



The Victorian 2016

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL





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Vision Statement

Ethos

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

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

Academic

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

Non-Academic

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

Civic and Service Responsibility

Queen Victoria School is an asset to the Ministry

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

Pastoral

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

Board of Her Majesty's Commissioners For The Government of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

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Mr I K Ritchie FRCSEd (Orth)

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Acting Head

Mr D Shaw

Secretary and Treasurer to HM Commissioners

Mr N Cunningham

From the Head – Grand Day Speech

Good morning everyone. As Acting Head for the past few months, it's been an absolute honour to lead the school and it's been a real eye-opener to be involved in absolutely every aspect of school life. Today, I have the pleasure of reporting on what has been another excellent year at QVS. Lots of things about life here make me, and the rest of the staff, immensely proud and my talk today is going to focus on our highlights of the year.

The Care Inspectorate recently published a report on QVS and it makes very good reading. On a 6-point scale with six being the best grade, we were awarded several Grade 5s but within the section concerning enabling users to make individual choices to support their own potential, we were awarded a Grade 6, which indicates we are working at a level which other schools strive towards. To that end, the Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's inspectors are now recommending the work done here, particularly on aspects of GIRFEC, to other independent schools. This is testament to the work of Carole Phipps and her Pupil Support team. Overall, the Care Inspectorate report owes a great deal to the work of Steve Adams and his pastoral team.

The Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow, visited here on 6th May and thoroughly enjoyed his time with us. He is clearly a man of influence and has even spoken to the Queen herself about two of our young orderlies, Pratista Khawas and Rosie Welch, who took part in an event at Edinburgh Castle. He told Her Majesty that the two girls were the best he had ever seen at slow marching. Interestingly, the Queen responded very positively about QVS and had knowledge of our position and purpose.

The Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hope, and his entourage, visited us on May 25th. After lunch with SLT and some of our senior students, he had a tour which included a visit to the chapel, performances from our pipers, drummers and dancers and finally a visit to classrooms to see the school in action.

Both men left delighted with everything they had seen, commenting particularly on the positive and happy atmosphere they had witnessed.

I've had a very busy term building contacts with outside agencies, all with a link to service children or service personnel. I attended a meeting of the Service Children's Support Group, which also involved the Royal Caledonian Educational Trust. I offered those organisations as much help as they needed in ensuring service children in other parts of Scotland get the quality of support we provide our students. QVS has a big role to play here; a role that has not previously been tapped into. We can become the defining force in Scotland in our support of service children across the country and we've already had further meetings to form an action plan for the way ahead.

I would like to let you know about some of the highlights involving our pupils.

In terms of piping, drumming and dancing, we have had lots of success. Callum Pearson, Evie Clarke, Charlotte Gothard Olver and Rachel Spence have been successful in dancing competitions with



Donald Shaw, Headteacher.

Charlotte and Rachel now in the Championship Standard Group, which is a massive achievement. Wherever our dancers go to compete, they are always complemented on their skill and technique, which is testament to their dance teacher, Miss Stephanie Stinson, who has brought them on in leaps and bounds! In drumming, Cameron Crawford and Pratista Khawas have competed to a high standard and Henry Aldwinckle has gained a place in the National Youth pipe band of Scotland. Our pipers have also been doing well, in particular Rachel Loudon and Rhys Owen. Craig Duncan is now playing with the Stirling pipe band and has not missed a competition with them this year. We are hoping that a few more students can follow in his footsteps in the course of the next year. Pipe Major Gordon Ross and Drum Major Jim Clarke took their young but technically skilled band out to Avenche last August and this was a major success – next, the band are heading off to Basel in July and for many, it will be their first international tattoo – exciting times. A round of applause for all that the Pipers, Drummers and Dancers have achieved this year please.

Moving on to sports, there have been a number of notable successes. Josh King won a silver medal for discus at the Scottish Schools championships and five students broke all-time school records at sports day this year. The record breakers were Olivia Williams in the 100m, Josh King in the discus, Henry Aldwinckle and Sophie Tytek in the high jump and Anais Scott in the 300m. Well done to them.

For Rugby, in the first year of the new Conference league, the 1st 15 came 3rd and the U16s came 4th. We have seen Josh King, Rhys Owen, Cameron Crawford, Morgan Leatherbarrow, Lloyd Owen and Jordan Oatley all represent the school at training sessions for the Caledonia district development squad with Kyle Rowe breaking into the under-20 Caledonia rugby team.

In Hockey, we've had our most successful season for many years at senior level. The first 11 were unbeaten up until the Christmas break and the girls continued to play extremely well and were only narrowly beaten twice in the second half of the season.



Colour Party.

The football team has had many successes – in particular, Kyle Rowe and James Work were selected to play for Scotland Independent Schools against England. James was given the honour of captaining the side and also scored a great goal from a well-timed pass from Kyle. With over 100 Independent schools in Scotland, to have two players selected to play for the National side defies all odds and is an amazing achievement.

A final word on sport – When many teenagers would probably still be in bed early on a Saturday morning, our pupils are up having breakfast at half past six, travelling up to two hours for an away fixture and then playing with pride and passion for QVS and for their team mates. With the dedication and commitment of the sports staff, our pupils are able to experience so many positive situations that other children just don't get the opportunity to try. Our students challenge themselves, they push themselves out of their own comfort zones, building camaraderie, confidence and self-belief, learning to win and lose in a gracious manner.

I'd like to mention another couple of notable achievements from across the spectrum of school life here. Caitlin Yool and Ryan MacPherson gave a great talk to many ex-servicemen at Denny Probus club, about life at QVS, and this was very well received by a captivated audience.

Stuart Millman in S6 deserves a mention as one of the most naturally talented computer programmers Mr Lawrence has ever taught in his entire career (which is quite a long time). Stuart has a bright future ahead of him in IT.

I'd also like to mention all the pupils who have volunteered to contribute to school chapel services and assemblies. The pupils are always well prepared to present with confidence and maturity. A special mention must go to P7 pupil Millie Russell who makes some of her readings a genuine dramatic performance. She is the only student to get a round of applause for her reading – it takes some guts to get up there and perform in front of the entire school.

Students have recently been involved in an exercise to promote the values of our school to staff, students and parents. Over the course of two days, a group of around twenty students came up with five core values which they believe we should all live by as we go about our daily lives. The values are Respect, Trust, Independence, Responsibility and Equality. The students gave a presentation to the Senior Leadership Team and then to the entire school at chapel and we now plan to take those values to the staff and parent bodies and see what they mean from their perspective. It's an exciting exercise which will challenge our behaviours and attitudes and will hopefully lead to QVS being an even better place to live and work. You might also be interested to know a bit about what our staff do when they are not working. I know our youngsters might not believe this but teachers and other staff do actually have a life outside of QVS. Ms Downey in English is a runner and has travelled far and wide, competing in many events, including two marathons and two Ultramarathons, with lots of PBs along the way.

Miss McIlkenny is also a keen runner and took one of our senior students, Francesca Coburn, to take part in two night time trail races – she hadn't completed a trail run before, so it was all the more impressive to do one in the dark and, as it turned out, the snow. Somehow, though, Francesca found her way back to school but we'll try to lose her again next year.

Mr Kirk took things a step further. After being diagnosed with arthritis, he defiantly entered the Stirling Novice Triathlon, completing it as a supervet. Mr Kirk has also just qualified as a Duke of Edinburgh assessor so marching about on the hills after our students is clearly the perfect cure for arthritis. There's just no stopping him!

Miss Lees, our Geography maternity cover teacher completed the Moonwalk, which is a 26 mile walk under the moonlight through the streets of Glasgow.

Through Mr Breingan, the school acts as the rehearsal base for the Dunblane Chamber Orchestra, a group of local amateur and



Top to bottom: Cunningham House prefects; Haig House prefects.

professional players who perform two or three times each year often raising money for charity. Mr Breingan is one of the organising committee and is keen to promote this group and to use it to work with our pupils in the future and to build strong links with the local community.

We are celebrating two staff weddings this summer. Miss McKenny,

currently Principal Teacher of Modern Languages and Mr Renwick, one of our Biology teachers, are both getting married to their respective partners in July. We wish them all the best for their big days.

As you can hear, our staff are a very active bunch! Moving on to more formal staffing matters, you will be aware that our



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

German teacher has been absent for some time and who better to come to our rescue than two retired Principal Teachers, Mr John Sheerin and a name many OVs will know well, Mrs Jill Howie. I'd like to place on record our immense thanks to John and Jill for supporting our students throughout the year.

I'd also like to thank Miss Sarah Lees, who has covered Geography

for us while Mrs McDonnell was on maternity leave. Miss Lees has had a big impact in her time with us and we'd love to have her back here one day.

We've welcomed some new members of staff; Mr Graeme Johnston in Maths, Mrs Sarah O'Neill in Modern Studies and Miss Sheonah Hastie in the Primary department – three very impressive additions to



Monitors.

our teaching staff who have all settled in really well. The Senior Leadership team has also benefited from the support of Mr Duncan McLay, who has stepped into the Academic Deputy role over the past months and is doing a fantastic job.

Now it's time for a few good byes. Gail Edwards, P7 teacher and Deputy Housemistress of Trenchard House is leaving us to enjoy retirement on the West Coast of Scotland. Gail has served the school faithfully for 14 years and she will be missed by the young people in her care and the staff who have worked with her over the years. Even before she worked here, Gail was a QVS mum so we have been part of her life for a long time and I know she'll miss us too.

Also leaving us and attending her final Grand Day as a member of staff today is Christine Sheerin, our wonderful librarian. Christine has been with us for 20 years and has encouraged children of all ages to read more and more, always thinking of ideas to improve reading and literacy standards across the school. Along with Mr Kirk, she has worked hard to ensure our boys are reading almost as much as our girls and this has been a major success.

Ladies and Gentleman, it's been an absolute pleasure speaking to you this morning and I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Queen Victoria School. Your children make us all proud each and every day and we couldn't ask for more. I hope you enjoy the rest of the day and the summer holiday to come. Thank you.



Visit from the Lord High Commissioner

The Senior Leadership team and representatives from the QVS student body had the absolute privilege of hosting Lord and Lady Hope and their entourage, whilst they visited the school on May 25th. Lord Hope, the Lord High Commissioner, is essentially the Queen's representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and there was much excitement as he was driven up the school drive, with two police motorbikes in attendance.



This picture shows our Senior Monitor, Caitlin Yool, welcoming Lord and Lady Hope to QVS.

After a spot of lunch with senior students and the senior leadership team, Lord and Lady Hope embarked on a tour of the school. Their first port of call was to the school chapel, to meet with Reverend Boyd, the school chaplain. The entire party was good enough to pose for a photo on the chapel steps.



Next, it was off to the Piping, Drumming and Dancing department, where Lord and Lady Hope were treated to an exhibition of all three.

A young band performed several tunes as four of our best dancers showed their talents on the school fields.



Lord Hope showed a keen interest in all aspects of life at QVS. Mr Shaw, the acting Head Teacher, endeavoured to answer his questions and explain the benefits of life at the school.



The final part of the tour took us to the teaching block, where their Graces visited the Art department and the French department.

Lord Hope left QVS stating that he was very impressed with the relaxed and happy atmosphere of QVS and thanked everyone for their time and efforts in making his visit so memorable.



From the Chairman of Her Majesty's Commissioners

Winds of Change

Her Majesty's Commissioners to Queen Victoria School are governed by the Royal Warrant, first signed on 27 June 1905. That Warrant, that has served us so well ever since, effectively makes the Commissioners guardians of the School. It also means that Commissioners share with the Directorate of Children and Young People the responsibility of appointing the School's Head.

The Board of Commissioners therefore welcomes Mr Donald Shaw into his new post as Headmaster, at the start of the Autumn Term. New to the post but certainly not new to QVS, I look forward to working with him as we move towards some of the most far reaching alterations in the School's history, whilst still maintaining the spirit and ethos of our School.

Now that she is no longer involved with the UK Parliament we welcome as a new Commissioner our long term supporter and great friend of QVS, Dame Anne McGuire. At the same time we also welcome Lady Leeona Dorrian to the Board following her appointment as Lord Justice Clerk and say goodbye and thank you to Lord Carloway following his appointment as Scotland's most senior judge.

Mr John Cummings, formerly Headmaster of our sister MOD school, The Duke of York's School in England, retired from the Board at the end of August and Professor Bart McGettrick, a very long serving Commissioner and immediate past Chairman will retire at Christmas. I take this opportunity to thank both Commissioners for their many years of service to the Board. Their advice and experience will be much missed.

Finally I want to wish the former Head, Mrs Wendy Bellars all the best for the future. During her nine years at QVS she introduced and oversaw considerable change as she worked to make the School part of 21st century civilised life. Probably the most obvious physical changes that the occasional visitor would notice came in the remodeling of the dining room into a modern cafeteria and away from school benches and refectory tables and at the same time converting Central Hall into a social meeting area. In reality though these changes, amongst many others that she introduced, were merely symptomatic of her drive to a more deep rooted change by the pupils towards an acceptance of personal responsibility and an attitude of caring for others. I have no doubt that these changes in attitudes will be her legacy to QVS. Such characteristics are truly marks of a much more civilised school and ones that I hope we will not change in the future.

A J C Plumtree, Chairman



Left to right: Lady Dorrian, The Lord Justice Clerk; Anne McGuire.



From the Senior Monitor

It is with a sense of trepidation mingled with an immense sense of pride that I have managed an entire year as Senior Monitor of Queen Victoria School; a school that has offered me, and each one of us so many opportunities, a wonderful start in life and the unique privilege to be known as Victorians.

On behalf of the S6 and other leavers, I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the staff of QVS whether they work in the teaching block, boarding houses or support services.

During our time here they have inspired and cajoled us to attain the highest standards possible. We probably all have a favourite member of staff, someone to whom we've been able to relate over the years and no doubt we will express our thanks to them individually. I would however like to identify and thank a few who have truly made our lives so much easier and for whom today is also unique.

Mr Stacey has been a hard taskmaster, he is in many ways QV's own version of a toffee éclair... while he may seem hard on the outside he has a warm soft centre. Everyone here today appreciates his loyalty to the school, its history and traditions. I'd like to give credit to him as he has played such a huge part in my role as senior monitor; whether it be for his relentless joking about almost anything to do with Donkeys, cellulite and last but not least... my drill... Mr Stacey I wish you all the best for the future. Try not to miss me too much; I hope you manage to cope in Borneo without me... Missing you already.

As our year co coordinator we would like to thank Mrs Adams; a woman who is there for all prefects and monitors, S6 Waveill girls, someone who is simply a mother to us all. We couldn't have made it without you. You offer us so many opportunities particularly in your involvement with the Bridge of Allan and Dunblane Rotary club.

I'd like to express my gratitude on behalf of Queen Victoria School to Mrs Sheeran who has been far more than a school librarian. Her compassion, empathy and her willingness to do whatever she could to help us has created memories that will always live on with us. Your enthusiasm has been infectious and none of us will ever look at books in the same light thanks to you. By the way for those who didn't know she was leaving it's because as a librarian she likes to keep things quiet.

On behalf of all Victorians we know that your colouring in competitions will be missed, and your constant determination to find the answers to anyone's unsolved mysteries, can never be replaced.

Who would have ever thought an atheist would be the first person in QVS to study advanced higher RMPs and to be heading off to university to study theology. None of this would have been possible without a very special and inspirational individual Mr Boyd, our school chaplain. The time you have spent teaching me about RE and life has been invaluable and as I move on, I wonder how will I ever complete a university essay without your unique philosophical and metaphysical insights?



I may have my own existential crisis without your presence and I hope that you will remain omnipresent in my life after QV. Thus as a result of this I'm worried that I won't be able to cope in a class with more than one student?

From your most effervescent pupil thank you.

As a year group we would like to thank all members of the SLT and especially Mr Shaw our acting head. Together they seek to ensure that QVS continues to be at the forefront of developments and teaching.

However, turning now to my own year group, traditionally.... it has always been said that behind every man stands a good woman this year however social learning theories have been smashed in QV and the glass ceiling has been shattered. You'd never guess I had studied gender issues. However seriously I'd like to express my thanks to the prefects and monitors who have so ably worked throughout the year, liaising with staff and pupils and ensuring the smooth running of the school routines. I could not conclude this part of my speech without mentioning my partner in crime, James Work, our Deputy Senior Monitor. James it's been great working with you over the year. I wish you every success in your future and look forward to standing on the sidelines of the parade at some point in the near future when we can comment on drill without the stress.

Being part of such a small community ensures that strong bonds are created... in and across every year group. As the leavers it is time for us to say farewell, knowing that we leave many friends behind us... it is to you that we now pass the torch that you may pick up from where we have laid it down.

Good luck to you all. May your final years be as meaningful and inspirational as ours ... no doubt some of us will be back to check up on your drill at the odd parade or two.

One of the strengths of such a small community is perhaps perfectly summed up in the words of the former American president Jimmy Carter who said "We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."

I close this article with these words believing wholeheartedly that Queen Victoria School is a community in which these words become reality. Each and every person here is unique and is encouraged to become the best that they can be... you could say that QVS truly embodies the curriculum for excellence. It has been an honour to serve the school as senior monitor and a privilege to have studied here.

Caitlin Yool, Senior Monitor





Prize Giving

Primary Prizes

1	P7	Attainment
2	P7	Progress
3	P7	Fowler Art Prize
4	P7	Music
5	P7	Paul McShannon Quaich

S1

6	German	Progress	Duncan Hughson
7	French	Progress	Lewis Gibson
8	Mathematics	Progress	Isla Gilbert
9	Computer Studies	Progress	Carley Cunningham
10	Geography	Progress	Kaitlyn Martin
11	Fowler Art	Progress	Kristin Sibeth
12	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Progress	Leah Mcfall
13	History	Progress	Mollie Alexander
14	Music	Progress	Eleanor Codd
15	+ English	Progress	Shaun Hill
16	Business	Progress	Greer Walker
17	+ Technical Studies	Progress	Christopher Skinner
18	Science	Attainment	Jake Leatherbarrow
19	+ Fowler Art	Attainment	Thomas Main
20	Geography	Attainment	Hollie Scott
21	History	Attainment	Pratistha Khawas
22	Physical Education	Attainment	Rebecca Anderson
23	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Attainment	
24	Business	Attainment	
25	+ Technical Studies	Attainment	
26	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Attainment	
27	+ French	Attainment	
28	+ Science	Attainment	
29	+ Computer Studies	Attainment	
30	+ English	Attainment	
31	+ German	Attainment	
32	+ Mathematics	Attainment	
33	+ Music	Attainment	

S2

23	Mathematics	Progress	James Skinner
24	Computer Studies	Progress	Shauney-Lee Young
25	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Progress	Yancy Gurung
26	Geography	Progress	Lewis Campbell
27	History	Progress	Conor Kirkwood
28	Science	Progress	Daniel Thompson
29	+ English	Progress	Lily Miller
30	+ Music	Progress	Stewart Brown
31	Fowler Art	Progress	
32	+ German	Progress	Rhys Owen
33	Physical Education	Progress	Logan Ferguson
34	+ Technical Studies	Progress	
35	German	Progress	
36	+ Business	Progress	
37	+ French	Progress	
38	Computer Studies	Attainment	Rhaea Clark

34	Physical Education	Attainment	Sophie Murphy
35	Music	Attainment	Christian Mcbrearty
36	History	Attainment	Rachel Loudon
37	French	Attainment	Mackenzie Berry
38	+ Geography	Attainment	
39	German	Attainment	Suprina Gurung
40	+ Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Attainment	
41	+ Business	Attainment	
42	+ Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Attainment	
43	English	Attainment	Anna Gurung
44	+ Mathematics	Attainment	
45	+ Science	Attainment	
46	+ Technical Studies	Attainment	
47	+ Fowler Art	Attainment	

S3

40	Physical Education	Attainment	Dipen Ghale
41	Biology	Attainment	Luke Thompson
42	Business Management	Attainment	David Burns
43	Design & Manufacture	Attainment	John Dougherty
44	History	Attainment	Tiernan Bark
45	General Science	Attainment	Olivia Dunbar
46	Graphic Communication	Attainment	Henry Aldwinckle
47	Geography	Attainment	Josh King
48	Physics	Attainment	Charlotte Gothard Oliver
49	German	Attainment	Benjamin Adam
50	Computer Science	Attainment	Ethan Rowe
51	+ Fowler Art Prize	Attainment	
52	Modern Studies	Attainment	Alexandra Barron
53	+ Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Attainment	
54	Music	Attainment	Alexandra Lee
55	+ Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Attainment	
56	Chemistry	Attainment	Rachel Spence
57	+ English	Attainment	
58	French	Attainment	Evie Clarke
59	+ Mathematics	Attainment	

S4

55	Art		Ryan Glass
56	Chemistry		Lloyd Owen
57	History		Georgia Forsyth
58	Guildry of Stirling History Prize		Lewis Mcauley
59	Lifeskills Mathematics		Emily McNair
60	Geography		Emily Collins
61	Computer Science		Pabina Thapa
62	Graphic Communication		Freya Powell Leonard
63	+ Design & Manufacture		
64	+ General Science		
65	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies		Rachel Macpherson
66	+ Business Management		
67	+ Modern Studies		
68	Biology		Richard Dunbar
69	+ Physics		
70	+ Mathematics		
71	Music		Kenna Berry



66	+ Classical Studies	
67	+ English	
68	Eric Drew Memorial French Prize	Charlotte Sowden
69	+ German	
70	+ Physical Education	

S5/6

67	Design & Manufacture	Lora Marshall
68	Art	Rebecca Mcquater
69	Computer Science	Kirsty Jane Aimer
70	Geography	Georgia Mowat
71	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Anais Scott
72	Music	Georgia Clark
73	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Francesca Cockburn
74	Physical Education	Jordan Oatley
75	Business Management	Cameron Houston

76	Classical Studies	Charlotte Barron
77	Physics	Ewan Searle
78	German	Amy Bruce
79	Photography	Kirstin Hughes
80	Biology	Imogen Powell Leonard
81	+ Graphic Communication	
82	Eric Drew Memorial French Prize	Emelia Moore
83	+ Mathematics	
84	+ Chemistry	
85	English	Samantha Rollo
86	+ Modern Studies	
87	+ History	
88	HMC Centenary Quaich	Bethan Drummond
89	Williamson Salver for Girls	Caitlin Yool
90	Dux Medal	Prateeksha Khawas

2016 Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

		Form IV	Forms V & VI			
1	Art	Ryan Glass	Rebecca Mcquater	14	Guildry of Stirling Lewis Mcauley	Francesca Cockburn
2	Biology	Richard Dunbar	Imogen Powell Leonard	15	History	Georgia Forsyth
3	Business Management	Rachel Macpherson	Cameron Houston	16	HMC Centenary Quaich	Samantha Rollo
4	Chemistry	Lloyd Owen	Emelia Moore	17	Mathematics	Bethan Drummond
5	Classical Studies	Kenna Berry	Charlotte Barron	18	Mathematics – Lifeskills	Emelia Moore
6	Computer Science	Pabina Thapa	Kirsty Jane Aimer			
7	Design & Manufacture	Freya Powell Leonard	Lora Marshall	19	Modern Studies	Rachel Macpherson
8	English	Kenna Berry	Samantha Rollo	20	Music	Kenna Berry
9	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Charlotte Sowden	Emelia Moore	21	Photography	Georgia Clark
10	General Science	Freya Powell Leonard		22	Physical Education	Kirstin Hughes
11	Geography	Emily Collins	Georgia Mowat	23	Physics	Jordan Oatley
12	German	Charlotte Sowden	Amy Bruce	24	RMPS	Ewan Searle
13	Graphic Communication	Freya Powell-Leonard	Imogen Powell Leonard	25	Williamson Salver For Girls	Anais Scott
				26	Dux Medal	Caitlin Yool
						Prateeksha Khawas



Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

I remember sitting through a management lecture one day at University being told the story of the three Stonemasons. My lecturer talked enthusiastically that all of the greats of management theorists, Drucker, Maslow, Tuckman – had used the message this story contained.

To paraphrase the story; one of the stonemasons was asked what he was doing and he replied 'just cutting stone', the second replied 'I am building a wall', but the third slowly turned around and said 'I'm building a Cathedral'. One of the central messages, I was led to believe and can now see was that whatever we do in life we must stop, look and see the bigger picture of our action.

It is easy, whether as a Housemaster, tutor or pupil to just do things without seeing the bigger picture of our actions; just turning up and not fully buying into the system or for me to simply remember that my aim and goals, towards my boys, will be over 6/7 years. We do need to step back, reflect and weigh things up constantly.

It would be true to say that a certain House year group, who had spent many, many years learning, enjoying and being part of QVS were in danger of not 'seeing the bigger picture' recently in Cunningham, to the detriment of themselves and their personal and academic development. I am really glad to say that this was a temporary glitch and I hope they have learnt from this experience and they will now always look outwards rather than inwards.

A massive goodbye to my S6 year group. I know I say this every year! But if you have lived, worked and experienced a journey together it is very hard to say goodbye. The journey may only be seven years, but because these years are very informative and vital for development – where young boys mature to men they can be intense and a roller coaster time.

A massive thank you to Connor Watson for his supportive role as my House Captain and I know one day I will be going to the theatre or cinema to see his latest performance....; Jack Miller who is going to

University to read Psychology, specialising in Management & Languages; Leon Boylan who is studying Avionics and Aeronautical Engineering with the RAF; Lochie Bark who gained an unconditional offer to read Chemistry at Edinburgh University; Sam Stockman who also gained an unconditional offer to read Forensic Psychology at Edinburgh University; Callum Gilbert is off to College to specialise in his subjects and hone his skills on the pipes; Josh Conroy who is going to study Contemporary/Alternative Medicine – specialising in Acupuncture and last but not least Ryan MacPherson who literally, as I type, has been awarded a coveted position with the Royal Military Police and he starts his intensive training next month!

As ever I am always grateful that I have a very stable, experienced tutor team which not only sees the bigger picture but who are willing to make sure their tutees experiences are life enhancing and to remind them to always look at the bigger picture whether academically, career or emotionally. This is complimented as ever by our House Matron Sarah and Karen our Housekeeper – who certainly reinforce the messages and set individual goals. We have also been very fortunate to have temporary tutors, this year, who buy into the ethos and philosophy of Cunningham House. Thanks must go to Stephanie Stinson, who stepped in at short notice for Duncan McLay's promotion and congratulations as well due to her recent promotion to Assistant Housemistress to Wavell.

Finally I ask all the people, boys and staff, who make up the community of Cunningham to step back, reflect on what we are doing, see the bigger picture of why we are at such a unique school and maximise our time in all we do. We may not have the privilege of building a Cathedral but we can build a nurturing, secure and enthusiastic environment for all pupils and staff to flourish.

Mike Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster

I've been in Cunningham since I first joined QVS so it is the only House I have ever been in and it's safe to say I am so lucky because



for me Cunningham House is the best House. Right from your first day in S1 you are treated with respect by all members of staff especially Mr Eastham and Sarah. They welcome everyone into their home through various socials such as making your own pizza in S1 right up to build your own 'posh' burgers in S6. All of the socials help each member of the House mature as a young adult because we are taught how to cook, iron and shave (correctly). No matter what other drama happens in the school I always felt that I could go back to the House as it would be a safe place to either talk about issues with any member of staff or just escape from any drama. I have some amazing memories in the House which I will remember forever and also my fellow S6 will be my friends for a long time. I would like to give a huge

thanks to Mr Eastham and Sarah for being my 'parents' away from home and helping me become the confident man I am today. I truly appreciate all that they have done for me and every other member of the House, especially Mr Kirk my Tutor and I will miss not coming back in August because I will miss them so much.

Good luck to next year's House Captain and don't worry it won't be too hard because you will have the unbelievable support of Mr Eastham, Sarah and the Cunningham Team.

Connor Watson, Cunningham House Captain



Top to bottom; Freya Powell-Leonard, S4 Still Life painting; Mhari Sibeth, S4 Self Portrait painting.



Haig House.

Haig House

As another year draws to a close, as Housemaster for Haig, I feel that I have learned a great deal about myself and the young men within the house this year. Since I have been at the school, I have been trying to improve the house the best I can and also ensure that the boys are turning... or trying to turn into young men. Over the course of time I have realised that whilst we strive for perfection, it is almost impossible to find in all walks of life. Within Haig and QVS, we do try to give it our best shot.

Tolstoy states that "If you look for perfection, you will never be content" For me this is pertinent within the boarding house. Making mistakes is part of growing up. I certainly made a huge number as I was going through school and university. The pupils in Haig are the same. Now don't get me wrong, some make more than others, however learning from your mistakes is one of the most important lessons that can happen to anyone. Seeing pupils grow and understand their flaws and faults is a wonderfully lucky position for me to be in as a Housemaster. Helping to influence and shape some of these young mens' future is a great responsibility but one that is an honour. As Rocky Balboa once said "life is not about how hard you can hit, but about how hard you can get hit and keep moving" I appreciate that quoting Tolstoy and Rocky in one paragraph is probably a first and perhaps a last, however they both help to explain that within the house, the pupils and I realise that whilst we aren't perfect, we try and we adapt when we fail.

The house this year has been a wonderfully vibrant place to live and work. Myself and the staff have been kept on our toes continuously by the S1 and S4 boys who have all grown into their roles within the

house at various points throughout the year. The time in house has populated by trips and events (along with the boys favourites of papas) with the most notable being the Haig House Olympics where "sport" was the winner.

The house has had a number of individual successes with James Work and Kyle Rowe both representing the Scottish Independent Schools' football association, Callum Pearson winning numerous dancing competitions and Christian McBrearty impressing in the annual drill and turnout competition. However, the aim of the house is to develop every pupil who resides within its walls. To that end, I must celebrate every pupil who has been with us this year. Everyone of them has contributed to the house and extra curricular programme of the school and made a significant contribution to the house and the school.

Throughout the year, I have been supported by John Porter and Mr Boyd along with all of the tutors. Without their help, the house would not run, so on behalf of the pupils and myself, thank you. We couldn't forget Carmen and Matron, who keep the house running and are a real focal point for those in Haig. The pupils and I are indebted to you and all of your hard work.

As the leavers embark on the next stage of their journey, I thank you for all that you have contributed to the house and school over the time you have been with us. You will always be welcome in Haig.

Niall Lear, Haig Housemaster



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

Our long promised refurbishment happened over the summer holidays and was just ready for us to move in to at the start of the new academic year. The students loved the low bunks, bigger desks, better sinks and redesigned entrance hall. All of this made the house more welcoming. Improvements to the kitchen and refreshment areas together with new paint and carpets in corridors have all combined to make the house look more like a hotel.

This year's S6 girls, PK and Jade have done a great job in helping the staff run the boarding house over the last two years and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Congratulations go to Sushmita as appointment as House Captain and Aoife, Lora and Anais as school prefects. Next year we look forward to welcoming Rebekah and Amy as our new S5 girls.

We welcomed new staff members Mr Johnstone and Miss Hastie as tutors in the boarding house and said goodbye to Miss Edwards after many years of service as Deputy Housemistress. Our assistant housemaster Mr Bryce has been promoted to deputy and Mr Clark will be taking his place. I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff, both regular staff members and those who joined us temporarily to cover our absences this year, especially Mr Warner. Their hard work and dedication on duty and as tutors helps to ensure that the children have a great start at QVS.

Paul Bush, Trenchard Housemaster

Having been a part of the small handful of girls who have experienced the life of a senior in the Junior Boarding House, I can honestly say, it has been a challenge worth taking!

The last two years that I have spent at Trenchard House have been interesting to say the least but I have created memories here that I don't think I will ever forget and will always look back on very fondly. As stressful and as annoying as they can be, I will surprisingly miss all the juniors that I have met. All of them seem to have their own unique

character and story: I hope they keep this throughout their life at the school and I wish them all success for the future.

Thank you to all the S5 girls: Anais, Aoife, Lora and the new Head of House, Sushmita for all of their contributions in organising events, ensuring that the house runs as smoothly as possible and also for keeping me company through this year. I will miss you all greatly! I would also like to say thanks to all the staff over the last two years and all the best to Miss Edwards who is retiring this year – she has been here since the beginning of my time at this school and its very humbling to think that we will be leaving together as well. Congratulations to Mr Bryce, Mr Clark and Miss Hastie for their new roles within the house. Also without our lovely Housemaster, Mr Bush, none of this would be possible either and I would like to sincerely thank him for all that he has done for both me and the house.

Prateeksha Khawas, House Captain



Apple Day: Each year the students taste test the many different varieties of British apples and vote for their favourite.



Top to bottom: Fun and games at the Christmas Ceilidh; Scary costumes and make up at the Halloween party.



Wavell House.

Wavell House

This year has been one of adventure and glamour in Wavell. Just like the best Bond movies we have been 'shaken but not stirred'.

The year began with plenty of drama, punctuated by occasional terror. Our Wavell Halloween party gave the girls the opportunity to eat jellied eye balls, dress as zombies and a variety of ghosts and ghouls and Mrs Hiddleston and I were able to come as ourselves! We were then 'Frozen' at the Wavell Christmas party. Organised by the Wavell S6 girls and Miss Taylor we were all given the opportunity to take part in Disney themed games and took our inspiration from the movie 'Frozen'.

A whole host of tutor trips and events followed including seeing the show Shrek at the Edinburgh Playhouse and evenings out to Nandos, the India Gate and Namaste restaurants. The girls had afternoon tea at Dunblane Golf Club, evening meals at the houses of Mrs Morea, Miss Stinson and Mrs Adams and there was still time to take part in Lazer tagging, visit Aerospace, go to the cinema, and even have a Wavell Spa Night.

Our Winter Formal and Spring Fling events were both very successful and our girls also balanced this out by taking part in Paintballing and White Water Rafting during Activities Day. We rounded the year off with a trip to M and Ds theme park and we were able to send Mr Gilhooly onto the scariest ride there, the Tsunami. Finally we had our school Prom and our 'Around the World' themed Summer Party and Roller Disco. Organised by the S6 girls and Mrs Hiddleston, Wavell had to compete to earn a passport and they were also tasked with planning a group Eurovision style dance routine for the house (with or without roller skates).

Phew! It has been an exhausting year and, between all of the activities and events our Wavell girls also took the opportunity to re-style our junior and senior Common Rooms, with significant help from Mr Cunningham, Mr Mair, Mrs Symon and Mrs McCluskie.

I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who worked so hard to make this year a success, including our wonderful Wavell Tutors, Mrs Sword and Mrs Galletley, Mr Cunningham and his Finance team and the amazing ESS team. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Wavell House Prefects, Tarah, Bethan and Charlotte and to Caitlin Yool, our Senior Monitor. They have been an impressive team throughout this year and have worked tirelessly in support of our girls.

Finally it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Taylor as our Assistant Housemistress this year. Miss Taylor has held this role for two fantastic years during which she has carried out her responsibilities with considerable aplomb! Fortunately Miss Taylor will remain with us as a tutor of Wavell and Miss Stinson will take up the post of Assistant Housemistress in Wavell from August 2016. We are very much looking forward to having Miss Stinson as part of our Wavell team.

Miss Appleyard, Wavell Housemistress

Summary of the Year

We started the year off nervous with the responsibility of our new roles within the house, as Head and Deputies and of course Senior Monitor – who runs the world? Girls! ("Beyonce's voice").

This year has been interesting and very memorable from Wavell's wonderful house parties to the brand new furniture around the house. Not to forget the many different social events we have had such as the S3 Trash Fashion show – it is safe to say that we have future designers amongst us!

During Halloween the S6 grasped the opportunity to frighten the rest of the house with chills running down their spines from the sound of the American horror story soundtrack, whilst we jumped out from the dark to scare them – it is safe to say we were just as scared as they were.



Christmas got very icy when the house transformed itself into the very popular movie Frozen which came along with many fun games such as 'Pin the Nose on Olaf' along with lots of extremely loud singing – sorry Charlotte it really is time to 'let it go' about your team losing.

It is sad to think that it has come to the end of our time in Wavell house and no longer will we have to worry about missing Good Morning or having to get those who are late (distant sound of people shouting). It is safe to say that there really is no place like it from the drama to the very different humour we all share.

I would like to end this by saying a massive thank you to Mrs Hiddleston and Miss Apps who have been mothers away from home to us for the past six years. Wavell has been a great part of our life and it will be sadly missed as we move on. Good luck to the next Head and Deputies of Wavell and all the best to the new S6, you'll do a great job! We love all 83 of you and wish you all the best for the future.

Tarah Lynch, Head of Wavell House, Bethan Drummond and Charlotte Barron, Deputy Heads of Wavell House and Caitlin Yool, Senior Monitor





Rugby leavers.

Rugby

1st XV Rugby

This year saw the introduction of a school and club conference system in Scottish rugby. Schools were pitted against those of a similar strength and number base in terms of the ability to send out teams each week. At QVS we found ourselves in the Black conference against the likes of Marr College, St Columba's, Lomond School and Morrisons Academy. To the naked eye, our fixture list had not actually changed a great deal however the fact that there was a league structure introduced a more competitive feel to the season than we have had in the past.

As with every 1st XV at QVS, the players have been together for a very long time, having played rugby with each other most weekends throughout the six or more years they have been at the school. This year though, as a coach, I have encountered a team who do not want to lose and refuse to give up. They were willing to fight for every point in every game. As a group of young men, they were very mature about how they conducted themselves on the pitch whether games were won or lost. That as a trait can be very rare in school boy rugby and it made the coaches' jobs much easier throughout the year.

Our season began with a pre season fixture against Morrisons and Hutchy through in Glasgow. A solid win versus Morrisons and a narrow loss against the home team who were in a higher conference set the season off to a positive start. The first match of the Conference saw us come up against eventual winners St Columbas who beat us in a high scoring match which caught us a little off guard. Wins against Lomond, Jordanhill, Carrick, Wellington and a Strathallan team followed before the boys narrowly lost out to Marr College in some of the worst conditions possible in Scotland. Next up was one of the highlights of the year for me as coach, a 75 point win against local rivals Morrisons Academy. Bragging rights to remain in Dunblane for another year.

Naturally the boys were full of confidence going into the National plate competition where we made the quarter final beating a very good Salerno/Currie High team on the way. In the quarter, we lost out to the eventual winners North Berwick High School 36 - 33, coming back from a big half time deficit. Needless to say if the game had gone on for another five minutes we would have made it through to the final rounds. Sport can be a cruel mistress, however to say I was proud of the boys would be an understatement. In any game they went into, they were always physically smaller than their opponents but they never shirked the confrontation and more often than not came out on top. If any team was to beat us, they had to play us off the park which over the course of the season rarely happened.

The team was led by Kyle Rowe, who for the second year in a row represented Caledonia U18 in the inter district Championship. Whilst many of the squad will depart school this year, the U16 squad who are graduating into senior rugby have shown more than enough talent and ability to ensure that rugby within our school is strong and continues to grow.

From myself, I must thank all of the staff who have helped to facilitate the ability for us to field teams each week. Without you all we would not be able to fulfil our list of fixtures. For those who are leaving, thank you for all of your hard work over the last 12 months. For those who are making the step up, continue to work over the holiday period and I look forward to welcoming you back in August.

Niall Lear

This rugby season has been one of the most enjoyable I have been involved in as a player and captain. Although there have been many



Top to bottom; 1st XV Rugby; P7 Rugby.

ups and downs throughout the season, the hard work, commitment and determination has always followed. The constant development of the basic skills has made us better players but most of all we can trust in one another abilities.

The season started with a game against St Columba's although we lost, we showed in passages of play and little periods of the game what we are capable of and that we can beat any team. This then gave the whole belief that we can do great things this season. This was shown in round two of the national plate against Balerno High School. The effort from each and every player was admirable. Tries

were coming left right and centre from both teams but in the end we proved too strong winning 37-35. One of the closest games I have ever played.

From this game, wins and great performances followed us wherever we went. We were entered into the national plate competition where we were up against North Berwick High School. We were entering the game very confident but right from the word go, the whole team froze and we allowed them to score five unanswered tries in the first half. In the second half we shown what we were capable of. Scoring over six tries in the second half, showed everyone that we weren't push overs.



We trusted in each other and everyone's own abilities, however this was not enough and the game ended 39-36 to North Berwick. Although we lost, we showed that when we play to our potential we can beat anyone on our day.

Playing Morrisons Academy in our final game of the season was a very memorable moment. They have always been our rivals and the games have always been hard fought and full of excitement. I can vouch for all S6 leavers that beating Morrisons is one of the best feelings. Over the years they have always been our bogey team but from the development and dedication from the players they couldn't handle us this season.

On the whole it has been an incredible season for the 1st XV. A number of boys from the under 16 squad made the step up and they did not disappoint. They grew into their roles very well over the season and this gives Mr Lear and the coaching staff confidence moving forward into next season.

As a player, I have been honoured playing alongside this lot for the past seven years. Seeing everyone improve and develop skills has made me proud to play along side them. Playing to the final whistle and never giving up is what has been embedded in this team. It was great to see players returning to the rugby field for their last year and they were a great addition to the squad. For everyone staying next year, good luck and we wish you all the best. For those who are leaving, we are sad to be leaving and the 1st XV will be missed. For all players leaving or staying, you can hold your heads up high knowing that you have been part of something very special and Queen Victoria School.

Kyle Rowe, Captain

U16s Rugby

This year, on paper, the team looked extremely promising with many of the fifth years being eligible to play for the U16s due to their date of birth. Although this was frustrating for some of them who were championing at the bit to play for the 1st XV, I was selfishly delighted as they are all quality players. We started our season with a triangular match against Morrisons and Hutchy, which was a useful way of seeing who was in form for the upend coming Conference matches. I think it was plain to see that many of the players had made the most of the off season and had literally rested for most of it as we had lost our fitness which we paid for against Morrisons. Then came our first



Conference match which we were all excited about and knew that St Columbas would be formidable opposition. It was a tough, hard game up front but the forwards managed to secure enough ball for the backs to attack with. What was clear though was that we were too predictable going forward which became a bit of theme throughout the season. What was impressive was our defence. Time and time again Sam King, Lloyd Owen, Arras Mathieson and Robbie Hope closed down the opposition quickly and often turned over possession. One of the tries came out of the top draw with Lennox Baselala sprinting down the wing, chipping it over the defence, collecting it and diving over the line. It was a well earned draw at the end 19-19 but lessons had to be learned when we lost players through ill discipline. Our next Conference game was against Lenzie, a team that we had not played and were therefore an unknown quantity. Although we won convincingly (38-19) it was obvious that they will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. At the end of September we had our first round game of the Plate against Kemnay Academy and although we won 72-0 we were able to work on a few of our weaknesses which would help us in future games. We then went on to play Morrisons (0-24), Carrick (60-5), Marr (24-5), Jordanhill (34-19) and Lomond (12-39) in the Conference finishing fourth overall in a competitive and well fought league. However it did progressively get harder for the team as players came of age and quite rightly moved up to the 1st XV. This in turn though gave other younger players a chance to shine which they did, namely, Josh King, Cameron Crawford and Cameron Taylor.

Our Plate run continued with wins over Boroughmuir and Lasswade but ended on the back pitches of Murrayfield in the 1/4 finals against a very well drilled and fit Kelso side. They deservedly went on to win the competition.

The second half of the season was a wash out with games being cancelled here there and everywhere. Normally we would lose matches through frost or snow but it was the constant rain that made the pitches unplayable. In the end we played against Marr with an U15 side and beat them which was a major upset as they were the Conference winners at that level, we beat Wellington away with a sound performance from Roddy Watson and Arras Mathieson on a very wet and muddy surface down in Troon. Our last game was against Morrisons and we had a real chance to finish the season on a high. The first half was tight and the team worked well to create space and we often got in behind their defence. However Morrisons ability to ruck effectively and secure ball at the break down eventually led to them scoring well earned tries in the leather part of the game.



As seasons go, the high points greatly outnumbered the low ones, however the low ones were some of the most frustrating I have encountered in my 27 years of teaching. At times, players refused to take responsibility for their actions and lacked resilience when the going got tough. This is an area that we will focus on next year as it had an impact at crucial times throughout the season. Every player that represented the school at this level has a lot of potential and brings something to the table, whether it is Roddy Watson's pure tenacity on the ball, Sam King's work rate, Lloyd Owen's passion and focus, Fraser Arnott's confidence in the mid-field or Sam Drummond's dogged determination to improve. Thank you to all of the players in the squad, who, week in, week out, train in all weathers and get up early on a Saturday morning to represent their School. To the talented boys who move up to the senior squad next year, good luck and take it easy on them and to next years U16's, stay fit over the summer, it is your responsibility!

Mr McLay, Teacher i/c U16's

This season was the most competitive we have experienced yet as we were introduced into a conference league. This produced more challenges to overcome for all the players. Not only were they battling it out to make the starting team week in week out; but they were playing competitive games in our league. The team wouldn't earn anything for winning the Conference, but as we see other schools fairly often; the winner would have bragging rights. Though, when the season started, we all had our eyes on a much bigger prize; the

national Plate. After the previous seasons semi-final ending with QVS being taught a valuable lesson, the team was not planning on a repeat of the crushing defeat.

The season started away at St Columba's which was drawn 19-19; a game which the team should of won and which ended up costing us second place in the late stages in the Conference. Our first home game of the Conference was against Morrisons; a team who we play often every year and a team we could call the local derby. They unfortunately walked over us; beat by a better side on the day, a side that went on to be unbeaten all season and win the Conference. This match really disheartened the team, as we started off well with winning our second game against Lenzie, 38-19. With three games played and not a very successful win to game ratio; we knew we had to change things... We trained hard, focused on aspects of the game that needed fixed and strengthened our weaknesses. In doing so, we were soon rewarded in the preliminary round of the national plate beating Aberdeen 72-0. We then went on to beat Lasswade High 45-5, and Boroughmuir 31-0; thereby increasing our hopes of a good run in the Plate Competition. Between the Cup, we were determined on doing well in the Conference. The 28th of November was going to be our last game before the Quarter-final. A match against a strong Lomond side that would hopefully set us up well for the tie against Kelso High School, a team we had never played, so we had no way of knowing how they played. Even with the team spirits high, the team were smashed 39-12 with ill discipline due to poor focus and failure to manage emotions when under pressure. The team's morale was low after the game and we needed to go back to the

drawing board and work on the basics.

After a long Christmas break it would be fair to say that the team were well rested and on Saturday the 9th of January we took a bus journey to Murrayfield for the 1/4 final of the Plate. The team were missing four valuable players for a variety of reasons but were still confident that they could take Kelso on. From the second the whistle blew, Kelso seized every opportunity to punish us. With poor control around the breakdown, Kelso turned-over the ball countless times and ran through our defensive line with ease. With the match ending 72-3 to Kelso, the only points we managed to put on the board were a converted penalty. With a quiet bus trip back to school; we knew that not only had the team let the school down but we let ourselves down.

Due to bad weather, not many games were played in the second-half of the year. Though, another shot at redemption was awarded to the team after another match against Morrisons Academy was arranged for the day before we broke up for the Easter holidays. After the early season defeat, we wanted to take the last chance we had as a team to win. At half-time, the score line portrayed a close game to come. The team started well, but the team talk at half time showed that this was not going to be a walk in the park. Unfortunately, Morrisons came out fighting harder than we did and we lost the match by a couple tries. Special shout out to Joshua Beard who scored his first QV career try.

Morgan Leatherbarrow and Roderick Watson

U15 Rugby

The under 15 squad has had a very hard working season with its ups and downs but thanks to our captain (Craig Duncan) and our team leaders (Josh King, Cameron Taylor, Cameron Crawford).

After last years "interesting" performances we had decided that we had been embarrassed enough and this was proved against Marr where the team put in a great effort especially when we held Marr on our line for no shorter than five minutes. A shout out goes to Cameron Taylor with his unbelievable off loads which set up both Josh King and Shafal Dura. Our team managed to beat the leading team in the table due to cooperation and determination.

Another show of determination and resilience was when our team played Morrisons. We recently lost against them and we weren't going to get beat again. We started slow which led to us conceding two tries. After a motivational speech for Josh King our team came back strong with Treshing Gurung scoring his first try. Even though we had lost that game. Morrison's now know that we aren't a team that they can beat easily.

Special mentions go to Henry Aldwinkle for the most improved player of the season.

We are looking forward to our next season as the under 16 team.

S2 Rugby

There is no doubt that the boys have experienced a number of highs and lows this year and I am sure the boys will agree it has, at times, felt like a long, tough season. The attitude and commitment of the squad has either been outstanding or sadly lacking and thus results have really fluctuated somewhat. Initially the squad started the year with a small nucleus of positive, hardworking, self-disciplined players,

but as the year has progressed, the number of boys 'buying into' what was required and expected has grown and thus the performances have continued to improve. This year has been about progress rather than perfection. Whilst most will probably measure the success of the season by number of wins and losses, I tend to take a more pragmatic view and assess success by personal and team development. I look at how the boys performed in games and during training sessions and what qualities developed during the season. We can not hide from the fact we conceded more tries than we scored, but what we can say is that, especially towards the end of the season, the boys showed great character and determination, often punching above their weight, to make it as difficult for the opposition to score. We made the teams earn the right to score, rather than hand the game to them, and for that I am immensely proud of the boys. When we had the ball and played with focus the boys attacked in a structured and aggressive manner. The camaraderie and team spirit certainly developed as the season progressed. The boys started to lead and support one another and thus promoted their own high standards when executing skills and promoting a positive mind set across the squad.

Special mention must go to Rhys and Ross for their immense effort and commitment throughout the season. Their positive attitude and high expectations certainly had a huge impact on the team. Other boys started to perform and train with a similar attitude and the nucleus of players displaying these essential characteristics grew and the season continued. The team trained with enthusiasm and set themselves standards that any 1st XV would be proud of. Camaraderie and team spirit were key to the success of this team.

Both individual and team skills sets developed and the boys should be justifiably proud. When the boys were firing on all cylinders they attacked with confidence, speed and agility and cut holes in defences that Jason Robinson would have been proud of (I know I'm showing my age!). The boys performed well against Hutchinson Grammar and started to gel as a team, with great individual moments of pure pace and skill displayed from Cameron and Alex.

With a gritty determination and great team spirit, the boys produced one of the best performances of the year against St Columbus, to grind out a 28-21 victory, whilst taking on the annual Scottish winter elements. The boys should be immensely proud of the manner in which they won the game.

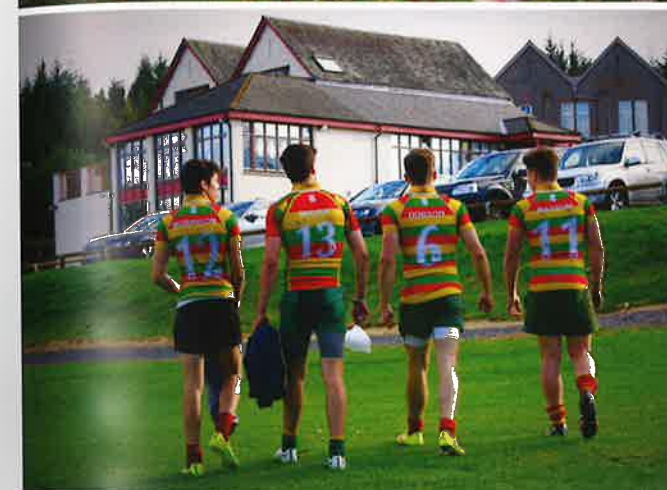
The boys should be justifiably proud of the improvements they have made during the season and I hope they take on board what they have learnt and experienced to help them prepare for senior rugby. Confidence is everything in life, let alone in rugby and I hope the boys look back with immense pride as they reflect on how they have developed as individuals and a team this season.

Well done to all of the boys!

Mr Adams, Rhys Owen and Ross Merrick

S1 Rugby

The S1 rugby season started off quite hard with pretty much every game ending with a loss. Even though most of the team were putting in effort, we still didn't come back from a match with a win which made us all a little disappointed with ourselves. But the time came where we finally won a match which boosted our spirits. I remember one of our hardest games was against Glasgow High and we lost by about nine tries even though Daniel Thompson scored a try for us.



Throughout the year S1 rugby season there were a few players that stood out so here's some honourable mentions to Daniel Thompson, Rajeb Thapa, Thomas Main, Jake Leatherbarrow, Stuart Brown, Amina Caquasau, Aminio Bogidrau, Shabasish Gurung, Callum Muirhead for being the best kicker in the year and never missing a conversion and Nathan Conway. We would also like to thank Mr Bryce for being a great coach he has helped the team a lot with especially with the fitness side of the team. S1 also had a sevens tournament which was a good experience for us. We lost our first game of sevens by a conversion but the next game turned out better. We won with two tries from Thomas Main and a try from Rajeb Thapa and Aminio Bogidrau the scores were close and we probably would have lost without a try saving tackle from William Sanmani. Although the matches throughout the year weren't the best, our team got a lot stronger and we have worked more as a group and we hope to keep this up next year. Also, I think this year has also been influential, because we came against a lot of harder opposition, which truly pushed our squad to the limit. The games we won, got us hyped and got us believing that we could do anything: especially against the hard teams. The losses taught us what we had to improve and we used the experience to develop. We have really enjoyed learning new skills and making brand new partnerships with new members and look forward to another season next year.

Jake Leatherbarrow and Tom Main, S1

P7 Rugby

This season was good and bad depending how you looked at it. Despite the fact that most of our year group came to school having

never touched a rugby ball we all had a great time learning and playing. The first few weeks we had a lot of sessions where we learnt to pass and tackle. We practiced until Mr Bush thought we were ready. The following Saturday, Mr Bush woke all the P7 boys for an early breakfast and all the boys were excited. When we got there we had to do a quick warm up before the first game. The first game was alright everyone did their best and Mr Bush was encouraging us from the side lines. In the end the score came to 1-0 to them but at least it wasn't a bad result. On the second match it was against Morrisons and they were a good team. We tried our best and so did they; then in the end the score came to 2-2 and we were all excited that we didn't lose but that we got our first draw. Our best games were against Wellington and Carrick. Our Wellington game was an away match and we were also with the S5. It was a cloudy, muddy day but we could still play. Again we also had to do a warm up but this time our coach was Mr Bryce. Our first half was alright because we were winning 5-2 and the try's came from Subhaashish, Shameer, Ben and two more from Amina. Further into the second half the P7 defence started to break down but then finished with 8-5. Our Carrick match was also an away match and our coach was Mr Bush. Carrick was a mix of P7 and P6 but overall they were a good team but not good enough for our P7 team because in the end the score came to 6-1 and the try's came from Subhaashish, Jaheem, two from Aminio and two more from Amina. We are looking forward to playing in S1 and hopefully we can get more wins so if we all try we can beat most teams.

Subhaashish Gurung and Amina Caquasau



Athletics

QVS v Wellington v Lomond

30th April 2016

We kicked off the athletics season with a match against Wellington and Lomond at the Ayr Athletics Arena. The first fixture is always a little daunting for our pupils, especially those who have not competed in a stadium on a synthetic track before. However, it is always a good marker of how they are performing against other pupils of the same age.

There were many early season personal bests set on the day with lots of QVS pupils winning in their respective disciplines. This was an excellent morning, which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

QVS v HGS v TGA v St A

7th May 2015

Our second match saw us travel to Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow. The pupils were very excited when they saw the eight lane synthetic track. We were competing against Hutchesons' Grammar School, The Glasgow Academy and St Aloysius. We had five teams competing across the S1, S2 and S3 year groups for both boys and girls.

There were lots of personal bests broken, especially on the track where the pupils found it much easier to run than on the grass back at QVS.

Winning Performances

Aminio Bogidrau	75m Hurdles	15.50
Thomas Main	100m	13.39
Pratistha Khawas	Javelin	17.26m
Rhys Owen	200m	25.46

Alex Malcolm	Triple Jump	10.41m
Alex Malcolm	Javelin	30.7m
Josh King	Discus	25.65m

QVS v Hutchesons' Grammar v Wellington v St Columbas

14th May 2016

The following weekend was away at Hutchesons' Grammar again, however, this time we had three teams of S1, S2 and S3 boys. There were some fantastic performances at this meet with many first places.

Winning Performances S3

Henry Aldwinckle	100m	12.38
Luke Thomson	200m	26.22
Josh King	1500m	4.58
Morgan Leatherbarrow S4	High Jump	1.72m
Morgan Leatherbarrow S4	Long Jump	5.29m

Winning Performances S1

Matthew Berry	300m	50.16
Aminio Bogidrau	75m Hurdles	15.76
Marc Barber	Javelin	18.80m

Winning Performances S2

Rhys Owen	100m	12.15
Rhys Owen	200m	24.7
Rhys Owen	200m	25.8
Ross Merrick	200m	25.8
Daniel Thomson	400m	63.0
Connor Kirkwood	400m	64.0
Alex Malcolm	Javelin	33.47m
Rhys Owen	Long Jump	4.85m
Alex Malcolm	Triple Jump	10.24m



QVS v Lathallan

6th June 2016

Our next match was the return meet at Lathallan, near Montrose. We left school at 11.15 for a 13.30 start and hoped the pupils would not be too tired when they eventually got off the bus. We had the P7, S1 and S2 boys teams and P7 and S1 girls teams competing against Lathallan's equivalent in Hurdles, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Shot Putt and Relays. We had great success at this event, winning the P7 and S2 competition and narrowly being beaten in the S1 age group, however, winning overall.

Winning Performances

Leoni Gallagher	High Jump	1.15m
Holly Scott	800m	3.14
Subhaashish Gurung	800m	3.00
Millie MacDonald	100m	16.0
Abbey Whitehouse	Shot Putt	6.20m
Holly Scott	400m	85.2
Ben Rigby	400m	80.6
Millie MacDonald	200m	35.9
Matthew Berry	200m	32.2
Ross Merrick	High Jump	1.45m
Connor Kirkwood	800m	2.42
Alex Malcolm	Javelin	30.21m
Rhys Owen	100m	12.4
Connor Kirkwood	400m	67.6
Ross Merrick	200m	27.2
Rajeb Thapa	High Jump	1.23m
Jake Leatherbarrow	800m	3.02
Rajeb Thapa	100m	14.0
Sam Raikaroka	Long Jump	4.12m
Leanne Myles	Shot Putt	6.47m
Duncan Hughson	Shot Putt	9.19m

Josh Powell-Leonard	400m	75.5
Rajeb Thapa	200m	32.1

QVS v Strathallan v Dollar

9th June 2015

Our next match was held at Strathallan on a Thursday evening after school. We had U13, U14 boys and girls and U15 boys competing in a vast number of disciplines. As always the Strathallan staff ensured this was a great day and again our pupils excelled in many of the events they were competing in.

Winning Performances

Amena Casquau	High Jump	1.25m
Marc Barber	Javelin	29.9m
Ross Merrick	200m	26.1
Cameron Crawford	Shot Putt	10.50m
U15 Boys	4 x 100m Relay	51.5
Olivia Oatley	800m	2.56
Holly Scott	1500m	6.11
U14 Girls	4 x 100m Relay	63.6

Stirling Schools Secondary Schools' Track and Field Competition

Wednesday 4th May

2016 saw the return of the Stirling Schools Secondary Schools' Track and Field competition. This is to replace the Forth Valley competition which has not run now for several years. Active Stirling organised this event so that pupils in the Stirling area could come together and compete for their respective schools. Although there were no team prizes, this was a great opportunity for our pupils to set new PBs and compete against the best athletes from the other schools in our area. Some notable performances from this event:



Pupil	Event	Position
Rhys Owen	100m	2nd
Cameron Crawford	100m	3rd
Ross Merrick	200m	1st
Henry Aldwinckle	200m	1st
Olivia Oatley	800m	3rd
Thomas Main	800m	2nd
Josh King	1500m	3rd
S2 Boys and S3 Boys	4 x 100m Relay	1st

Stirling Primary Schools' Track and Field Championships

Wednesday 27th May

Ten of our Primary 7 pupils ventured down to Stirling University to compete in the annual Stirling Schools event. This year saw 32 schools from the Region in attendance. Each team was made up of five athletes who were only allowed to compete in one event plus the 5 x 80m relay. We did remarkably well this year with Amena Casquau winning a bronze medal in the 80m sprint. Queen Victoria School came third overall in this event which is excellent considering the number of pupils we have in each year group. Well done to all those who participated.

Pupil	Event	Position
Amena Casquau	80m	3rd
Jaheem Thomas	150m	5th
Subhaashish Gurung	600m	9th
Matthew Berry	Long Jump	6th
Aminio Bogidrau	Javelin	4th
Millie MacDonald	80m	9th
Mirren Wood	150m	21st
Leoni Gallagher	600m	5th

Irena Watson	Long Jump	5th
Abbey Whitehouse	Javelin	7th

Scottish Schools' Athletics Championships.

Grangemouth 11th/12th June

This year again we took nine athletes to compete in the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships with them competing in 12 events overall. The competition runs over two days; Friday and Saturday the 10th/11th June. Unfortunately the weather was not great on either day and Grangemouth can be a pretty dismal stadium when it is raining. However, the athletes did well to cope with the cold conditions.

Our athletes competed extremely well over the two days with Josh King winning a silver medal in Discus and Alex Malcolm coming fourth in Javelin. Very well done to both boys.

Scottish Schools Competitors

Daniel Thomson	100m
Sophie Murphy	Discus
Rhys Owen	100m and 200m
Alex Malcolm	Javelin and Long Jump
Josh King	Discus
Morgan Leatherbarrow	High Jump
Cameron Taylor	Javelin
Luke Thompson	200m
Cameron Crawford	100m and Shot Putt

J Scott Laing



Athletics.

Football

As Captain of the 1st 11 football squad, I have to say that the squad has been a joy to work with. A special thanks to Mr Warner who never failed to keep our positivity up during training and games. The squad this year has been as strong as it has ever been since I have been at the school. Everyone plays a key role in making sure the team runs smoothly. Although at times players make stupid decisions we always back each other up. We had another great season reaching the quarter finals of the SISFA cup where we played St Aloysius. We sadly lost the game 8-6 even though we took the game to extra time. 120 minutes of football was played that day and

we were massive underdogs. But the boys showed class on the ball, determination and resilience throughout the game which was admirable. Myself and James Work were selected for Scotland to play against England. I have been honoured to play with this team and watch them grow as players over the past few years. Good luck to everyone who is staying and also to the boys making the step up to the 1st 11. Good luck to everyone leaving this year in whatever you choose to do. Well done to all who Represented QV in the 1st 11.

Kyle Rowe



Sports Day

Friday 17th June 2016

The final event in the inter-house competition at QVS is always sports day. We have been spoiled in recent years with the weather and sooner or later the rain had to come. However, it didn't dampen spirits and in fact the pupils barely seemed to notice the drizzle at all. This year we had the pleasure of welcoming Jamie Bowie; Scottish and GB Internationalist in both the 400m and 4x400m relay. Jamie was part of the Scottish team in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and for the past five years has been the fastest Scot over 400m. It was a real privilege to have Jamie at sports day and it was very much appreciated by the pupils and staff alike.

On the stroke of 1400 the pupils were geared up and raring to compete for their house team; Liddell, Ormond or Bannerman. Unfortunately we had to cancel the hurdles event due to the fact that the track was wet and, therefore, too slippery to do this event. The first event on the track, therefore, was the 800m, which was hotly contested at all three age groups. There were many excellent performances and the determination of the pupils this year was probably the best I have seen for many years. The competition was fierce, particularly in the Senior Boys events where every single race was hotly contested. The place judges certainly had to be on their toes in the 100m and 200m which were both extremely close. Kyle Rowe had the edge on Lennox Baselala in the 100m with a time of 11.91, giving Bannerman first and second places. Lennox got his own

back in the 200m, narrowly beating Lewis Young with a time of 25.46. In addition there were several sports day records broken this year, which is great to see.

New Record Holder	Event	Old/New Record
Josh King	Intermediate Boys' Discus	28.80m/31.60m
Henry Aldwinckle	Intermediate Boys' High Jump	1.64m/1.65m
Anais Scott	Senior Girls' 300m	54.1/49.97
Sophie Tytek	Senior Girls' High Jump	1.30m/1.33m
Olivia Williams	Senior Girls' 100m	14.13/14.09

As the day progressed it was obvious that it was going to be a very tight competition, particularly at the senior level. After all of the points were totalled up by our extremely efficient scorers, allegedly led by Mr Beattie but actually led by Miss Taylor the final results were:

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

Congratulations to all pupils for a fantastic level of effort.

J Scott Laing





Berlin 2015

This year's Modern Languages Trip was a visit to Berlin. We left the school in the wee hours of Friday 4th December and returned on Monday 7th December, getting back to QVS in time for Mr Kirk and the S6 boys to entertain with their Panto at the Cunningham Christmas Party!

The main aim of the trip is to provide a cultural experience for pupils, and allow them the chance to practice their language skills – they were great translators for me (although thanks to lessons from Rike, our wonderful German assistant, I did manage to order myself some coffee after our 4am start!)

We were delighted with our stay at the Aletto Hostel which is centrally located next to one of many beautiful Christmas markets, or weihnachtsmarks, and a short walk from Ka De We, a famous German department store which gathered many euros from the QVS group! As our trip coincided with that of a German school, our pupils were invited to a German disco on the Saturday night, and many of them took the chance to bust some moves and learn what looked like the German version of the Macarena! Mrs Morea's fabulous itinerary

booklets allowed us to get the most out of our stay, and allowed us to cram in visits to as many markets as possible. Mrs Rankin's pocket money system meant that everyone went home with heavier suitcases, and lots of wrapping to do after they shopped till they dropped!

The group also visited the Topography of Terror and the Jewish museum, where we were lucky enough to have some fantastic tour guides who taught us a lot about German history. Our visit to the TV tower, Fernsehturm de Berlin, tested some nerves as we travelled to the top in a high speed lift, which took us to the 203 metre high viewing platform in 40 seconds. This was too tame for Ryan, Georgia and Kirsty-Jane who later that day braved a 90 metre drop ride at the last market of the trip! All in all, Berlin 2015 was a great success! Many thanks to our pupils, who were great representatives of the school, to their parents, who dealt with all the trip admin, and to the accompanying staff who made it all possible.

Laura McLikenny





Glasgow

This year, the Higher class took to the streets of Glasgow to complete an urban study in preparation for their assignments. Through the heavy rain, the Higher class managed to stop members of the public to complete questionnaires on the busy Buchanan and Argyle streets. Clipboards in one hand, umbrellas in the other, the class took on the challenge of completing land use transects in the Gorbals and taking a tour of Merchant city.

The new National 5 class stayed close to home completing their field work on the contentious Park of Keir project located just outside Dunblane. On one of the hottest days of the year, pupils carried out a range of gathering techniques including field sketches, traffic counts and questionnaires. It was a successful field trip and the data gathered can now be used for their National 5 assignments.

Paris

Here's a fun fact – the 2016 QVS trip to Paris took place during the wettest May Paris has seen since 1882! While our 26 pupils and four staff members were buying waterproof Parisian ponchos (even Mr Lear rocked this look!) and umbrellas, and the sun cream stayed untouched in our suitcases. Those left back at QV perfected their lobster looks after days of high temperatures and sunshine!

Despite the awful weather, the trip was a great success due to a combination of factors, all based on my (biased) opinion; Paris is a wonderful city, the staff who helped to run the trip were amazing, but mostly, the pupils on the trip were absolute stars, who plodded on regardless of the wind and rain, usually with a smile on their faces, making the best out of every situation. I hope that this attitude will continue with them throughout their lives, as they were a joy to be around.

The trip involved visits to many of the sights of Paris including the Eiffel Tower, the Sacré Coeur, the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe, as well as a visit to Eurodisney. We also spent a morning shopping at Châtelet les Halles, a last-minute plan made to keep out of the rain, which turned out to be a highlight for some (look out for Mr Lear's new trainers!), although unfortunately Mr Bryce couldn't be convinced to buy a backpack, and let the female staff carry all the necessities for the duration of our trip in Paris!

There was more rain-made adventure when the skies opened during our walk (which made up part of the 20km we walked most days!) from Princess Diana's memorial at the Pont d'Alma to the Champs-

Élysées, via Place de la Concorde. After seeing the sights from the river Seine on our Bateaux-Mouches boat cruise, we took a detour on our walk to find a café in which we could dry off. We ended up being interviewed by the French police before being allowed to walk up Rue de Faubourg Saint-Honoré, past the Palais de l'Élysée, home of the French President, which was all very exciting!

Thanks to the rain, we had the quickest ever visit to the Eiffel Tower, avoiding all the queues that would normally be involved in getting 30 people to the top and down; it took about 1.5 hours, but a relatively small amount of this time was spent queueing which made for a pleasant visit. Eurodisney was great fun, and the 'Celebrate the Magic' Parade song is still stuck in everyone's head (probably because Miss McBlain and Miss McKenny didn't stop singing it for several days after the trip finished!) We were lucky enough to meet some lovely Parisians on the trip, who really helped make the trip more special, and all of the pupils had the opportunity to speak French in a real-life setting, which hopefully will give more meaning to what they learn in class.

I would like to say a huge thanks to Mr Lear, Mr Bryce, the mathematical genius that is Miss McBlain, and to all the staff involved who helped in some way with the preparation of the trip. Thanks also to all the parents of pupils on the trip for putting up with my numerous emails, and to the pupils themselves; so many people on the trip commented on how well behaved they all were – they really are a great credit to their families and to QVS.



Activity Day.



Roslyn Chapel.





S3 Trip to New Lanark

In December the S3 History and Modern Studies classes visited New Lanark Mill. The trip gave pupils the opportunity to see at first hand how technology made improvement in the textile factories in the eighteenth century. It also allowed pupils to learn about Robert Owen, who had a different approach to other owners, on running a factory.

Robert Owen believed in building a community and that he would get more out of his workers if they had proper housing, access to fresh food and were not physically punished. He also believed that children should be children and allowed to play and have an education rather than work. Our tour around New Lanark Mill included seeing inside the houses that workers lived in, the factory floor where the wool was woven and inside the shop where you can still buy sweets and chocolate today – a big hit with us!

Probably the best part of the day was going into the old school. We were allowed to dress up in old school uniforms – very trendy – not!, and write on the slate boards. There was an old blackboard and map as well as a pedestal where we pretended to be the class teachers. There were also some old toys that we could play with, including hoop rolling, which Mr Wright remembered playing with when he was a wee boy! We also got to go on a ride which took us on a journey through a typical day of a child growing up in New Lanark.

New Lanark is still a working mill and workers can still live on site in the houses showing that Robert Owen's vision for community living is still relevant today.

Thanks to Mrs Rodger, Mr Wright, Miss Reynolds and Thomas for taking us there.

S3 RMPS Field Trip to Garnethill Synagogue in Glasgow

On Monday 4th May "the magnificent seven" set out, attracted by the city lights of Glasgow. The purpose of the trip was to visit the oldest surviving Synagogue within the city of Glasgow.

Having selected Judaism as their chosen World Religion, we were delighted to be welcomed into the Jewish Archive which is situated underneath the Synagogue. It was fascinating to discover something of the history of the Jewish People of Scotland and to be led round the archive by Fiona, who was such a helpful guide, who informed us about Jewish custom and belief from a personal perspective.

As you can see from the picture, the boys had to wear the kippah

within the Synagogue as a mark of respect – we quickly discovered that it was not always easy to balance it on your head!

Despite the cold, both inside and outside the building, we had a most enjoyable tour which lasted for nearly two hours, before emerging into the light of day again.

We are grateful to Miss Lees, our temporary teacher of Geography, who met us in Glasgow and joined us on the trip.

SHALOM!

S3 RMPS Class



S2 Social Subjects Trip – Secret Bunker and St Andrews April 2016

The focus in History this term has been the Cold War so to give the pupils first hand experience of what it was like to grow up under the threat of a nuclear attack, we headed to the Secret Bunker in Fife. The Bunker is hidden beneath a farmhouse 100 feet underground and is the size of two football pitches. It was built to help safeguard Scotland during the Cold War, decommissioned in the late 1980s and opened to the public in 1994.

We had a tour of the bunker and learnt how the country would be run if we were under attack. There was the command centre, office areas, dormitories, a chapel and even a café for workers to socialise in. We were then allowed to explore the bunker and had fun getting into character of the people who worked there. It was a great experience

and really brought to life how real the threat of war was during the tension of the Cold War.

We then headed to St Andrews and had a walking tour of the town, ably led by Mr Boyd. We followed the coastal path looking at the erosion, walked round the ruins of the Cathedral and headed to Parliament Hall and the Divinity faculty of the University. The rain scuppered our plans for a walk on the beach but we still managed an ice-cream (Mrs Rodger & Miss Lees) or cake (Mr Boyd and Mrs O'Neill), or fast food of some description (all of S2!).

Mrs Rodger



Retro Research!

S2 and S3 History classes have spent time in the library improving their research skills. As part of their investigations into Scottish Inventors (S2) and Scots who have made a significant impact (S3) pupils went to the library to find information from a book, yes that's right, a book!!

Pupils were shown how to use the reference section of the library and spent time pouring over encyclopedias, biographies and non-fiction texts. Although, at first a little perplexed as to why 'google' could not do the job, the pupils soon got absorbed in

looking through the different books available. Ably assisted by Librarian Mrs Sheerin, all pupils successfully found information to help complete their investigations and noted the books in their bibliography.

Pupils were allowed to use their iPads in class to find further information, but now they also have the ability to research – retro style!

Mrs Rodger

IDL Comes to Social Subjects

In February all of S3 took part in an Inter-disciplinary Learning project led by the Social Subjects department. To ensure all pupils experienced the breadth of education under Curriculum for Excellence, the department worked on an activity which gave pupils an opportunity to learn new content and develop their skills.

Our topic was Trade, and the pupils completed four workshops, each one lead by a different member of staff. Mr Boyd focused on ethical trading, Miss Lees looked at food products and their country of origin, Mrs Rodger concentrated on the origins of the Slave Trade and origin, Mrs O'Neill highlighted the impact of the links with the empire and Mrs O'Neill highlighted the impact of modern day slavery. Each of the workshops had a different activity which focused on a different skill. Over the four workshops, pupils developed their communication, teamwork, leadership and source handling skills.

After the workshops, we all gathered in the chapel to hear a presentation from the One World Shop. Rachel Farey spoke about Fair-trade and how purchasing Fair-trade products makes a

difference. She informed us about a project in Nepal. A paper factory has been built in a rural community, providing jobs for parents and the opportunity for education for the children. Pupils then had the opportunity to purchase Fair-trade goods from the wide selection which she brought with her.

The pupil feedback was really positive. They enjoyed working with different groups of their peers and moving between the workshops and staff. Delivering this project over the course of a morning also made it more memorable as it was a different learning environment.

I would like to thank my team – Mr Boyd, Miss Lees and Mrs O'Neill – for all their work on this project; from their enthusiasm at my first suggestion of an IDL project, to their commitment to creating and resourcing their workshops and to their energetic delivery on the day. A real collaborative approach resulted in effective teaching and learning.

Mrs Rodger



Geography Versus History Christmas Quiz

Team Geography versus team History. It is a story as old as time. A quiz was devised to test not only their Christmas knowledge but their ability to create a Christmas stocking; Lego sleigh and perform a

Christmas rap. Both teams put up a good fight but in the end there had to be a winner.

History was victorious! There is always next year team Geography.



Gift Competition.

Probus Club Visit

Thanks for allowing Caitlin and Ryan to visit the Denny Probus Club. Both of them were a credit to the school, and their visit was greatly appreciated with the members of the club. They were all very interested in hearing about the school, and had a few questions at the end of the presentation which Caitlin and Ryan answered well. The Secretary thanked both of them, and having been a Public Speaking Coach before he retired, he gave them very robust and positive feedback on their presentation. He commented on their confidence, the way they engaged with the audience and he was greatly impressed by their sense of humour which went down very well with the listeners.

I personally thought that they did an excellent job, and I greatly admire their confidence.

Laura Bairner



Holocaust Memorial Day

The 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2016 is 'Don't Stand By'. To mark this, pupils from S2 delivered a presentation in chapel to raise awareness and educate others to prevent genocide happening again. The presentation explained the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day and why it is important to 'Don't Stand By'. All of S2 in history had looked at British Heroes of the Holocaust who had not stood by and in chapel we shared the story of Sir Nicholas Winton. By 1938 the persecution of the Jews meant that many had fled from their homes and were living in refugee camps. Sir Winton wanted to help the children who were caught up in this. He arranged for the safe transportation of Jewish children out of Czechoslovakia and into Britain. He and his team arranged all their travel, covered the costs and found them host families in the UK who would look after the children until they were 18. By the outbreak of

war in September 1939, Sir Winton had rescued 669 children. He did not believe he had done anything extra-ordinary, but he had, he 'didn't stand by'. In class all of S2 learnt that although in the UK we are not facing genocide we all still have a responsibility to be aware of where there is a risk of genocide elsewhere in the world, and to challenge hate crime and persecution here in the UK. Whenever one person stands up and says this is wrong, others will be encouraged. All pupils thought of ways in which we 'Don't stand by'. These were displayed in chapel and incorporated into the presentation.

Thanks to those who delivered a very moving and informative presentation: Mackenzie Berry, Dannii Blythe, Amy Gray, Anna MacPherson, Alexander Malcolm, Christian McBrearty, Ross Merrick, Leanne Myles, James Skinner and Daniel Wight.



Fräulein Rike Hommel

Modern Languages Departments in Scottish schools have been very fortunate for many years in securing the services of Foreign Languages Assistants (FLAs). These young people are an asset to staff teaching Modern Languages and to pupils learning them. Most FLAs are enthusiastic and industrious and bring a different dimension to the classroom.

In QVS we have been especially lucky to have had Fräulein Rike Hommel as our FLA for session 2015/2016. Pupils have found Rike to be an exceptional assistant and have been grateful for her helpful nature, especially when providing feedback for Speaking Test preparations. Her friendliness and understanding of their needs have been recognised and appreciated by pupils and they have welcomed the fact that she is willing to participate enthusiastically in lessons.

Moreover Rike has prepared her own lessons tailored to the requirements of the pupils she deals with.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Rike has helped to produce supplementary materials for senior pupils preparing for SQA exams as well as re-recording monologues and dialogues within the department on specific themes making them more accessible to pupils when they hear them.

Rike has learned a lot about Scotland during her stay in QVS and, from working with pupils, has adopted some Scottish expressions into her vocabulary. One such expression might sum up this special assistant; "She is a wee gem!"

Junior Reward Winners

Good day, we're the Minions
We've come just to say
The Junior rewards
Are still running today

Just click on your P.C
The Link's very cool
And reward all the pupils
Who do well in our school!

Thank You!



Top to bottom: Reward winners - Minion style; Pupils celebrating Junior Reward at Monterey Jack in Stirling.

OV Talk

The talk by Nick Burge and Stuart Ruthven was a great success. Nick and Stuart pitched it perfectly. They really inspired S6 to follow their dreams and aim high. Both boys came to QVS after adversity: Stuart after childhood cancer, Nick after tragically losing his father in a helicopter crash.

They spoke so highly of QVS and the start it gave them in life as well as how opportunities can appear when you least expect them to and sometimes a no can be the best thing to happen to you. S6 appeared transfixed and asked questions and really engaged with the idea that Aspiration is the thing we must all strive hard to maintain in life.

I posted this report below on the OVA Facebook site – as well as a notice about Emma Curtis/Read and also an article Susan Macleod's latest success at Kew Gardens.

There has been a fabulous response to last night's posts and I have had several OVs say that they too would be interested in coming in to share their stories and encourage aspiration amongst the seniors of the school.

It went well and OUR S6 are very keen for there to be more events of this nature.

Particular thanks to Jared and PKay for looking after our guests as the duty Prefects, Caitlin for a great vote of thanks at the end, Jasper and James for taking the guys on a mini tour of their "old home" upstairs and to Nisha, Charlotte, PKay, Connor, Caitlin, Ryan, Mhairi and Sam for asking such great questions at the end of the presentation.

#OwnItEdin15

Thanks to Old Victorians Nick Burge & Stuart Stuart Ruthven for a superb presentation to S6 tonight at school. Aiming for success and following your dreams is exactly the message we want them to take forwards with them once they leave #QVS. They really found it both inspiring and entertaining. Good luck with your Edinburgh gig. ✨

I'd love some more OVs to come in over the Winter and offer some advice, support & inspiration for our departing S6.

Anyone keen to get involved, drop me a line. 📧 ✨ — with Nick Burge and Stuart Ruthven at Queen Victoria School.



They were great ambassadors for the present-day Victorians and our visitors left very impressed and full of praise for the way the school is still preparing its young people for life.

Jill Adams



Rotary Club 2016.



Clockwise top to bottom; Mhari Sibeth, S4 Textile Design; Yancy Gurung, S2 Pen and Ink drawing; Simoon Pun, P7.

Poppy Scotland

I just wanted to thank the pupils who took part in the Tesco collection at the weekend. Their continued commitment to the Poppy Appeal is very much appreciated. We had a very successful campaign raising a fantastic £2,622.

The pupils are a credit to the school. They looked very smart in their ceremonial uniforms and engaged politely with the customers at Tesco. Please thank them on my behalf for the effort they made. Every pupil arrived on time and showed enthusiasm for the task in hand. I want them and the school to know that their dedication did not go unnoticed. All of the members of the British Legion Dunblane commented on how smart the youngsters were and what an impact they had made at the entrance to the store.



Marie Curie.



Rota Kids Planting Poppy Seeds

Rotary International and Queen Victoria School encourage children to help, support and remember others in our society and throughout the world, who are less fortunate than us.

Rota Kids through fundraising, social events and volunteering, are learning valuable life skills as well as becoming responsible citizens.

Ms Edwards with the help of colleagues and the school Interact Group have organised various events this past year for the Rota Kids.

A HUGE THANK YOU from Ms Edwards to everyone who has been a Rota Kid member.



Uganda

Thank you so much to everyone who baked for, donated to and attended last Friday's coffee morning in aid of Uphill Junior School in Uganda

We have raised over £100 from the coffee morning and there's a further £250 or so from the "own clothes day" to come in after the holidays – thank you so so much!

Our target was £300 which was enough money to pay for school desks for everyone in the senior school at Uphill.

The pupils are growing but they are currently sitting sharing junior school size desks – Belinda the Trustee says that they are quite overwhelmed by the kindness of staff and students at QVS for all the

fundraising and so happy to be getting new desks to study hard at for their national exams.

Above are images from Uganda that Belinda sent us – showing the need for new desks, the school Headmaster receiving the cards and letters from QVS students and the Uphill pupils 'waving to us at QVS' all the way from Uganda

Again, thanks so much for supporting the Interact Club – our MAD Group – in their efforts. It's great to see them working together to make something happen and they couldn't do it without your support and encouragement.

Jill Adams and The MAD Team



My First Year at QVS

The first few weeks were tough to get through but my friends and staff help you get through it. You get given a Rookie Keeper who takes you around and generally helps you out. My Rookie Keeper is Caitlin Smith she was a big help. On the first weekend we went to Tesco and had fun activities. It was such a laugh. In P7 you go on loads of great school trips. My favourite was Bannockburn because it was amazing and you had a battle of English vs Scots. We also went on a few tutor trips which were cool. Sharing a room is really fun. It's like a long sleepover that goes on for ages but it does take a wee while to settle in with them but it is fun. There are loads of opportunities here at QVS and they open up loads of doors. My favourite part of the school is hockey. It's awesome. When I'm older I want to play hockey for Scotland. My roommates are Leila, Leah and Nicole in your first year you are either in a two man room or a four man room. I have really enjoyed it at QVS. That's my first year at QVS.

Irena Watson

My first year at QVS has been absolutely amazing! However it was even better for me because Trenchard (the boarding house) had all been refurbished and the beds are really comfy. In our rooms there are also sinks, a little wooden table, wardrobe, a desk with desk lights and two chairs in the middle of the room for you to sit on and relax.

When you are in P7, the Primary Department takes us on trips such as Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Bannockburn Heritage Center, Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Center, Museum on the Mound and Blair Drummond. I loved all the trips! Besides the trips we all did a play called the 'Match Girl's Christmas'. It was really fun and everyone enjoyed learning it!

Also in your free time you can go to the AstroTurf and the playing fields and play hockey, football, rugby, netball and basketball. However you can just sit around and relax outside or inside if you want. If you are inside in your free time you can go to bottom common room and watch the television and relax, go to middle common room and play on the Xbox or play table football, or you can go just outside top common room and watch the television up there and the final thing is if you don't want to do any of that you can just stay in your room and socialise.

Leoni Gallagher

My first day was very frightening. I got a girl to show me around, her name is Mia. Mia is my Rookie Keeper, she showed me to my room and we went around school. The first meal was a little scary too, I didn't know we're to sit but eventually my best friends (Mirren and Nicole) and I all found a table. The dinner hall is always crowded so it can be hard to find a seat.

My friends are all extremely kind and supportive towards me every day we have been here.

When you go on school trips you split into two groups group A (P7A) and group B (P7B). The first trip we went to Edinburgh Castle for information on our topic of Wallace and Bruce! All topics have been very interesting and I loved them very much. The other trips we have been on are Stirling Castle, Glasgow Science Centre and Dynamic Earth, for our topic on Space.

On the weekend we are allowed to go to Tesco or a small shop we all call 'First Shop' because it is the first or nearest shop from the school. The weekends are very fun even on a Parade weekend because we get to go somewhere like swimming, ice skating or bowling something like that.

Those are my favourite parts of P7.

Leah Wight

My first friend was Leoni.
You get to go in a room of 2 or 4.

Firstly we get to go to collect our uniforms and shoes. I have really enjoyed it here for my first year at QVS. Rookie keepers are in S1 and they are the ones who look after you. Some people, like me, have siblings in the school. The good thing is that you can make friends for life.

You always work hard here because there is a lot to do. Everyone is very good at getting along with each other. Art is probably my favorite lesson to do. Reading is a common thing to do as they have a big library.



At QVS you get six hours of school from Monday to Friday. The worst punishment you can get is getting gated.

Megan Clarke

My first year at QVS started when I drove through the school gates. Mum and I walked into the door of my new room. I smelt the freshness and cleanness of the nice bright room. The room itself was very modern and quite nice looking. I then met my friends for life they were so nice to me there names were Leoni and Megan. (Keira was coming later on). These were also my roommates for the year. We have a Rookie Keeper, mine was Megan Adams she helped me collect my shoes and school uniform for the school day afterwards. She also helped with homesickness when my Mum left. After that we had lots of tests and we had lots of trips as well such as Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Glasgow Science Centre and Dynamic Earth. These were all so fun!!

Trenchard is the best house ever and Mr Bush the housemaster is nice. Matron is so nice she helps us with everything. We have been given tutors. Tutors are a member of staff that you can go and talk to. My tutor is Miss Edwards. She is also nice. The next day at school was a very strange day as I walked into the friendly classroom and Mr. King and Miss Low and Miss Edwards were all waiting there. We got put into groups. I am in P7A with my best friend Keira. We have Chapel every morning except for a Saturday. On a Saturday we normally watch a film but you can do some work if you need to. At Christmas time we had a play called The Match Girl's Christmas. This year's Match Girl was Grace Hutchison. I was an angel along with Keira, Megan, Leah, Robyn. The play was about this Christmas play and then you have the Match Girl who is very poor and trying to sell matches but no one cares about her and her father always beats her if she goes home with no money. Then at the end of the play she dies and becomes a beautiful angel. I really enjoyed the play and can't wait to see next years and see who the Match Girl is next year.

Rio Gregory

My first year at Queen Victoria has been amazing and full of activities every day. Most people on the first week were just settling in but the fun soon started as we went to Tesco with our rookies on Saturday after lunch. When school started we were split up into three groups for Social Studies, Maths and English which were Red, blue and green group. We were also put into more groups one being in a four

man room with people you have (probably) never known before and also our tutor groups.

Once we had been there for a few weeks things had begun to get really good, we would go play football after school, we could go to Tesco in three's now and also we were going on trips both with the primary department and also our tutors. Two of our first trips were going to Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle to learn about Wallace and Bruce. Although we were at school from 9am to around 4:30pm it is really enjoyable especially when your learning new subjects like ICT, CDT, drill and PDD (piping, drumming or dancing). Also Trenchard as a house is quite fun because it had just been refurbished in the summer holidays.

Sports this year has been really good fun, we started the year playing rugby and no one had really played it before so it was a bit weird playing for the first couple of games. Then it came to the time of hobbies, there were hundreds of different choices like U15 football to archery or if you wanted to look after some fish! In the summer time we played U13 and U15 football and for games athletics. So far this year has been great and I can't wait to be in S1 and go to Haig or Cunningham!

Arran McLeod

My first year at QVS was the greatest, and I thought that the year my brother went to QVS was good, but no, I still missed him lots. When I came to Queen Victoria School, I was in Trenchard House which is where primary sevens go. Trenchard had just been refurbished so when I walked into my brand new bedroom the smell of fresh paint drifted up to my nose.

I headed straight for my dream bed in the left corner of my spectacular room. My roommates where Leoni, Rio and Megan, they are my best friends and I'm so happy I met them. On our first night I think everyone was a bit homesick but we all stuck together and got over it after a bit. It felt odd to wake up in my room and change into a completely different school uniform but it felt even more strange going to breakfast. We just followed our Rookie Keepers around everywhere. Rookie Keepers are people in the year above us who take us around the school and help us deal with our homesickness, I was really lucky to get two great Rookie Keepers to help me as well as all the staff.

We had loads of school trips in Primary seven, they were: Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, The Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Glasgow



Science Centre, Dynamic Earth, Museum on the Mound, and plenty of tutor trips. I think Dynamic Earth was my favorite trip because I was so interested in it and my mind was flowing with awesome facts. QVS was the best decision I've ever had to make and I have met so many nice people in primary seven.

Keira Cole

My year at QVS started sometime in August but I can't remember the date. My rookie showed me to my room in Trenchard House where I met the people who would be my friends for the rest of my life, Amena, Subhaashish and Shameer.

Class starts at ten to nine after chapel in the morning in the primary department where we have tests to determine which group we are in red, blue or green group. You spend most of your time in the primary department for most subjects but you do get out of that class a bit to do other subjects.

My first school trip was to Edinburgh Castle to learn about Wallace and Bruce but we also went to Stirling Castle, Bannockburn and then for the space project we went to Glasgow Science Center and Dynamic Earth and that was my favourite so far.

Just before Christmas as well we had to do a play called the 'Match Girl's Christmas' which was about a girl who died at Christmas, I played old Tom who was kind of the narrator telling the story to four kids.

We recently finished a project on politics because the actual election to the Scottish Parliament was a few weeks after from when I'm writing this. I was a candidate who wanted to get Wavell Woods in bound, two other people had the same idea as me, Subhaashish Gurung and Grace Hutchinson as well as Irena Watson who wanted Wi-Fi and Tiana Robbins who wanted more time outside. I came second and Subhaashish won but we had the same idea so we are going to join forces with Grace too.

We also are going to be finding out who our rookies are and we are going to write and send letters to them so when they get here we can show them everything and I also cannot wait until I find out which older boy house I'm going to be in.

Magnus Gothard-Olver

At QVS I have made very good friends everyone's nice and great, no one is ever left alone to sit. Here there are always great sports and activities to do, and rugby and athletics competitions are always fun to do. After a year I've noticed that nothing bad usually happens because everyone doesn't really do anything bad.

Throughout the year P7 have also gone to many fun class trips and house trips, like Edinburgh Castle and Glasgow Science Center and many others.

The parades in QV are also very professional, because there's a band with pipes and drums and Chapel in the mornings and it feels good



to be part of QVS just because of the people who live here and the whole school overall.

The uniforms in QV are also very nice because you feel comfortable and same with the kilt and red jackets given by the Queen.

The boarding houses here are also very nice because they let you decorate our rooms the way we want it to make it feel like we are at home; the matrons are all also very nice here too.

Shameer Gurung

My first year at Queen Victoria School has been a lot of fun. My room mates are Leah, Mirren and Irena. We live in Trenchard boarding house. In this house we have TVs, Xbox's, football table, iPad movies and we all have our own iPads.

Some of the things I liked about P7 are the projects we do. Simoon and I made a space station for our Earth and Space project and it was fun because we got to work as a team. Another thing I like is art and we are drawing a teacher. Leoni and I are drawing Miss Hastie.

I feel happy at school when I can get all my work right. That is when I have a good day. I sometimes I feel sad when I cannot talk to my parents or when I get into an argument with my friends.

My friends are Robyn, Leila, Irena, and my best friend here is Leah Wight. Leah is a loud and chatty person and she is also very kind. I

can tell her everything and she also likes to tell stories that are very interesting. Robyn is very nice as well and we talk a lot together. We like watching movies and going to the Astro to play hockey in our free time.

My Tutor is Ms Edwards and she has taken us on six tutor trips and my favourite trip was when we went to Mega Zone in Falkirk. My Tutor group have asked if could go there again. Ms Edwards promised to take us for our last outing with her before she retires from the school this year.

In PDD (Piping, Drumming and Highland Dancing) I am a dancer and my twin sister Abbey is a drummer.

I have enjoyed my first year at QVS because I have made many new friends and have been learning new things.

I would recommend this school because if you don't like moving school, every two to three years, you can stay at QVS until S6. Another reason is you make new and good friends for life here.

Nicole Whitehouse

When I joined QVS I was homesick but then I got better. In Trenchard House and the boys are all in the bottom corridor. I am in a four man room but there are only three of us including Arron and Sam. I met and made lots of new friends Aminio, Amena, Samay, Sub, Shameer, Roman, Samik and more.

In the Primary Department I have met good teachers such as Ms Edwards, Mr King and Miss Hastie. Mr Shaw is our Acting Head and everyone is here to help you to do your best.

My first Primary trip was to Stirling Castle where we spent the whole day there as part of our Wallace and Bruce project. There was a really good view over Stirling. We also went to Edinburgh Castle which is probably my favourite trip.

My tutor is Mr Clark who is the drum major. I have been on two Tutor trips since I joined the school. The first Tutor trip was to Pizza Hut and on our second one we went to see the movie 'Daddy's Home'. We joined up with Ms Edwards Tutor group and this was probably my favourite tutor trip yet.

My favourite lesson is PE and since I joined we have done badminton, tennis, rugby, football and athletics. We played rugby for the first two terms. I started off as a winger because I was fast but in one match they played me full-back because they thought I was good at tackling people. One of our best rugby matches was against Dundee and in the first tackle, I made, the boy cried. We were winning 2-1 but the referee said 30 seconds left until the end only five minutes later they scored and we drew that match. My biggest achievement in rugby was when I got to play for the S1's in a 7's tournament when we came 3rd in our group.

Remembrance Parade is my favourite one and our last parade was for the OVA weekend. It was for the Old Victorians to come back and visit their old school and all the P7s were marching. We also had our P7 Rookies Parade where some people get an award and then we become true Victorians.

In PDD I chose drumming but I ended up becoming a piper and I enjoy learning to play the pipes.

Jaheem Thomas

I was driving through the school gates and I thought it was a big school. Then my mum, dad, little brother and I went down to Trenchard House. I met my Rookie Keeper who was my cousin Sam.

Sam showed me my room and took me around the school to see where everything was. I saw that the school was really big and could remember it then from my interview day. When we came back my mum and dad started to unpack my clothes and showed me where everything should go. After that I had to say my goodbye's to my parents and my little brother.

When they left all the S1 boys took their Rookies to the Astro to play a football match and that was great fun. I also met and made new friends with the P7 and S1 boys.

After that the P7s had to come in and settle in the House and Mr Bush told everyone about the House rules.

The new P7s split into two groups and did activities. The first group went swimming and the other went to the old gym and after 20 minutes the two groups swapped over. My favourite one was swimming because it was with Georgie (the GAP student) and we played bulldog in the pool.

At tea I sat next to Subaashish, Roman and Samik. We had lots of fun and became great friends. Afterwards we were introduced to all the house staff. He also told us about supper and handing in our phones,

doing our jobs and getting ready for bed.

My activities, hobbies and classes take up most of my time. My teacher for maths is Mr King, he is great teacher and tells jokes about other people in the class. My language teacher is Ms Edwards. Ms Edwards is also a great teacher and she's always helping us with our Prep and how to 'Up Level' our language work.

My hobbies are football and rugby. My football hobby is with Mr Stacey who is also the SSM (School Sargent Major) and his favourite football team is Celtic. We have football matches at the Astro and we also have football matches against other schools. The last match we had the score was 5-1 and we won!

At rugby we played short rugby matches and practice passing skills with Mr McClay on the field and if it's a bad weather we play in the old-gym or in McMillan Sports Hall.

I like it here because there are lots of sports in the school and because I have a lot of friends here now.

Armena Caqusau

When I came to Queen Victoria School my first friends were Lucie Evans and Millie Russell. One afternoon we were going to dinner and Kiera Cole and I were in the line when Kiera nudged me so I nudged her back then we started laughing and became friends. I have a lot of friends now. I shared a room with Alexx, Millie and Tiana in a four man room for two and a half terms. When we got back from term break I moved to a two man room. When we get back from term breaks my friends and I were very happy to see each other.

On the first day of school we did tests to see what group we would be in for maths and language. The tests lasted for a week!

My favourite class is PDD because I like drumming and I am good at it. My second favourite subject is CDT as I like to make things. I also enjoy ICT because I like to do that type of thing.

In Social Studies our first project was about Wallace and Bruce. I did not know much about the subject to start with but found it interesting. My favourite school trip was to Edinburgh Castle because I have never been there before and it was cool. We went to Bannockburn Heritage Centre which was cool. Our next social studies project was about Earth and Space which is my favourite subject because I know a lot about it. The first thing we learned was about the Race to Space. It was between the Americans and the Russians. The Russians were winning because they got the first dog, chimp, woman and man into space but the Americans got the first man onto the moon. We made up a poem to remember the nine planets. My favourite trip was to Glasgow Science Centre because I liked the IMAX. The second trip we went on was to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh where we experienced different things that the Earth is made out from. There was also a volcano model and a huge ice sculpture. In social studies this term we are learning about My Environment. It is not my favourite subject but it is good and interesting. We were learning about our school and Dunblane.

My favourite tutor trip was to the movies to see Daddy's Home because it was funny. I went with Miss Edwards Tutor group. Afterwards we went to McDonalds. Drummie is my Tutor.

We learn how to do drill which is very important because on the last Friday of June we do our traditional Grand Day. This Friday we had a

Drill and Turn Out Competition. It is a competition to see who the best in drill is and P7A won.

I am really enjoying being here now and there is so much to do.

Abbey Whitehouse

I am in Trenchard House because all the new P7's live in this house. When I arrived here I went to my room and found out that my room mates names were Millie, Grace and Lelia. At Trenchard House had just been refurbished and we were the first ones to have all the lovely beds and furniture.

Sometimes I feel sad because I miss my parents. However it is also so much fun as we go on lots of trips out to interesting places. We went on lots of trips with the Primary Department including, Stirling and Edinburgh Castle, Blairdrummond Safari Park and the Science Centre in Glasgow. We have been on so many more trips.

We have also been on so many fun tutor trips with Ms Edwards who is my Tutor. She has taken us twice to the cinema, McDonalds but my favourite trip was to Mega Zone in Falkirk. My Tutor Group voted to go there again for our last Tutor trip with Ms Edwards.

At the weekend we can go to Tesco and First Shop because we get sweets and other things we need. You can go out after lunch but must come back by 3 o'clock.

We have chapel every day except on a Saturday. On weekdays we have it for 15 minutes but on Sunday we have it for 45 minutes. We have six one hour periods in our school timetable and we go to school on Saturday mornings. We have a break at lunch for an hour and two other short breaks as well. At school we have a lot of lessons but we have fun at these lessons. We have maths, language, art and PDD (Piping and Drumming and Highland Dancing) and many more.

I have made lots of friends and I am happy about that although

sometimes we argue but we always make up. I would recommend this school to people because it is so much fun and you get so many opportunities to do different things.

Robyn Lindsay

On Thursday we went to Blair Drummond Safari Park, Stirling. When we got there we went to the place where we were to have lunch. After that we went to the watch the Sea Lion Show. The main sea lions name is Lola and she is a girl and is massive! She had been taught to do lots of cool tricks like, balance a basketball on her nose then she walked up a ramp, still balancing the basketball on her nose, then jumped into the water then jumped back out the water. Lola was clapping, nodding and then jumped into the water and out again almost touching the roof.

Unfortunately it had to come to an end so we went in our groups and some of us went on the bumper cars. They were so hard to steer but eventually I got the hang of it. It was so much fun but then the alarm went off and that was our time up!

Most of the groups went to the big climbing frame that looked like a castle. At the top there was a spiralling slide and there were so many things to play on.

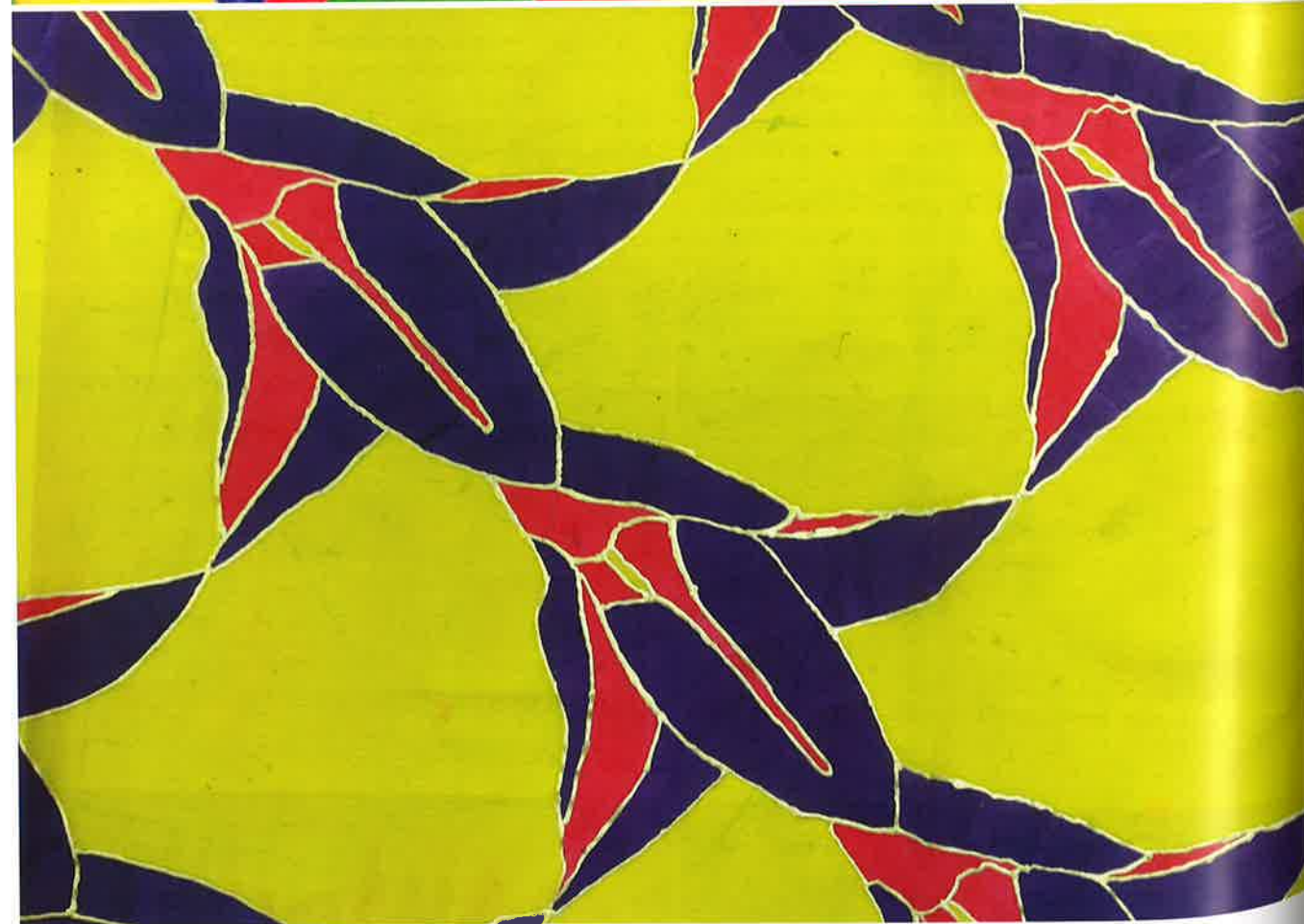
Finally it was lunch time. Ms Edwards brought the chef, Juan, from the school and we had a great barbeque.

After lunch we went to the pedal boats, the gift shop and eventually went on the boat to see Chimp Island. When we got off the boat we just had time to go to Lemurland where we spotted some tortoises, lemurs and insects they were really creepy.

Then it was time to go back onto the bus but we went through the animal enclosure which was a good end to an exciting day.

James Ansell





Top to bottom; Keira Cole, P7; Freya Powell-Leonard, S4 Textile Design.





Our Election Week

On 17th May there were five candidates. Subhaashish Gurung with Order of the Victorians, Irena Watson with Wi-Fi for you, Grace Hutchinson with the Tweedie party, Magnus Gothard-Oliver with the Justice Woods party and Tiana Robbins with the Freedom party. They were chosen to fight for what they want and what they want to do to change lives in the school community.

Each candidate got a few other helpers, Tiana with Rio Gregory, Leoni Gallagher, Leah Wight, Robyn Lindsay and Mirren Wood, Grace with, Eilidh Paterson, Millie Macdonald, Megan Clarke, Nicole Whitehouse, Samay Limbu, Aminio Bogidrau and Arran McLeod, Irena with Roman Gurung, Abbey Whithouse, Matthew Berry and Lucie Evans, Magnus with Marykate Charnley, Kiera Cole, James Ansell, Leila Nicholson, Amena Cacusau and Jaheem Thomas and Subhaashish with Shameer Gurung, Samik Gurung, Ben Rigby, Simoon Pun and Alexx Skinner.

The returning officers were Joe Long, William Cook, Sam Rennie and Millie Russel. All parties made a Poster, Rosettes, Manifesto and a speech for their candidate.

All candidates made great speeches and we were also joined by, Mr Shaw, Mr Adams, Mr McLay, Ms Phipps, Mr King, Ms Hastie and Ms Edwards. Once the speeches were all given everyone finally got to vote for their best candidate, Tiana Robbins getting two votes, Irena Watson with three votes, Grace Hutchinson with three votes and Subhaashish Gurung and Magnus Gothard-Oliver tying with 16 votes each.

In the end we all decided for a revote and in the end Magnus got 17 votes and Subhaashish got 22 votes! However in the end we all had a good time and fun along the way and everyone did great.

Shameer Gurung

We had an election week in P7 because it was very close to the real elections. We chose five candidates and they gave speeches. The candidates were Irena Watson with Wi-Fi for you, Grace Hutchinson with Tweedie party, Magnus GO with justice woods, Tiana Robbins with freedom and Subhaashish won with order of the Victorians but the scores were a draw so we had to do another round then Subhaashish won. They gave five amazing speeches and put hard

work into their posters and business cards. We had a really good time it was so fun. We even had a polling booth and a ballot box we also had voting cards it was like a real election. I had to write a speech and a manifesto which was fun and I delivered the speech to P7 and SLT members. I was a bit nervous but then when I started I just calmed down and said it. I really enjoyed the experience as well as the fun part of it; it taught us what it was like to have a real election, and voting. We even made rosettes with our faces on them. The returning officer was Joe long.

Irena Watson

In our last term we had our own mock election because the Scottish Parliament elections were coming up. Five people were candidates for their own parties, there was: Tiana Robbins with the 'Freedom Party' who wanted more time outside, Irena Watson with the 'Wi-Fi for you Party' who wanted everyone to have Wi-Fi, Magnus Gothard-Oliver with the 'Justice Woods Party' who wanted to refurbish Wavell Woods along with Grace Hutchinson and Subhaashish Gurung who had the same idea. I was in the Justice Woods Party with Magnus. We had such fun making posters, manifestos, rosettes and much more to try to get our part known. Everyone tried their best to persuade people to vote for them but overall Subhaashish Gurung won with his party called 'Order of the Victorians.' It was a good experience and I would love to see how future elections go and what others will be rooting for.

K Cole

On the 17th of May 2016 Primary 7 had an election. There were five children who stood up and said I want to be a candidate, they had to stand up in front of the class and give a speech. Afterwards Mr King gave the class a number each and we went to that candidate and became a part of their party. The candidates were:

Tiana Robbins (Freedom party)
Magnus Gothard-Oliver (Justice woods)
Irena Watson (Wi-Fi for you/W.F.Y)
Subhaashish Gurung (Order of the Victorians)
Grace Hutchinson (Tweedie party)

All parties were very persuasive and I would have voted for two candidates if possible. For each candidate their party had to help make rosettes for the party to wear until the election, a manifesto to tell everybody what our party was trying to get you to vote for, posters to stick up all over the school, and leaflets to hand out with pictures and info on what we would like to happen to the school. The party I was in (Freedom party) wanted to have only half an hour of prep, two hours outside (if gated an hour and a half) and after supper we are allowed back outside until nine then it's jobs, showers and ready for bed afterwards. Its lights out at half past nine. The other groups were to have Wi-Fi for our personal devices and the others were to do up Fort Tweedie and get Wavell woods back in bounds.

Mr Shaw, Mr Adams, Mr McLay and Miss Phipps all came to vote as well they were very impressed with our questions and the candidates' speeches and answers to questions we asked. The winning candidate was Subhaashish Gurung with Order of the Victorians he got 22 votes, with a close second was Magnus Gothard-Oliver with Justice woods he got 17 votes. Then came Grace Hutchinson with five votes just after Grace was Irena Watson with three votes and last but not least came Tiana Robbins with two votes. Subhaashish didn't win at first. He had a tie with Magnus they each had 16 votes so everyone had to vote again we could only vote for Magnus or Subhaashish, Mr Shaw even came back to vote!

That was the Primary 7 election week!

Leah Wight

On Tuesday we had a fabulous election campaign for the class on what we would like to have in the school. The candidates were: Tiana with FREEDOM PARTY, Subhaashish with ORDER OF THE VICTORIANS, Irena with WIFI 4 U, Grace with the TWEEDIE PARTY and finally Magnus with JUSTICE WOODS which was the party that I was in.

We had to work extremely hard when we got put into our groups and we always had something to do, whether it was designing posters, making badges or manifestos, stickers and flags. We worked on it for about a week and the finishing results were absolutely stunning to everyone. The SLT (Senior Leadership Team) came to vote and listen to the excellent speeches.

When they had given their speeches the members of staff voted first then left, after that we all voted. Joe was the returning officer that came back with the scores... Yay we came 1st, but it was a tie with Subhaashish so we had to vote again! We had to go around and give a 20 second speech, they both wanted to refurbish Wavell woods and get fort Tweedie to be reopened. In the end he results were back in and Joe read out... The winner, with a difference of 5 points, was SUBHAASHISH!! We were a bit upset but we knew that we would join up and work together to get it refurbished again.

It was an absolutely fantastic week of election and campaigning and we all had a great time!

Leila Nicholson

On the 12th to the 17th of May Primary 7 had an election week because of the Scottish election won by the SNP. To start things of we had to pick or volunteer five candidates so we could have separate party's, fighting for different things they want to happened in the near future. The candidates were; Magnus Gothard-Oliver,

Subhaashish Gurung, Tiana Robbins, Irena Watson and Grace Hutchinson. They were all voting for different things (mostly) from Refurbishing Wavell woods to having Wi-Fi on our own personal devices or half an hour prep. It took about two hours due to having the candidates having there speech and all the voting which took quite long because only about 10-12 people at a time because of space issues. Once we had got the votes in we were told how many votes each candidate had. The Winners were Subhaashish and Magnus with 16 votes each so we had a revote and Magnus got 17 votes Subhaashish however won with 22 votes. That pretty much wrapped up the election.

Which was extremely fun and we all definitely enjoyed it.

Arran McLeod

This year we had this thing called Election Week. We had Election Week because it was close to the Scottish Parliament Elections. We had five candidates and we got put into groups. I was in the 'Freedom Party' our leader was Tiana Robbins. The other parties were 'Wi-Fi for You' run by Irena Watson, 'Tweedie Party' run by Grace Hutchinson, 'Justice Woods Party' run by Magnus Gothard-Oliver and 'Order of Victorians' run by Subbaashish Gurung. They all had really good speeches but only one could win the vote. So we all went in and voted and there was a draw between Magnus and Subbaashish. So we all voted again and the Subbaashish won. He was running for opening Wavell Woods again so if we open Wavell Woods again you have Subbaashish to thank. Before the vote we had a lot to prepare by doing the speeches, making posters, making rosettes. We were all very busy leading up to the proper vote.

P7 has been such a good year and I can't wait for S1 where I can see my Rookie. I am so excited.

Rio Gregory

We also had a Primary 7 election as it was close to the real election. First Mr King told us to think of an idea to campaign about then we told everyone what we wanted and three of our ideas were very similar. I was running for the election too and I wanted Fort Tweedie to be opened again, there was also Subhaashish Gurung for Fort Tweedie and Magnus Gothard-Oliver for Fort Tweedie as well. Other than us there was Irena Watson for personal Wi-Fi and Tiana Robbins for less prep and more time outside. The candidates were, Subhaashish with Order of the Victorians, Magnus with Justice Woods, Irena with Wi-Fi for you, Tiana with the Freedom Party and Grace with the Tweedie Party. We worked really hard to make all the rosettes, our speeches, the manifesto, leaflets and press release. On the day of the elections we all gave our speeches and then it was time for the voting. After about 10 minutes of waiting we found out the results in fifth place with two votes was Tiana, fourth place with three votes was Irena, third place with five votes was me, but then we found out that Magnus and Subhaashish were tied with 16 votes each so we had a revote and then in second place with 17 votes was Magnus and in first place with 23 votes was Subhaashish! We all shook hands and decided that myself Magnus and Subhaashish would work together to make Fort Tweedie happen because we all had the same idea. Then after that Subhaashish got some sweets but he was really nice and shared with everyone. That is what happens in an election in the Primary Department.

Grace Hutchinson



Wherever Home Is?

On Friday 13, the invisible man productions came to do a play called *Wherever Home Is*, with Act 1 was performed in period two and after we were taken to the classroom to make a spider diagram of what the characters were like and what's going on in their lives and how we can relate to them.

In class we also made some questions to ask the two different characters in class and both of them gave us good answers for us all.

In Act 1 the two characters introduced themselves and showed us the problems of the two children, of how they had to keep moving homes and make friends constantly throughout their lives. At one point Calvin had gotten fed up with most of this and had chosen to hide away from his mother because he thought that he was the reason for his mum and his dad splitting up.

Act 2 wasn't as long as one however it shows us how they worked it all out and why running away or thinking that you are the reason for all bad thing is not the right way to think about every bad thing that's happened.

Shameer Gurung

On Friday the 13th of May 2016 the Primary 7s had a visit from a group called the Invisible Man. They put on a play called 'Wherever Home Is' and it's about two children that have parents in the armed forces. It's about coming to grips with moving about a lot and they put a lot of research into the play to make sure we could relate to it.

The main characters are Lucie a nine year old girl played by Rachel and Calvin a 10 year old boy played by Steven. The play was split up into two acts the first being 50 minutes and the second being about 15-20 minutes long. Calvin and Lucy's stories are drawn from hundreds of hours of research of serving military personnel. The audience is led through the story by Lucy who like her friend Calvin has just moved to the UK from Germany. Lucy explains that Calvin has run away from home and not told anyone where he has gone therefore putting the whole estate in deep worry and they are all out searching for him. Then she reveals that she herself will find Calvin but not yet she needs to tell us more. Before she starts she tells us

about the story of her move and how it was very hard for her and her family to go through so many moves. Then she gets on with the story and eventually find Calvin in his hiding place. Then Calvin reveals that his family is having problems and his parents are splitting up and he thinks it's all his fault when it isn't. Then he gets a phone call from his dad and he explains everything and convinces Calvin to come down and talk to him and everything is solved apart from one thing.

They don't actually finish the story; they think that every story never has an end so they can't say the end. That is what happened when the Invisible Man came and put on a play for us.

Grace Hutchinson

On Friday 13th May we experienced a theatre company come in to show us a play that really relates to most of us at school. It is based on military children who have serving parents. The play was split up into two acts, one before lunch and one after. Their company was called An Invisible Man and the two actors names were Lucy age 9 and Calvin age 10, (their real names were Rachel and Steven though). In the play they are explaining the difficulties and stress of moving but also how you make new friends and have better experiences throughout life. Calvin had just moved from Germany to the UK so he is struggling to fit in, his parents had also split up. Lucy had also moved not long after him from the same school in Germany, therefore knowing each other. She is a bright bubbly child but also quite shy, she always cheered Calvin up when he was down in the dumps.

With the stressed out Calvin on the loose hiding away from his parents because he thought he had caused the breakup of his mum and dad. Lucy found him on the school roof and sorted things out by explaining that his dad had joined with his mum to help look for him but Calvin was worried they would shout at him. He eventually went down six hours later with the help of his trusty mate Lucy. He worked things out with his parents and she went home. That was the end of the amazing play and I felt like I was Lucy or Calvin in a way because I have moved houses a lot so when they move all the time I remember when I used to do that. It is quite a sad time for both the actors and have probably been through it themselves. Everyone enjoyed it a lot especially when we put them in a hot seat to ask them questions, that went really well.

We all had a great experience, even if some people couldn't relate to it in any way, I could. My favourite part of the play was when Lucy wouldn't stop talking and it was so speedy that I couldn't make out any words. It was a fun day and I want them to come back again!!

Leila Nicholson

On Friday the 13th 2016 a theatre group called the 'Invisible man' came into our school to put on a play called 'Wherever Home Is.' They had two characters called Lucy and Calvin. Calvin was ten years old and Lucy was nine coming on ten. They had a screen to show Lucy's mum and dad, we got asked questions about the play during the play. The play was about a girl and boy who were army children or as Lucy called them Armyish they were in Cyprus together then Germany and now the UK. Calvin was sad because his parents were always fighting, so to get away from it he was on his way to his Nan's house when he decided to take a short cut and go through the wood behind the school, when he saw all the footballs on the roof of the school. He said to himself "I always say I can get those balls and here's my chance" so he climbed up on some bins and was on the roof before you could say "stop Calvin." After he was up he had been gone for a while and very soon had the whole town looking for him. Lucy then found him and managed to get him down and that's where it stopped.

We could relate to this as we have all been in other countries, well maybe not all of us in different countries, but we have all been to more schools than one, this school and the school we were in before Queen Victoria School. Also another way to relate to this, that way is that we all have had our parents argue about the new house we move into, we are also relatable to this because we all get upset about our parents arguments and we also have to talk to our friends and make them feel safe if this happens to them.

So there are many, many, many ways to relate to the play for army (Armyish) kids that's a good opportunity to learn to know that you are not the only one that have to go through a tough life of moving and getting upset over things in our private lives. We do maybe think we are alone sometimes but we all need to keep it somewhere in our heads that we are never alone in this situation.

Leah Wight

On Friday 13th May 2016 a company called The Invisible Man came to QVS. It was really good. It was all about these children. One called Lucy who is 9 years and another called Calvin who's 10 years old. They are children who have moved around a lot. And it's time to come back to the UK they are not happy. Especially Lucy who has to leave Mr Cat behind. (That's Her Cat) She thinks they are putting him in a cat prison. When on the other hand Calvin is having a rough time because his parents are splitting up. So Calvin has gone and hid himself on the school roof and nobody can find him! When Lucy eventually finds him Calvin tells her not to tell anyone. Lucy finds this very confusing but she keeps her word. So instead she tries to persuade him.

Then we had a one hour break for one of the workshops we got to talk to Calvin and Lucy. And ask them lots of questions. After the workshops we had the second hour of the performance this half was about Lucy eventually getting Calvin down after a lot of talking and persuading. Calvin went home and we think they lived a happy life. After the play we just talked about how boarding school is helping us with our life.

I really enjoyed this day and I hope they do more of these plays!!

Rio Gregory

P7 had a visit from a theatre company called An Invisible Man they were here to show us a play about two children whose parents were in the armed forces and how these families are always moving to different countries and places, I haven't lived in other countries but some of my friends have been constantly moving so this was a good opportunity for them to find out how to deal with it.

The two characters were nine year old Lucy and 10 year old Calvin (the actors weren't that age) and the story was set on their school roof where Calvin was hiding from everyone because he doesn't want to go home because his parents are breaking up so he doesn't know what to do but when Lucy finds him she begs him to go home and tell his parents to get back together. Then there was a break when we talked to "Calvin and Lucy" to ask them questions about what they should do.

In the second half Calvin got a phone call from his dad telling him to come home because they are worried sick about him. Lucy also talks him into it because they're hungry, tired and it was getting dark. The play ends there and it doesn't show what happens and it wasn't the end of the story...

Magnus Gothard-Olver

On Friday 13th all of P7 got a visit from the Invisible Man Group who did a play for us. There were only two people who came in because it was only for two characters. The two characters were Lucy (who is nine years old) and Calvin (who is 10 years old). It was really good and there was two scenes to it.

The play started off with Lucy and she was talking quite a lot. Then they changed the character to Calvin, and he was telling us about how his dad was in the army, and how he had ran away from home onto the top of the school roof because his parents wouldn't stop arguing. Everyone was so worried about him because they didn't know where he was but finally Lucy found him and told him about how his mum and dad were both looking for him. He was surprised because his dad had moved out and he thought that he was going to Liverpool to live there which he wanted to stay and luckily Lucy got him to come down and that was the end of it!

Megan Clarke



P7 Activities

A Parade Sunday House Outing

One of the trips we went on was ice skating in Stirling at the Peak. On the way there on the coach I sat next to Mollie and watched her play Five Night of Freddy's. When we arrived we had to check in before got a pair of ice-skates to put on. It was very noisy and it was freezing cold inside the arena.

When I first went onto the ice rink I slipped a couple of times however I soon got the hang of it. Then I got a wee bit carried away and hit the wall and tripped over. Besides having hurt my leg it was great fun and it felt like ages when eventually Mr King called us all to come off the ice ring.

James Ansell

Blair Drummond Safari Park Primary Outing

We went to the Safari Park at Blair Drummond on Thursday. I sat with Millie Russell and we were telling jokes on the bus all the way there. The first thing we went to see was the Sea Lion Show. It was amazing because the sea lion jumped out of the water and touched the ball that was hanging from the roof. The sea lion is called Lola.

After this we split up into two groups. P7A went on all the rides and then went to the play park. The others went to the other end of the park. Lucie, Robyn, Mr Bush, James and I went on the bumper cars and it was teacher vs kids. I think that kids won but if we went to see Mr Bush he will say that he won. Then we went to the play park. It is built like a fort and we went down this huge slide. After that we went to this swing park and we pushed James really high.

At twelve o'clock we went to the base to have our BBQ food that Ms Edwards and the chef had brought for us. Afterwards we switched activities so P7B went to the park and we went to the other end of the park.

The first thing we did after lunch was we went on a boat for about twenty minutes to see the monkey island. We also went on the small boats before we got on the bus to go back to QVS.

Abbey Whitehouse

Hobbies

At Queen Victoria School we choose hobbies to do in the winter term. There are a lot of different ones and sign up to join the hobbies in the Macmillan Hall. We get a card with all the hobbies we have picked on it and the teacher who does the hobby. The card also has the time when it starts and when it ends.

There are about twenty five hobbies to choose from and the ones that I do are archery and basketball. The teacher that teaches archery is Mr King and the teacher that teaches basketball is Mr McClay.

It is amazing doing hobbies and it keeps you active so you never get bored.

William Cook

School Activity to Splash

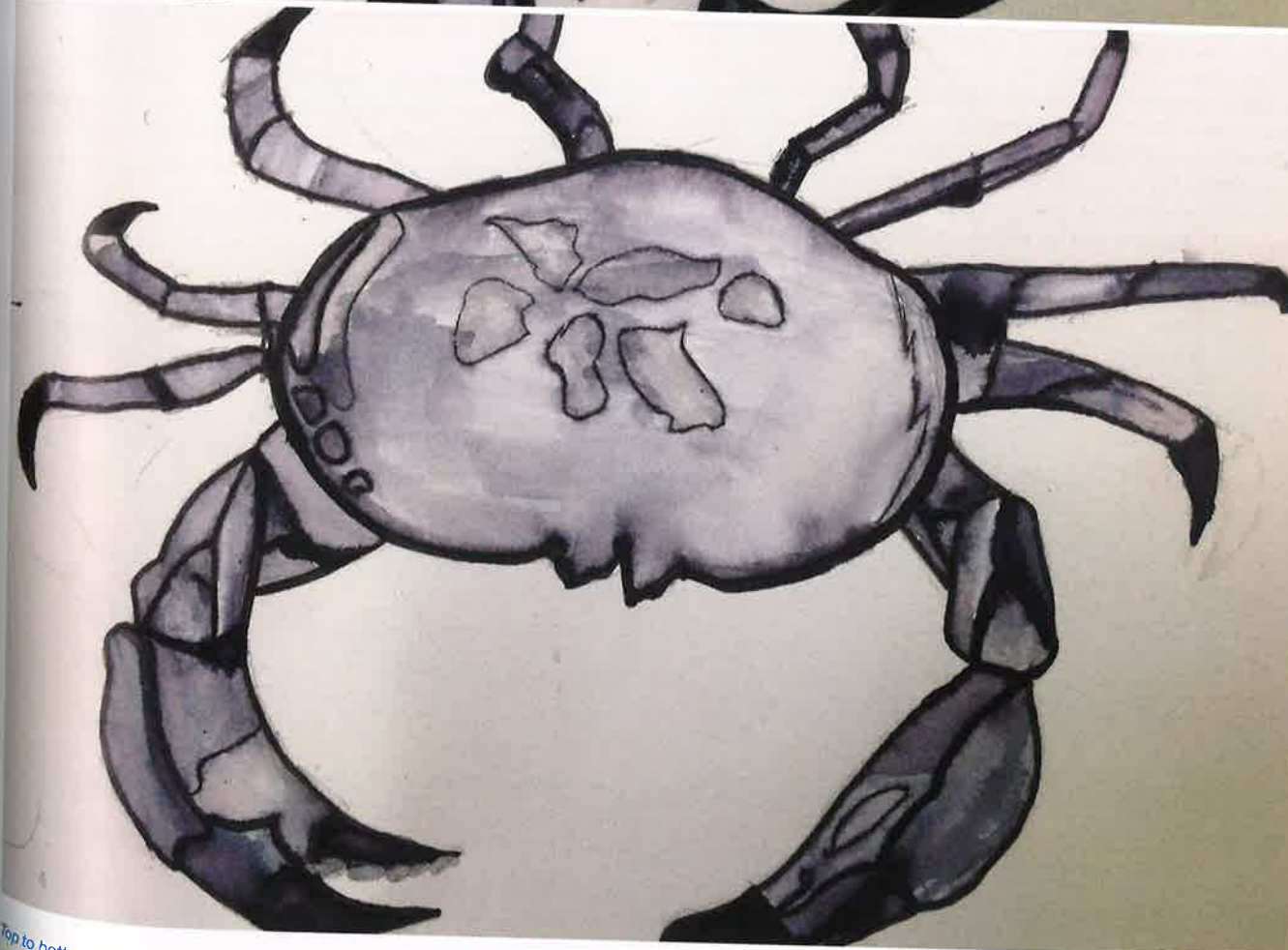
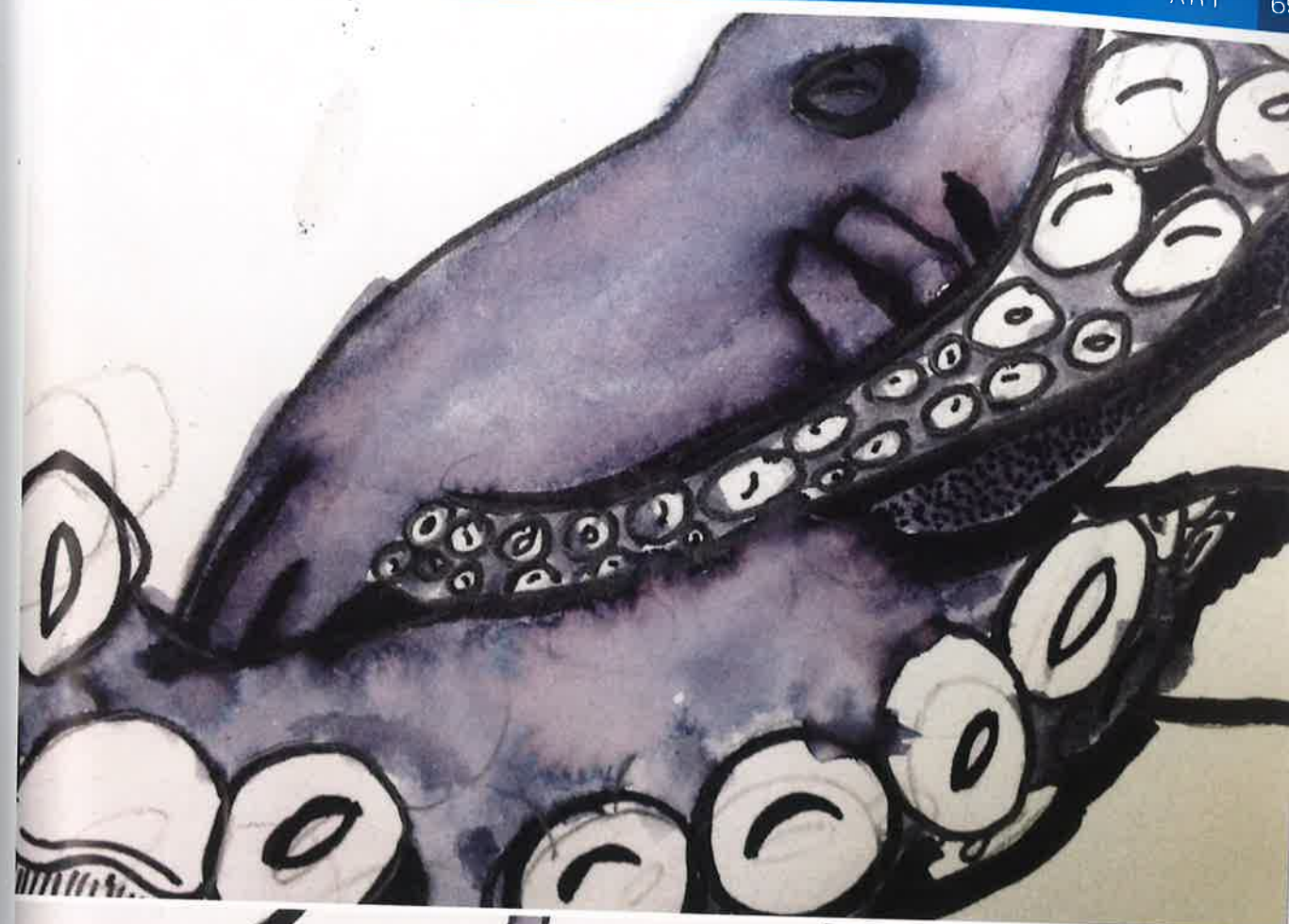
On Friday 27th of May, P7 and S3 went to Splash in Aberfeldy. On the bus I never really did much, I just fell asleep because I was so tired. Arran woke me up to tell me we were there but we were still in Perth!

When we arrived we had to wait on the bus because it was cold outside. Then our instructor came and her name is Bonnie. She showed us how to put on our kit and after we got off the bus Bonny took us to the Kit Shed. We went to the changing rooms and all the boys struggled to get their wetsuits on because they were so tight!

Afterwards we went out and got our helmets, got into a minibus and travelled to get to the canyon. Canyoning was really good fun because we got to jump off ledges into the water.

After lunch we went White Water Rafting. I was in a group of eight people and when we went down the rapids my boat spun around clockwise, it was exciting. That was probably the best thing we did!

Aminio Bogidrau



Top to bottom; Sarah Dilalavanua, S2 Pen and Ink drawing; Sophie Murphy, S2 Pen and Ink drawing.



Red Book Award 2015

This year, for the first time, we decided to shadow the *Red Book Award Scheme* run by Falkirk School Library Service. This involved our Book Club members (*The Shadows*) reading four shortlisted novels: *Mind blind* by Lari Don, *Beneath* by Gill Arbutnott, *Inflicted* by Ria Francis and *Salvage* by Keren David. We had a visit from Yvonne Manning who runs the scheme and we voted for our favourite book in December.

Lucie, Keira, Tiana, Grace, Kenzie, Anna, Ellidh and Marykate vote for their favourite book.

We attended the Awards Ceremony in Falkirk, where the four short-listed authors talked about their books and answered questions from the audience. We also got a chance to talk to them and get our books signed.

There was plenty of audience participation during the Awards Ceremony and Kenzie won a prize for best red accessory. We linked up with ten other countries around the world that were also shadowing the Awards, which is in its tenth year. It was a great day out even though the book we voted for didn't win! QVS voted for *Inflicted*, but *Mind blind* won.

Moira McPartlin

Moira McPartlin, author, visited the school as part of our Scottish Book Week events. The first thing she did was take a photo of our display of the Scottish books QVS staff love to read and was very impressed with the idea! Moira, whose visit was funded by Stirling Libraries, spoke to all the S3s for an hour, then to all the S2s for an hour. She was very impressed with the originality of their questions during the 'question and answer' sessions. Every pupil to ask a

question was given a badge with the emblem from her book: *Ways of the doomed*. This is the first book in a proposed trilogy set in a bleak future Scotland.

Moira with some S2s

As we have several pupils in S2 and S3 who do their own creative writing, we asked Moira back to QVS to run a workshop with them.

Twenty years at QVS

I started at QVS way back in April 1996 when it was still an all-boys' school. On my first day, one of the senior boys, Paul Matuszczyk, sat me down and explained all I needed to know about QVS; the history, the daily routine, the language ('days', 'twos up', 'spoff', etc). It was all a far cry from Alloa Academy where I had spent the previous 14 years.

So, my 'best bits' over the years?

The library highlights: I've had some great library 'helpers' over the years. Alistair MacKinnon (sat on my desk and gossiped), Mini-me Tamara Kirkwood-Wright (sat next to me and gossiped), Peter Goodman (led a 'We hate Harry Potter' revolt with Aaron King, complete with banners, marching around the library chanting!), my very own Jack and Victor; David Leishman and Leigh Halley, who, once they had left school, would take annual leave from work and come back and help me do the stock-checks! Shannon and Jared were brilliant in my last year, especially when we redecorated the library as a snow-covered Finland for European Languages Day!

We have had some excellent authors visit the school over the years but the stand-outs were without doubt the charming young Max Benitz and the gorgeous Marcus Sedgwick. The World Book Days, the Roald Dahl Days, the Book Clubs, The Pin-Ups, The Shadows, all the Kids' Lit Quizzes, the Rotary Competitions, so many fun events.

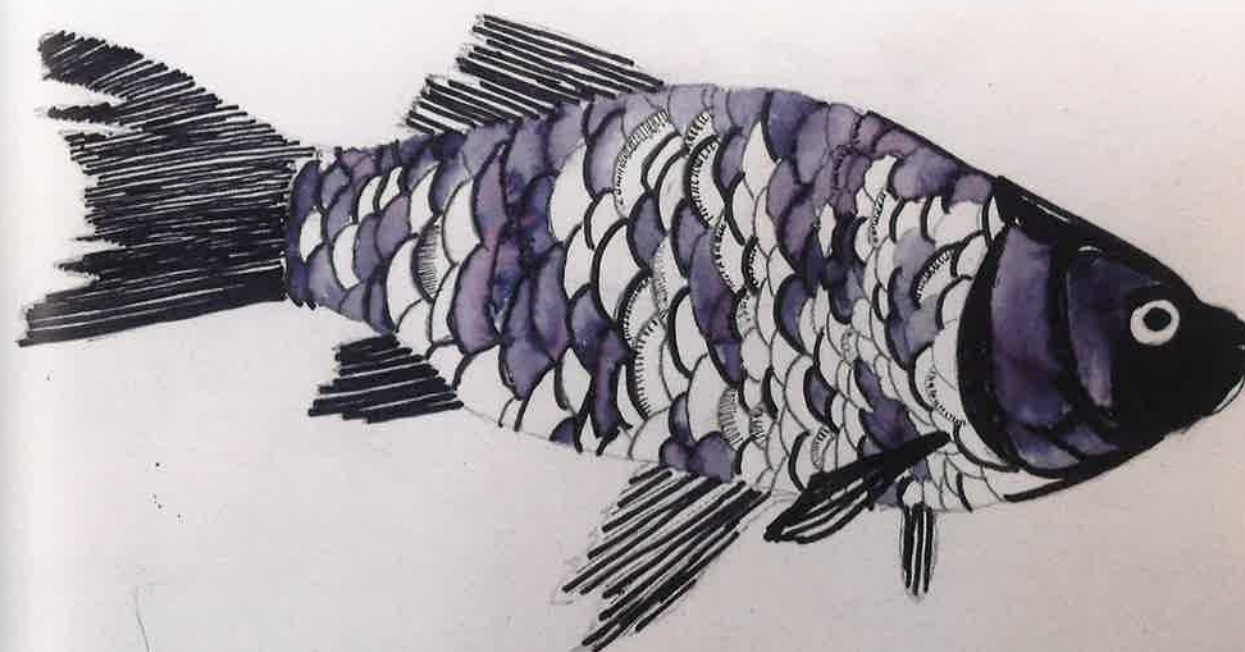
My amazing ten years in the CCF RAF Section: my officer training at Cranwell (I LOVED drill!), Air Cadet Leadership course at RAF Stafford (my flight won) and all the fantastic camps that I took the cadets on: RAF Cosford, Cottesmore, Honington, Kinloss, Lossiemouth, Lyneham, Uxbridge, Waddington, Rheindahlen and Akrotiri. All the

Army camps I endured (!) Barry Budden, Cultybraggen, Warcop (night patrols in the torrential rain with the legend that was John Silcox) and the fab Scots Guards camps in Munster (the nitexes with the dramatic pyrotechnics). All the Army ski trips up at Rothiemurchas and at the REME Lodge in Germany. There are not many school librarians who get the opportunities of night flying in a Hercules, low-level flying in a Puma, search and rescue in an open-sided Wessex off Cyprus, night-sledging in Bavaria and loads of air experience flying in the Tutor plane, doing loop-the-loops and Cuban stalls! On a serious note, all the camp visits gave me a real understanding of the home lives of the pupils at QVS and the work of their parents, which was so valuable in my day job.

Other highlights: getting the Bronze and the Silver Award for the Eco School Scheme, the weekly volunteering sessions with S4s; helping out with the lambs at Argatay Farm in Doune, the Good Green Fun children's charity in Stirling and the Dog Rescue in Bandeath. House-wise: the Haig Quizzes (Laing-era), the Wavell Talent shows, the fancy dress, the Christmas parties, the Trenchard trips to the panto, the baking sessions with the Haig boys (Lear-era), all the fund-raising, the European Languages Days, the tutor trips and the P7 'educational excursions'. The two French Department trips to Paris were vraiment magnifiques. The QVS staff, too many to mention, past and present, are all fab-u-lous.

So it is now time to hang up my flat librarian shoes and go down the drive for the final time. I take away firm friendships as well as fond memories of fun and frivolity. What shall I miss? I have to be honest; I shall really miss my school iPad! ;)

Mrs Sheerin, Librarian



Ross Merrick, S2 Pen and Ink drawing.

S4 English

Dark Reflections, Dark Secrets

Shadows danced around the patio creating strange patterns. Elena sat patiently, sipping a sweet sparkling champagne, gazing at the purple haze. Hesitantly she took the last gulp from her glass, the streetlights light reflecting from the criss cross patterns that decorate the delicate flute.

George walked in. He slammed the door. Another bad day at the office.

"Hi honey, did you stop by the store?" she sang through the walls. Another false greeting. Another false smile. To her surprise he walked around the corner carrying the shopping bags, grinning from ear to ear. She plastered a smile on her face. "What's happened?" she questioned, not prepared for the following answer.

"I was accepted. They chose me. Can you believe it? Me!" he exclaimed. She racked her brains for any idea of what he could be talking about. Blankly, she looked back at him. He rolls his eyes. He sighs, exasperated, cheeks blushed on his porcelain face, eyes shining with joy as he speaks. "State Governor, after all these years I've got it. Me not Kurt, not Phil, me!" He bumbles on, talking to himself. He falls silent, looking at her. Shadows create strange shapes on his porcelain face. "Elena! Are you listening to me? Elena!" He snaps his fingers and she focuses. "What's wrong, aren't you happy for me?" He sounds hurt. She smiles softly at him and pulls him in for a hug. "Of course I'm happy George. This is amazing." She rests her head on his chest. Tears fill her eyes. 'How can I tell him now.' she thinks. Her husband's lips caress hers and she flinches. Guilt in the depth of her stomach. He doesn't notice, thank goodness. Another lie.

She opens her eyes, her mouth is dry. He lies next to her. He inhales, exhales, inhales, exhales. Bzzzzzz. Her phone vibrates. 'Oh no it's Sara.' She gasps and reaches for her phone rolling off the bed and on to her knees quicker than expected and landing in a bundle of sheets with her phone still buzzing in her hands. She silenced it. Letting out a deep breath she gathers the blankets and sneaks out of the room.

In the safety of the kitchen she dials the number.

"Heyaaaaa!" Sara shouts.

"Shhhhhhh." Elena quickly retorts. "You know George doesn't leave for work until 8:00, why did you call?"

Sara seems taken aback. "Right, I see, well I'm sorry I was such an inconvenience."

"You know that's not what I meant." Elena sighs. "It's just that I'm almost there, I've almost done it and to ruin it this after this long just for a stupid..."

Sara cuts her off "A stupid what? Relationship?"

"No I was going to say phone call!"

There's a silence. Elena hears a faint crying.

"Sara, are you crying?"

Silence.

"No." she mutters.

"I'm sorry Sara, I really am it's just that George and my work they're..."

"The most important thing to you?! Is that it?"

As Elena attempts to reply George walks in.

They lock eyes and George seems puzzled.

"Who are you on the phone to?" he asks.

Unsure of how to deal with this she replies, "It's, she, uh, just a friend." From the other end of the phone she hears a sharp intake of breath from Sara. "I was uh, just going," she turns her mouth to the phone. "Love you." she whispers mistakenly. The phone goes dead.

Georges face is red. Fury shines through his eyes. He takes a step towards her and through brutal strength he takes the phone out of her hand. She reaches out for it and he turns away with ease. As he reads the messages he walks through to the lounge. Elena is crying, tears pouring from her face. She knows already that he knows. She grabs his arm screaming and he shakes her off. He takes a seat. Message after message it becomes more and more clear. He stands abruptly and goes to pour himself a drink. He downs it in one gulp and turns to Elena.

"I don't believe you." He looks at the ground and then looks at her and back at the phone sat on the sofa. He covers his eyes with a hand, then pours another drink. This one he takes more steadily. She is sat on the sofa hands covering her face, when she looks up red rings around her eyes, mascara down her cheeks. The warm thick tears blur her vision yet she feels like this is the first time she has seen George clearly. She sorts herself out in the large golden framed mirror her dark reflection reflecting her dark secrets and then turns to look at him.

"Is it true? Please tell me that it's not Elena. Please tell me that."

She looks at him, unblinking, a single tear runs between the freckles on her face, tracing the points which identify her.

The silence is deafening. "It's true."

"Get out." he mutters.

"But... George... What about us we were going to do this together. You and I at the top. We can still do that please Geor-!" she pleases. "I said, GET OUT!" he yells, cutting in, his voice cracks. "GET out." his voice fading to a whisper.

"I was going to be your Lady, First Lady, George, can't you see! We were going to set records, we were changing people lives. For once people wouldn't have to hide - WE wouldn't have had to hide."

"But it was never true was it. I thought I knew you but you're just another face in the crowd."

Arriving at Sara's house the nerves begin to kick in. Elena feels sick with worry. Taking small steps she makes her way to the front door. She rings the bell. Sara makes her way towards the door, her footsteps getting louder and louder. The locks click, one, two, three. The chain slides across with a scraping sound which sends shivers up her back. The door opens and their eyes meet. "Please Sara, let me explain, give me a chance." Sara slams the door. They now only see each others distorted shadows in the crystallised window.

There's a long pause.

"I can't do this." Sara replies, anger making her voice shake.

Elena walks home angry, confused, hurt and alone. The evening light fades forging unusual shadows beneath the trees. For a moment Elena pauses peering into the gloomy distance feeling sure she sees George leaning against the large White Oak tree. She blinks and the



Clockwise top to bottom; Keli Ramsay, S4 Mix Media Print; Georgia Forsyth, S4 Still Life painting; Abigail Cairns, S4 Still Life Painting.

figure disappears.

Dusk surrounds her. Shadows dancing frantically around her. Light creating images she knew were not real.

Charlotte Sowden

The Sound of Silence

The clock struck one in the cold white cave of the hospital ward. The sound of silence filled the room, to my left and right I saw unconscious bodies unable to get out of their beds, unable to even move. My eyes felt heavy and started to drift to a close as I saw a vision that was planted in my brain.

From a restless dream I woke alone, down a narrow street of cobblestone. I looked behind me to see the cold and damp street, lit up by an illuminating street lamp. As I started to walk towards the lamp my eyes were blinded with a flash of blazing light, that split the night, then came the sound of silence.

In the vivid light I saw ten thousand people, maybe more. And across the barren void filled with craters and riddled with landmines, I saw gun fire that ripped the air as I stood in awe. The guns firing with no sound, behind them people were killing without weeping. People writing story's that voices never shared, because no one dared read the horror that the Fritz persisted. A yellow-brown haze, that smelt like horseradish, glided over the edge of the bog covered trench. Soon, the gas occupied the trench and frantic Yankee soldiers scrambled to get their gas masks on.

I turned my collar to the soldier lying on the ground next to me, to see a thousand yard stare in his eyes. Over the trench a ferocious fire burning tall. In the depths of the flames I saw men and women in striped pyjamas, marked with a bright yellow star on their arms. The air was thick and blackened by the smoke and the sky started raining sooty flakes of what seemed like ash. The smell of horseradish was getting pungent, too pungent. Suddenly I collapsed on the wet miry earth with eyes that could not open. I saw darkness yet nothing disturbed the sound of silence.

In the darkness I tried to think of memories of my past but could only see static, as you would see on a television. The static images merged together to form a black and white image of a train in a jungle. The head lights on the train turned on, obscuring my vision. The lights turned off and blurred black and white vision transitioned to crystal clear colour.

Glaring sun and intense heat hit me like a whip to my back. In the time spent there (a minute or so) sweat profusely poured down my impure face. There I was, but where is there. A jungle with a great long passage that had been carved out from the trees. There were scrawny men in shorts, building a railway. Walking behind them where Japanese men inspecting and interrogating the scrawny men's every move. The Japanese men were dressed appropriately and looked well prepared for the jungle. There was a presence of illness and death surrounding the jungle. Some of the scrawny men looked British and American, some even looked locals to the area. The intense heat and bewildering humidity, made the men drop down like flies and just like flies they would then get swatted, by the Japanese men who would beat them intently.

Fierce heat overwhelmed me and consciousness started drifting. I fell asleep. In the silenced black of my imagination people dragged me

across a dry dirt ground then to a wet bogged down swamp and then back to the dry dirt. Suddenly they stopped dragging me and was made to stand up with my arms spanned wide like an albatross. In my thoughts I could see an old black and white TV showing a film of a atomic bomb being dropped from a plane with "The Enola Gay" inscribed on the side, the explosion was blinding.

As the light dimmed I felt a powerful force hit my stomach, blind panic, to see a Japanese soldier looking at me in disgust, with an aggressive look on his face. He then turned to his left and walked on casually. Rows and rows and rows of small red wooden shacks. The perimeter barbed wire fences, dilapidated and corroded by the wind and the rain. Men were working in the misty rain, building shacks upon shacks, carrying buckets of brown dirty water on their heads and digging what would soon become their graves. In the corner of my eye I could see a young man, around 18, being beaten by a soldier to an inch of his life. He was covered in blood and bruises, I could see him screaming out in pain but the silence suppressed his voice.

In a moments notice everyone looked up, as did I. To see a Boeing B-29 bomber called the "the Enola Gay" flying overhead, shadowing the whole camp as it blocked the sun, it passed away from the camp, I looked at all of the POW's to see their will to live slowly get chipped away. "The Lord is close to the broken hearted. He rescues the crushed in spirit.[Psalm 34:18]". The ground trembled, everyone fell to the wet dirt, with a confused and fearful look on their tortured faces. Quickly and recklessly they all got up and ran, unlike everyone I was strung up on a cross with burdens of war on my back. A flash of white light. Buildings were reduced to flaming rubble. My vision started to blur as the massive silent shockwave came closer. It hit me and I blacked out, all was silent.

I woke abruptly and shot upright to a sitting position. I was back in the hospital ward. The beds were all empty, I was alone and confused. A clipboard dangled off the edge of my bed, placed there with care?, I grabbed it and read it. The clipboard said " Mr. Allan Paterson, aged 83, diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Post Traumatic Stress and rheumatic heart disease, deceased: 1:00am on the 10th of November 2013".

The earth stood still... Then came the sound of silence.

Josh Beard

Memories

The road felt so unfamiliar, yet I knew I had been down here before. I was frustrated that I couldn't find the memories, the memories that I knew I had locked up inside my head. I tried to relax, looking out the window of the car I watched the sun lighting up the sky. It was beautiful, not just because it made the sky look as if it was being set alight, but because it was tugging at my brain, unlocking another memory.

"Margaret," I tapped her on the shoulder, she was lost inside of her narrowing mind. "Margaret, we are going to be at the café soon." She hesitantly turned her head towards me.

"Ok John," she let out a sigh

"Margaret, my..."

"Your looking lovely today by the way," and before I even had a chance to reply she had turned her head back towards the window to gaze into the dying sun.

That image still brings back memories, fond memories. Me and my mother would sit on top of a hill every Sunday evening, watching the

sun slowly slipping beneath the horizon. We would sit there for hours talking, playing, laughing with one another. It was our special place that nothing could take away from us, or that's what I thought.

As we passed the corner the café came into view. I wanted to ask him if we had been here before, but I knew we had been here many times, I just couldn't find the memories that were locked up inside my head. The café was small and remote, styled like an American diner. We parked the car and entered café, it was quiet for a Sunday evening. A young couple were quietly chatting in the corner, and an older gentleman sat reading his newspaper. We walked over to a table and sat down, a waitress came over and gave us a welcoming smile as if we were regulars.

"Would you like any drinks?" she asked.

"Yes, I'll have coffee please," John replied.

"Ok, and will you be having coffee, Margaret?" She asked, "Black?" How did she know my name? Why couldn't I remember her? They both stared at me, glaring into my eyes, awaiting my answer. "Margaret?"

"Excuse me," I replied quickly rushing off to the toilet.

She looked at me confused.

"What's wrong with Margaret?" asked Madison with a puzzled look on her face. I pause for a while struggling to pull the words from my mouth.

I sighed

"It's her Alzheimer's, it's been getting worse." I was barely managing to hold back my tears. "We come here every Sunday, trying to spark a memory, but she just keeps getting worse "By now the sun was almost completely below the horizon. "She has started calling me John as well" the tears were now flowing down my face. The old man folded up his newspaper and left, the couple quickly followed. We were all alone.

Locking the door I sat down on the toilet, quietly sobbing. I stared at the blankness of my surroundings, it reminded me of something. Just as quickly as the thought had appeared, it was gone. I went back to sobbing.

My footsteps echoed around the toilets, as I passed the mirror I got a glimpse of myself. I looked like a wreck. As I took a closer look I could see the redness around my wrinkled nose and my eyes, I hardly recognised myself. I stood looking in mirror, trying to build up the courage to ask what was wrong with me, why I couldn't remember.

I placed my hand on her shoulder, trying to comfort her. It did the exact opposite. She jumped turning towards this strange man and let out a little scream. When she had realised who it was she broke down. I stood and hugged her trying to comfort her once again. We stood there for a few minutes hugging one another, both of us still crying.

"Can we leave," Margaret sobbed. I nodded.

We left the café, under the long shadows of the trees. It was cold by now and the dark of night was creeping in. The drive was uneventful, we didn't speak, nor even glance at one another for the duration of the journey. Margaret returned to staring out of the window, watching the stretching shadows being pulled apart by the lowering sun, like a sick form of torture. I was left in my own torturous thoughts, my mind buzzing with so many possible outcomes for this hellish nightmare, but knowing the most likely one.

The car climbed as we were nearing our destination. Margaret still

hadn't turned her head from the window of the car. The road began to level out and I knew that we had arrived.

I exited the car before going round and helping out my mother. We walked over and sat down in the same spot we had many years ago, but it was never the same. We sat in silence. Margaret blackly staring into the distance. I had no way of knowing what she was thinking, no way of helping. I didn't want to ask her if she remembered, play with her emotions.

By now there was no sun left in the sky to cast the stretched shadows. As the warmth of the sun departed, the blackness of night crept in.

Lloyd Owen

Nat 5 Story

They rush up the fields that are bursting with cotton, hoping the workers don't see them. The wind against them – America against them – eventually arriving at a densely wooded forest; their secret hide away, their safe haven.

She glares at the pearl shaped tears rolling down from his wide illuminating eyes, leaving streaks on the dirty creases of his dark broken skin. She looks lost in his eyes. He looks distracted, eyes looking around, watching, making sure no one sees them. The blazing sun poking through the gaps between the trees creating a faint patch of sweat on the back of the girls porcelain skin, wiry strands of gold fallen from her birds nest of hair. Her eyes look tired, her bags under them are a palette of colours (deep blue, green and black.) She had been up all night. Thinking about him, dreaming about him, worrying about him.

Her delicate hands catch the tears of the boys frail face. His clothes don't fit right, ripped and torn, his slacks grazing his ankles, but his braces are needed to keep them around his waist, his skeletal remains of knees through the slits, his cut heels – glistening in the sun from the speckles of glass. The young girls strong hand stays on the boy's face, clasping his hollowed cheek bones.

The shadow of the boy's body travels on to her, casting her white skin to a shimmering grey. Their affectionate hug only lasts seconds as they worry someone might see but in those seconds everything is still. The smell of sweat, wood and cotton, the soil and dirt blowing in the whistling wind, the language bouncing from loud conversation, the bright colours of trees and immense sun, the busy men dashing back and forth with their sacks of harvest – a blur of the madness. Everything stops.

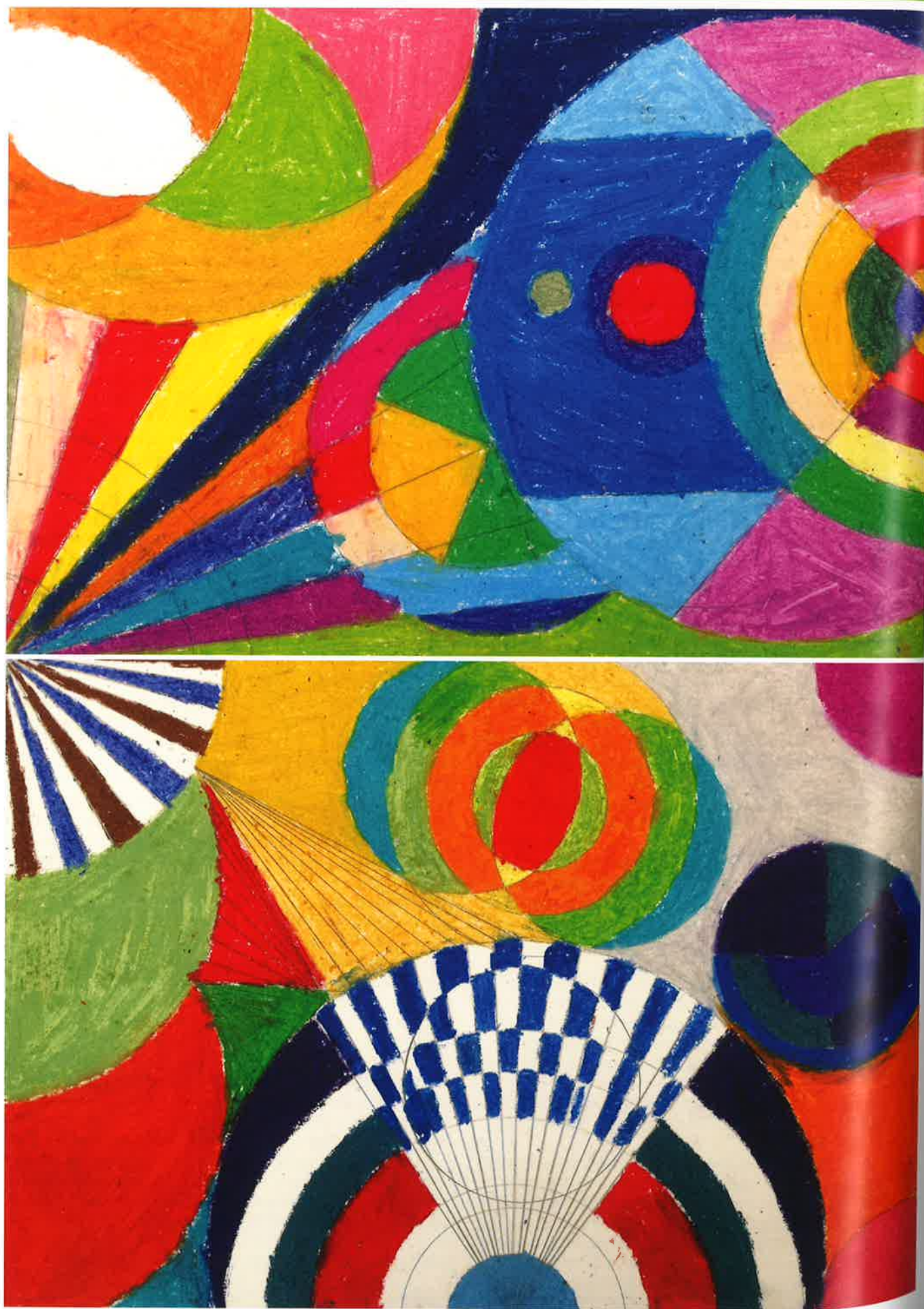
"Ya' know, Am, we could die for this. Ain't no boy like me meant to be with a girl like you."

They run deep into the forest, where the sky disappears and there are only patches of light shining through. Light of happiness. They know every tree, every path, every branch, every darkly shaded hideaway. They know the secrets of the forest, they have spent their summers in here, starting from when they first met at six years old.

Today they do as they always do on their first day of summer.

Swim.

They swim in the memory filled creek. The water flows murky green.



Top to bottom; Magnus Gothard-Oliver, P7; Mathew Berry, P7.

Twisted Trees and bordering branches binding the basin of water away from anyone else. The pool of water, hidden and secret, chilling but perfect on a summer's day.

As they swim happily, giggling and chuckling, kissing and hugging, Laughing and crying, reminiscing their love and summers past. They forget about the present - they live.

They know the time has come to climb out of the mud waters, up the small bay, to rest and dry their cool bodies on the creek's low cliff.

As they sit on the ledge of the creek, on the edge of their childhood, the boy puts his slim arm around her shivering shoulders, they speak of what is next in their lives and how they must say goodbye now.

'Dis year is gonna be the hardest for us, Am.'

It is when their summers of innocence stop.

'I know Hoyt,' she whispers into his ear.

She will go away for her extravagant summer vacation at her Aunt Isabelle's where she will learn to be a proper Southern lady and forced to marry a man she will never love. Forced to forget the love and friendship of 12 years with a boy whom she'll never see again.

He will be forced to work on her father's fields where he will learn to be a man. He will be forced in to hard labour to provide for his mother and a family of his own. He will be forced into early mornings and long days. This will remain his job until death - just like his father. His father always said "Ain't no neggro gonna be ownin' his own field so he best be workin' for white folk who treat 'im good" and Amelia-Rose's father treats blacks very well.

"Hoyt, don't you go forgetting me when you're working on those fields!"

"Am, I ain't never."

Amelia-Rose's eyes filled with water, gleaming in the light. They hold hands. At that moment they feel infinite.

The sun lit sky begins to dim. The clouds cover the shining sun, blocking the glowing horizon. The trees sway in the wind and the leaves rustle as they move. A storm starts to brew, creating a darkness over the forest.

The leaves become restless. The wild wind roaring, pushing the tress, getting stronger and stronger, the trees hit of one another making noise like shot guns. Dogs barking in the distance, howling and screeching. Shouting echoes through the woods, faint in the distance.

"Amilia-Rose!" a man screams.

Amilia-Rose recognises the voice. Her heart began to pound.

"Emilia-Rose!"

He knows, her father knows.

"I KNOW YOUR'E WI' DAT NIGGA!"

A shot gun sounded through the woods.

On hearing the sound, they race through the shadowed forest. "We gotta run faster, Am!" The dogs find them, barking and growling. They dodge between the trees until the barking fades.

As Hoyt is panting with struggle to get his breathe back he whispers 'Damn a think w' lost him, Am'.

She finds comfort and safety by grabbing his strong, shaking hand.

"It'll be alright Am, a promise." Hoyt squeezed her hand. He said this for his own reassurance.

"No negro should be makin' no promises he can't keep!"

They turned to face the familiar voice. The nerves rushing through them. The cold air through their nostrils.

"Please sir, don't do this, all of this won't matter one day!"

"No da' please!"

He lifts the shot gun. He pulls the trigger. The shot fires.

Maddy

Thaùrigs Unexpected Find part 1

Eight months have passed since anyone had heard of Thaùrig. People who had met him said he was a quiet and gentle character, but none remembered where he was going. They say he just travelled through towns and villages searching for word of Oryx's whereabouts. But nobody was any help to Thaùrig. But he knew he couldn't give up, as he knew that meant failure. And failure wasn't an option. Yet his anger and hatred drove him on...

He was avenging his kin.

Thaùrig was exhausted. His diet had almost completely consisted of natural fruits and pheasants.

After travelling across leagues of animal covered hills and through endless plains of tall grass, ridden with booby-traps hidden by Soracs - Thaùrig finally arrived in the kingdom of Gúgad. The kingdom of Gúgad was an Elven kingdom. An extremely large kingdom that enjoyed showing off it's wealth and power. This place could be of use to Thaùrig if he was wise about it. It was in this kingdom in which the strongest armour and weaponry was forged. Lying in the direct centre of the kingdom was the deep, dark, ever-descending caves where the 'Umbrel' metal was mined. Umbrel metal was the most durable of metal and was impossible to shatter by the hand of any man. Hidden in this mine, was the never ending workshop where the metal could be made into whatever a mind could dream. This kingdom was never disturbed.

Thaùrig eventually made his way to the polished marble steps ascending to the extremely large oak-wood castle doors. The guards at the doors all stood with chests puffed out, their armour gleaming in the sunlight. They all wore shining silver armour, swords sheathed, shields slung over their left shoulder. And right in the centre they wielded long axes, crafted of Umbrel metal and Elmwood. Thaùrig noticed this, but took nothing of it.

Suddenly, as if robots, four of the castle guards in ranks of two, came to ease and their weapons in a diagonal position; this creating a cross like figure. It was at this moment Thaurig had realised that he also surrounded by bow-wielding elves, a lot of them. He must have been followed from the second he step foot into the kingdom. He was hugely out-numbered.

"State your name, peasant" a voice echoed from the back rank of guards.

Next came whispering and the shuffling of armour, and a very loud creak of the oak doors. They opened and out stepped the Elven King – Engid.

"I am Thaurig, son of Horig of the House of Éder."

"And what become of you, Thaurig son of Horig?" Engid questioned.

"I am here to earn your grant of access to your great forge, your Majesty" Thaurig replied, as he bowed.

"Now, why would you need that?" He commanded.

"I am in need of a more suitable armoury"

"Come inside, let's talk" Engid commanded the guards to go back to their original position and let Thaurig through.

And in unison the guards shifted and went back to heels together and chests puffed out.

After a long explanation to King Engid and his Royal guard of why he needed the access and what his task ahead was, Thaurig earned the grant. But, he was to be supervised at all times. And when he was finished, he must return to the King for further talks, in private. It would seem that Thaurig wasn't alone.

Thaurig made the short walk to the cave where the grand workshop was based. The cave he arrived at wasn't exactly large though, and then further carried on through the cave to an even smaller door. This struck Thaurig as odd. It looked like a dwarf-sized door.

"Dwarves do not mix with the Elven kind," he muttered as he bent down to knock on the door.

All he heard was muffling on the inside of the door, and then the opening of something. Though it wasn't the door. Thaurig looked about him self wearily.

"Who. Are. You?" came a voice, even with Thaurigs great hearing; he could not find where the voice came from.

"Down here you numpty, what do you want?" the voice came again.

Thaurig looked down and noticed the opening in the door.

"I'm here with a grant from the King himself," stated Thaurig.

"Yeah, sure you are"

Thaurig took the slip of parchment from his sack and held it up to the door.

"And how do I know you didn't write this yourself?" questioned the voice

"It is signed by King Engid!" Thaurig was becoming frustrated now, he didn't even know who was speaking to.

The opening in the door immediately closed and the bolts on the other side of the door were unlocked like gun fire. The door handle turned slowly and the door opened into a very broad cavern. An intense heat rushed over Thaurig immediately and the sound that followed was the clashing of metal and pick axes flying through and through raw stone. Thaurig was in awe, he had never seen something so spectacular.

After a long decent to the bottom of the cave, Thaurig was then led to a smaller cave. It seemed more suitable for talking as there wasn't much noise. The other dwarves he passed payed no attention to him as they worked. The dwarf leading him knocked on the door and waited for a moment before stepping in. When they entered there was another dwarf dressed in just cloth alone, staring into a deep dark well.

"Here, is the lord Shax," the dwarf bowed and Thaurig copied.

"And who might you be?" he replied in a deep voice, he was still staring in to the deep, dark well. His voice making the water shake.

"I am Thaurig, son of Horig of the House Éder. I have a grant from the King giving me permission to request a new armoury," Thaurig announced.

"And what makes you think I will let you use MY forge?"

There was a pause of silence. Only the sound of the lord Shax turning to face Thaurig, to look at Thaurig, dead in the eyes. Although he wasn't large in size (well, only around the belly) he was certainly large in character. It seemed he doomed upon Thaurig.

"Ehhh," Thaurig stutted

"None of what we speak of can leave this room, understood?" Lord Shax stated

"Understood"

And at that moment, the dwarf he first met at the top of the cave had disappeared and the door shut, without even a sound...

Morgan Leatherbarrow



Maths

Maths Challenge

All S1 participated in Queen Victoria School's annual Maths Challenge consisting of the following four rounds:

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

S1 winners: Marc Barber, Carley Cunningham, Pratistha Khawas and Rosie Welch.

UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge

The majority of Primary 7, 1st year and 2nd year pupils participated in the national UK Junior Maths Challenge. This is a very difficult competition and is a real test of their mathematical problem solving skills.

I am delighted that following pupils achieved the following awards:

Silver	Anna Gurung (S2)
Bronze	Lewis Campbell (S2)
	Rachel Loudon (S2)
	Grace Hutchison (P7)
	Lucie Evans (P7)







Highland dance.

Dance

This year Miss Stinson officially took up the role as Dance Teacher at QV. Throughout the year the dancing team has been improving significantly with many pupils including Rachel Spence and Callum Pearson competing at competitions and bringing home trophies from Dunoon, Denny and Glenboig.

The dancing team has participated in multiple band jobs during the course of the year. On the 11th of November myself and PKay performed along with a small band at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh at the leaving meal for the president of the college, who is also one of the school's commissioners; where we were given a commemorative engraved gift. The school was also presented with a gift of thanks in the form of a hand sculpture.

As Principal Dancer a highlight of the year for me was performing Village Maid to the tune of Highland Cathedral on Remembrance Day Parade. It was an emotional contribute which I'll never forget. However after every dance rehearsal the dancing team would practise the "Whip and Nae Nae" dance which is a close second.

I wish Miss Stinson and the dancing team all the very best in the future.

Mairi Laidlaw

Alastair Andrew
Wednesday at 16:06

Well done to the kids from Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. These are children of servicemen and women who stay at the boarding school. On arrival at the beach today the kids did a litter pick before enjoying a fun day splashing about. Thanks for your help



QV You, Mandy Wainwright and 400 others

34 Comments





Top to bottom; Wind band; Junior Minstrels.



Pipers and Drummers.

Pipe Band

The Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancing Team have had the usual busy period. Not as busy as past years, however the engagements we have taken part in have been very high profile. September 2015 saw very young pipes and drums take part in the Avenches Tattoo in Switzerland. A beautiful Roman amphitheatre was the venue. Probably one of the most stunning settings for a Tattoo. It was the first Tattoo for the majority of the band and the youngsters acquitted themselves superbly. James Work was selected as the Lone Piper each night playing a lovely and sometimes interesting arrangement of Hector the Hero. As we were on the border with France, Pipey was able to brush up on his French whilst there "Allo Allo" style. A great first Tattoo for our young band.

November of that year saw us as part of a "top secret" engagement for one of our new Commissioners, Mr Ian Ritchie. Mr Ritchie at the time was leaving his position as Chairman of the Royal College of Surgeons and had previously been gushing about our Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers. So, as a surprise and a lot of covert reccies the College got us to put on a display of Highland Dancing, Piping and drumming for his leaving dinner in Edinburgh.

We have to say a big thank you to the College for the hospitality and generosity shown to the staff and in particular the pupils. For Ian it was the highlights of his evening and for us one of the best engagements we have taken part in.

No rest for the wicked as they say and it was full steam ahead towards our Christmas Concert. A huge undertaking for staff and performers to put on a show lasting 90 minutes. It is to the pupil's credit that the Pipers, Drummers and Highland Dancers are able to put this great show together. This annual event seems to get better with each passing year. This year provided our largest audience of staff, Commissioners, guests and parents. Thank you for all your

continued support. Staff and pupils looked forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

The first half of the year saw us once again at Holyrood House for the annual CCF Beating Retreat which again saw our talented youngsters playing and dancing in front of The Lord Lyon who also visited the school just a few days before to see our pupils perform for him.

We also performed at Ingleston for Gardening Scotland. A chance to blood the new Drum Majors for next term and a lovely day out for all.

A mention to several of our pupils, Henry Aldwinckle who auditioned and was selected to join the National Youth Pipe band of Scotland this year. Craig Duncan who now competes at Grade Two, the 2nd highest level of pipe band competition. Plus congratulations to the successful candidates who sat and passed their SCQF Level 4 and 5 drumming exams this year. Well done to all.

The biggest event to take part in was the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland during the school summer holidays. Coach and ferry all the way there and back which was a bit of an adventure in itself.

The Tattoo and in particular the rehearsal phase was very intense, and I have to say not once did we hear any of the pupils complain about the heat and long hours. The treatment of our group, the hospitality and kindness shown was absolutely first class. We had a great Liason Officer (Monika) who helped organise trips and activities for the children. She was fantastic.

A big mention to our support staff, Stephanie Stinson and Tracey Carr for the huge amount of work behind the scenes. Pressing kilts and plaids, straightening sporran hair and blow drying the feather bonnets.

The kids went onto every show immaculate because of their efforts. Thank you.

Gordon and I were so impressed and proud of the attitude and camaraderie of every single pupil on the trip. Our Pipes and Drums were selected for an award by the staff of the Basel Tattoo such was their enthusiasm and professionalism.

Grand Day saw the departure of a large number of pipers and drummers. Pipey lost 3 senior pipers, James Work, Kyle Rowe and

Music

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy: but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." Plato.

Another year, lots more music and success. More instrumental and vocal lessons, another group of new 'P7 Minstrels', another exciting group of certificate students, more ABRSM exam success and the summer concert to come.

'I am hitting my head against the walls, but the walls are giving way.' Gustav Mahler.

We are still waiting for the sound proof practice rooms to be installed, but have had some of the other work completed to develop the 'new music rooms'.

Instrumental lessons continue to provide a special experience for large numbers of our pupils with the possibility of us being up to our full complement of visiting tutors covering all orchestral instruments as well as guitar, drum kit and tuned percussion, singing and harp, in place for the start of the new academic year.

We will see some new tutors joining our team as Miss MacIntosh, our saxophone specialist has left us to concentrate her teaching in one area. Heather started her teaching career at QVS and proved to be a very able and popular teacher.

Mr Baillie our guitar tutor will be leaving at the end of term after many years at QVS. Gordon has decided to reduce his evening work and to try to find a little more time for life away from teaching. Gordon has worked with generations of Victorians to develop their guitar and bass guitar skills. Both will be greatly missed by staff and pupils.

We are still waiting for the results of this years Associate Board external music exams to add to the excellent merit passes for Rachel Spence in grade 4 piano and Charlotte Gothard-Oliver in grade 3 flute from last sitting. If Ben Adam, Caitlin Jones, Christian McBrearty and Evie Clark enjoyed their playing as much as the after exam 'Corrieris' ice cream then we should have some more excellent results.

'Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul' Plato

This year's Higher and Nat 5 classes were our normal mix of sixth

Calum Gilbert. Our three Drum Majors and lead tenor also saw the drum corps depleted. Emily, Rebecca, Eildh and Jared. We wish them all the best of luck in the future and thank them for their support during the last year.

Looking to the future. We are hoping to get our pipes and drums registered with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association in order to start competing at outdoor competitions in 2017 and beyond.

J Clark, Drum Major QVS

year returning to the department for the first time since second year to 'crash' their Higher and the group who have taken music all through their QVS years. Last years H grade class managed an 80% 'A' pass rate and hopefully this year's group of James Work, Kyle Rowe, Jared Leckie, Mairi Lawson, Georgia Clark, Charlotte Barron, Anthony Harvey, and Rebecca Leslie will repeat this achievement. The practicals with the visiting examiner in March this year were good fun with some excellent playing from the Nat 5 and Higher candidates. I especially enjoyed playing a Blues along with Charlotte's drum kit! We also had a first with Ellie Hutchinson performing on clarsach, (gaelic harp) for her Nat 5.

Once again excellent results for all of our candidates with all A or B grades for the Nat 5 group and A passes for Jared and a fantastic A for Charlotte who was crashing music Higher.

This year saw a new group of junior minstrels with excellent singing, poetry, playing and dance, including a fantastic duet choreographed and performed by Leoni Gallagher and Irena Watson. Having worked in contemporary dance education for over ten years I have seldom seen better work from pupils of their age.

'Music is what tells us that the human race is greater than we realise' Napoleon Bonaparte

Well, yet again we say goodbye to some special young musicians. Georgia Clark is leaving this year and after a very successful week working with the Royal Marine Band and performing with them she is hoping to join their ranks in the next year. Good luck to Georgia, an excellent trumpeter with very good piano skills and a super singing voice.

With the entire P7 group performing on brass and woodwind instruments as well as some excellent singers and other instrumentalists the musical future for the school looks healthy as ever.

Leonard Bernstein: *"To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time."*

At QV we always have a plan, we never have enough time but with the enthusiasm of the QVS Victorians we seem to do pretty well.

D V Breingan



Avenches Tattoo Pipe Band in their new smart uniform.



Top to bottom; Sophie Murphy, S2 Polly Tile print; Amelia Forsyth, S2 Polly Tile print.





Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition

The first practice expedition of the session took place on 22nd and 23rd April. The Bronze boys was made up of; John Dougherty, Jason Galloway, Jacob Codd, Keir Dillon, Tiernan Bark, Luke Thomson and Adam Conway. Although at this time of the year the air temperature is not high you have the bonus of no midges. The weather was dry and the boys enjoyed the weekend. Mr Renwick was an excellent instructor passing on a range of skills and techniques to the boys

The second practice expedition took place on 6th and 7th May. The Bronze girls' group was made up of; Elisha Bura, Evie Clarke, Olivia Dunbar, Charlotte Gothard-Oliver, Caitlin Jones, Anjipa Malla, Caitlin Richardson and Amy Main. The perfect weather for the expedition allowed the girls to maximise the training opportunities which covered camp craft and navigation. Again there were no midges; however there are an increasing number of ticks so more vigilance is required.

The first assessment of the session was on 13th and 14th May The girls' Bronze group was made up of; Elisha Bura, Evie Clarke, Olivia Dunbar, Charlotte Gothard-Oliver, Caitlin Jones, Anjipa Malla and Caitlin Richardson. All the girls successfully completed the twenty conditions to complete the expedition element of the Award. The group managed to navigate themselves from Glen Devon in the Ochil Hills back to QVS. Generally the weather was good and the girls had a great time.

On the 3rd June we headed up to the Cairngorms for the Silver practice expedition. The girls group was made up of; Charlotte Sowden, Pabina Thapa, Jasmine Gurung, Emily McNair, Madison Robb, Amy Main. Training was the main aim of the expedition and thanks to the perfect weather the group had a very rewarding time. We managed navigation, camp craft, a session of scenarios dealing with emergency situations, river crossing techniques and although not on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition syllabus camp fire building. Miss Lees was an excellent instructor and also had a great rapport with the girls.

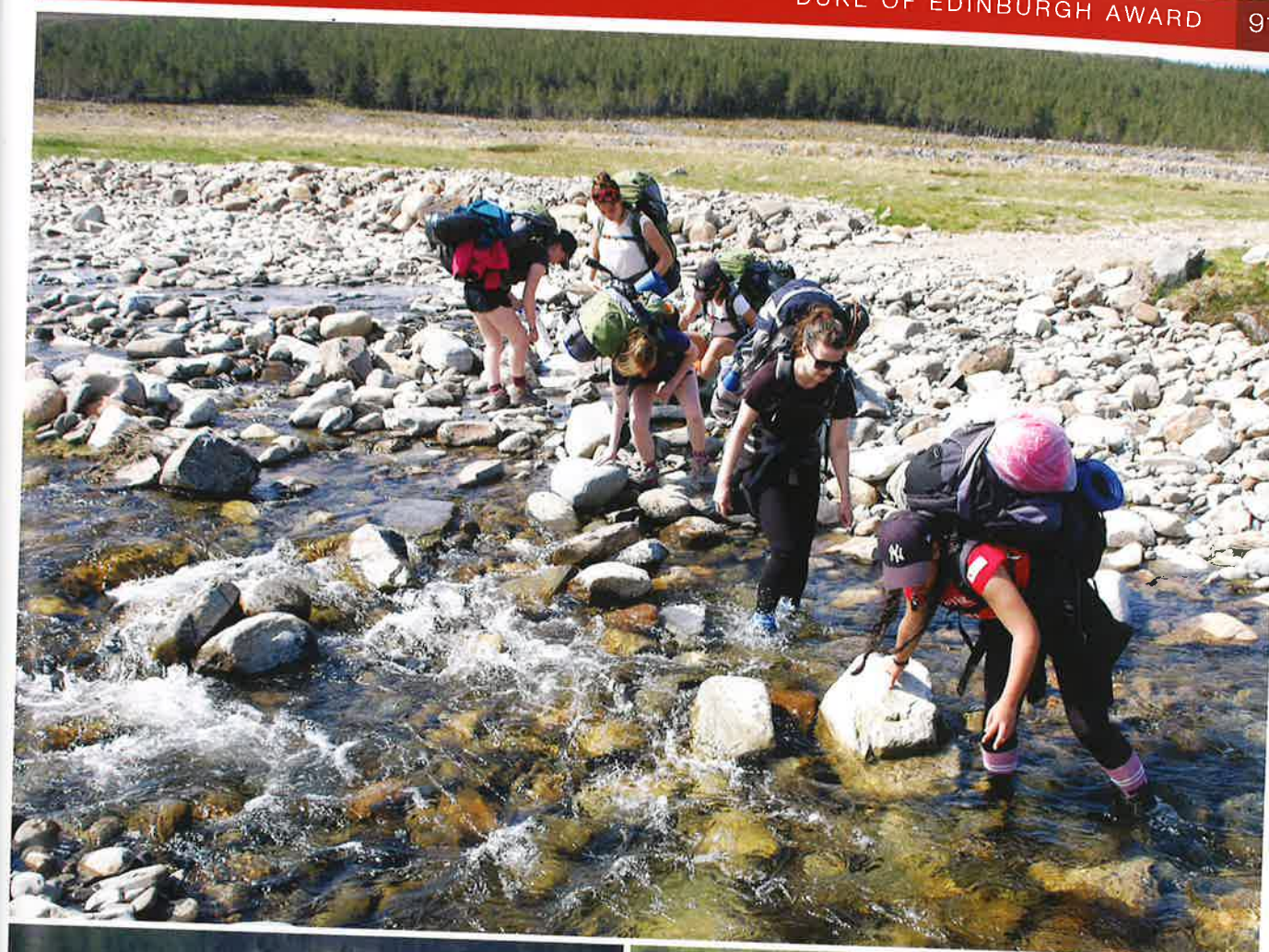
From the 3rd to 6th June the Silver girls group was assessed. They planned their expedition in the southern Cairngorms. The girls group was made up of; Alicia Smith, Caitlin Adams, Francesca Cockburn, Aoife Dillon, Sushmita Gurung, Lora Marshal and Anais Scott. After acclimatisation in Glenshee the group started their expedition at Inverey about five miles west of Braemar. They then walked out to the Corour Bothy in the Lairig Ghru via Derry Lodge. Then walked down Glen Dee to their first camp site which was a spectacular spot overlooking some inviting pools in the river Dee. Day two the group turned south and passed the Silver practice group near Bynack Lodge where they were practising river crossing techniques. Continuing south and after a long slog the group finally reached their second camp site beside the river Tilt in upper Glen Tilt. Exhaustion and sore feet were soon forgotten at another idyllic camp site with continuing perfect weather. Day three of the expedition was the long walk down Glen Tilt to Blair Atholl. Going was slow because of blisters but the successful completion of the expedition made up for any discomfort.

Thank you Miss Lees and Mr Renwick for their invaluable help and support with the expedition section and Mr Kirk who should be congratulated, becoming a Duke of Edinburgh Award Accredited Assessor.

Thanks to all the staff who provide so many opportunities for our pupils to achieve each of the four sections of the Award (volunteering, physical recreation, skill and expedition)

Finally in recognition of thirty years service with the Award I was honoured to receive a certificate of long service presented by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at Holyrood Palace on the 4th of July. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself?

Tom Shannon, Director Outdoor Pursuits







Contingent Commander's Report

Stirling Raise Red Ensign To Mark Merchant Navy Day
Merchant Navy Day 3rd Sept. Stirling marked Merchant Navy Day with the raising of the Red Ensign flag. The flag was flown at 10am, at Stirling Council's headquarters at Old Viewforth, in a message of gratitude to the work done by Merchant Navy seafarers. The Seafarers UK charity and the Merchant Navy Association called for the UK Merchant Navy's official flag to be flown on public buildings and landmark flagstaffs throughout the country. This morning, Provost Mike Robbins and Stirling Council staff were joined by QVS RN Cadets; Evie Clarke, Elisha Bura, John Dougherty, Henry Aldwinkle and Jacob Codd and ex-servicemen to mark the occasion. The flag was raised at 10am by Cadet John Dougherty who described it as an "exciting and nerve-wracking experience."

Recruits meet the marines at Ratho Wed 16th September. Thank you WO Bell. Ratho was a fantastic venue to meet the Royal Marines. The recruits joined in all the activities including rock climbing, abseiling, paddling, weapons handling, first aid and unarmed combat. All 40 recruits attended.

I was delighted to get a call from Joe Stanfield MBE of the Royal Air Forces Assoc (RAFA) to ask if some of our RAF Cadets could help with the Battle of Britain 75th Anniversary service at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh on 24 Sept 2015. We were happy to help Joe, a former QV parent. The event was attended by Battle of Britain veterans and HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York, as well as RAFA president Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The hour long service was followed by a reception in the Lothian Chambers. Our cadets were; Charlotte Gothard-Olver, Adam Conway, Caitlin Richardson and David Burns.

Wednesday 7th October was our Biennial Inspection and Air Commodore Ian Tolfts OBE MA MCIPR RAF Head of Service Delivery

Accommodation was our Inspecting Officer. The day started with a parade and March past followed by lunch and a CCF dancing display. The afternoon was made up of various displays allowing our cadets to show off their skills and training. Some highlights were; Army Section Attack, RN Cadet swimming test and command tasks with Rigging and simulator, RAF Leadership Display 1, Army Skill at Arms recruits and CCF Shooting team. At the end of the day there was a closing parade at which Air Commodore Ian Tolfts made some very kind comments and was full of praise for our Cadets and Staff.

Dundee Festival of Remembrance Saturday 31st October is becoming a regular spot in the CCF calendar. Taking a group to help with the Dundee Festival of Remembrance in the Carnegie Halls. The QVS colours join standard from the Royal British Legion and other cadet organisations.

RN CCF Area Conference Wed 13th Jan. Most of the CCF Royal Naval Sections of Scotland and Northern Ireland had representatives at the conference hosted by Queen Victoria School. As the conference ended 1530 the cadets quickly rearranged the seating for a presentation by Major Brookfield on values and standards. The presentation was very good and gave the cadets some food for thought.

The CCF Ski Camp to Pila in the Aosta Valley was a great success. The cadets attending were; Stewart Brown, Lewis Campbell, Rhaea Clark, Conor Kirkwood, Rachel Loudon, Christian McBrearty, Sophie Murphy, Leanne Myles, Brodie Paterson, Marcus Wakefield, Cameron Crawford, John Dougherty, Craig Duncan, Steven Rae, Ethan Rowe, Carys Dodd and Callum Pearson. Everyone surpassed their skiing expectation with three of our cadets receiving the highest achievable award. The help of staff, Mr Gilhooly and Miss Stinson, was invaluable.



We set off from QVS at 1100 joining another school group on the coach from Helmsdale. The journey to Dover seemed like no time as we were entertained by films all the way down. Mr Bean is great! Pila has a bewitching natural landscape with a magnificent view sweeping the Alps, from Mont Blanc to Monte Rosa and the Matterhorn. There are 70 kms of perfectly maintained pistes, modern ski lifts, 400+ snow cannons (meaning superb snow-making) and a tempting mix of tree-lined runs and vast, wide, open spaces.

For our beginners, the Grimod bowl is a confidence-building paradise - a natural teaching ground. Intermediates should try the Liesse run which is superb, wide open and has a terrain which ranges from gentle to steep. Advanced? We challenge you to face the Wall! Mr Gilhooly beware!

Linked to the ski area of Pila by an efficient gondola (which offers mind-blowing panoramas of the surrounding peaks), Aosta is the heart of the valley and is easy to fall in love with. As you wander through the old streets of the historical centre, you will find that Aosta is a large, open-air museum, enclosed in a landscape which acts as a fascinating backdrop to the town's monuments. Home to a wealth of Roman and medieval monuments

Summer Camp - Field Day Wed 8th June

The start of the CCF 2016 summer camp was spent in QVS with a trip to McDonald's and the cinema before the bus journey up to Barry Buddon training camp in Carnoustie. After much debate over the weather conditions we might expect, we were all surprised to find ourselves extremely overdressed in the blazing heat and sunshine.

The great weather would fortunately continue all week, much to our surprise. Soon after we arrived we were sent to our new blocks where we would live for the week. We had the rest of the day playing sport outside the block and, in the evening, the week's training was outlined to us by the camp training staff. Our first activity would start early the next morning. After a refreshing shower at 6 o'clock in the morning the cadets were lined up outside in three smart ranks ready for a much needed meal. The catering was up to the usual high army standard and, after a full Scottish breakfast, by 7.30am we were ready to head off to the ranges for some shooting and a competition. Fortunately we had access to the light support weapons and the automatic fire deafened the surrounding valley. After other teambuilding exercises such as the obstacle course and command tasks to test our leadership skills, it was time to head out into the field, all cammed up and ready to start the live exercise. The fictitious mission was to help neutralize an insurgency from destabilizing the region, the insurgents graciously played by the teaching staff and cadets in the Officer Training Corps. The two day field exercise consisted of night ambushes, reconnaissance patrols and lessons in fieldcraft. Eventually this all led up to a final blank firing exercise to simulate an attack on the enemy positions. The final orders were given out, as well as the large quantities of ammunition and the assault began. By the end of it the training area was littered with empty cases and smoke grenades, as well as the smell of cordite and victory in the air.

The last day of camp was a chance for the cadets to learn about survival skills. All in all it was a fantastic week that was rewarding and satisfying to take part in. It was a great experience with challenges and rewards and all the cadets expressed their interest in going to



another camp in the future. Our cadets were; Jon Mallinson, Craig Duncan, Scott Burns, Adam Conway, Christian Macbrearty, Brodie Patterson, Jason Galloway, Luke Thomson and Alexandra Barron. The staff were; Mr Stacey Mr Gilhooly and Mr Rewick

Farewell Sub Lt Duncan Davey, Lt Scott Harrison and Sergeant Galloway. Thank you for all your help and support.

Welcome Pilot Officer Stephanie Stinson and Sergeant Chris Panayotou.

Thank you

Our inimitable Stevie O'Neil Area Chief Scotland and Northern Ireland, Jake Orr, Area Safety Officer and Roger Armstrong, SO1 and

all his staff at HQ CCF (RN).

At 51 Brigade the biggest thanks goes to SO1 Karen Buchanan whose hard work and determination have been so important for our CCF. I would also like to thank Major John Kerr and Captain Rury Fitzpatrick.

From the RAF thank you Sergeant Steph and thank you and farewell to Squadron Leader Brian McCran who has supported the school for the last twenty years. Best wishes in your retirement Brian.

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

Commander Tom Shannon RD RNR, Contingent Commander



Top to bottom; Army; Navy; RAF





Top to bottom; Ryan Glass, S4 Still Life Mix media painting; Georgia Forsyth, S4 Jewellery Design.



Spring Fling

Sunday 24th April was the date for this year's SPRING FLING

Around 80 of S3 and S4 got their 'glad rags' on and headed down to Central Hall to party like their lives depended on it. Mr Bush was our photographer and he made sure everyone was looking their best and all of the essential 'Squad Goals' pics were looking sharp!

Everyone looked very glamorous and dapper on the night – but 'Best Dressed Lady' and 'Most Dapper Gent' were awarded to Josh Dobson and Kenna Berry after much deliberation.

Our DJ, Kyle played a ton of banging tunes and got most of the requests in! Peanut Butter Jelly and Whip NaeNae seemed to be the 'Tunes' of the night and some great shapes were thrown – led by our S6 helpers Charlotte Barron, Tarah Lynch, Mairi Lawson, Connor Watson, James Work, Jack Miller and Leon Boylan who really got them all in the party mood. Disco Boss and Disco Diva on the night were Devon Taylor and Ben Berry who definitely fought hard for their titles.

The staff had great fun with the hit of the night – The Face Mats – Although it was hard to tell in some cases whether or not that was

just their actual face :) The buffet supper was also a big hit – with many of the S3 boys heading back in for seconds or even thirds!

We partied until around 21:45 – finishing with a rousing group performance of 'Loch Lomond' in the QVS Tradition with everyone joining in to raise the roof. When the Awards were given at the end the Spring King and Spring Queen were crowned. These titles are given to the pupils who have thrown themselves into the evening and basically been the 'Life and Soul' of the party – Spring King was awarded to Aaron Slade and Spring Queen 2016 was Madison Robb.

The Spring Fling was a fantastic night from start to finish and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A great big thanks to all of the Staff Volunteers who really made the night go with a swing. Things at QVS 'Don't just happen..' – We really couldn't do it without you

Roll on the Prom!

Jill Adams, S6 Coordinator



Top to bottom, left to right; Rachel Christie; Kirsty Mallott; Jordan Angus and Craig Miller – Edinburgh Napier; Alison Harrower – University of Glasgow; Vicky Wemyss – Masters from University of Stirling; Fiona Coyle – University of Glasgow; Tegan Gallacher and Taysie Lynch – Edinburgh Napier; Tegan Gallacher and Declan Gallagher; Izaak Brummitt – University of Dundee.

Old Victorian Graduates

We'd like to celebrate the impressive, diverse and fascinating range of achievements of Old Victorians once they've left us. Here is a selection of this year's graduates, showing what they've gone on to achieve after school. Some of them are going on to further study, like Izaak and Luke, some of them are finishing their Masters like Vicky

Wemyss and some are graduating after a non-traditional pathway, like Fiona who is graduating twelve years after leaving QVS and after the birth of Charlie her son. Well done to all of the Victorians graduating and good luck in their next adventures.



Top to bottom, left to right; Corin Domanski – Edinburgh Napier; Jemma Law – Glasgow Caledonian; Steven Craig – Napier University; Brogan Stacey – University of Dundee.

Luke Masters

Luke Masters aged 22 years from Easterton, Devizes graduated from The University of St Andrews, Scotland on Wednesday 22nd June with the Degree of Master in Physics, with Honours of the First Class. Luke undertook the five year degree course completing it in four years, by direct entry to the second year. He was awarded the 4th level Physics medal in his third year and has just been awarded the Physics Fifth level medal for performance in his fourth and final year. In addition, Luke won the project prize 2015-16 for the best final year M.Phys. Physics Project (dissertation), with a prize value of £100.

During his time at St Andrews Luke has also received three academic prizes, achieving The Deans' List Award on three occasions, awarded to undergraduate students who achieve an outstanding overall result in the course of the academic year and fulfil strict criteria.

Going forward, Luke has successfully secured a place on The Vienna Doctoral Program on Complex Quantum Systems (CoQuS), a training centre for more than 40 students who are selected from an international pool of applicants, based on their academic excellence, scientific success and ambition. The funded doctoral program CoQuS is jointly hosted and co-financed by the University of Vienna and the Vienna University of Technology. Research in CoQuS covers

experimental and theoretical quantum physics. Luke will travel to Vienna in September.

In 2008 Luke was diagnosed with Diabetes type 1 and Coeliac Disease. Luke has maintained good control of his diabetes and proved that having diabetes type 1 should not stop you doing anything you want to do or slow you down!

Outstanding Success for QVS Musician

In 2007 one of the new P7 group arriving at QVS was a skinny little girl called Alanna. She was already an excellent gymnast and had played trumpet, clarinet and strangest of all the bassoon. Alanna's mother, a talented musician herself, had found a rather leaky and battered bassoon after her daughter had heard one and loved the sound. Alanna became one of the schools top highland dancers, helping teach the younger pupils with Mrs MacDonald.

The bassoon is the comedy act in the wind department of the orchestra. A collection of wooden tubes and a metal tube with a reed stuck in the end. Due to the expense and complexity as well as the need for very long fingers there are rare instruments in schools. Grandfather in Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, bassoons are very expensive instruments. As one of her year groups most academic pupils, Alanna considered a future in medicine and only after joining the Royal Scottish Conservatoire Junior department moved towards music as her chosen career. Before leaving QVS Alanna had reached Grade 5 piano, Grade 6 clarinet, Grade 6 trumpet and Grade 8 bassoon.

Alanna Macfarlane is now in London in her third year at the Royal Academy of Music. RAM is generally regarded as one of the top music conservatoires in the world with students from around the globe fighting for the available places. She was initially self taught, and then after some help from a former RAF player Alanna received lessons at QVS on clarinet, trumpet, piano and of course bassoon.

During her time at RCS's Junior department she attended lessons in Glasgow, playing in a number of youth orchestras including the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Alanna has now performed in venues around the world including Carnegie Hall New York with the International Youth Philharmonic. Alanna also performs around the UK, with concerts in London, Wales and Gateshead. She has a hectic lifestyle with a busy performing schedule, and is looking forward to her fourth year at RAM. Having taken part in a number of bassoon masterclasses with a number of the world's top players Alanna continues to work with her own teacher John Orford, Principal bassoon of the London Sinfionetta and also Robin O'Neill Principal of the Philharmonia. Getting a good bassoon is an expensive and difficult task and Alanna is lucky enough to play on a Puchner bassoon previously owned by a top London performer. The bassoon's previous owner attends all Alanna's London concerts just to check that his bassoon is still performing well.

The world of professional music is highly competitive and work is difficult to obtain. With less than twenty full time orchestras in the UK, (Germany has over two hundred) and players an international group, Alanna has chosen one of the most difficult professions in which to work. All the signs are that she is looking good for the future.

Good luck to an outstanding Old Victorian.

The European Network of Nursing in Higher Education

Whilst studying for my nursing degree this year I was selected to go and represent my University along with others at the ENNE intensive in Barcelona. The aim of this programme was to bring student nurses from all over Europe together and allow them to work through scenarios to come up with the ideal European nurse and care plans for patients, in order for the same standards of care to, in the future, apply throughout Europe. It was a very interesting week and a great opportunity to meet new people and see a new place.

As part of the application process to be selected for the programme you had to write a CV and mine included a lot of things that I had done and achieved in my time at QV, which just goes to show how much the school can help you in later life and make you stand out a bit from the crowd. I loved the chance to go on the programme and would definitely encourage anyone, no matter what path you take, to make the most of similar opportunities.

Caitlin Willis

The Seventeen Old Victorians who died in the Great War

Staff, pupils and OVs have been finding out about the lives and deaths of the 17 Old Victorians who died in World War I. We started by using the plaque of Remembrance in our Chapel to get the boys' names and then we researched their school records, the Commonwealth War Graves website and other sources, to see what happened to them. We now have a digital record as well as a print record, held in the school library.

The first boy we found out about was William Tinlin, whose QVS number was 82. He was born on 22nd October 1898 and went to Lochend Road School in Leith. William's father was in the Royal Horse Guards and his mother was deceased, when he started QVS aged 11 years one month on 12 November 1909. William left school on 12th November 1912 after passing Standard 6 in July that year. He joined the Royal Scots and was killed, aged only 17, in Britain's worst rail crash at Quintinshill on 22nd May 1915, en route to Gallipoli. He is buried in Rosebank Cemetery, Edinburgh.

We subsequently found out about all the other boys who were named on the plaque. Most of the OVs died in France; in fact eleven of them are buried around the Arras area. Corporal George Archer (20), John Gibbon (1) and Omond Cassie (80) died in April/May 1917 and Robert

Mackenzie (143), James Pollock (26) and Henry Robinson (174) died in the same month, March 1918.

The youngest boy to die was John Watt (66) who was in the 2nd Bn Black Watch as a boy drummer. He died aged just 15 and he is buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq.

For Remembrance Day, the Junior Rotaract Group made 17 huge poppies with the details of each boy's life and death and we hung them on the pillars in Chapel. The S4 Design and Manufacture class made 17 polystyrene poppies as a permanent display outside the school, complete with an iconic wooden cross and helmet. We also have a digital record and a print record, held in the school library.

Mr Gordon Sanderson – the passage of a former Victorian

Mr Gordon Sanderson's wife contacted reception on 29th November 2015 at 17:00 to inform the school of his passing, at Perth Royal Infirmary

Mrs Sanderson spoke about her husband's admiration for Queen Victoria School and the time he spent here during his childhood. Mr Sanderson left QVS and went straight into the Army and she believes he was at the School from 1944 to 1947.



Sixth year volunteers.

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Sixth year volunteers.

Staff of Queen Victoria School

Jonathan Coates (JC) – By An Old Friend

Six months before he died, JC asked me to speak at his funeral, and I laughed him off, saying that wouldn't be necessary for a long time yet – sadly I was wrong. Circumstances changed, and I didn't speak then, but I have distilled some of what I might have said here below.

Let me say at the outset what a kindness it was by the Head and staff to host his send off in the school chapel on 16 Jan 2016. That was very much appreciated, Mrs Bellars.

We first met 40 years ago, when he was teaching at the Brunei. Sixth form college, in NE Borneo. I was teaching too, though mine was jungle warfare, working for the Sultan's army, and his was chalkboard warfare. We had a great time together in Borneo, in the mid 70s, where his parents, Olga and Peter, were VIPs in country, with close links to the Brunei Royal Family. He loved going out, after a hard day in his boat on the South China Sea, (yes life was tough then!) for chilli prawns, washed down with a cool Tiger Beer, at the hawkers' stalls in the street markets. There is no way you'd buy a beer in modern Brunei – where Sharia law is fully implemented. We stayed closely in touch, and he became our middle son, Tom's, very assiduous godfather, visiting us in many parts of the world. He was always asking where were we to be posted to next, and please get MOD to make it exotic, so he could come and stay! We also visited Marie-Noelle (M-N) and him in their schools, down South on several occasions, and what happy memories my wife Jo and I have of all those visits and stays.

Without fail, a card would arrive for Tom's birthday in January, the day of his funeral actually, as it happened – that was some synchronicity. The card always had a flutter inside – a cheque, payable in guineas and quantity of that year's birthday, from some posh and private bank in London ... very Jonathan!

After Tom's 21st birthday, we thought that would be it, and the cards would stop, but sure enough on his 22nd birthday, a card arrived again, so Tom wrote to thank him, but to discharge him from his god fatherly duties from then on. Tom is now a palliative care consultant and, when we were visiting him in NZ last Christmas, he was very saddened to hear the news, which Brian Raine kindly told us from afar. He specifically said how much of a lift he got from his god father's continuing encouragement, interest and support, from prep school days, onwards to medical school. Jonathan liked the young, and really understood them.

I bet hundreds of young men, and more latterly young women, from his days at QVS, will testify in similar manner, to his playing a major role, and having a big impact on their schooling, their sporting or life endeavours. To say he was passionate about his schooling job and pupils, wherever he was, is a big understatement. He was an old school sort of teacher, demanding high standards, yet had the groovy shirts, listened to rock music, and could talk modern talk with children, though I'm not sure he really mastered texts, Facebook, Twitter and all that modern IT malarkey. He was a much loved, and caring housemaster of Haig House, with M-N's great support and help too – a theme recurring through their 29 years together.

What of J's Famous traits....? He always wore odd Cuff links, very elegant shirts, lovely ties, fancy and highly polished shoes. His Man Bag became the stuff of legend, and much comment, in the early days, before men had bags! He deplored my back pack, even until very recently.

JC was neat to a tee – he couldn't bear to see even a dirty coffee cup lying around – he had to get up, wash it and put it away. He was a pedantic, almost poetic, letter writer, endless talker and good raconteur. He used very flowery language. "My Dear old thing" was a favourite appellation. He would pick me up on poor English, grammar, punctuation or spelling, all of which I thought I was good at. He was a superb Housemaster, a Mr Chips, dedicated to his young chicks, and took massive, yet modest pride in their successes.

He met a certain French teacher 29 years ago, and they became a great team, fun to have round and be with. We had some great laughs and escapades, going away for weekends and eating and dining well, always. M-N often fed him lines for his long and v funny tales – a bit Ernie Wise to his Eric Morecambe. His passing showed us just what a strong character M-N is.

Jonathan kept up his Brunei links. Two years ago, we went to the 50th anniversary of the 1962 Brunei Rebellion Exhibition in the super Queen's Own Highlanders Museum, Fort George, Inverness, to which we both loaned items. He loved that, and his artefacts were a big part of the success of the exhibition. We often annoyed strangers by yakking away in Malay, though struggling latterly to be anywhere near as fluent as we used to be, of course.

He loved big sporting occasions, Test matches, Murrayfield rugby internationals etc. Most recently we had the traditional Murrayfield picnic in the car, he wore my old army glengarry rakishly, and Tom his godson came too – only last year, when we all went to the Wales game, sadly to watch victory denied the home team in the last minute – he was distraught!

He was a huge and knowledgeable enthusiast, and big on statistics – he had great recall of players, scores and what had happened when. Every early January, I would wait for the mail with bated breath, to see if I'd got the Coates call up, to the Lords Test match in the summer. He was very generous with his membership tickets. What wonderful days – he'd meet you at the WG Grace gates, resplendent in his bacon and egg MCC tie, blazer, straw hat and full picnic hamper. We would open his bar at about 1030!, we'd get the radio commentary on from Test Match Special, and bet on how many runs would be scored every three overs, a pound a go – so over a day the winner would maybe take £20 away, but huge fun. It would be a day in our respective paradises! Last time, we were very close to the Aussie team balcony, and Mr Coates was exchanging some lively banter with their players, when they were having a bad day! They did give him as good as they got mind! Pommy Bleep Bleep was said a few times!

The year he retired, he was asked to take the Grand Day dress rehearsal at school – that was a lovely gesture by Mrs Bellars, and he was thrilled, getting out his Aberdeen Uni. gown and best kit. I asked RSM Stacey for his views afterwards on how he'd done:

"He did alright", which is high praise from the RSM! "but I tell you what, Sir, he needs a darned good haircut!" He was proud of that hair, a big mane over the back collar and ears – verging on a mullet – but he didn't like being told that!

I often thought he was a frustrated army officer, and followed us all over the world – one time he turned up in KL in Malaysia, as he'd been at the Alice Smith International school, where our Peter was. I recall a Sunday in Germany, and we were about to go out to a mess curry lunch – "You're not going like that are you" – he said – "What's the problem", I said..? He thought my shoes needed a right good polish, which he then did up himself! He loved Scottish Regiments, and coming to see us in the KOSB, so we were thrilled, when he got the QVS job to keep those links up, and find out more – he then started telling me bits of Regimental history I didn't know!

He and M-N loved their Dunning stading, doing it up nicely, and playing a part in the village life there. He and I enjoyed taking a liquid lunch in that lovely pub. He liked his lunches with friends, and Brian Raine, Jean, Jo and I often discovered new places locally with him and M-N.

Last year we took a party to Gallipoli, and he was going to come but sensibly, yet sadly, had to withdraw – so he helped me write the tour Gallipoli pamphlet. In fact he tore my first version apart, and rewrote it.

He put a lot of effort into his time as Chairman of the Perth prostate cancer support group, and enjoyed that, working with what he called his "old codgers"!... But, when he first told us his medical news, 12 or so years ago, I very helpfully burst into tears...

"Fat lot of use you're going to be in this journey", he said. We must all pay tribute to his consultant in Ninewells hospital, Dundee, who he adored and trusted implicitly – Dr Phyllis Windsor – she stuck by him and his cancer over many years, and did everything she possibly could to help – and turn that initial prognosis of two years into 13 years! His least favourite bit was rubber gloves time – no more needs to be said about that.

We miss you Jonathan, Selamat Jalan ... safe journey wherever you are. You can be proud that you made your mark in this world, and left a superb legacy to hundreds of young people. I bet you are up in Test match heaven, on the balcony at Lords, watching an Ashes match, glass of red in hand, and wondering when some of us down here are going to join you! In my mind, however, it's even better than that – you are batting, you have just scored an Ashes ton, and you are raising your bat to us in the earthly crowd. We stand and salute you back.

Bless you, Mr Coates – you are badly missed.

Andy Middlemiss, Lieutenant Colonel

A Tribute to the Reverend John Silcox

I first met the Reverend John Silcox in the Queen Victoria School Library, when he came for an interview for the post of School Chaplain. There were probably five or six Ministers interviewed that day but John was the only one wearing a dog collar! That was the stamp of the man.

We know that John was a most loving husband and a proud and caring father. But we also know well what a good and upright man he was. At Queen Victoria School, he was exceptional both as Chaplain and as Schoolmaster. His contribution to QVS was huge, in that – over and above his excellence as a Chaplain to all, and Schoolmaster to so many pupils – he gave much to the school community, and did so – unstintingly. I recall his contribution: to the Chapel, and to Wavell House; the breadth of his teaching subjects; the considerable roles he undertook in the CCF, eventually becoming Contingent Commander; the expertise he contributed to shooting and the school Bisley teams; as well as so much pastoral care, shown not only to pupils, but to all adults of the school community.

John was so good in his role as School Chaplain. His pupils could show no greater respect than that they listened to him in Chapel, and I was very aware how many boys, in his time at QVS, became full members of the Church of Scotland.

John had a nice sense of humour. When I retired, he presented me with an original painting – or rather several cartoons in one frame; one cameo in it depicts me addressing the school staff – all of whom are shown – as fast asleep! Linda should know it has pride of place on my study wall. Again, when I left QV, John presented my wife and me with Bibles. I think he would be pleased to know that they are with us every Sunday.

If I were to be wicked for a moment, I would say that for John there were two places of worship in Queen Victoria School – One: the School Chapel, where every morning, before school, we met together for a short service, and then again for our Service on a Sunday. But there was another building that John considered should be treated, shall I say, with devout respect – the Indoor Rifle Range.

John was a broad churchman making the best possible use of the Chapel. If you were there at the time, you can never forget Mrs Wharton's Scripture Union presentation of the Christmas story – with, in the pulpit, a narrating angel with a wobbly halo, and camels and kings bobbing up and down around the Chapel, as if in deep sand. Indeed, I tell you, John as Chaplain made Chapel life relevant – holding the school in his heart – and in the palm of his hand.

He was such an effective pastoral Chaplain, a caring carer. If on occasion, for whatever reason, a boy might run away, I tell you John was the best finder – and comforter – of any lost boy. And though we remember that he was always immaculately turned out in cassock, dinner jacket or military uniform, we knew that those were but the outer veneer of an immaculately principled man. And we saw that his pastoral care was – not only for the pupils, but for all the adults and families associated with the school. Indeed, there were times when I benefitted from his advice and understanding.

John was a gentle man, and a gentleman. One does not find his like very often. He lived a good life: A fine Minister – a loving husband and father – a good schoolmaster – and a very worthy human being.

I tell you: John made his God matter, so now it matters that he is with God.

We do well to say: O rare John Silcox!

J Hankinson, Former QV Head



Staff List

Senior Leadership Team

Head W A Bellars MA(Hons)DipEdMA(Ed Man) PGCE
Head Shaw BSc(Hons) PGCE (from August 2016)
Senior Deputy Head C A Phipps BA(Hons) PGCE PGCG (Acting)
Deputy Head (P&G) S J Adams BSc(Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head Academic (PS) D McLay BEd(Hons) (Acting)
School Business Manager S N Cunningham AdvDipBFM(CIPFA)

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Wavell R L Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE
Cunningham M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
Haig N Lear BSc(Hons) PGCE MSc
Trenchard P Bush BA(Hons) PGCE

Principal Teachers:

L A Bairner BA(Hons) PGDE (Acting PT Modern Languages)
 G J Beattie MA MEd PGCE PGC in SFL PGD in SFL
 D V Breingan DRSAM DipEd
 D J Davey BSc(Hons) PGCE
 D Gilhooly BA(Hons) SQH PGDSL DipEd
 T King BEd(Hons) PGCE PGCG ATQ Primary DRSAM PGRNCM
 A M Kirk MA(Hons) DipEdTech PGCE
 J S Laing DipTechEdn
 J S Lawrence BSc(Hons) MSc PGCE
 C McBlain BSc DipEd
 K L Rodger MA(Hons) MSc PGCE
 J F Scott Laing BEd(Hons) (Acting PT PE)
 R C Wright BA PGCE

Teachers:

J Adams MA(Hons) PGCE
 R L Appleyard BA(Hons) PGCE
 R M H Boyd BD(Hons) DipTh (School Chaplain)
 A Bryce BSc(Hons) MSc PGDG
 P Bush BA(Hons) PGCE
 A M Downey BA(Hons) PGDE
 M J Eastham BA(Hons) PGCE
 L G Edwards CertEd Cert PP in BE
 S A M Hastie BEd(Hons) PGCE
 J Howie MA (Hons) Dip Ed
 S C B Johns DipEd
 G Johnstone BSc (Hons) PGCE
 N Lear BSc(Hons) MScPGCE
 V M B Low BEd(Hons)
 L MacLeod BA(Hons) PGDE
 A V McDonnell BSc(Hons) PGDE
 S L O'Neill BA (Hons) PE
 J A Porter MA(Hons) MSc PGCE
 S W Renwick BSc(Hons) PE
 S K Ronald BSc PGCE
 T McP Shannon RD HNDMechEngDipTechEdn
 J Sheerin BA (Hons) Dip Ed
 C-A Taylor BSc(Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGC in SFL

Ceremonial:

School Sergeant Major D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)
Pipe Major G R Ross Dip Piping (late Gordon Highlanders)
Drum Major J G Clark (late The Highlanders)
Highland Dancing Instructor S S Stinson Associate BATD

School Librarian:

C Sheerin BA(Hons) DipLib MCLIP

Visiting Music Teachers:

G Baillie	M Hodge	AM Lynch
J Barnforth	I Hood	G Spowart
J Greer	J Leavey	

House Matrons:

Cunningham S M Eastham
Haig C Dunn
Trenchard H A Devlin
Wavell M C Sword

Housekeepers:

H L Galletly
 K McVey
 A MacDonald
 M delC O'Neill

Medical Centre:

Sister M A Skeith RGN
Sister A E Ketteringham RGN
Sister A L Simpson BSc
Auxiliary V J Hiddleston

Foreign Language Assistant:

F Hommel

Overseas House Assistants ('GAP' Students):

H Mullen M Stum

Business Management:

Business Support Manager R McKinnon Associate MCIPD
Facilities Manager J Robinson
Accounts & Administration Manager I M Mair MAAT
Deputy Facilities Manager T Thomson (Acting)
ICT Manager N A Penrose

Business Support:

G Carr	B McCluskie	M Symon
A B Gauld BA(Hons)	A Paddon	
A MacFarlane	I Balfour	

Academic Support:

L M Craig	A Morea	C P Rankin
L Sprouting BSc (Hons) RsciTech		

Facilities Support:

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



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