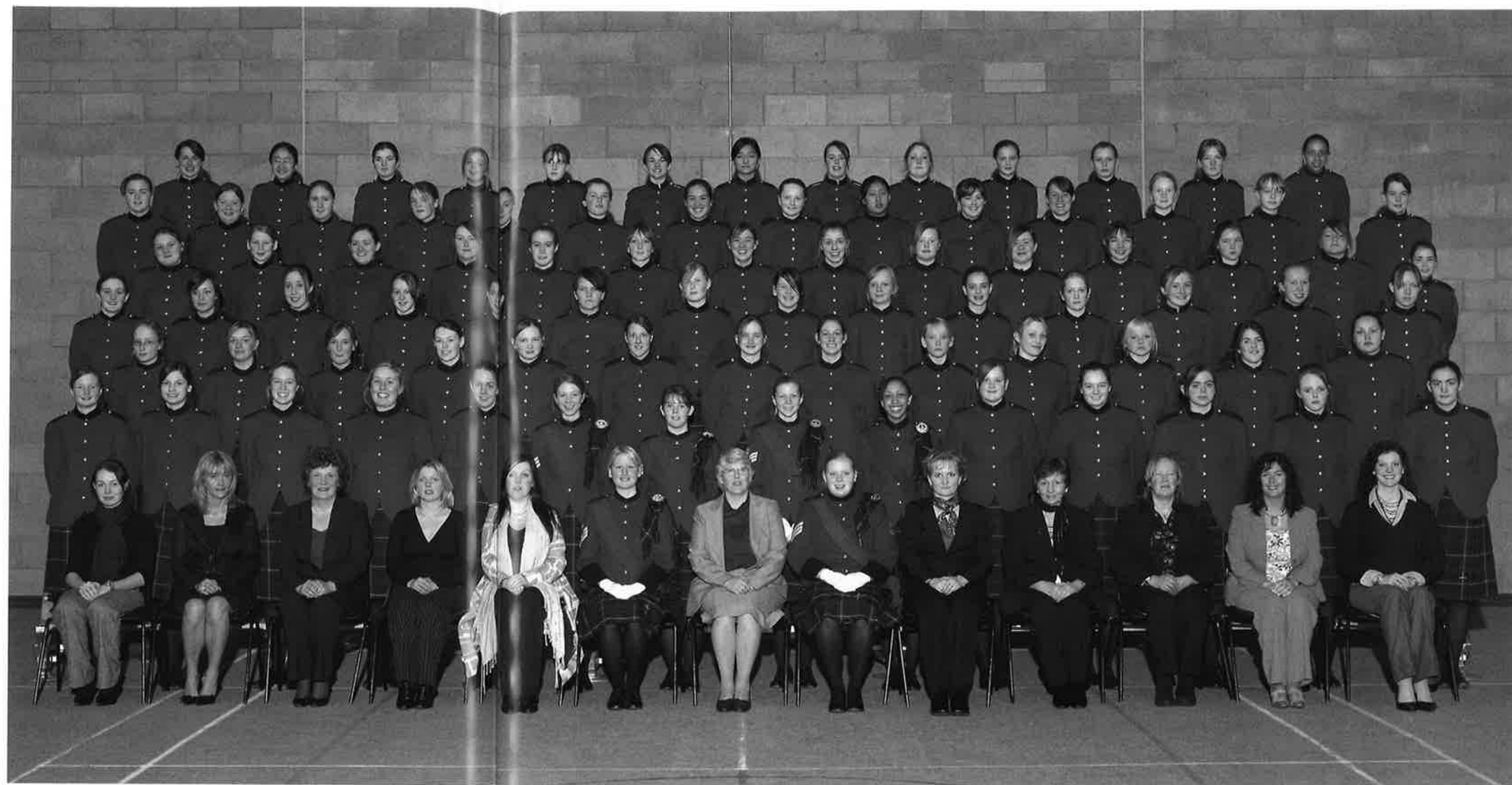
As I take on fully the role of Wavell Housemistress I have to say a huge thank you to all of the members of the House Team. Without their support, I do not know how I would survive (without turning into a cabbage) – sorry, Wavell joke!

E MacDonald, Wavell Housemistress

HOUSE NOTES

Oh my goodness! Time flies when you're having fun, doesn't it? Well, what a year, between trips to the Ballet, having outrageous Hallowe'en parties and various trips to the Ice Skating Rink – luckily we had no broken arms or legs – we have had an exhausting, yet very enjoyable time here in Wavell. Also during the year we have had the help of the local craft shop; the Junior girls had knitting and card making evenings and also with the Wavell hockey and badminton leagues it's a wonder we have had time for school.

With the introduction of the new Merit system this year we have had a lot of Toastie nights for the Junior side of the House (lucky for some). Those who had no strikes for the whole term got a prize. Well, those who were lucky enough to last more than a month without getting a strike did anyway, but it just goes to show that even the Head of House is not immune to strikes as I didn't receive a prize! We had a few teething problems with it but, slowly and surely, it's now running smoothly...



Wavell House Staff & Pupils

The start of the year saw an emergency birthday party having to be planned for Mel, one of our senior girls. This introduced the expensive (our pocket money accounts can prove this) tradition of throwing lots of birthday parties throughout the year. As well, we organised a very successful (and very messy) Hallowe'en party, which was complete with a "dance off" and a festive "carol singing" Christmas party – phew!

The Winter term would not be complete without the annual Wavell Talent Show. We decided this year to give the money raised to Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow and dedicate it to the Cardiology Department, as it was a subject close to our senior school's hearts, quite literally! We had plenty of giggles during the course of the rehearsals, especially the senior girls, trying successfully to make a human pyramid without toppling over. Thankfully, the night was a great success and we raised over £300. Thank you everyone!

The end of the Winter term saw the departure of our House Assistants from New Zealand and Australia, respectively: Abby Lovett and Olivia Hoffman. Throughout the year they were a tremendous help inside the House and out, taking the girls swimming, playing badminton and hockey, which the girls thoroughly enjoyed. They were a massive help and we miss them. After Christmas we were introduced to our new House Assistants, Prudence Maynard and Tahlia Vickers. They have been a fantastic addition to the House so far and I hope they enjoy the rest of their year at the school. Good luck!

Just like last year, the boys were invited to Wavell for social nights. This has enabled us to have more of a social atmosphere, instead of sitting and watching television. They are still proving to be a huge success, as they were last year. So thanks, Mrs MacDonald, for letting us have the boys over and thanks to all the staff for keeping an eye on us!

We thought this year we would follow last year's amazing trip to Alton Towers with another one. This year we are going to Lightwater Valley Theme Park in England. Hopefully, the School will continue trips on this "theme" – groan!

We had the added bonus this year of getting the House totally refurbished. All our walls are nice and fresh so we decided it was time to get some new things for the House such as new seating, cushions, pictures and, to the objection of some of the girls, a decorative bird cage (well, I liked it). Unfortunately, we had a budget so we couldn't get everything we wanted. The House now looks much better, even if I do say so myself!

The 6th year girls have had such a crazy year. We are, apparently, supposed to be "mature" (or something like that) during our final year. However, over the course of the year (with the 5th year girls contributing) we enjoy our late night singing sessions with Fay on the guitar and Leanne and Katrina as our main source of noise. Jennie and I also added some harmony to it (well, we like to think so anyway). As you can see, the final year does not

always make you more mature: it can make you even madder than you were before (good luck, 5th years!).

The school year always ends with the Summer Wavell barbeque which is, basically, just an excuse to run around wildly. It will seem like the end of an era having the last ever summer barbeque for the 6th year girls and I have to say we will actually miss them, especially our Wavell Olympics.

As you read this while you are all travelling home by plane, train or car, I'd like finally ("eventually" you're thinking to yourselves) to say a massive THANK YOU to all the girls in the House this year for making my job relatively easy and also thank you for making it so enjoyable, even though it didn't seem like it sometimes! I'd also like to thank Beccy, my Vice Captain, for helping me through the year and helping me do some crazy things (all in the name of the girls, of course). I would like to also say thanks to the House staff for always being there to help me during a long year and giving me their everlasting support. Lastly, I would like to say a gigantic thank you to Mrs MacDonald for making my year run so much more smoothly. Good luck to next year's House Captain, I'm sure you won't need it!?

Ashleigh Hughes, House Captain 2005 – 2006



Rugby 1st XV

1ST XV 2005-2006 SEASON

This season started as early as the summer holidays with pre-season training organised by Mr McLay setting us all off on the right track. Well, almost all of us, because Dean Milne didn't really take to the training and came up with this excuse: "I'm not tired, but my legs are tired, but I'm not tired!" However, after this initial response and a word from Mr Raine, Dean has to be congratulated on a great season.

The season started well with three wins out of four matches followed by a narrow 5-3 defeat against Hutchesons' Grammar 1st XV. We defended for the majority of the match but, unfortunately, could not turn this into good attacking play. However, a lot was taken from the game and helped prepare us for the following tour to the north of England.

The tour was the highlight of the season but, with only 17 of our 21 players attending, Mr McLay suggested that injuries were ill advised. The team learned a valuable lesson from our first game against Sedburgh on how to play rugby. Despite the fact that we held them to 17-12 in the first half, they brought on some stronger players and proved just too much for us in the second half. The second game was much more successful with a convincing win against Giggleswick 21-0, which ended the tour on a high. At this point we would like to thank Mr Gilhooly's contribution in assisting Mr McLay on the tour.

Nearing the end of the season we were invited to play in a rugby sevens tournament at Hutchesons' Grammar in which we performed extremely well, reaching the semi-finals only to be defeated by a very strong team from Jordanhill. Some great rugby was played at the tournament and good performances from all ten players that were picked to take part, with nearly every player leaving with at least one try to their name.

We would like to thank the whole team on making our last season an enjoyable one. Also a special thanks to Mr McLay who put in a lot of time and effort in order to make this season a successful one. Good luck from us for next year!!

Captain Matt Marshall, Pack Leader Adam Rainey

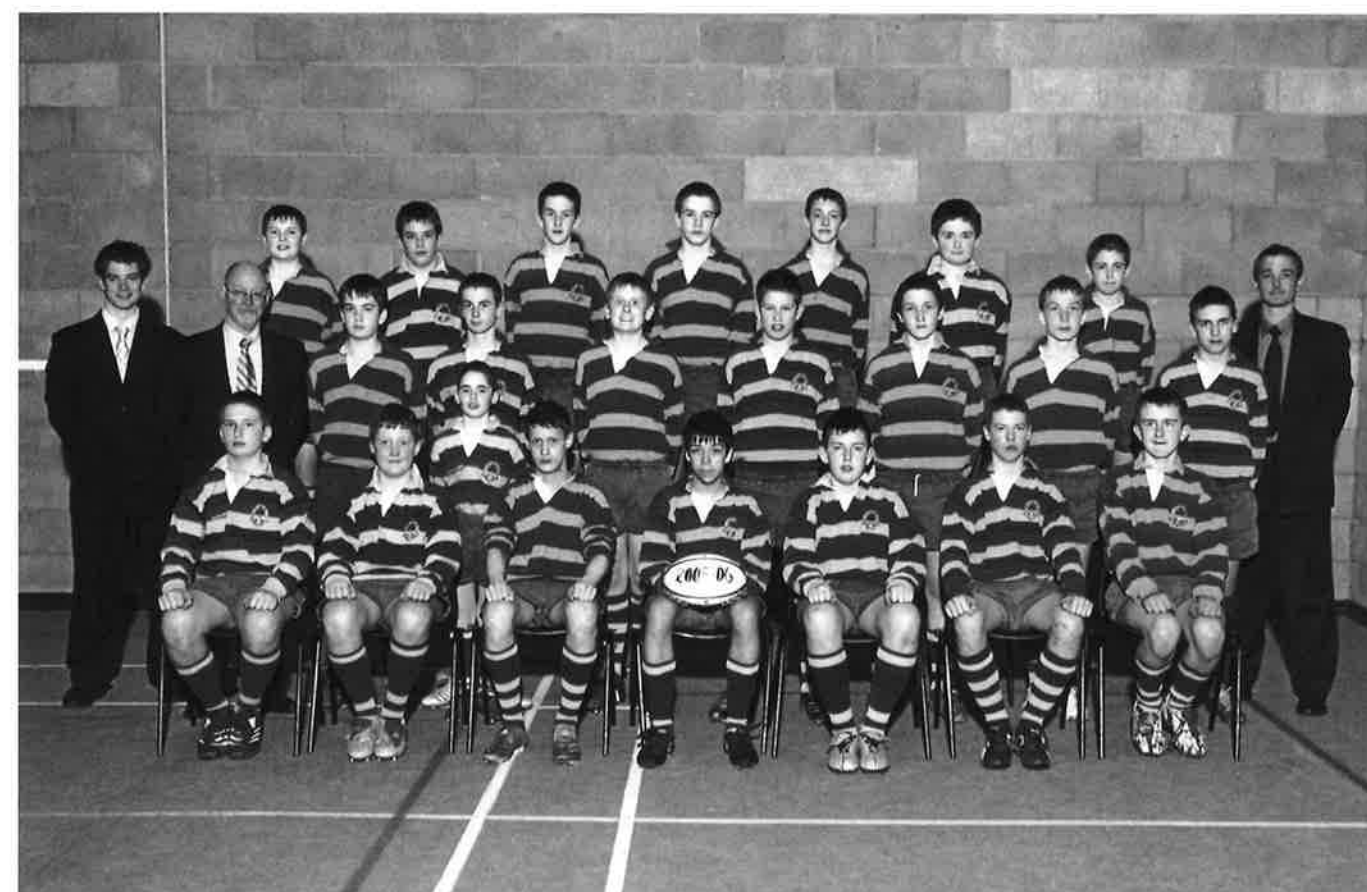
2ND YEAR RUGBY REPORT

This season's results have reflected a very unsuccessful year in terms of 2nd year rugby. However, the squad has definitely produced some outstanding rugby throughout the year. I am sure everyone would agree that we could have had so many more victories.

Our first game of the season was at home against Madras, our toughest opponents since we have been together as a squad. No one was going to let us embarrass ourselves after the last time we played them in S1. On the day we played excellent rugby and our defence was solid. In the end we lost 15-0 but we were all proud of our performance, as a team, to start the season.



U16 / S3 Rugby Team



S2 Rugby Team



S1 Rugby Team

Our second game of the season was an away fixture against Lomond and 3 tries from Joshua McCallum helped us to a comfortable win and another amazing performance.

In the following game we played Morrison's Academy, at home, who were a very tough opposition and we performed reasonably well. We won very narrowly and we are looking forward to playing them again next season.

Unfortunately, these were the only two games which we won this season.

Most Improved Player	Jordan Reid
Player of the Season	Ross Anderson
Captain	Joshua McCallum
Top Try Scorer	Daniel Gillie

Jordan Reid & Joshua McCallum

S1 RUGBY REPORT

This year we began the season with high expectations for a very successful series of matches against some tough opposition but, as usual, the weather, injuries and winter 'bugs' took their toll.

The team, ably led by Tom Wilson in the first half of the season and, then, by Jack Halliday, in the latter part, displayed an eagerness and enthusiasm that meant the lads in the team quickly

learned to improve their skills, teamwork and attitude. With the S1 team our target is to try to end the season with more wins than losses but, unfortunately, we missed it by a whisker.

Despite that the team enjoyed some tough tussles and gained a few good victories against Morrison's, Lomond and Kelvinside Academy, amongst others. Ironically, however, probably our best performance of the season ended in a loss with our second encounter of the season against Madras College. In early September they gave us a sound thumping in every phase of the game and they were worthy winners. However, they didn't allow for the rapid learning skills and athleticism of our lads when we met for a return match in St Andrews three weeks later. In a ferocious game, during which the lead changed six times, we were pipped by a try to Madras in the dying seconds and, consequently, lost by one point. What made it worse was that they got the score from a clear knock on! "Is that sour grapes?" I hear you ask. Perhaps, but it was a sore one because the team had played so well and really deserved a victory. They were heartbroken and so were the coaches. However, the lesson learned was that solid basic skills matched with sound defence and a high team spirit are the main ingredients for success.

Thanks are due to everyone in the squad and to Andy, Luke and Paul. Last, but not least, thanks to Mr Philson.

Graham Carroll



P7 Rugby Team

P7'S RUGBY SEASON REPORT

Both captains can say that this season has been awesome and we think the rest of the team will agree. We started off not so well, fumbling the ball and tackling pathetically but, through the sessions, we've got better and better, changing positions to suit our ability.

The following have all played a part this season:

Duncan Allison, Cammie Hunter, Darren Mackie, Jordan Angus, Sujay Lama, Craig Millar, Stephen Potter, James Collins (Captain), Kieran Shaw, Andrew King, Corin Domanski, Matthew MacKenzie, Lewis MacKinnon, Ben Irving, Luke Masters (Vice Captain), Corey Furnace, Sam Brown, Steven Craig, Kieran Hall. We can now pass like torpedoes and run like the wind! (sort of). The forwards have learnt to drive and maul while the backs have learnt to pass, tackle and run, so now we have come up with our best team possible.

Throughout the season we have got up early nearly every Saturday morning to either play a match out on our home fields or be driven far away to one. We have won some of our matches but not as many as we had hoped. We would like to thank our coaches, Mr Beattie, Mr Sutherland, Mr Green and Mr Marshall for their efforts and well done to the rest of the team.

We have enjoyed our training and can't wait for next year!!!

James Collins & Luke Masters

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1st XI Football Team

QVS 1ST XI FOOTBALL 2005/2006 SEASON

This year's season could have been a very promising one with a lot of youngsters coming onto the scene. A change of coaching staff saw Mr McConnell and Mr Warner take over. A lot of good pre-season training was involved to let the younger players show their worth. Good performances by young Danny and Liam Gillie allowed them both to be included in the squad. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we never had a full squad available for any game. This caused unrest within the team due to many changes happening. Further, due to weather problems, we were never able to complete the season and play all our games. Nevertheless, we had a good season overall, which was thoroughly enjoyable, with a lot of good prospects for the future.

QVS 1 v 1 Dundee High

QVS started well and scored the first goal through a Fraser Newbury shot from the edge of the box. Dundee then added some pressure and scored a lucky goal just before half time. We came out in the second half with a positive attitude and were constantly bombarding Dundee, hitting the post and bar in the process. The game was a good performance for our first game of the season, especially against a strong Dundee team who beat us 5-3 last season.

QVS 2 v 1 St Leonard's

Our first away game of the season saw us travel to windy St Andrews. Again we started the stronger and better team, with a lot of good passing and movement happening. However, it was through an unlucky bounce and miss kick by an unnamed player (Adam Rainey) that left St Leonard's one-on-one with Ryan Flaherty who could do nothing about the shot. We fought back and a great solo goal by Blair Marshall brought us level. We continued to attack and a mazy run by Ben MacGregor down the left wing and a left foot cross looped the keeper to see Mark Docherty secure three points.

QVS 1 v 3 Strathallan

A consolation goal by Ben MacGregor was not enough on the night after a young team had to be fielded, giving a starting place to James Wootton. A good performance in the first half was not enough against the stronger opposition.

Ben MacGregor, 1st XI Captain





Grand Day 2005

The Inspecting Officer Lt General F R Viggers CMG, MBE Adjutant General



Photographs courtesy of Mark Owens.

Nova Scotia Tour





Photographs courtesy of Mr J Silcox



1st XI Hockey Team

1ST XI HOCKEY

Firstly, all the girls would like to wish Miss Scott a very speedy recovery after her knee operation, one result of which was that the hockey season has been slightly different. The new coach, Mr Waugh, brought much enthusiasm to the team; coincidentally, a lot of new girls joined the squad!

With only a few girls from the senior years, a lot of talented younger girls moved up to the 1st XI and have become much more confident players in doing so. Although most of the hockey matches were cancelled due to unforeseen weather conditions, the season went extremely well with seven wins out of 11 matches. We were able to compete in the District Tournament, finishing 3rd: best yet! Whilst doing so, we were able to beat our rivals, Dollar, mainly due to Zoe's tactical advice. The score board this year has not changed one bit, with Heather Peters remaining the top goal scorer, but the up and coming striker is Katherine Wilson. Keep up the good work, ladies. The fitness level has been extra, extra high this year, thanks to the two captains' Friday night aerobic sessions. Shamu, keep up the good work!

We would like to congratulate Kaleigh Harrower, Heather Peters and Zoe Halliday on making it into the Junior Midland Hockey squads. Well done!

Finally we would like to wish the team all the best for the next season. Hopefully, you will play more matches, and good luck to all the future QVS hockey players.

Katrina Leith & Leanne Bridgeman

S2 HOCKEY TEAM REPORT

This season has been quite a rollercoaster for our team. We've had our ups and downs; winning some, losing some. Unfortunately, due to the unpredictable "Scottish weather", the majority of our games were cancelled, but when the snow wasn't up to our ankles and the rain wasn't dampening our spirits, we managed well.

With a highly skilled, enthusiastic team and with a lot of help from the House Assistants, Miss Maynard and Miss Pegus, we managed four wins. Considering our previous record, this is a huge improvement for our team.



2nd XI Hockey Team



S2 Hockey Team

We would like to thank our great coaches, Miss Pegus and Miss Maynard for putting in so much time and effort to help us improve our game and not getting too agitated with our occasional lack of concentration.

We look forward to next season with, hopefully, a larger team, a higher success rate and more competition. Congratulations all S2s on a great season!

Alana Crawford, S2 Captain

S1 HOCKEY

This season has been very successful for the S1 team. Since August, we have been working particularly hard and putting in 100% effort. Also, this year we have been lucky and have been able to fit in more fixtures.

Overall, in the games we have played, we've won many and, unluckily, lost a few as well, but we all tried extremely hard in our games. Helping and supporting us in our matches were the House Assistants and some of the teachers. We are all looking forward to another enjoyable and eventful hockey season.

Alison Harrower & Robyn Stewart



S1 Hockey Team



P7 Hockey Team

P7 HOCKEY

As the main Captains for this year we have seen the P7 team improve considerably. As a team, we have learnt how to pass and have shown that we were playing to our best standards. We have seen the P7 team play 100% in every game that we have played.

The main positions for the team are:-

Strikers Stephanie King, Rony McGown, Allana Smith, Natalie Brash, Emma-Lee Nicholls
Midfield Brogan Stacey, Hannah Ashcroft, Amy Balfour, Rachel Reid, Chanel Darling, Alexandra Shields

Defence Stephanie Barron, Bethany Williams, Jemma Law, Leah Brummitt, Lauren Buttle
GK Ashley Snowdon

This is everyone in the P7 girls year group because we did not have a sure team. We are very proud of this year, which has produced a great effort and am sure it will carry on next year.

Stephanie King & Allana Smith, P7

Athletics

Venue: Hutchesons' Grammar School
Date: 6/5/06
Opposition: Hutchesons' Grammar, St Colomba's, St Aloysius, Lomond

We started the Athletics season with the sun shining and perfect conditions for Athletics. Our O17, U17, U15 and U14 teams were complete and each team looked strong in different disciplines.

We dominated the throwing events and the U14s and U17s teams came 1st in their competitions.

Once again, a very successful meet with a lot of personal bests being broken.

Venue: Strathallan
Date: 9/5/06
Opposition: Strathallan

This year we went up to Strathallan with a senior boys and senior girls team. Again we were blessed with the weather and, although we were well and truly beaten, there were a lot of very close races. A lot of S3 girls also competed against girls who are a lot older and performed very well.

Venue: Scotstoun Stadium
Date: 12/5/06
Opposition: Hutchesons' Grammar, Wellington, Douglas Academy

The third competition in a row where the sun shone, although there was a strong wind blowing down the 100m. All competitors showed great determination and were up against a lot of formidable athletes. The hurdles started well for us, with a lot of

good performances and individuals who demonstrated sound hurdling technique. We dominated the throwing events, coming in 1st, 2nd and 3rd in many of the competitions. The race of the day must go to the S2 4 x 100m relay team who won by over 15m. Although girls teams were 4th, overall, every competitor must be congratulated for their efforts. The boys came second, overall, which is a great achievement as the opposition are from schools with at least twice as many pupils.

This year we have five athletes who have qualified for the Scottish Schools. They are as follows;

Blair Aitken	Triple Jump	Jamie Meiklejohn	Javelin
Katrina Leith	100m, 200m	Fraser Newbury	Pentathlon
Kaleigh Harrower	Triple Jump		

Forth Valley Competition; our athletes from S1, S2 and S3 competed against all the state schools in the area – S1 boys won their competition and S2 boys came third.

Forthcoming events:

Doune primary are coming over to give their P6 and P7 pupils an 'athletics experience' where the pupils are taken for high jump, hurdles and long jump.

Newton Primary School are holding a Decathlon which will involve over half of our P7s with the latter five disciplines being hosted here at QVS in the afternoon.

P7 have a fixture against Strathallan on the 7th June.

P7, S1, S2 have a triangular fixture against Strathallan and Morrison's on 15th June here at QVS.

Sportsday is on the 13th June.

Cross Country



Cross Country Team

Highland Dancing



Highland Dancers

First of all I would like to thank my excellent Assistant Principal dancer – Rebecca Copland who has made my job so much easier and I'd like to congratulate Leanne on being appointed the first female Principal Dancer to undertake the job alone.

The year started off with the dancing team trying a new practice routine, despite the fact we were all exhausted, following our successful trip to Canada, where Mrs MacDonald made her debut in the sword dance and Stephanie Craig continually forgot her Glengarry!

This year has been quite a challenge since we were left with only two male dancers, whom we must congratulate and thank for having attended every dancing display going! However, I am sure Finlay Smith loved the attention! We have, once again, attended a variety of high profile events such as the ABCA event in Edinburgh Castle and the Centenary Appeal at Perth Race course.

With the addition of the duo Sean Truibhas from Steph and Leanne, this year is all about choreography. This Grand Day being so extremely important, the dancing team needed something new and different to salute the new Colours. The exciting process of creating a whole new dance was too much for some, as Steph found when she mastered the four man propel pivot turn and not forgetting the continual problem of Maxine's

legs, which have proved to be a problem in choreography: she takes one step compared with four of the others! We would just like to thank the entire dancing team for pulling together and creating the dance – what a team effort!

As our year draws to an end we would like specifically to mention the senior dancers. Their talent has outweighed their years as Sophie, Ben and Siobhan have been an excellent asset to the team, despite being the youngest senior dancers in a long while. How can we not mention our fifth year support team? What can we say, guys? Your help and continual appearance at dance practice has made the year much easier for us both. The team would not have been what it is without you! We would just like to say good luck to Steph and Finlay for next year with the dancing team. Hopefully they don't need it!

And finally Mrs MacDonald, so much to say. You have allowed us to experience the "joys of dance!" On a serious note, although it may not have seemed it, sometimes, we have really appreciated your teaching and the motherly attitude you continue to show along with your professionalism...Cheers Miss!

Leanne Bridgeman, Principal Dancer
Rebecca Copland, Assistant Principal Dancer

Minstrels and Music



Miss Edwards, Mr Breingan & Mrs MacDonald with the Minstrels

The end of the session 2004/5 was another exciting and hectic time for the musicians of QVS with concerts, Higher and Standard Grade performances, Minstrels trips and the preparation for the Halifax Tattoo affecting students across the School.

This year, once again, produced larger numbers taking certificate music and, for the first time, greater numbers of our senior pipers and drummers completing these courses. The Higher class was a pleasure to teach, with the boy pipe major Callum Henderson, the pipe sergeant Craig Farquarson, the boy drum major Jamie Evenden and girl drum major Sarah Harrower all sitting and passing Higher Grade music, both pipe and drum majors gaining an A pass in their Highers. The Standard grade results continue the 100% credit pass record and the Higher class recorded the best results since the introduction of the present examination. The quality of musicianship and the hard work from these and the other pupils in the class were tremendous. I must mention Matthew Sheppard who, after causing both the visiting examiner and his music teacher near heart failure with a unique and unforgettable performance on tenor saxophone, confounded us all by passing all elements of his Higher.

In the summer music concert Callum's 'Pizzicato Polka' was a superb display of humour and skill on the xylophone. Once again some of these senior students managed to reach grade five on instruments after only seven months of tuition.

The quality of instruction from our visiting instructors is apparent from this and the large number of pupils attending lessons. As we approach nearly half of the school attending extra instrumental lessons, we have employed a number of new tutors for our youngsters. We now have two guitar tutors, Mr Lockwood being joined this year by Mr Buchanan, both covering acoustic, electric and bass guitars, as well as helping in the exam preparations for both Standard and Higher grade students. Miss Zoshia Hunter has joined our tutors teaching piano, Ms Shearer teaching 'cello and, after many false starts, we now have a new flute tutor Ms Bamforth, who is assisted by one of our Australian House assistants, Miss Maynard. Mr Ian Hood, another of our tutors, prepared our resident clarsach player Isla MacLeod for her Higher performance. Our small group of violins and fiddles was once again without a teacher until the arrival of our new tutor Mr Kobus Frick, one of the country's star orchestral



Mr Breingan, Director of Music and the Windband

players, who is a regular performer with the BBC, RSNO, Scottish Ensemble and Scottish Chamber Orchestras. Despite leaving us for a few weeks, to return home to South Africa for his marriage, Kobus has had an immediate effect, with improvements obvious in all our violinists. The brass department continues to thrive under the guidance of Gavin Spowart.

2006 saw the largest music exam group ever, with over thirty pupils sitting at either Standard or Higher grade. We had an eclectic mix of performances, from Sheona Kirkaldy performing Wagner on the baritone, Leanne Bridgeman and Isla MacLeod performing Bach on piano, to a 'clatter' of xylophonists!, as well as Callum Wood, Terry Moles, James Wootton, and Fay McIntyre on guitars and Mel McInnes on pipes. The Standard grade class and extra Standard grade group covered even more instruments and our visiting examiner complimented our youngsters on the quality and range of their performances, their behaviour and attitude during the two days of examining.

Last year's summer concert was a great success with the largest wind band since my arrival and some good solo playing. This was

the last appearance of my 'Brass Bottom End' Andy Martin, who has been such a reliable and dedicated member of the band. Keshia and Sheona performed a little Jig dedicated to our Senior Monitor, the world premier of 'Andy's Jig'.

Christmas saw our P7s taking a lead role in our annual carol concert, with some excellent singing and playing from some youngsters performing in their first QVS concert. Since then we have had two very successful Minstrels performances with this talented group.

I'm looking forward to the next academic session with some exciting developments, including new electric pianos to enable practice in Houses, a new practice room in Wavell and a whole set of new wind band instruments to enable the continued expansion and development of music in QVS.

Finally, my thanks to all the staff and our youngsters for all their hard work and support, in concerts, classroom, and out of school performances in the community.

D V Breingan, Director of Music

QVS Drama Group

While last year was the busiest year ever for the QVS Drama Group, this year was not quite so frenzied. Although we did not enter the SCADA youth competition this year we were invited, at the last moment, to stage something at the MacLaren Hall in Killin in February. Because of various factors, such as pressures on pupils and staff time commitments, this could not happen and we had to decline, but we look forward to re-entering the competition next year with increased enthusiasm.

The Winter term saw the main hectic activity on the drama front. The main production this year was the local drama group's presentation of *A Christmas Carol* in St Blane's Hall in Dunblane. Directed by A Kirk, this production involved several pupils ranging from S1 to S5: Amie Williams, Hannah Shaw, Courtney Dornan, Finlay Smith and Tom Austin all took part and impressed audiences and fellow cast members alike with the way they conducted themselves. The production was one of the most successful the St Blane's Players have had and no small thanks are due to the time and effort put in by QVS pupils. Carrie-Ann Campbell, so long a key figure in QVS Drama productions, was also a member of that crew but left school before the project came to fruition. We wish her all the very best for her future

studies and career. Her career with the group was nothing if not memorable – from being mugged by James Hobson in *Friends and Neighbours*, to being carried off kicking and screaming slung lightly over one of Chris Harris's shoulders in *Bishop Hatto*; she certainly entered into the spirit of the group with enthusiasm!

Still on the theme of Dickens school-wise, S2K put on – in less than four weeks! – a production of *Oliver Twist*. Once again the vast majority of pupils worked hard to learn lines and make it an enjoyable occasion. They did very well with what was a particularly challenging undertaking. We enjoyed the support of a student teacher at that time, Yvonne Charlton, who provided us with key props.

The English Department is joined in August by Miss Elizabeth Templeton who is also a drama specialist as well as an English teacher. It is to be hoped that the QVS Drama Group (still the "moveable feast" it always was) will continue to explore new avenues next session.

Alan Kirk

Debating and Public Speaking



L - R: One of the judges, Kerrie Goodman, Kirsty Laidlaw, Leslie Ann O'Connor & one of the judges at the BP Young Speakers Competition

This has been a year of change as far as public speaking and debating are concerned.

The junior hobby got off to a good start with plenty of young talent eager to improve their 'Rhetorical skills' – "What, Miss? Rhetorical? Is it an animal that sleeps through the day and comes out at night?"

Some fun and games resulted in all of us learning something about the skills involved in researching controversial topics, assembling an argument and winning over a (sometimes difficult) S2 audience.

Particular thanks go to Stephen Bell and Amie Williams who thoroughly deserve the 'Margaret Thatcher – Lady's not for Turning Award' for their tenacity in sticking to their position, regardless of what the opposition threw at them. Both of these S2 pupils remained clear, focused and entertaining at all times!

Many pupils made fantastic progress in getting up and making points in front of an audience. For some of these pupils, especially the ones new to public speaking, this was an enormous achievement as even giving a 'Point of Information' had seemed daunting to them in September. All of the pupils concerned ended the hobby having learned something new and will hopefully carry this enthusiasm on to the upper school if they continue with Public Speaking.

The S3 public speaking team: Kerrie Goodman, Kirsty Laidlaw and Leslie Ann O'Connor made a real impression on the judges

during their 'Maiden Speech' on 10th March this year at the BP Young Speakers' Initiative, hosted by Denny Speakers Club.

They gave an entertaining and, at times, frightening (yes, Leslie Ann!) presentation about the dangers associated with junk food and childhood obesity. They were ably chaired by Miss Laidlaw who was commended by the judges for her excellent presence and her confidence in handling questions from the floor. The two speakers: Miss O'Connor and Miss Goodman, were applauded for the diversity of their research, their use of – yes – rhetorical skills and their teamwork which combined to make a very powerful case for their winning argument.

The team is very proud to be going through to the Scottish finals – Innovene (formerly BP) Headquarters in Grangemouth. The girls will be arguing that prisons are not the answer for petty offenders and alternatives need to be considered in an effective 'justice system'. The research is proving interesting to say the least! They are currently considering the best way to convey the idea that locking people up is not always the answer.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of the S3 Public Speakers for their hard work throughout the year. They have come a long way from their somewhat nervous beginnings. I would also like to wish the girls all the best in the final; they have worked so hard that they deserve this chance to show the judges, although hopefully not through example, that rehabilitation is possible...

Mrs J Adams

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Luke Stokes supervising Andy Martin's log-race team

CONTINGENT COMMANDER

The Corps Biennial Review was held on Wednesday 26th October 2005. The Reviewing Officer was Colonel ACC Lapsley, Deputy Brigade Commander 51 Bde.

I reported to the Inspecting Officer that the Corps at Queen Victoria School is in good heart. Credit for this must go entirely to the Section Officers and Staff who, through their dedication, enthusiasm and military professionalism, achieve remarkable results with the Cadets within the constraints of time, facilities, staffing and finance that face all adults who work with young people. The Staff are well matched by the Cadets themselves, who exhaust us all with their enthusiasm and sheer zest for both military and outward bound adventure activities.

The prominence of the Health and Safety Regulations continues to cause an increasingly heavy administrative burden with every adventurous activity being more and more difficult to staff because of the difficulty of qualifying Staff and maintaining that authority. Like all Schools, finding CCF Staff with the commitment to give time to the Corps' activities is not easy.

Finally I take this opportunity in closing to thank some very special supporters of the Corps who continually work in the background for the benefit of QVS pupils. I would specifically single out our 'G3 Cadets' Capt Mike Wimberley and the members of 21 CTT, especially our nominated instructor Sgt Stuart, whom we regard as 'invaluable'.

JRS Silcox, Lt Col

Col ACC Lapsley reported that programme offered me ample opportunity to meet the staff and cadets and see the CCF and

general School accommodation. I was impressed by the level of commitment shown by the staff and the high morale and enthusiasm of the contingent.

We began with a meeting with the Headmaster/Chief Executive, Mr Brian Raine where I was informed that plans were in place for a staged handover to replace the long serving Contingent Commander, Lt Col J R Silcox TD with the very experienced Lt Cdr Shannon RNR. Mr Raine expressed his total support for the CCF as a key part of School life.

I then viewed the full Contingent Parade and took the salute at a march past. The standard of turnout and drill was very high and I was particularly impressed by the Pipes and Drums, which was followed by a display of Highland Dancing. The dancing was of a very high standard and the performers were accomplished and enthusiastic.

In the afternoon I saw each of the Service Sections conducting training, involving instruction by senior cadets in subjects ranging over navigation, first aid, command tasks, field craft and shooting, all of which were delivered in a professional and enthusiastic manner to a very satisfactory standard. All the cadets I spoke with were confident, enthusiastic and good humoured. The training finished with a very high spirited inter-service log race.

I was very impressed by this well organised and well led contingent and the enthusiastic, family atmosphere of the school. The CCF provides the ideal framework for adventure and leadership training to develop and prepare the cadets for adult life.

ACC LAPSLEY, Col



51 (SCOTTISH) BRIGADE COMBINED CADET FORCE MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The 2005 Military Skills Competition (better known to older cadets under the name of 'The Highland Tactical Competition') took place over the period 30th September – 2nd 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's Cadet Force who participate in a round robin of military skill stands over the three days of the competition.

This year the School was represented by a team led by Adam Rainey and Cameron Johnston, together with Edward Hodgson, Callum Anderson, Dean Milne, Matthew Marshall, James Wootton and David Ure. They were supported most ably by Luke Stokes our overseas House Assistant from Australia.

The team acquitted themselves very well over the very difficult and demanding conditions of the competition.

QVS came in fourth overall, with 88 points – only one point behind the third placed team with 89. Patrol Skills were where they picked up maximum points but they were weak in the areas of First Aid and the collection of their rubbish. 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, especially their Warrant Administration Officer, Mr Thom.

JRS

CCF RAF

Sgt Mark Pearson joined our team last year as our TEST SNCO and immediately made his presence felt by helping organise our best Field Day for years. The whole section enjoyed our visit to RAF Leuchars, which kicked off with a briefing by ACLO Fg Off Paddy Durnin for our Nitex, played out against the impressive backdrop of St Andrews beach, with Tornados zooming tactically over us all evening. The following day we enjoyed shooting, flying, some excellent section visits and superb food in the recently refurbished Junior Ranks Mess.

The section's year ended on Grand Day 2005 with our FS Andy Martin being presented with his Cadet Warrant Officer badge by Air Commodore Haines (Rtd). Andy, and his brother Gareth (who was our FS from 2000 – 2001), generously donated a trophy to be presented annually to the best RAF cadet at QVS. Andy would always be a hard act to follow as FS, but James Wootton started off exceptionally well by being awarded 'Best Cadet' at the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership Course – no mean feat! So James has the honour of having his name as the first entry on the trophy which was presented on Battle of Britain Parade Sunday.

FS Wootton and his team of SNCOs Sgts Callum Wood, David Leishman and Isla MacLeod, have put together an excellent variety of training over the year for the cadets and will have inspired some of our JNCOs in the art of running a large and vibrant section. The Biennial Inspection was a particularly successful and enjoyable day due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our seniors. The other event that sticks out was the Christmas Quiz which has been run so well this year and last year by the Wood-Wootton combo – it was great fun, thanks guys!

Last July Cpl Mark Docherty spent a week at the ATC centre Windermere on an Adventure Training Course with Fg Off Johnston. All cadets enjoyed a week of micro navigating in the Lake District, rock climbing, mountain biking, kayaking and Canadian canoeing. This was an opportunity to experience a wide range of activities, meet other cadets from all over the UK, whilst developing team work and leadership skills. Mark did very well and won the mountain biking award as well as gaining his one star Kayaking award.



Mark rockclimbing

The summer holidays saw our three officers: Flt Lt Gilhooly and Fg Offs Johnston and Sheerin take some cadets to RAF Uxbridge for a great camp with our favourite fellow 'campers' Calday Grange School, the winners – as they never tired of telling us – of the NGT drill competition. One of our cadets, Sgt Callum Wood, went straight to camp from the mega-tough Air Cadet Leadership Course, so with him and two Cadet Warrant Officers, the standards on camp were seriously high! In fact, the cadets impressed our FS so much that he gave up his time to instruct them in the art of continuity drill and, at the end of the week, they displayed their talents on the Queen's Colour Squadron's drill square in front of a visiting Air Commodore.

Over the Easter holidays 2006, FS Wootton and Sgt MacLeod undertook Gliding Scholarships and then Sgts MacLeod and Wood had the arduous but very pleasant task, along with Fg Off Johnston, of attending a two week camp in RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus.



Tails 296

This was a joint CCF, ATC venture totalling 78 cadets UK-wide. Callum and Isla did very well to be selected. Besides section visits including AEF with 84 squadron, visiting aircraft (Hercs, AWACs, Tornados) we were also spoilt every day with the Red Arrows practising their 2006 display!



Callum – Red Arrow 654

The camp was second to none with various off-camp visits to explore the cultural attractions of Cyprus – including watersports on their fabulous beaches!



Isla – Watersports

Sgt Leishman, along with Lindsey McDougall and Mairi Cox attended Easter camp at JHQ Rheindahlen with Fg Off Sheerin. An incredible action-packed, full-to-bursting week combined

activities such as go-karting, high-ropes, climbing wall, orienteering and leadership exercises, with cultural visits to the Overloon Holocaust Museum and fun visits to theme parks and the Sealife Centre. We went to the Ayrshire Barracks to play with Warrior and Challenger tanks and to 'stop and search' vehicles. We learned about signals at the Javelin Barracks – formerly RAF Brüggen – and also visited the 12 Army Air Corps, posing in the Army Gazelles.

Finlay Archibald and James MacDonald helped Flt Lt Gilhooly to find his way down to RAF St Athan for the Easter Camp and James was proud to achieve the award for the 'Most Improved Cadet'.

Our thanks to Sgt Pearson for all his help and support this year and to RAF Leuchars for the Field Day and for the substantial amount of air experience flying our cadets have enjoyed over the year.

The RAF Section would like to thank FS Wootton and his SNCOs for all their cheerful hard work, their ability to put together a quality programme at the drop of a hat and their desire to make the RAF cadet experience an enjoyable one for all. We wish our leavers, James, Callum, David, Isla and Mark, all the very best for the future.

RAF Section Officers

Royal Naval Section CCF

At the biennial inspection, Col Lapsley was very impressed by our cadets and witnessed the naval section taking part in a number of activities including canoeing in the pool, navigation training in the classroom and boat work in the boat shed. After the inspection we held a small presentation ceremony to thank the two overseas House Assistants who had helped the Contingent over the year, Abbey Lovett and Olivia Hoffman.

In January cadets enjoyed a sea day on board HMS Smiler, a P2000 fast patrol boat based in HM Naval Base Clyde. We sailed from Faslane out into the Clyde estuary where we conducted manoeuvres. The cadets were given an in-depth tour of the ship as well as operating the radar, helping with navigation and taking the helm.

In February it was time for the annual ski camp to Bavaria which was a great success. The skiing conditions were perfect, as was the weather and our cadets all did very well in achieving excellent results in their skiing assessments. We have never had so many level seven awards presented.

April saw the earliest start to our sailing and windsurfing season and we are looking forward to a number of cadets achieving RYA certificates later in the season.

OC Lt CDR Tom Shannon RD RNR

Last summer term we had a successful sailing and windsurfing time at Lochore Meadows Country Park. Each Wednesday cadets were given opportunities to develop practical skills in sailing and windsurfing. This year we hope further to develop the cadets' skills and get them to pass some of the Royal Yachting Association's National Certificates in sailing and windsurfing. Lochore has now become an annual venue for our summer field day that will be ideal for carrying out RYA assessments.

An exciting new project was started in September 2005. I acquired a MacWester bilge keel yacht, twenty-two feet long and in need of major restoration work. Over the next few years the cadets will be working on the yacht with the aim of getting her ready to use for sail training and expeditions, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The cadets are enjoying the challenge and have already made a big difference to the yacht.

Another exciting event which took place in September was when I was invited down to Portsmouth to go on board HMS Victory to receive a Commendation by the Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, Vice Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent KCB CBE ADC. Being presented the award in Admiral Lord Nelson's great cabin on the Victory in the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar was very special.

CCF Ski Trip



CCF Ski Trip

ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP, SKIING, 14TH – 21ST FEBRUARY 2006

The Cadets were again this year most fortunate to be invited by Captain Fraser of REME to stay at their Lodge in Southern Bavaria for their annual Ski Camp. 'ATC Bergheim' is an ideal location in the heart of the mountains at a little hamlet called Cunzesried-Sage which usually has excellent ski conditions. This year was no exception with almost daily dustings of snow on a two metre base.

The popularity of the sport has been growing within the School over the years and, despite the fact that we filled the Lodge to capacity, taking a party of 52 this year, there were no fewer than 17 Cadets whom we had to leave behind because of lack of accommodation!

Our travel arrangements took us to Frankfurt-Hahn airport and then by 'Komm Mit' Coach to Bavaria. Generous assistance by 51 Bde and Capt Wimberley enabled our transportation costs to be kept down again this year and this was greatly appreciated by all



our service families and CCF Staff.

The Centre is managed by Sgt MacDonald, REME and his wife 'Bev' who is also the chef and we were very well looked after. He was, in turn, supported by no fewer than eight REME Ski Instructors to whom I also pay tribute on behalf of the Cadets.

My personal and most sincere thanks are also due to our own Skiing CCF Staff, Sgt Stuart of 21 Cadet Training Team and two members of the School Staff, Mr McLay and Ms Skeith.

One of the new attractions this year was skiing by floodlight. It certainly gives a very different aspect of the sport. As one of the younger, inexperienced cadets explained to me, "Skiing at night under floodlights is great sir, you don't need to worry about the bumps because you can't see them!"

JRS

Commonwealth Games

The Cadets are proud to place on record the tremendous achievement of the Scottish athletes at the recent Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia, when a total of 29 medals were won, including 11 gold, 7 silver and 11 bronze. We note specifically that our own Old Victorian, Martin Sinclair, won a Silver Medal in the men's 50 metre Prone Pairs event in shooting. His partner was fellow Scot, Neil Stirton.

Martin has visited the School on several occasions in past years as a specialist invited coach to our Great Britain under 21 Small Bore Rifle shooters, former pupils Stuart Ruthven, Melvin Mutch, Chloe Johnston, and John Halley.

To Martin and his fellow athletes all the Cadets extend their heartiest congratulations.

JRS

Duke of Edinburgh Award

After the classroom theory taught over the winter, April 2005 was the time to start our Expeditions.

The first group out were the Boys Bronze group (Ben Johnston, James MacDonald, Stuart Evenden, Niall Day and Steven Mallett, James Burch, Connel Burt, and Callum Toole) and their practice expedition took place in the Trossachs. Everyone was ready for a long day of hiking, navigation training and camp craft. We reached the campsite by Loch Achray at 1900 and later the summit of Ben Venue, 728m and the next day up Ben A 'an, 454m.

The next weekend was the Girls' Bronze group's practice expedition (Kirsty Day, Heather Peters, Babeeta Gurung, Sophie Burns, Alexis Watson, Katrina Hall, Kerry McAuslane and Jordan Cox). The only difference to the boys was the weather; the girls had a wet weekend, which made the going a bit harder. However, everyone enjoyed the weekend.

The Gold group (Andrew Martin and Elliott Wood) carried out an exploration in the north of the island of Mull. Their base camp was at Calgary Bay on the north west coast. Each day the boys went out to explore different Neolithic sites in the area. A prior visit to the Mull heritage centre at Dervaig gave the boys plenty of information and locations to visit.

The Silver group (Terry Moles, Leigh Halley, James Wootton, Callum Wood, David Leishman and Tom Austin) carried out an expedition hiking from Salen on the east coast of the island of Mull half way down the Sound of Mull, north to Tobermory, ending at Dervaig. Tobermory is the village used as the fictional village of Balamory and is characterised by its colourful houses.

The group was studying land use and wild life. The highlight of its observations was spotting a Sea Eagle hunting fish on Loch Frisa. Both the Silver and Gold groups had successful expeditions and Andrew and Elliott have since received their Gold Awards.

Back in our local Ochil hills the Bronze groups went through their assessments, making their way from Tillicoultry to Glen Devon via Ben Cleuch, 721m, the highest point in the Ochil hills. All the groups were successful and are looking forward to starting Silver.

This year 25 third year pupils have started the award, while we have three Silver groups and one Gold looking forward to their expeditions later this term.

This has been a busy year for staff training: six of our staff (Miss Matheson, Miss Johnston, Mrs Elliott, Mr Breingan, Mr Wright and Mr Mair) are currently undergoing BELA training aimed specifically at adults involved in introducing young people to the outdoors through schemes like the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I have been receiving further health and safety training with regard to educational visits and have achieved an OCR level three Certificate in Off-Site Safety Management.

A big thank you to all the staff who help with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, allowing the pupils to achieve their service, skill and physical recreation sections of the Award. A special thank you to Mr Kirk and Miss Johnston for all their help with the Expeditions.

Tom Shannon, *Director of Outdoor Pursuits*



Rookies Parade December 2005

Photograph courtesy of Mr Allison



Postcards of QVS courtesy of Mr B Pill

Office bearers:- President Graeme Cassells, Treasurer Jon Sutherland, Secretary and Webmaster Duncan McDonald, Committee members Dodo McDonald (Compiler of the OVA pipebooks), and Duncan McLay (member of teaching staff).

We would like to thank the previous committee and, in particular, the past president, Lt Col Ron Smith, to whom the Association is greatly indebted. Under his stewardship the Association was kept alive through his regular correspondence with OVs from all over the world.

On behalf of the OVA, Donald McDonald presented a pipe tune which he composed to honour Ron for his commitment and dedication over these many years. This pipe tune is also in memory of Ron's late wife, Isabel, who sadly passed away at the beginning of the year. Ron's loss is shared by many an Old Victorian who came to know Isabel over the years that he was President of the Association.

The new committee's initial focus of attention was to create a contactable database, without which we are not an Association. The thinking was, "if we can't contact you we can't associate with you". We have collated all the old paper records and now have a computerised database with every OVs name and School number and continue to update the records, by adding any new or change of address we receive. So please keep your contact address up to date!!! We now have over 600 email addresses but about 60 of those have bounced recently. We also have about 200 members for whom we have postal addresses.

On completion of the database we redesigned the membership card and posted them out to over 500 members (the number we had addresses for at the time of placing the order), including the new members. If anyone hasn't got a new membership card and wants one, send your name, number and address and it will be ordered and posted to you.

When we first took over, if we wanted any information posted on the website, we had to go through OV Steven Hill who would post the information for us. Subsequently, Steven has allowed us access to nearly all the functions of the web site, although it still sits on his business server, which he kindly facilitates for free. The cost of this would usually be £400 or £500 per year.

We have had printed and posted three newsletters in glorious colour to an average 200 OVs each time who are not on line, although some of these have now registered and have been taken off the snail mail list.

The cost of printing and postage was offset by raffles which we had with specially OVA labelled bottles of malt whisky, kindly donated by Duncan (Association Secretary). OVs on line can

access these newsletters on the OVA website. We also now deliver information by email to members for whom we have email addresses.

We added to the social calendar the first ever OVA Burns Supper for OVs, family and friends, members of staff and friends, for which the Headmaster gave permission to hold at the School.

We should like to thank everyone who attended the Burns Supper and an even greater thanks must go to those who participated by performing, in particular two young OVs, namely 4659 Andrew Martin and 4651 Mhairi Henderson, who did an excellent job in delivering "The Toast to the Lassies" and the "Reply". Suffice to say, the evening was such a success that it is intended for it to become an annual event, in future, with the Boy P/M piping in the Haggis and Senior Boy and Girl doing the honours with the "Toast to the Lassies" and the "Reply". If any OV has a particular talent for singing or reciting the works of the bard and would like to offer his or her services (free ticket), or if you would like to attend, please let us know.

A special mention must go to Deputy Headmaster Mr Colin Philson and Deputy Headteacher Pastoral & Guidance Mr Graham Carroll, without whose assistance and participation, the evening would not have been possible or such a success.

You will no doubt have noticed that we keep pushing the membership of the 200 club and have managed to gain some new members. It costs only £12 per year and is the main source of income for the Association.

You will be pleased to note that in spite of all this expenditure the Association remains solvent.

Graeme Cassells, *President OVA*

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The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund Activities Report – 2004/2005

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, 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. As in previous years, the 2004 applications for grants from the Trust Fund ranged from supporting GAP years through to awards granted to pupils to help obtain qualifications and experience in music and dance, with a spread over cultural as well as enterprising and adventurous pursuits.

The Trust Fund awards for 2005 totalled some £3,360 and grants were made to the following pupils:

Mark Braceland	6 weeks conservation expedition to South Africa
Scott Graham Craig Farquarson	GAP year in Australia
Fiona MacLeod	Link Overseas Exchange in Sri Lanka
Claire Greenwood Andrew Martin	UKA Associate Teacher's Exams UKA Associate Teacher's Exams and Premier Cup award
Callie McFarlane	UKA Associate Teacher's Exams and Premier Cup award
Isla MacLeod	Edinburgh College of Art Portfolio Support

We wish them all success in their chosen pursuits and look forward to receiving reports of successful completion in their various projects and activities.

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to be used; why not give it some thought, and if you want to know more, contact the School Business Manager for further details or an application form.

It would be useful to note when applying that the Trustees pay particular attention to the supporting details that are provided along with the application itself and this significantly helps the decision-making process: the more detail that can be provided in support of the application, the better. The Trustees are also keen to ensure that any grants made fit well and within the overall intent of the Fund, which is to there to provide support for pupils who wish to advance their education, leadership and self-esteem and to help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills.

The annual deadline for submission of applications is the close of the Winter Term each year (applications should be received by the School Business Manager no later than 31st December). I would also advise that, if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and seek advice.

Stephen B Dougan, School Business Manager



(LOM UW) Louise & (ET WE) Andrew Kirkaldy

This photo was taken at Andrew's passing out parade at HMS Raleigh on 10th February 2006. He is supported by Louise who at the time was serving on HMS Somerset. Andrew joins his first ship HMS Campbeltown in June to serve alongside his sister who

is currently serving on HMS Campbeltown while HMS Somerset is in refit.

Headmaster

OLD VICTORIAN – LT RICHARD GIVENS & FAMILY

Richard, who attended QVS from 1988 until 1997, is pictured here with his wife Caroline and eight month old daughter, Imogen, who was christened recently at Queen Victoria School Memorial Chapel.

Richard was amongst hundreds of Scottish soldiers who were reunited with family and loved ones on their return from Iraq in April this year. This was part of a six month deployment with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Highlanders 4th battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. They flew back into Fallingbostal and at the Highlanders Camp a piper welcomed them with 'Scotland the Brave'.

Imogen had been born just five weeks before Richard left for Iraq and, on his return, Richard commented about his daughter 'She's about twice the size since I last saw her and she's got some teeth now'. In addition Richard talked about receiving emailed pictures of Imogen and said 'It is great to be back with my wife again'.

Richard said of his time in Iraq 'You do feel under daily threat but I would say progress has been made and we've laid the foundation for a handover to Iraqi police'.

Headmaster



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GORDON PRITCHARD 1974 – 2005

Gordon Pritchard, an Old Victorian, who left in 1987 was killed in Iraq earlier this year. Gordon attended QVS with his brother Peter and the boys signed up as cadets on a junior leaders' course in Bovington, Dorset, before joining their father's regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Gordon grew up on military bases and, in many respects, was born to be a soldier. Bill and Jeanette Pritchard, his mother and father were in Germany at the time Gordon was born in 1974. Mr Pritchard stated that 'Gordon and his brother, Peter spent their time kicking around camps they loved the life'. Both joined the army and his father added, 'truly, it is the only thing they wanted to do'.

Peter signed up in time to serve in the first Gulf war and the pair served together in Bosnia in the 1990's – Gordon went on to Kosovo. As a Corporal he trained as an infantryman and distinguished himself on training courses in armoured vehicles and tanks. The day he took command of a Challenger 2 and its crews was one of the proudest moments of his career.

His father commented that 'Gordon could not stand bullying. He said in a perfect world we would not need to be in Iraq. But if there was no one else there to protect the people from madmen with guns then we should do it'.

Lt Col Edwards, his commanding officer, described Gordon as having the 'intelligence, professionalism, compassion and humour to make it to the highest levels. He was a soldier with a very great potential and had been identified in the last year as one for whom the regiment had high hopes. Always quick with a smile, with an especially dry sense of humour, he led his men by example'.

Gordon's death will be felt most deeply by his wife Julie-Anne, his children Stacey, Harrison and Summer, his parents Bill and Jeanette and his brother Peter. His Commanding Officer also said the regiment has lost a fine soldier and a good friend. 'We count ourselves as fortunate to have served with such a man'.

Headmaster



BRIAN FRASER CLYDE, 1987 – 2005

It is with profound regret that *The Victorian* records the sad news of the untimely death of Brian Clyde, a pupil at Queen Victoria School from 1999 – 2005. The boys and girls and staff of

the School extend sincere condolences to Mr and Mrs Clyde and to all of Brian's family.

JE Coates



I receive many requests to try and trace relatives and one was from Jeffrey Moore from Hampshire who was trying to find out more about his father and uncle. Their father was a Colour Sergeant with the Royal Fusiliers who died prematurely at the age of 37 in 1906.

I passed on the following information:

Thomas Moore

School number 140 – joined in December 1909 aged 8.11 and left in January 1915. He enlisted in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and served during the 1914-18 war.

James Albert Moore

School number 50 – joined in July 1909 aged 9.8 and left in December 1913. There is a photograph of him in the 'First 50' in the School entrance hall. He enlisted also in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and served with the BEF during the 1914 -18 war and, according to our records, died in Ayr in 1917.

In thanking me in his reply, Jeffrey Moore also sent a photograph which he discovered recently. His father is on the right.

Headmaster

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In this piece I felt it was important to convey the respect of the cultures and people, the exquisiteness of their designs for art and fashion, the tartan to symbolise Scotland and the vivid colours and excitement of the Festival. To achieve this I have initially manipulated the image of the headless woman which, in my investigation, I have explained her relevance in showing the friendly but respectful atmosphere. The logo which I designed of the dancers conveys the excitement and variety of events. Tartan is layered over this image to show the relation of the Festival to Scotland. Then the design from the dress was blown up from one of my sketches to show the classic fashions and artwork of the culture. I added colour to this layer through adobe photoshop (the program which I have used to manipulate all my ideas) and this I felt added interest and made the poster more eye catching and vivid. Overall, I feel my design works effectively in conveying all the major aspects I wanted to show, while at the same time being an attractive, intriguing design which will encourage people to visit the Festival.



Iona Bellingham-Baird



Leanne Bell



Samantha Leishman

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Nova Scotia Tattoo Party 2005



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