



The Victorian 2017

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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The Rt Hon Dame Anne McGuire DBE
Mr I K Ritchie FRCSEd (Orth)
Mrs K Ritchie OBE
Mr C Ross
Mrs C Yates

Headmaster

Mr D Shaw

Secretary and Treasurer to HM Commissioners

Mr N Cunningham



Colour Party.

From the Headmaster – Grand Day Speech

There are few jobs in this world that can compare to being Head of QVS. And just to clarify, I mean that in a good way! Every day, our students, staff or parents give me a different and often unusual circumstance to deal with. In almost every single case I end up being immensely proud of the actions of our youngsters, our staff or the extended community. And we are a community – a family – mostly, one big happy family too! We have our ups and downs like any family does but each and every one of us has the same goal – giving our children the very best chance to meet their potential. And, as you are about to hear, we do that very successfully and we do that together. We've started to work much more collaboratively with you to help students get the best out of everything they are involved in.

Take the Duke of Edinburgh award, for example. Mr Shannon, our Director of Outdoor Pursuits, along with a handful of staff, have been running this award for years – but this year, we suddenly came under the auspices of Stirling Council, who needed more adults involved in supervision. Time for parents to step-up and step-up you did. Over 30 sets of volunteer parents, many still in active service, happily gave up their time to escort our children on expeditions – escorting them up hill and down dale, in all weathers. It's an example of what could and should have been happening for years. The skills you have as a parent body can be utilised in so many ways by QVS and the Duke of Edinburgh award will be the first of many examples of how we work together as a team. As a result, we have had 26 Bronze qualifications issued, 13 Silver and four Golds awarded this year and expect numbers to increase again next year.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is one of many successes within the school community over the course of the last year.

We started in early September with a trip to France to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. Pipe Major, Mr Ross and Dance instructor, Miss Stinson were accompanied by Rachel Loudon, Rhys Owen, Leoni Gallagher and Magnus Gothard-Oliver. I received a letter from

Lt Col Middlemass, who organised the trip. He stated that the four pupils were a real asset to the party, piping and dancing in public and were a credit to the school and themselves. He praised the staff too of course, but they get enough compliments already!

Rachel and Rhys also jumped at the chance to play the pipes at the top of the Wallace monument for the Slovakian ambassador in September – they played in heavy rain and in the teeth of a gale and were again, highly impressive.

Later that month, Mrs Scott-Laing took Jordan Oatley, Georgia Mowat, Freya Welch and Euan Lee to meet Andy Murray at Stirling University. The kids enjoyed their day, Jordan even managing a high-five with Andy himself. The students may have been excited but that was nothing compared to Mrs Scott-Laing, who reacted to meeting one of her sporting heroes by clutching him like some sort of crazed stalker.

In October, I had my own highlight of the year, being invited to take four students along to meet Prince William at Stirling Castle. We chose four students whose parents have a background with the Argylls and so Steven Rae, Jason Galloway, Lily-Grace Methven and Jay Pearson got the chance to meet and have a chat with Wills – we are on first name terms now – He was pleased to hear that Lily-Grace's Dad was the Queens Piper and rather shocked to hear that Steven supported Swansea and not Celtic or Rangers. A day none of us will forget.

Also hitting the news this year was our Remembrance day celebrations. Katie Wilson, Jordan Oatley and Ami Bruce were interviewed by the BBC and even though Jordan needs to work on his TV face, they all came across very well, underlying the importance of the high level of support they provide each other here.

Our students perform well in all sorts of areas – for example, a



Monitors.

highlight in Careers was Tennent's Training Academy 'Taste the Industry' day after which many of our students were invited for a day's free training in Glasgow – simply because the Training Academy had never worked with a better bunch of students.

I've had the pleasure of working with five superb orderlies this year – Simoon Pun and Millie MacDonald will be accompanying me later today but they have been ably supported by both Irena Watson and Mirren Wood. Lucie Evans and Tiana Robbins also deputised when required. Five of the orderlies recently attended an event at the Wallace monument to commemorate the Battle of Arras and Tiana's image was featured on many news sites reporting on that event.

The Mad group go from strength to strength and President Sushmita Gurung, as you will hear shortly during the prizegiving, has been a superb leader. The MAD group were very proud to host the National launch of Contact Teas for the Elderly in September, ensuring that senior citizens in Dunblane gather for "baking and a blether" regularly. The MAD group also helped raise an amazing £10,000 in the Stirling area with Poppy Scotland which they are very proud of. They've had a mega busy year, hosting a record 37 events, working closely in particular with the Royal Caledonian Educational Trust. After collecting over £1000 for RCET at Murrayfield, members of our community raised a further £3000 to help service children at a charity event in May this year – I, along with Arras Mathieson in S6, Kenna Berry in S5, Hannah Sloan, an OV and not forgetting my intrepid wife, abseiled SAS-style from the Forth Rail Bridge. While Mrs Shaw, Kenna, Hannah and Arras basically just jumped over the fence at the top and got on with it, I was a wee bit tentative as I looked down at the 165 feet drop below. I know something for sure – I won't be doing that again!

The Band and Dancers have had a busy year. Their first engagement was last July at the Basel Tattoo. During that event, Henry Aldwinkle found fame by being selected to appear on Swiss TV in the opening

credits of the Basel Tattoo show. Henry also played with the National Youth Pipe band at the Glasgow tattoo so he's had a great year. The band have had an exceptional year in competitions, gaining firsts in all provincial events, second in the British Championships and ended the year by becoming European drumming champions in their class. Highlights also include a podium finish for the Pipers at the CCF Trios and Quartets competition, defeating several large independent schools – I'm especially pleased at that one.

Competitions have played a big part in the dancers life this year yet again, with some absolutely fantastic successes, Callum Pearson has now moved up in competition category, bringing home the first place trophy every time so far. Rachel Spence frequently represented the school at various highland dancing competitions and shows, winning her first pre championship, which is considered a big achievement and important milestone for any competitive dancer. The QVS dancers have been very successful as a competitive team and have placed in the overall top three at almost all of their competitions this academic year. QVS have also brought home the CCF Schools competition trophy for the third year in a row. Given the standard and the large sizes of the groups that they compete in, we really couldn't be any prouder of them.

The Pipers, Drummers and Dancers can rightly claim to make QVS a school of excellence in terms of Ceremonial performances and competitions.

Sporting success has been a constant throughout this year. In Rugby, the 1st XV won their Conference League, losing only once. The U16's were joint second in their Conference, again only losing once in that league.

At the younger end, Mr McLay is certain that there is some real talent coming through so watch this space!



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

Congratulations to Josh King who has been selected for the U17's Caledonia District squad, the next stage up from school rugby – an excellent achievement given he is only 15 at the moment.

Captained by Keir Dillon, an U15's rugby 7s team travelled to Carrick to take on a multitude of different schools of all sizes and ability – they returned victorious and cite teamwork as their major strength. In

athletics, Thomas Main won a gold medal at Scottish Schools for javelin, throwing 37.26m. Sports Day was another great success with many fine performances on the day. Thirteen Sports Day records were broken which is unprecedented. Alex Malcolm got three records in the high jump, long jump and triple jump, Olivia Williams beat her own record in the 100m as well as beating the long jump record. It was a perfect day for sport.



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

In other sports, Owen Nicol was 1st in an international karate competition earlier in the year and Lexine McCappin has won lots of gold medals in swimming. I know there are many more sporting successes amongst the entire community – including some parents who completed the Stirling marathon – Mrs Scott and Mrs Oatley to name but two.

Moving on to more formal staffing matters, there have been a number of changes across the academic year. Mr Ronald, Maths and Ms Downey, English, have moved on to pastures new and today we say farewell to Mr Niall Lear, Housemaster of Haig, Mrs Anna McDonnell, Geography, German teacher, Mr John Sheerin and English teacher Miss Duncan. Mr Lear has a new post at a prestigious private school in Edinburgh, Mrs McDonnell will be playing her trade

down South and Mr Sheerin is finally going to join his wife, our ex-librarian, in full-time retirement. We wish these members of staff every success and happiness in the future. In addition, I'd like to thank all our supply staff who have worked with us throughout the year.

We are welcoming some new members of staff; In August, we will be joined by Mr Smith as our new Spanish teacher, Mr Wright in Maths and Miss MacPhee in PE. The PE vacancy has arisen due to the appointment of Mrs Scott-Laing as our Deputy Head Academic and I am confident that the academic side of the school is in very good hands. In due course, we will also be appointing new staff in the English department and in Haig House. Mr Boyd, our chaplain, will be running Haig House from August and we thank him for stepping up to do so. Congratulations to Sarah O'Neill, Modern Studies, for becoming a Class 1 Medic with the Army Reserves. An excellent achievement and a great skill for us to tap into at school. Sarah is running First Aid with the S3s and work is underway to allow her to deliver First Aid training to staff and pupils so we can have more First Aiders in the QVS community.

I'm going to finish with a message from a father of an S6 girl, Georgia Mowat. Mr Mowat has been deployed for 6 months and is therefore missing his daughters final Grand Day. His situation and his words sum up the reason QVS is here.

'Sorry I could not be with you today; congratulations to you and your classmates on completing this chapter in your life so far. Rather than embarrass you with some fatherly words of wisdom, I thought I would quote Bob Marley; "Love the life you live. Live the life you love." I am enormously proud of you Georgia and look forward to seeing you soon.'

Some poignant words from Mr Mowat there.

To all our leavers, to all of our students, families and friends, enjoy the rest of Grand Day and have a great summer ahead. Thank you.

Mr Shaw, Headmaster



Student's names left to right: Jason Galloway, Jay Pearson, Lily-Grace Methven and Steven Rae. Pictured with Prince William is Donald Shaw, Head of Queen Victoria School. [Crown Copyright]

Visit from The Duke of Cambridge

Myself and four of my students were lucky enough to get the chance of meeting and talking to Prince William at Stirling Castle on Monday 24th October. Arriving early, the children admitted to feeling a little nervous but when HRH came in, nerves were forgotten as the introductions began.

The four students were wonderful ambassadors for QVS and were able to answer questions from HRH on topics ranging from favourite

football teams to school life and future ambitions. P7 student Lily-Grace Methven, whose father is the Queen's piper, told HRH of her desire to be a film director, whilst S4 student Steven Rae surprised him with an admission of supporting Swansea FC. I am certain Prince William left the meeting with a positive impression of QVS and the all-round education we provide for our youngsters.

Mr Shaw



Battle of Arras Poppies Tribute – at The Wallace Monument, Stirling

Each petal represents one of 46,000 Scottish soldiers killed or wounded during the 1917 conflict.

From the Chairman of Her Majesty's Commissioners

Coping with Demand

As I write this the Autumn Term at QVS is about to begin. Like every other year of the eleven years I have been a Commissioner the School was again heavily oversubscribed at interview time by Service families who would like their children to become part of the QVS family and reap the benefit of a QVS education.

Commissioners are of course delighted that so many Service families make QVS their first choice for their children's education. There is however the other side of this situation, the number of parents and children that we have to disappoint because we simply do not have the accommodation. I am in no doubt about how deeply disappointed parents are when we cannot accommodate their child. There is every likelihood that this situation will continue, and with more Service personnel being located in Scotland may even get worse, before we manage to create the accommodation we have planned to meet the expected demand.

None of this is to suggest that parents should look elsewhere, in fact quite the opposite. All the plans are in place to expand the school. We are enormously lucky to have so much available real estate to build on. All we need is the funding and as with so much else today that is the stumbling block. However I can tell you that we are making steady progress through the administrative hoops and with a little luck and goodwill we will still see this year's S2 pupils complete their school days in the new teaching block. The Directorate for Children and Young People share our enthusiasm and determination to

achieve these aims and continue to provide the School with their support.

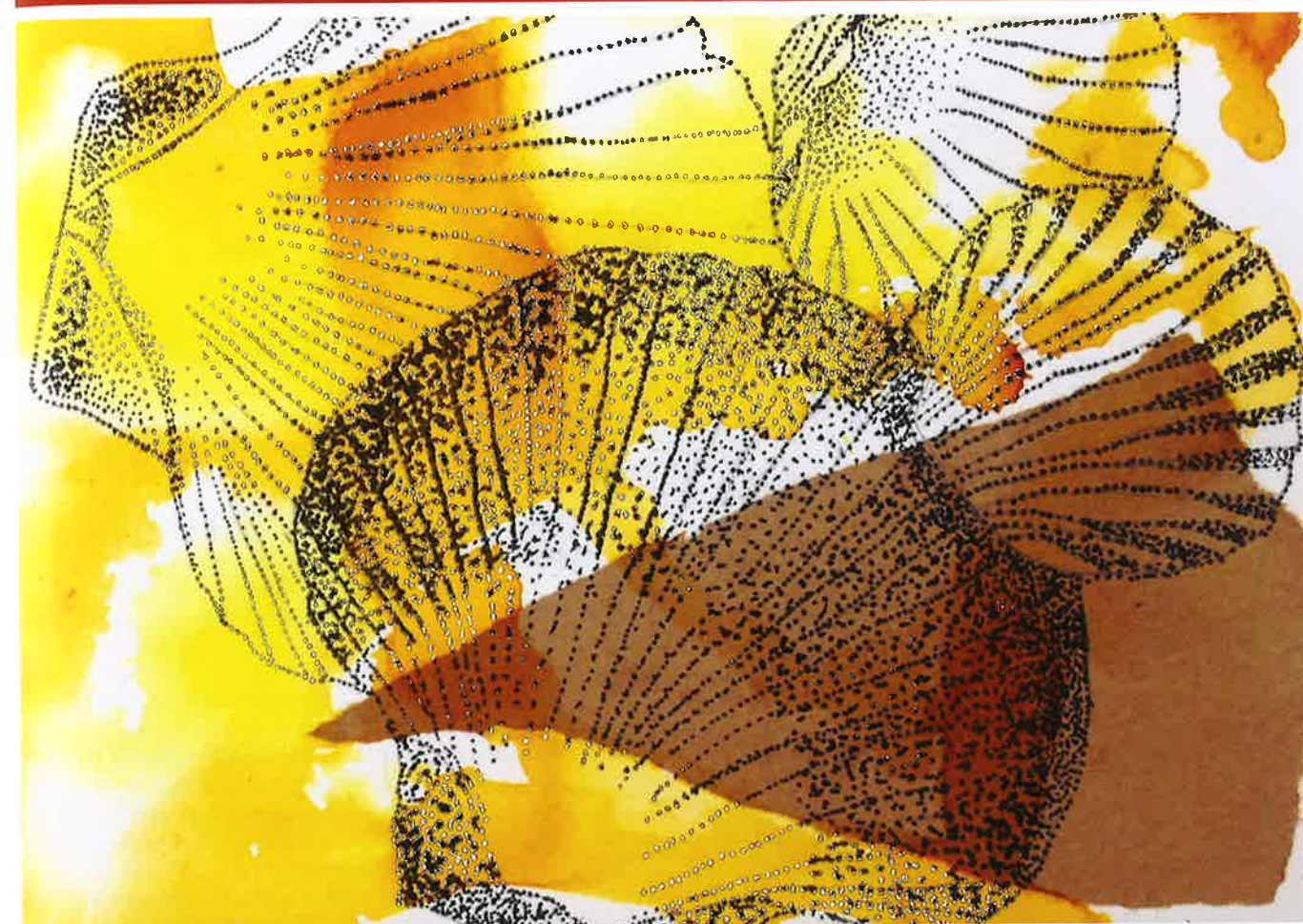
The more that the Board can continue to demonstrate the very high levels of demand for a QVS education the greater the likelihood that the rest of the expansion plans will proceed at a steady pace.

As I said at Grand Day, "Thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm for QVS". It greatly assists us to work for an even better and dare I say a bigger school.

On a different note, on Grand Day this year I was delighted that we were able to make four awards from the Scholarship Fund, the first time this has been possible, for complex legal reasons, for many years.

Can I urge those pupils going into S5 and S6 this year (and their parents) to start considering now whether or not they have a proposal or project that would benefit from assistance from the Fund so that they can give adequate time to preparing their proposal for consideration by the Commissioners. Successful completion of an extra curricula project can have a significant beneficial impact on both further education and future employment prospects. Full details of what you have to do to apply can be obtained from the Headmaster.

A J C Plumtree, Chairman



Top to bottom; Amelia Forsyth S3; Duncan Hughson S2.

From the Senior and Deputy Senior Monitor

This year has been extremely busy and seems to have flown by. It was only really when we sat down and wrote this passage did we realise how much has been done by the school in such a short space of time. We have decided to put together some of our highlights of the year and take the opportunity to say thank you to a few people.

As usual volunteering has been a huge part of this school year with many of our pupils giving up their free time, sometimes on weekends, in order to 'Make a Difference'. The MAD group led by Sushmita and the rest of the committee have worked tirelessly, having coffee mornings and non-uniform days for Strathcarron Hospice and Macmillan Cancer, collecting money in Dunblane for Poppy Scotland and collecting just under £950 for the Royal Educational Trust at BT Murrayfield. Mr Shaw also teamed up with former pupil Hannah Sloan and current pupils Arras and Kenna, to face his fears and abseil off the Forth Rail Bridge for this very worthwhile charity.

As well as this, the first Contact the Elderly for the Dunblane area was held at the school and was a massive success. The annual Winter Treat was yet again a hit with the elder members of the Dunblane community. The MAD group received letters and bracelets back from the children of Uganda through the Uphill Trust for which we have raised more money for this term through selling candy canes at Christmas. And finally, the many hours spent helping out at the Dunblane Centre with Pantomimes, Discos and Fun Days.

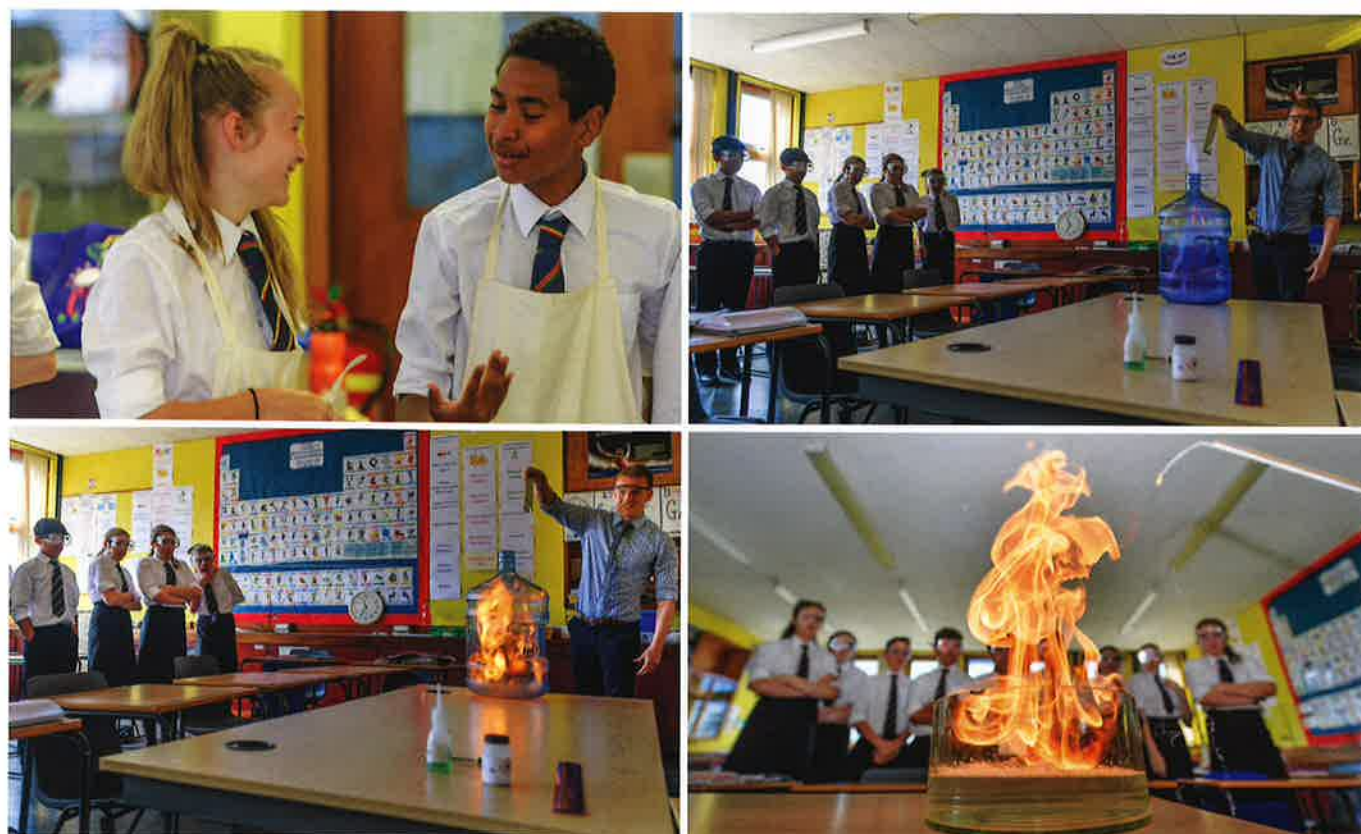
Over the course of the year, many of us received some fantastic opportunities. Four of our pupils were lucky enough to meet with Prince William at Stirling Castle which was an amazing experience for all of them. Four other students headed to Stirling University to meet the love of Mrs Scott-Laing's life – Andy Murray. Sorry Mr Laing, we never realised she was so much of a fan girl.

Although, as much as Mrs Scott-Laing was embarrassing, it was not as embarrassing as both of our appearances on national television. In November, the BBC came in to talk to a few of our pupils and film our Battle of Britain parade. We're sure our headmaster Donald Shaw was over the moon with this opportunity.

This year has been an exciting one for sporting success within the school. The First XV managed to defeat arch rivals Morrison's Academy in order to win the Black Conference Title and the First XI have played superbly well over the course of the year. As well as rugby and hockey, sports day was yet again a success with many school records being broken in the glorious sunshine.

We would like to say thank you to all the teaching staff but especially to Mrs Adams, our mentor throughout this year, Mr Stacey, for helping us to not look stupid on the parade square and to Mr Shaw and the rest of the SLT.

Amy Bruce, Snr Monitor and Jordan Oatley, Dep Snr Monitor



Charity Funds at QVS

Queen Victoria School Funds are comprised of three main component parts, The Scholarship Fund, The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund and the General Fund. This article is intended to raise awareness of what the funds are, how you can take advantage of them and how you can help.

The Scholarship Fund

The idea for the Scholarship Fund began in January 1926 when our Commissioners placed an advert in the press asking for donations. A target of £4,000 was set with much of the money coming from the Scottish Army Regiments of the day. By 1943 just over £10,000 was held and the stated aim for the fund was, "to enable the Commissioners to send selected boys with the necessary qualifications, to the Royal Military College, or the Royal Military Academy, with a view to gaining Commissions."

By 1953 support had been widened to not only allow boys to obtain commissions from all three services but also "to assist boys leaving the School to attend a university, college or other educational institution approved by the Commissioners, or to assist boys who require aid while serving apprenticeships or otherwise qualifying themselves for any profession, trade or occupation." Today, the scheme still exists but it has been opened still further. Now it is not just boys who require financial support to secure Commissions who are supported, help to seek a career in the forces more generally is available as is support to further education or enter a trade. Doubtless, you will be pleased to hear that boys and girls are both able to apply for financial assistance. This includes pupils who have left QVS in the last four years. Please be aware that applications for assistance must be submitted by Easter in order that cheques can be issued on Grand Day. Further details and application forms can be obtained from the School Business Manager, Nigel Cunningham (email – nigel.cunningham@qvs.org.uk).

The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund

This fund was established in 1994 by Mr Jack MacNeil of Connecticut USA, in memory of his father, Norman MacLeod MacNeil who was a pupil here from late 1909 until 1912. The aim of the fund is, "To encourage enterprise, adventure and cultural pursuits".

In recent years the Trust Fund has helped many pupils in a diverse range of activities. These have included Duke of Edinburgh Awards, a US Hockey Scholarship and an Open Water Diving and Boat Handling Course. GAP years, Link Exchanges, CCF camps and expeditions have also featured with a group trekking in Borneo earlier this year.

Remember, The Norman MacLeod MacNeil Trust Fund is there to help and support QVS pupils – give it some thought and if you want to know more speak to a member of your House Team or contact me for further details and an application form.

It would be useful for you to note that, when applying, the Trustees

pay particular attention to the supporting details provided along with the application. This significantly helps the decision making process and the more detail provided in support of the application, the better. The Trustees are also keen to ensure that any grants fit well within the overall purpose of the Fund, which is to support pupils who wish to advance their education, leadership and self-esteem and to help broaden horizons and generally develop wider skills.

The deadline for submission of applications is Easter. Please note that if you have a particularly ambitious project in mind, it is worth starting to plan early and seek advice.

The General Fund

This is the oldest and largest of the QVS funds as it actually predates the building of the school in 1908! The original funding was raised by public subscription and by Scottish soldiers giving up a day's pay in 1905. After the money raised was used to build the school the excess was set aside to help support pupils and to make improvements in the future. Over the subsequent decades this fund has grown thanks to a number of bequests and donations and it is able to make a real difference at the school.

The key objects of the fund are "the advancement of education and the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage... the encouragement of the educational and social development of pupils and former pupils of Queen Victoria School, and the enhancement of the pastoral care of pupils at the School, above and beyond that provided for by core School funding." In essence, core school funding provides the basics but we are able to supplement this with some of the nice to have things that which make life a little better. This includes some additional equipment in the boarding houses and help to support trips, visits and events. Currently, we are looking to fund new picnic tables and we are trying to raise £40,000 to replace our outdoor play area, Fort Tweedie.

How you can help

Donations large and small are always welcome. If anyone would like to make a donation to Queen Victoria School Funds please make a cheque payable to "Queen Victoria School" or arrange to make a payment direct to our bank account.

For a more fun way to make a regular donation you are welcome to join our 500 Club. Each member pays £5.00 per month for each number allocated and the draw takes place at the end of each month, 50% of the money taken in is then paid out in prize money and the other 50% remains in the charity funds.

For more information on how you can help please contact Margaret Simon. You can phone Margaret on 0131 310 2994 or email her at margaret.simon@qvs.org.uk.

Ronnie McKinnon, Resources Manager



Prize Giving

Primary Prizes

1	Attainment	P7	Rachael Brown
2	Progress	P7	Lexine Mccappin
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Owen Nicol
4	Music	P7	Euan Lee
5	Paul Mcshannon Quaich P7		Megan Diciacca

First Year

	Attainment	Progress
1	English Subhaashish Gurung	Megan Clarke
2	French Leoni Gallagher	Robyn Lindsay
3	Mathematics Lucie Evans	Nicole Lawson
4	Science Lucie Evans	Leoni Gallagher
5	Computer Studies Leoni Gallagher	Gabrielle Glass
6	Technical Studies Simoon Pun	Irena Watson
7	Social Subjects Simoon Pun	Abbey Lawson
8	Geography	
9	History	
10	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	
11	Business Simoon Pun	Irena Watson
12	Fowler Art Mckenzie Smiles	Gabrielle Glass
13	Music Leoni Gallagher	Shameer Gurung
14	Modern Studies Cameron Morrison-Smith	Mollie Alexander
15	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies Leoni Gallagher	Simoon Pun
16	Physical Education Leoni Gallagher	Subhaashish Gurung

Second Year

	Attainment	Progress
	Rebecca Anderson	Gabrielle Codd
	Rebecca Anderson	Scott Higgins
	Jake Leatherbarrow	Amber Goodall
	Rebecca Anderson	Cameron Morrison-Smith
	Rebecca Anderson	Jazmyrn Dougherty
	Rebecca Anderson	Christopher Skinner
	Rebecca Anderson	Cameron Morrison-Smith
	Rebecca Anderson	Saphal Gurung
	Eleanor Codd	
	Pratistha Khawas	Eleanor Codd
	Grace Hutchinson	Carley Cunningham
	Mia Maskell	Mollie Alexander
	Rebecca Anderson	Hollie Scott
	Rosie Welch	Jake Leatherbarrow



Third Year

1	Biology	Rachel Loudon
2	Business Management	Anna Gurung
3	Chemistry	Anna Gurung
4	Computer Science	Mackenzie Berry
5	Design & Manufacture	Anna Macpherson
6	English	Anna Gurung
7	Fowler Art Prize	Amelia Forsyth
8	French	Rachel Loudon
9	Science	Amy Gray
10	Geography	Molly Horne
11	Graphic Comm	Ross Merrick
12	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Anna Macpherson
13	History	Mackenzie Berry
14	Mathematics	Anna Gurung
15	Modern Studies	Molly Horne
16	Music	Christian Mcbrearty
17	Physical Education	Alexander Malcolm
18	Physics	Anna Gurung
19	RMPS	Suprina Gurung

S4, S5 & S6

1	Art
2	Biology
3	Business Management
4	Chemistry
5	Classical Studies
6	Computer Science
7	Design & Manufacture
8	English
9	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French
10	Geography
11	German
12	Graphic Communication
13	Guildry of Stirling History Prize
14	History
15	HMC Centenary Quaich
16	Mathematics
17	Modern Studies
18	Music
19	Photography
20	Physical Education
21	Physics
22	Politics
23	RMPS
24	Science
25	Williamson Salver for Girls
26	Dux Medal

Form IV

Olivia Dunbar
Charlotte Gothard Oliver
David Burns
Evie Clarke
Ethan Rowe
Evie Clarke
Evie Clarke
Josh King
Jana Louise Copland
Alexandra Lee
Tiernan Bark
Alexandra Barron

Rachel Spence
Alexandra Barron
Cerys Hutchison

Dipen Ghale
Cameron Crawford

Alexandra Barron
Cerys Hutchison

Forms V & VI

Mhari Sibeth
Richard Dunbar
Sam King
Aoife Dillon
Alicia Smith
Richard Dunbar
Alexander Smith
Emily Collins
Charlotte Sowden
Pabina Thapa
Charlotte Sowden
Alexander Smith
Cameron Smith

Alicia Smith

Richard Dunbar
Francesca Cockburn
Kenna Berry
Lora Marshall
Georgia Mowat
Kirsty-Jane Aimer
Samantha Rollo
Samantha Rollo

Kirsy-Jane Aimer

Grand Day Trophies & Awards 2017

1	Cameronian Shield For Piping (For The Best Piper)	William Adam
2	Senior Drum Majors Shield (For The Senior Drum Major)	Alicia Smith
3	Highland Dancing (Highland Dancing Society of London Cup)	Kirstin Hughes
4	Combined Cadet Force (For The Best CCF Recruit)	Thomas Main
5	Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy (For Outdoor Pursuits)	Francesca Cockburn

6	Victor Ludorum Trophy (For Best Sports Person)	Jordan Oatley
7	The Ben Philip Senior Memorial Bowl	Alexander Smith
8	The Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl	Lucie Evans
9	Annual Challenge Cup (For Outstanding Contribution to Wavell)	Georgia Mowat
10	The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver (For Leadership 'On' and 'Off' The Games Field)	Jordan Oatley
11	The Prince Philip Medal (For Outstanding Contribution, Participation and Achievement during their time at Queen Victoria School)	Amy Bruce



Cunningham House.

Cunningham House

I have a confession to make and it is this. I am finally typing these words, much to the relief of our Editor Carole Phipps, with only a couple of hours before the final deadline. My only feeble excuse is that I have not personally experienced such a quick, hectic and full on year as a Housemaster since starting at QVS. Just looking through the events, socials, excursions and activities the boys have undertaken runs to nearly 100 separate events. These have included the full House outing to the Christmas Pantomime 'Weans in the Woods' at the Macroberts centre, shopping trips to Falkirk, Glasgow and Edinburgh, formal Year dinners, the annual Hog roast and bouncy castles and outdoor activity challenges in Crieff adventure park. Ironically the one Cunningham 'Traditional' social, Burns night, so well organised by Mr Stacey, was skipped this year, but it will be back due to popular demand from the boys in 2018.

What makes, in my eyes, Cunningham special and successful has always been the parts that make the whole and one of those major parts are the House team members of promoted Staff, Tutors, Sarah our Matron and Karen our assistant Matron. They have excellent communication skills both getting a clear message and expectations over to the boys and more so being able to listen to the Cunningham boys. The number of times I have come across, both day and night, the House team deep in conversations with individual boys who go away smiling, reassured, happier and wiser. I would, therefore, like to put on record, my thanks for all the hard work, dedication and going the 'extra mile' to my House Team who provide a nurturing and caring environment for the boys to ultimately develop and flourish. I must also put on record my greatest of thanks to the team who all came together after the shock of Mr Kirk's sudden illness - who, I am so glad to say is now back to full fitness, and especially to Laura who took on the Cunningham Deputy role just before getting married, very organised indeed! Thanks also must go to Ami and Karen for stepping seamlessly into extra tutoring roles and we wish Clare all the best in her move to Trenchard, after six

dedicated years. Certainly Cunningham's loss and Trenchard's gain.

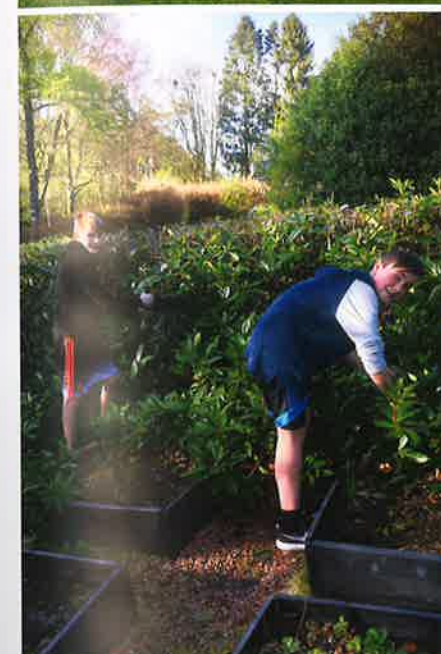
The other main House part are the boys who make, through their personalities, actions and decisions the functioning and successful House. As I have said before living in a community is hard initially for many, but they slowly become to realise the benefits of listening, taking part and being respectful of each other. It is great to note that my S6 boys gained the results they required for their next academic journeys and careers and have successfully moved on, well-done lads. My S5 Year saw nearly half of the boys decide to leave the school and continue on a different path. I will personally miss every one of them, but what is pleasing is that they all spent time making difficult choices. I personally feel the Traditional academic journey needs a strong character to change what is expected of them. With new learning technologies, paid apprenticeships, specialised courses, internships they can still get to their ultimate end of journey, but via a different path.

As I said to many of them we are a consequence of the choices in life we make. It doesn't matter how capable or talented you are, it's what you do that makes a difference in the world. We are who we choose to become. This can be best summed up in a quote I read at Harry Potter World in the Holidays, with Anna my youngest daughter, from Albus Dumbledore.

"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." - *The Chamber of Secrets*.

Cunningham Boys choose well and keep an open mind on your own personal journey in life and success and don't be afraid to look outside the box.

M J Eastham, Cunningham Housemaster





Haig House.

Haig House

2017 was a momentous year for Haig House with the intimation that our Housemaster, Niall Lear, was going to take up a new position in Merchiston School, in Edinburgh.

Niall came to Queen Victoria School in the January of 2012 and over his five-and-a-half-year tenure has left his mark on the house. He had a good relationship with the boys, with whom he shared an interest in rugby. We are grateful to him for the time and talent which he brought to Haig and wish him well in his new appointment.

Following closely behind that intimation was the announcement that our Deputy Housemaster, John Porter, would stand down from his post in October 2017. John has immense skills, wonderful energy and a desire for the best for the boys in Haig. I know that they will miss him. He has been central and pivotal to the life of the house for many years and I am delighted to say that he will continue as one of our House Tutors; we will still be able to dip into his deep wealth of knowledge.

Haig has had a successful year; many activities have peppered the social life of the house; our Halloween Party, Christmas Party, with the annual Christmas Quiz compared by our own Mr Laing, and with the more recent addition of Secret Santa organised and wrapped up by Miss Rodger.

In January the boys enjoyed a trip to a traditional Scottish Pantomime in the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow. Staff and students alike fully immersed themselves in the festive singalong and it made for an interesting day out for all.

The icing on the cake, or should I say the crackling on the hog, was our summer party and our annual Hog Roast enjoyed and devoured in minutes... I never cease to be amazed at how much the boys can get through so quickly.

The aim of Haig is one of raising standards for all the boys, making it a pleasant and nurturing environment, a true home from home. To that end I would like to thank the S6 pupils for all the work they put into the house over the year under the leadership of the Captain, Roderick Watson. He and they, with their energy, enthusiasm have lead the house well. However, Haig is more than one year. I would like to thank all the boys in Haig for their contribution to a wonderful house community.

I could not end however, without mentioning our thanks to Carmen O'Neil, who has been our acting Matron this year. Carmen kept the house running with her unique humour and organisation. We are indebted to her for all her hard work and recognise, that while she may be moving to Trenchard after the summer, she will always be a true "Haigite".

To those who are leaving, may the road rise up to meet you, the sun shine ever on your back, and until we meet again, may you be held safe and successful in your chosen path... "tyde what may". The doors of Haig will always be open to you, please come back and share your successes with us.

Ron Boyd, Acting Haig Housemaster



Trenchard House.

Trenchard House

Being one of the seniors in a juniors boarding house has been quite the challenge but I can honestly say that it was worth it because moving to Trenchard was one of the best decisions I made.

The memories I have created over the past two years are ones that I will never forget and will always look back on very fondly. Although the juniors could be considered stressful and annoying to others, to me they are what made my last years memorable and I will miss them all. I only hope they keep their positive and enthusiastic attitudes throughout their life at school and I wish them good luck for the future.

To my S5 Trenchard girls: Rebecca and Amy, you both have been amazing additions to Trenchard this year so I'd like to thank you for all your contribution towards the house and I will miss you both so much, good luck for next year! Anais, Aoife and Lora, I honestly don't know what to say other than to give you all the biggest Thank You Ever! You three have helped me so much this year, from ensuring that the house is running as smoothly as possible to just keeping me company as my best friends. I would also like to say a huge thanks to all the staff, without them the house wouldn't be as great as it is now and thank you Matron for keeping the house in check and for giving us seniors extra break biscuits to help survive these last two years. Last but not least our very own dream team: Mr Bush, Mr Bryce and Mr Clark, none of this would be possible without them and I would like to thank you all sincerely for what you have done for us seniors and the house.

Thank you Trenchard and I wish you all success for the future!

Shushmita Gurung, Trenchard House Captain

Another year has rolled past incredibly quickly in Trenchard House. It doesn't seem possible that we have prepared another group of young people for life in Queen Victoria School but, despite the challenges, we have. After only one year the P7 boys are off to their senior houses and after just getting to know them we must say goodbye and good luck. The P7 girls stay with us another year and this is rewarding as it gives the house staff, and especially their tutors, a chance to build better relationships with them and enjoy watching them mature. It has been a pleasure this year to do so with our S1 girls. While they are ready for the more grown up environment of Wavell House, we are sad to see them leave and wish them all the best.

With so much attention being paid to the youngsters there is often less time for much of the house staff to spend with our seniors. However I owe them a debt of gratitude for their help and assistance with running the house and helping look after the youngsters. We wish Aoife, Anais, Lora and Shushmita all the very best as they move on to the big wide world. It is also a pleasure to welcome Ellie, Alex, Anjipa and Evie and I look forward to working again with Amy, and our new house captain, Rebekah.

Finally I would like to thank all of my house staff for their help this year, in particular Matron, Mr Bryce and Mr Clark for their extra work during my absence. This year we have had an excellent house team and this has brought great benefits to the children.

Paul Bush, Trenchard Housemaster



Wavell House.

Wavell House

What an incredibly busy and glamorous year Wavell has had, full of wonderful social events, lots of activities and finished off with an afternoon of superheroes!

The year started with socials for S6 and S5, followed by a super scary Halloween. S5 went to the Edinburgh Dungeons for their tutor trips with Mrs Morea and Mrs Hiddleston and then, at our Wavell Halloween Party ghosts were let loose all around the school, in the Chapel, the teaching block, theatre and even in Wavell Woods and the Cages. It was a truly terrifying event, particularly memorable for the horror clown (courtesy of Kirsty-Jane Aimer) who appeared all over the school, popping up in the darkest areas of QV!

A whole host of tutor trips and events followed including seeing the Christmas Pantomime, Weins in the Wood, at the Macrobert Arts Centre, a fantastic Wavell Christmas party, organised by Miss Stinson, trips to Air Space, the Cinema and even Mrs Morea's house for S5. Girls travelled to a variety of fine dining events throughout the year including outdoor dining in Falkirk, evening meals in Bridge of Allan, Chinese and Indian meals in Dunblane and multiple visits to Monterey Jacks. Wavell also introduced our new Health and Wellbeing nights, courtesy of Mrs Sword and these were a great success, punctuated by makeup lessons and pampering and spa nights.

Our Winter Formal and Spring Fling events were both as glamorous as ever and our girls also balanced this out by having an adventure day at the Crieff Hydro and going White Water Rafting during Activities Day. Finally we had our school Prom and our 'Superhero' themed Summer Party. Organised by the S6 girls and Mrs Hiddleston, Wavell took part in a treasure hunt, bubble football competitions and a variety of team events!

It has been an absolutely fabulous and busy year and, as 2016-2017 comes to a close 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 McIntosh. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Wavell House Prefects, Georgia, Kirsty and Joelle and to Amy Bruce, our Senior Monitor. They have been an impressive team throughout this year and have worked tirelessly in support of our girls. Also our resident photographer, Kirsten Hughes has provided us with an impressive array of pictures showing all of the activities and events we have taken part in this year.

Finally it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs McDonnell this year. Mrs McDonnell has been at Queen Victoria School for over nine years and has been a huge support to her girls in Wavell as well as a fantastic Geography teacher. We will all miss her in Wavell and wish her all of the best in her future post.

Miss Appleyard, Wavell Housemistress

Despite the fact that this year has been full of drama and very stressful, it has been one of the most memorable years from organising parties to spending half our night having to get all the iPads in. We have all had our ups and downs (some of us more than others) but we have all worked extremely hard to get to where we are today.

Our Halloween party was one to remember, having the whole house guided around the school in the pitch black on our ghost walk. It's safe to say that there may have been a few nightmares that night and we don't just mean the younger ones...

Wavell's very Christmassy Christmas party was very jolly with a visit from the owls and our throwback to primary school party games seemed to be enjoyed more than anticipated. Everyone loved the presents they received from our very own Santa Claus impersonator, Francesca Cockburn.



The summer party was definitely a highlight of the year thanks to the epic feuds between supervillains and superheroes enhanced by the bubble football games we organised and then finally battling it out in a mini sports day. Even though not much football was actually played because everyone was charging at each other in the massive inflatable bubbles it was still one of the best parties we have had. The battle was finally won by the S6 who tricked the house into the tennis courts at the end of a treasure hunt before launching a volley of water balloons at everyone.

I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Apps, Mrs Hiddleston, Miss Stinson and Matron for helping us through this year and to all of the girls in Wavell for all the drama and keeping us on our toes. Good luck to the new Head of house and Deputies. We wish you the very best next year. To the new S6 good luck in your final year, make it a good one! We love you all and all the best for the future.

Georgia Mowat, Head of Wavell House and Kirsty Aimer, Deputy Head of Wavell House



U16 Rugby.

Rugby

1st XV Rugby

Within the squad, there was a large turnover of players from the previous season. With that, came the challenge of moulding a new team to play the brand of rugby that is synonymous with QVS. With Jordan Oatley installed as captain, and with running threats all over the pitch, the team was ably suited to playing a fast flowing game. With our expectations and values set, the boys were ready to hit the ground running.

The "Black" conference started very well for us, with wins at Marr College, Lomond School, Lenzie Academy and Jordanhill School before we were narrowly beaten by an Ayr rugby club team masquerading as Wellington School. This had an interesting effect on the boys as it installed some more belief in their own abilities, something which could on occasions go missing. Losing narrowly to one of the premier club teams in the country worked wonders for us as our performances continued to get better and better.

Alec Johnstone was scoring tries for fun and Jason Gurung was proving to be a real magician in the pivotal out half role. Our forwards provided quick front football and that allowed Sam King and Jack Cole to cause chaos to most opponents.

After our close loss to Wellington, the boys responded in great style beating Carrick Academy and then Morrisons Academy. The final Match of the conference was unfortunately cancelled due to poor weather however the boys had done enough over the course of the season to be crowned Black conference Champions.

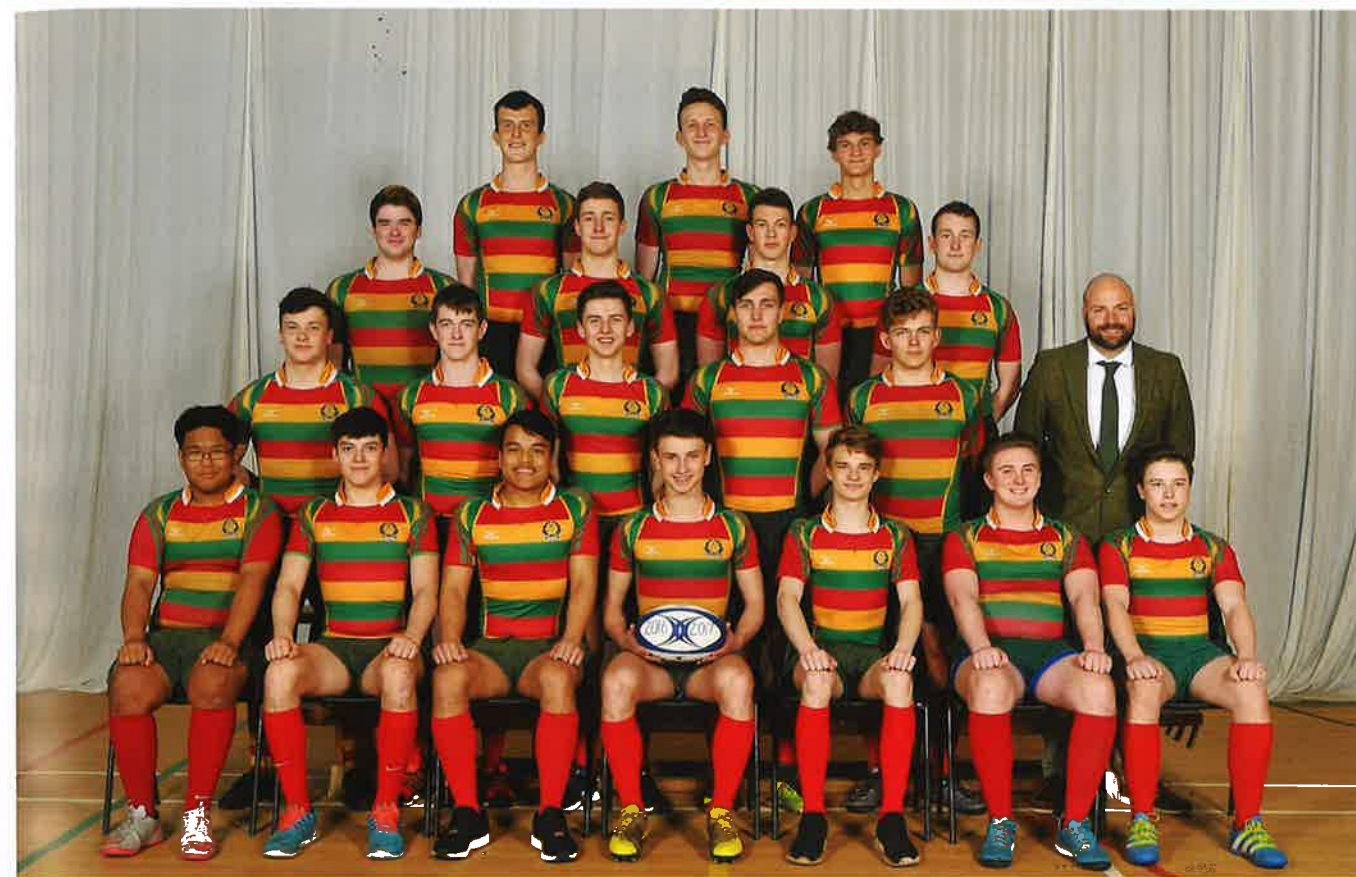
Moving into the second half of the season, which was based around friendly and development matches, we acquitted ourselves well against a number of schools. Close losses to George Watsons and Kelvinside gave us plenty of ideas on what to work on moving forward. Credit must go to the boys for all of the hard work that they carried out throughout the year. Its often forgotten how hard players must work to ensure that come fixtures at the weekend they are able to be competitive.

This year was a pleasure to be part of as a coach. As a team, we had to change how we had played in previous seasons and had to rely on teamwork more than one or two individuals. The ability to work as part of an effective team is probably one of the best lessons that any of those who played could learn and I am hopeful it will stand them in good stead for years to come.

For those who are leaving, keep active and keep playing, whatever the level. For those who will return next year, good luck and enjoy it, school rugby is the purest form of the game and when its gone, you will look back with fond memories.

Mr Lear

This year the 1st XV competed in both the School's Black conference and the school cup competitions. Throughout the course of the year we lost a lot of key players and struggled to field a full team each



Clockwise top to bottom; 1st XV Rugby; S2 Rugby; P7 Rugby.

week but we still managed to work together and pull out strong performances week in week out. This made being crowned Black Conference Champions even sweeter.

We started off the season with a home game against Marr. This was a fixture we saw as one to start gelling as a team with many young players coming into the team in key positions. But everything seemed to click straight away against a tough Marr team leading to a convincing victory to us. This victory started a winning run for us in the conference and we were enjoying our rugby, playing expansive, exciting rugby the way we wanted to.

After Marr we had another emphatic victory against Lomond followed by another against Lenzie. The following game was against Jordanhill and this was one of the teams all round best performances throughout the season. We managed to keep Jordanhill out the whole

game, conceding no points, but also scoring ten tries!

After the October holidays we played in our only conference loss of the season. Against a tough Wellington team in the worst conditions Scotland has to offer we conceded in the final minutes to miss out on the victory. This was gutting for all the boys as we believed that could be the end of our title hopes. We did not let this stop us though as we knew we now had to win every game for the rest of the season as well as scoring as many points as possible to be in with a chance of winning. We took on a strong Carrick team and overcame them with a 48-18 victory.

We then went in to the deciding match of our season against our local rivals Morrisons Academy. In this close and very physical game of rugby we managed to play the best we had as a team all season to overcome Morrisons in a great game for both players, coaches and



fans watching. In Mr McLay's words – "The most complete performance by a QV team in his time at the school."

After looking back on a great season, it has been an honour captaining a great group of boys. I am gutted as many of the other leavers are that this is the last time we will play together as a team. I wish the best of the luck to the team for next year but also the leavers for the future careers both on and off the rugby pitch.

Jordan Oatley

U16s Rugby

We started the season with a real sense of optimism as a few of our S5's were too young to play for the 1st XV and would be representing the U16's for the majority of the Conference fixtures. With a light but mobile pack and quick set of backs we faced a very strong Marr team for our first match. Marr dominated the first half with some slick passes and aggressive rucking and as a result quickly put points on us. Leatherbarrow and Arnott managed to cross the line but it was never going to be enough to beat this well organised and disciplined side. Our next match was at home against Lomond who we had lost against last season. The team had had a couple of hard sessions on the training ground with a real focus on rucking which enabled us to control the break down throughout the match. With tries from Thompson, Dunbar, Crawford and three from King we managed to beat them 36-10. We then faced Lenzie at home and the team really started to gel. The forwards created platforms for the backs to attack

from and even though the pitch is narrow, we created enough space to allow Thompson, Majid, Dunbar, Leatherbarrow and King to cross the line. It was a well deserved win with lots to be positive about. Our next match was a friendly against Kelvinside, a tier two school which proved to be a real challenge. We had worked hard on our defence but found wanting with regard to attack. Our support lines were ineffectual and too often we were too predictable, with Kelvinside turning over rucks too often. Josh King was our only scorer that game as we went down 44 points to 7. Having learnt our lesson from the last match we then played Jordanhill away. On a very small pitch and with some younger players in the squad the team put the hosts under a lot of pressure. Within 15 minutes we were 17 points up with tries from King, Dunbar and Arnott but sadly the game was abandoned due to a suspected neck injury. This meant that we shared the points for the game. With a call off from Wellington our next opposition were Carrick. This was one of our most testing games due to a couple of outstanding players that play in the Carrick backs. Again it was at home on a small pitch and we managed to contain them through some outstanding team defence. Leatherbarrow battled his way through to get over the line twice and King and Owen finished off two well constructed tries meaning that we came away with a well deserved victory 26-21. Our next match was against our local rivals, Morrisons. The team were confident going into this game having played so well the week before. We travelled to Crieff, knowing full well that it was going to be a tough match and a win would only come about through forwards keeping possession and creating opportunities for our backs to attack from. They did not let us down, time and time again they defended at the



base of the rucks and often turned over possession through good technique and aggression. McGuinness was rewarded for his hard work with a well earned try and along with King and Taylor crossing the line and Crawford slotting three incredibly difficult conversions the team came away with a tight victory of 21 points to 17.

Due to weather conditions, our last two matches were cancelled which was real shame as we had a real opportunity to top the table, that said it was against St Columbas and could have gone either way. We ended up third in the table due to points difference which is an incredible achievement for such a small school and a limited player base. The players should be proud of themselves.

The next half of the season was disrupted by a lot of adverse weather conditions. Unusually it was not the snow and ice that put paid to many of the games but a lot of rain and high winds. We also had several players that moved up to the 1st XV, as a result the matches that were played were U15 games with a view to developing the team for next year.

I would like to thank all of the players for ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for the game. Week in week out they train and play with determination and have shown a real willingness to develop and learn from all of their experiences, good or bad. I look forward to working with them again next season.

Mr McLay

The U16's started the season promisingly with a close loss to Marr and two great wins against Lenzie and a strong Lomond side. Although, the most important game of the season was by far our away trip to Morrisons. Great attack and defence from the boys secured our win away from home. It was the most energetic game we played this season and in winning this game we won vital points for the side. Despite many cancellations and weather problems the U16's still kept their competitive edge and managed to achieve third in our regional conference. The U16's also competed in the National Bowl competition but were unfortunately defeated in the quarter-final against Lomond's Cup side. A sketchy game of both great and shocking performances ended with our exit from the competition in what was a disappointing day for QV. Among the U16's there were some who made notable improvements to their game such as Richard Dunbar, Luke Thomson, Shafal Dura and Dipen Ghale who turned out to be key players in the league and conference matches. As a team we also managed to improve drastically and in doing so players were able to move up and play for the First XV school side and improve further. Congratulations to the U16's on a successful season and good luck to all teams next season.

Morgan Leatherbarrow and Fraser Arnott

U15 Rugby

This year the under 15s were very strong and hard working. In the conference we struggled to produce a team due to lack of players which resulted in us finishing 7th in the league. The toughest match in

the conference was against Wellington. After we got off a very long bus journey we only had minutes to change and get on the pitch to train. Once we finished training we all were still tired but this didn't stop us putting three tries past them coming from Alex Malcolm, Ross Merrick and Dipen Ghale. They then retaliated with two tries from lazy defence and the score at half time was 21-14. When we got back on the pitch we put more points on the board with Josh King running through their defence. Wellington were really testing us and put two tries past us both times were a kick over our defence into our wing which had no winger putting the score 28-28. We really wanted to win this game and weren't giving up so after a great counter attack from Cameron Crawford, Cameron Taylor and Josh King we scored once again. We weren't finished there though and Alex Malcolm ran along the touch line, as he does and scored one last try to end the match 42-28.

We were invited to a 7s tournament held by Carrick and after only training together as a team once we all were quite nervous as to how good we were. We started off playing the hosts Carrick we won this game which really boosted our confidence, we faced St Columbus and we won again. Sadly we lost to Glasgow High which put us into the shield. We played Glasgow academy which was a very tough game and we only just won by a conversion which put us into the final of the shield and we were playing Jordan Hill. We were excited to play the game and we got onto the pitch Ross Merrick ran round the team to score very early on. Myself, Josh King and Alex Malcolm scored that game which resulted in a victory winning the shield.

After our position in the conference we wanted to come back after Christmas and win as many games as possible. We managed to produce a very well bonded team with some under 16 players coming down. The last game of the season was against Morrisons. The last few times we have played them it had been a mixture of who has won and we were determined to win this time. After a very well played first half we were out on top by far and there was no way Morrisons could catch us. They kicked to us and we had possession. After a couple of phases the backs used a set play and we managed to score from it. We won that game by a very large margin which left the whole team smiling.

The under 15s have been undefeated in 15 a side rugby in 2017 and we are hoping it will carry on into our next season as being part of the under 16s.

Kier Dillon

S2 Rugby

This season has proved to be a particularly grueling one for the S2 boys completing in the Black Conference. The boys were continually bombarded by physically strong, well organised teams. However, the boys should hold their heads high and be proud of what they have achieved this year.

Apart from the obvious developments in individual skills, game awareness and team strategies, the boys displayed an ever-improving understanding and importance of personal and team growth mindset. As the season progressed players began to challenge themselves, train and perform outside of their comfort zones, with a desire to really improve. Boys displayed a greater appetite for team cohesiveness and the importance of playing for each other. Whilst I believe they are still at the beginning of that journey I am proud to say they did buy into the philosophy of the QVS rugby spirit. Whilst the team unfortunately clocked up more losses

than wins, I do believe the team and individuals grew as players from their experiences.

Tom and Jake must be commended for their tireless commitment and sheer determination during every fixture and led from the front; tremendous years for both players. Although, I imagine parents probably weren't overly happy to see their boys throw their bodies on the line week in, week out!

Saphal, William, Mark and Aird put in a tremendous amount of hard work, sometimes unnoticed, and worked tirelessly with grit and determination to defend and steel the ball where possible. Lewis and Scott performed with energy and enthusiasm, even though at times they were asked to play out of their usual positions. Rajeb performed exceptionally well during the year, demonstrating what a talented games player he is, especially when he played at scrum half towards the latter end of the season. Christopher made countless try's saving tackles and exciting runs at full back and started to develop his understanding of the game. Callum showed great ball handling skills as a back row and Duncan showed the opposition how strong and aggressive he can be as a ball carrier, we can work on the footwork next year! Thanks also goes to the S3 boys; Nathan, Brodie, Stewart and Daniel, who helped support and strengthen the team, helping others to develop whilst improving their own skill set and confidence. Sam performed well at centre and showed an eagerness to attack with ball in hand. Cameron who is new to the school, showed bravery and commitment when playing and should be commended for his willingness to embrace the QVS Rugby. As you can read above, all the boys offered something positive to the year, and grew as individuals, which is what any coach would want from his team.

The boys never failed to impress me and as always it was pleasure to work with them. I wish them all the best for next year!

Mr Adams

Through the season, we've had many ups and downs as a team, with our new coach Mr Adams who has helped us massively with our development, mind set and enjoying the game. We would also like to thank Mr McLay and the gap students Billy and Mike.

At the start of the season we struggled to get going with many losses. We experienced many misunderstandings between players which led to poor defensive structure. However, we have progressed as a team and won a few games this season. Our highlight of the season was against St Columba. We scored six times with tries coming from Tom, Rajeb, Nate, Brodie, Daniel and Stewart.

Throughout the game, players from numerous positions performed well. Duncan, Callum, Saphal, Marc and William displayed good ball handling, successful tackles and a positive right mind set. Another game we like to look back with fond memories was against Carrick. We lost by two points but most of the players on the pitch performed to a high standard, with a strong back line and a dominating scrum. We played as a team, and defended like Trojans against a bigger pack of players. The game ended 16-18 to Carrick.

Our season has been very tough with players struggling with the physicality of the game at the start of the season and relied on a few players to get us through games. However as the year progressed and with many of Mr Adams' motivational talks to get the team working, we kept our heads up and encouraged other players to play with confidence. Many other players started to 'come out their shells'



and played the best they ever had, impressing team mates every game. These players included Saphal, Duncan, Christopher, Aird and Callum. We'd also like to thank the S3s who have helped with our journey, all the best for next year.

S2 boys

S1 Rugby

The S1s started the year with a strong team. Not only were there strong skills there was strong leadership from Aminio Bogidrau and his commitment and focus was also to be found throughout the team. This even extended to the team's discussion immediately after every game, and not just the few that they lost. I would like to thank the whole year for giving me my most enjoyable coaching season ever.

Mr Bush

At the start of this season we all decided that our aim was to commit, play as one and win as many matches as possible. With this in our minds all the boys put as much work as they could. Our first match was up against Marr and was unfortunate as we lost by a conversion. We realised the problem was that we couldn't play as a team since there were too many arguments for conceding or making mistakes. Knowing our problem every games session we worked on doing everything as a team. Warm ups, drills, practice matches we all did together to get better. As a team we motivated each other to strive to improve and succeed. Our work was shown as we won the next 13 fixtures. Many of our opponents were easier to beat as we now

played as a team and had more structure but our hardest opponents by far were George Wastons when we just beat them 28-14. This match was our toughest and it really showed how much passion all the boys had for playing rugby. The weather was not the best because of the light snow which made the pitch rock solid. Even though the ball was slippery and it made us frustrated because of the mistakes we were making. But in the end we overcame them by staying as a unit and playing to our best. We think that the reason that we won so many matches this season was because of our team structure itself. The handling, skills, passing, and team plays gave us the advantage against opponents. Our key players of this season were Amena Caquasau our scrum half who started our plays. Aminio Bogidrau our fly half and captain who lead the team to victory with his motivating speeches. Subhaashish Gurung our inside centre who made many important runs. Roman Gurung our outside centre for amazing tackles and great courage. Matthew Berry and Michael Draunidalo our two outstanding wingers who never gave up. Shameer Gurung our prop for committing everything to make a tackle. And last of all a massive thank you to our amazing coach Mr Bush who put up with us for two years and made us who we are now. We hope our S2 rugby season will be as good as this one.

Subhaashish Gurung and Aminio Bogidrau

P7 Rugby

The season for the Primary 7 rugby team will be remembered for the impressive integration of boys from a diverse array of sporting backgrounds. 13 players had previously tried out the sport before joining Queen Victoria School with eight having represented clubs.



The season posed various challenges which the boys took in their stride. The league started very brightly with a convincing 60-0 win over Lomond. A strong work ethic from both the forwards and backs who linked up well to demonstrate an overall excellent performance.

Another notable victory was a 10-0 win against George Watson's, as some of our boys thought was their real title. An excellent performance in conditions more suited to a Tough Mudder course than a skillful game of rugby.

The season culminated in an hard-fought win over Lomond where the boys won 30-5. The final game provided the perfect opportunity for the team to demonstrate their hard work throughout the season. The ability to integrate rucking, line outs and scrums while introducing some exciting runs from the backs was evident and provides them with excellent foundations for next season.

Mr Bryce

The 2016-17 season will be remembered for the exciting journey made by the boys under the leadership of both captains – Euan and Theo. Some stand out performance and some strong tacklers further complimented the overall team-work and dedication from the players. As the team looks forward to restarting the rugby season after the summer break there will be further additions to the game. Among others these include hand offs, kicking from the start and conversions. This year P7 rugby team, have had a hard working season from our first game all the way to our very last despite the fact most boys in our year had never played rugby. The first couple of weeks we had sessions to learn how to pass the ball and tackle.

Mr Bryce then started little matches against ourselves, so we could handle the pressure! That Saturday we got to go to breakfast, then we headed off to our first ever rugby game! We had a quick warm up to get us going and then the ref blew the whistle for both captains to go up. The ref flipped a coin and we got a kick off. We both went back to our sides to start the game. It was a pretty easy game and it resulted in 60-0 score to us. Overall our best games have been against George Watson's and Morrisons. This season our hardest game has obviously been against George Watson's, it was extremely muddy and it was raining all the way through our game.

We took in lots of hard tackles, and we gave them the tackles back. First half we were still tied at 0-0 but as soon as the whistle blew, the hard tackles started all over again.

But suddenly it was ball turnover and got passed to Rays and scored one try that led us to victory! The last game of the season was against Morrisons. It quickly started off and in the first minute Euan scored a try, it was then followed by Rays which lead us to 10-0 lead by half time. After half time Euan scored another try then followed by Theo, we then got a bit tired and Morrisons scored. Then another two tries were scored by Rays and Theo. In the end the Final score was 30-5. Our rugby team has been so successful with Mr Bryce our amazing coach and thanks to Mr McLay for organising our wonderful matches. We are now really excited for S1 rugby, new positions, hand offs, conversions and much more rules added to the game. We are also very excited that we got told Mr Bryce would be our coach for next year.

Euan Collins and Rays Gurung



1st XI Hockey.

Hockey

1st XI Hockey

As my time playing hockey for the school draws to an end, it seems impossible to pack one final season into a few mere paragraphs. This year, between all of the players, an abundance of new skills and techniques have been learned; a tenacious competitive drive and the determination to improve was seldom absent from both training sessions and matches.

This year Joelle Campbell, Aoife Dillon, Emily Collins, and Pabina Thapa acted as the backbone of each match, forming a powerful and effective defence and ensuring we were able to excel in keeping continual possession. In particular, a hugely commendable effort from Emily who received stitches after a rather bloody training session and returned still ready and willing to defend. Lora Marshall and Olivia Williams both played fantastically throughout the entirety of the season and demonstrated a great and in-depth understanding of the game itself; each of them having a crucial role to play in our midfield. Carys Dodd, Georgia Mowat and Charlotte Sowden also continually widened our play through every game and used the space of the pitch effectively; always demonstrating the ability to play tactically.

Every single member of the 1st XI this year played a fundamental part in the success of this season and should be proud of the achievements of the team; truly recognising the general improvement widespread across everyone. As the scoreboards illustrated, with mostly wins and draws and perhaps one or two unfortunate losses, it is evident that the team has really stepped up the level of hockey.

Lastly, a final thank-you to our coach Mrs Scott Laing; who despite wind, rain or hail always shows up to after school practices and Saturday matches to provide the tough love and motivation everyone

needs to hear. With help from Mr Oatley and Miss Low, she has never failed to support the team and teach us how to further our abilities. Good luck to next year's team!

Anais Scott

U15 Hockey

The U15s have improved vastly over this season, due to lots of practice after school, weekends and any other spare time we have had. Our squad members have been eager and dedicated to play and have been committed to both practice and challenging matches. We have been successful due to the positive ethos which has motivated each and every one of us. It has been a tough season to get a regular position on the team, due to so many players vying for a place.

Our penalty-corners have improved greatly as has our communication, which has really benefited our overall game; giving us far more scoring opportunities. One of our most notable performances was the 2-1 win against the High School of Dundee. We played extremely well as a team and our determination and grit paid off. We also had an excellent, highly competitive match against Strathallan, and although we didn't come out on top it was definitely one of the best games we have played as a team.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Scott Laing and all of the other members of staff who have helped us this season. Good luck to next year's U15 team.

Sophie Murphy and Anna Gurung



Top to bottom: U15 Hockey; S1 Hockey; S2 Hockey; P7 Hockey.



Athletics

Our Athletics programme was more limited than usual as the weather put paid to a couple of fixtures. Our first match was against Hutcheson's Grammar School, where P7-S3 boys and girls travelled over to Glasgow to compete against other schools. The weather made for a fabulous day and the notable successes were as follows.

S1

Abbie Lawson	S1	Girls Shot	1st	6.89
Lucie Evans	S1	Javelin	2nd	12.80
Relay	S1	Boys	2nd	55.31
Shameer Gurung	S1	Hurdles	2nd	14.7
Amena Caqusau	S1	Hurdles	2nd	13.16
Tom Main	S2	1500m	2nd	5.14

S2

Amena Caqusau	S2	High Jump	2nd	1.25
Cameron Morrison-Smith	S2	100m	2nd	13.26
Rajeb Thapa	S2	Hurdles	2nd	14.18

S3

Relay	S3	Boys	1st	49.26
McKenzie Berry	S3	Hurdles	1st	14.34
Ross McKenzie	S3	200m	1st	24.28
Cameron Crawford	S3	100m	2nd	12.10
Daniel Thompson	S3	400m	1st	60 secs
Alex Malcolm	S3	Long Jump	2nd	4.64
Alex Malcolm	S3	High Jump	2nd	1.57
Cameron Taylor	S3	Discus	1st	24.55
Josh King	S3	Discus	2nd	23.05

We then went along to the Forth Valley Athletics competition with a strong team of both boys and girls. Although there are a limited

amount of disciplines on the day, it proved to be a great success. There were 14 other schools present with some formidable club athletes to compete against.

Notable successes were as follows:

Matthew Berry	S1	100m	1st	13.72
Duncan Hughson	S2	Shot Putt	1st	8.28
S1 Boys		Relay	1st	54.75
S3 Boys		Relay	1st	49.62

Our next fixture was back to Hutcheson's but with only a boys team. This time we were up against Hutcheson's, St Columbas, Wellington Lomond. Notable successes included:

S1

Boys	Relay	2nd	55.89
Matthew Berry	100m	2nd	13.62
Amena Caqusau	100m B	1st	13.28
Michael Draunidalo	200m	2nd	28.32
Jaheem Thomas	200m B	2nd	32.56
Amena Caqusau	High Jump	2nd	1.30

S2

Rajeb Thapa	Hurdles	2nd	14.14
Tom Main	Hurdles	1st	14.21
Tom Main	High Jump	1st	1.40
Tom Main	Javelin	1st	32.06

S3

Cameron Dowdles	Hurdles	2nd	14.83
Ross Merrick	100m	2nd	11.84
Brodie Paterson	Javelin	2nd	21.50



We then held our own athletics match against Lathallan, who made the long journey down from Montrose. We were, again, blessed with some lovely weather and it proved to be a very even match.

The results were as follows:

Junior	Points	Total
P7 Boys	45	92
P7 Girls	47	
P7 Boys	48	92
P7 Girls	44	

Intermediate	Points	Total
S1 Boys	55	111
S1 Girls	56	
S1 Boys	46	91
S1 Girls	45	

Senior	Points	Total
S2 Boys	54	92
S2 Girls	38	
S2 Boys	44	107
S2 Girls	63	

This year we took two relay teams to the Scottish Schools competition, an S1 boys relay team and an S3 boys relay team. They had put a lot of hard work into preparing for the event but in the end

it would be down to what they could do on the day. The S1 team got through their heat and then came 5th in the final with a very respectful time of 54.07, which is a great achievement. The S3 team were unlucky to miss out on the final by 100th of a second, with a time of 47.84, however they will be back next year!

Our next athletics event was the Scottish Schools Track and Field Competition. This is over two days and this year we took the following athletes:

Name	Group	Event	Time/Distance	Position
Alex Malcom	B	100m	12.54	
Joshua King	B	Discus	31.47	
Daniel Thompson	C	100m	12.66	
Ross Merrick	B	200m	24.97	
Morgan Leatherbarrow	B	Long Jump	5.51	12
Tom Main	C	Javelin	37.26	1
Sophie Murphy	C	Discus	18.65	7

Our Sports Day was a huge success. Once again we were blessed with the weather and the pupils really excelled this year, not only in their performances but also with their focus and support of team mates. We had an unprecedented 13 records broken which was a real indication of the potential we have throughout the school. They were as follows:

What was really impressive though was the determination and confidence all of the performers demonstrated throughout the day. The Curriculum for Excellence moves to develop Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens and Effective Learners, all of which were evident throughout the afternoon.

Event	Previous Record	Holder	New Record	Holder
Junior Boys				
High Jump	1.42	H Auldwinkle	1.43	M Berry
Long Jump	4.57	K Rowe	4.93	M Draunadilo
Shot Putt	9.00	G Read	9.25	T Nutiri
Inter Boys				
100m	11.83	D Gibb	11.82	R Merrick
High Jump	1.63	A Page	1.70	A Malcolm
Long Jump	5.44	C Harris	5.79	A Malcolm
Triple Jump	11.48	K Rowe	12.02	A Malcolm
Junior Girls				
100m	14.4	H Dumbreck	14.4	M MacDonald
300m	54.54	B Stacey	52.8	Lily O'Neil
Shot Putt	7.65	A Smith	8.26	A Lawson
Triple Jump	7.20	H Ashcroft	7.90	T Robbins
Inter Girls				
Discus	19.87	A Smith	24.19	S Murphy
Senior Girls				
100m	14.09	O Williams	13.65	O Williams
Long Jump	4.36	L O'Connor	4.54	O Williams

The results for the day were as follows:
Junior Competition; Liddell 1st; Bannerman 2nd;
Ormond 3rd. Intermediate Competition; Liddell 1st; Ormond 2nd;

Bannerman 3rd. Senior Competition; Bannerman 1st; Liddell 2nd;
Ormond 3rd. This meant that Inter House Competition was won by Bannerman!



Top to bottom; XI Football; U14 Football.



Ski Trip

On the 11th of February 2017 a group of students set off on the long and tiring journey to Italy. We boarded the coach around 10am and the journey finally began. It was at least four hours before the first stop. For some, the time flew by as they slept the whole way, but for others it really dragged on. The only entertainment was the tiny screen at the front of the coach and some well picked movies, but we wouldn't suggest playing a war movie whilst everyone was trying to sleep! After a bumpy ferry ride we had arrived in France. After eating a French breakfast we were only a couple of hours away from arriving in Courmayeur. We passed through the Mont Blanc tunnel and then we were finally in the mountains. Before we actually got onto the slopes, we had to get kitted out with all our ski equipment! We picked out our boots and then we were ready for the next day. The first day on the slopes was all about knowing what level we were at. Everyone moved around until they were comfortable with their groups and their new instructors. The instructors did their best to welcome us to Italy. After our first and very tiring day on the slopes we headed to the town centre to familiarise ourselves with the best crepe and ice-cream places! The town centre was full of shops and things to do to pass the time. Then we would head back to the hotel and get ready for dinner. The apres ski for the first night was all you can eat pizza which was delicious and very filling.

Throughout the week the apres ski was very entertaining especially the karaoke night where we found out that we had some budding singers among us. Some of the other activities included ice skating, which was very interesting and quite amusing. One night we even got two free scoops of ice cream and they were very delicious. We personally would recommend milk ice-cream. After the free ice cream we could roam around the town centre. Another activity was the awards night, this was when our instructors awarded us with certificates and badges and we looked back over our week. There were also some extra awards given out by Mr McLay at the end of the awards night which made us all laugh. Overall it was one of the most amazing weeks, with many complete wipeouts and a few tears and tantrums, however we will never forget the memories we made on this trip. It was obvious that all the staff members made a big contribution to the trip, and we thank them so much for making the week so enjoyable. It wouldn't have been possible without any of you. Thank you especially to Mr McLay, for organising this holiday. Ciao!

Greer Walker and Olivia Oatley





Andy Murray Visit

On September 20th, four QVS students and PE teacher Mrs Scott-Laing, were invited to a 'secret' event at Stirling University. The event was the 'Davis Cup tour, when the students would be able to see the Davis Cup and be photographed along with it, as well as taking some tennis lessons from Judy Murray, mother of Andy. But perhaps the event was being kept secret for a reason – who should turn up but none other than Andy Murray himself.

Deputy Senior Monitor Jordan Oatley was quick to get a handshake, with Head of Wavell House, Georgia Mowat, looking on.

The students might have been excited but that was nothing compared to Mrs Scott-Laing, who relished the chance to meet one

of her sporting heroes.

Andy himself took a selfie and shared it on his Twitter feed. If you look to his right, who should you see in the audience with a big grin? Mrs Scott-Laing, perfectly positioned for the snap.

It was a day to remember for the four students and staff involved – Jordan, Georgia and two P7 students, Euan Lee and Freya Welch, had plenty of stories to tell when they returned to QVS that afternoon.

Mr Shaw



Top to bottom: Megan Clarke S1; Sarah Dilalavanua S3.



Borneo Expedition

In the summer of 2017, 16 of us – including two members of staff: Mr Stacey, Miss Stinson and our expedition leader Graham – embarked on a three week expedition to Borneo Malaysia.

After three flights and two long days of travelling we finally arrived in the capital, Kota Kinabalu before arranging transport towards the North Tip of Borneo to stay at Tapat Du Aman, where we would take part in a five day community project. The project itself involved us creating a path through a dense jungle (fitting in stairs in the steep areas) up towards the top where a bridge was to be put in place. We then had to shovel building materials and carry cement, sand and grit up to the top. All of this doesn't sound like the "ideal holiday experience", however the reward of getting the afternoon off each day after work to go down to the beautiful beach made it all very worth it. We also got the opportunity to organise a sports day/mini highland games for the local kids down at the beach. We had a range of events like the sack race, 100m, the egg and spoon race and it all ended with a small game of football... definitely one of the favourite days of the expedition.

After our time in Tapat Du Aman, we moved onto Sepilok. Here, we stayed in a Nature Lodge and got the privilege of visiting the Orang-utan and Sun Bear Rehabilitation Centre, where we got the chance to see the animals up close. To make our time even better in Sepilok, we also got to experience a real jungle storm, which was both an amazing and lucky experience!

Once our short two day stay in Sepilok was over, we travelled to Kota

Kinabatangan. We, again, stayed in a lodge and got to do an endless amount of activities like river cruises – getting to see all sorts of wildlife from Proboscis monkeys to crocodiles, a trek up a hill to see some breathe taking views at the top, night walks through the jungle and even got a class in traditional Bornean Dancing, but I have to say... we weren't very good!

Our final destination was Mickey's Survival Camp, which took a two hour trek to get to the base camp. Once there we learnt many skills and facts about how they hunt in the jungle and use bamboo in hundreds of different ways. We even got the chance to put our new skills to the test and attempted to make bamboo cups, carpets and got a shot of firing darts from a blow pipe. Unlucky Mr Stacey, you couldn't beat me this time!

At the end of our time at Mickey's Survival Camp, we headed back to Kota Kinabalu to have a few days of well-earned R&R. We also got the opportunity to visit the Tar Islands (Pulau Manukan) for a day and relax on the white sandy beach as well as going snorkelling in the clear blue sea. All before going back, leaving behind 40 degree heat and sunshine and coming home to good old rainy Scotland.

Overall the Borneo Expedition was a massive success and can all easily agree that it was a fantastic opportunity of a lifetime that we recommend to everyone should they get the chance to.

Olivia Williams



Borneo Thank You Letter

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for contributing to my Borneo Expedition funds. Getting to see a completely different culture and to be welcomed into that culture with open arms was something I will never forget. At times it was very hard to deal with, and there were points where I was ready to go home there and then, but I'm glad I didn't, because I would have missed out on so many other opportunities. Opportunities like organising a sports day for the local children at Tapat Do Aman, where Mr Stacy made us march onto the beach for all of the children. We all thought of different activities for them to do, such as egg and spoon races, throwing the coconut, and football at the end, to name

a few. I also would have missed out on seeing the orang-utans and sun bears at Sepilok, learning how to cook traditional Bornean food and learning their dances. I would never have seen the crocodile on our river cruises at the Kinabatangan nature lodge, or got amazing pictures of monkeys a foot way from our boat. And I'm so glad I did see and do all of these things. It's not every day you get to make your own bamboo cup and carpet, or you get to go swimming with exotic fish. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I'm So Proud to say I did it.

Thank you once again,

Sincerely Charlotte Gothard-Olver



Activity Days

This year the school organised an extra day of activities for the junior pupils during the summer term whilst the senior pupils were working hard for their exams.

The pupils were able to choose what activities they would like to experience on day one, with the majority of those activities organised and run by the staff. These included a Command task competition, Grub in the mud, Archery, Mountain biking, Dunblane adventures, Bridge of Allan adventures, hiking up Ben Venue, Football excellence, Swimming, Drama and a trip to St Andrews beach.

On Day two, the pupils were involved in year group activities provided

by external companies. These activities included White water rafting, Canyoning, outdoor Lazer-Quest and high ropes, to name a few.

The pupils (and staff) had a blast during the two days and because of the positive experiences had by all, the school will now be looking to extend the activity programme for next May.

A special thank you must go to all the staff who helped organise and supervise the activities. It was indeed a whole school effort and a great experience for all involved.

Mr Adams

Comrie Croft Mountain biking

On our activity day Rays, Tiana, Abbie, Euan, James, Lewis, Arran and Alexx ventured off to Comrie Croft, starting in the popular skills park, testing how competent we actually are and also making sure the pupils knew how to stop!

Mr Lear soon got the hang of racing down the slope and Mike the GAP student was keen to show us the air time he could pull off. After lunch we ventured off up the hill to have a go at the blue trail. It was a blazing hot day and this was definitely a true test of the pupils'

determination and fitness and gladly they all made it. Once there and after a brief reminder to one and all about control, off the group went, careering down the hill at break neck speed. Thankfully all got down safely although we had one incident when James and Arran were racing down the dual track and James decided he wanted to go into Arran's track, unfortunately Arran was still in it at the time and both came to a grinding halt, faces in the dirt! All in all a great day out, with superb weather. Many thanks to Mr Lear, Mrs McBlain and Mike the GAP student for giving their time to make it possible.



Dunblane Adventure

On Thursday 25th May, Pupils took part in the Dunblane Adventure activity for the day and it was one of the greatest trips I have ever been on. The teachers that came with us were Miss Low, Miss Hastie, Mr Laing and Billy the GAP student.

First, we walked out towards Ashfield through the fields. We stopped to take a couple of photos and I took one of the view. We continued walking through the fields and towards the river, it was like a mini beach. We had our morning snack here and chilled out in the sunshine for a while. We loved it and kept asking all day if we could go back again!

We continued our adventure into Dunblane and headed for the Laighills Park which had slides, swings, a roundabout and a climbing frame.

Firstly, I went on the three slides which took me to the swings at the bottom but on my way down, the slide was really hot and I got a slide burn!

Then, we took a different route to Tesco along the river and we got to buy ice lollies.

Dunblane Adventure Day was such a great day, the best part was playing in the park with all my friends and going up and down the slides with my friends.

I hope we can go again next year and the weather is as amazing as it was that day.

Rachael Brown



St Andrews Beach Trip

Pupils, check.
Staff, check.
Packed lunches, check.
Bus, check.
Sunshine, check.
Suncream, check.

St Andrews Beach here we come!!

Making the most of one of our sunny summer weather days, a group of us headed to St Andrews for a fun filled activity day. Sun, sand, sea and ice cream – it's a tough job but someone has to do it!

We all had a blast with all the usual beach activities undertaken. Splashing one another (including Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Rodger who

braved the temperatures of the North Sea), burying each other, making sandcastles, eating sandy sandwiches, playing touch ball, races, examining dead crabs. You name it, we did it.

After drying off, we headed into town for some refreshments. All the local food businesses were delighted at the arrival of hungry QVS kids (and staff). The prize however, for eating the most ice cream was to go to Duncan and Cameron for opting for a whole Viennetta each!! With full stomachs, windswept hair, lungs full of fresh sea air and sand still between our toes we headed back for the bus. The question was asked if we would do it again next year – definitely!!

Thanks to all who came and had fun.

Mrs Rodger



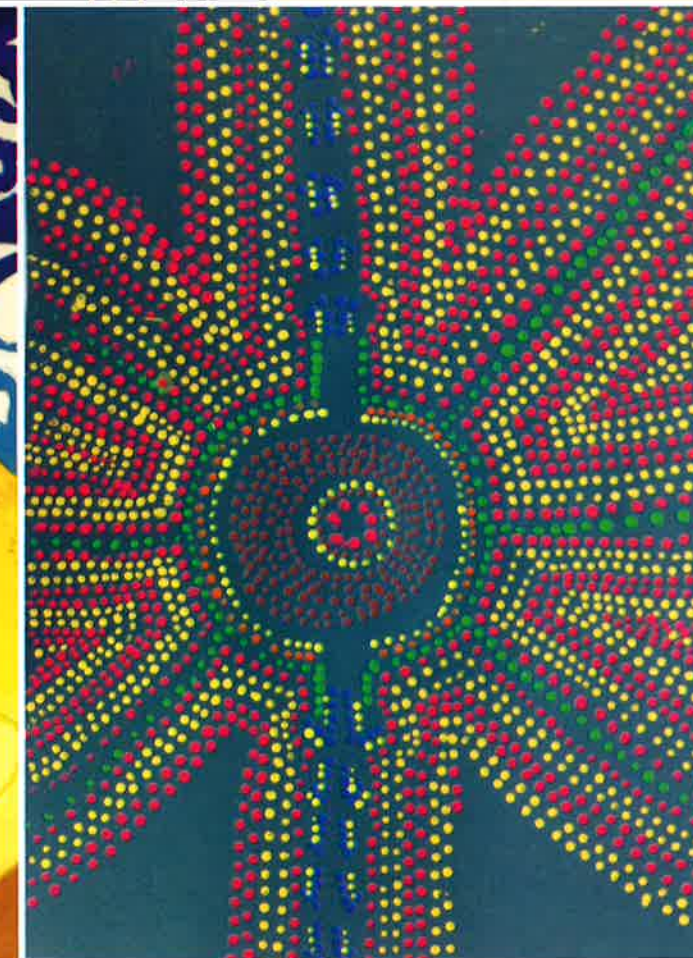
Bridge of Allan A(dventure) Team!

As part of an in-house Activities Day, a group went on the 'Bridge of Allan Adventure Day'. This entailed a walk through the beautiful 'Bluebell Woods' eventually joining the Darn Walk (much further along than planned due to Mrs Bairner's 'excellent' navigation skills!).

After a talk from the Teenage Cancer Trust earlier in the term, pupils were asking for and using Factor 50 sun cream, which was great, as no-one ended up with sun burn after a full day outside in the heat.

The sun and temperature made an ice-cream stop at the Allan Water Café mandatory, and the café probably doubled its usual earnings for a Thursday with the amount of ice cream consumed by Team QV!

The walk to Bridge of Allan was completed at a fairly speedy pace, so we slowed things down on the way back and stopped at various points along the river to cool down and enjoy the weather. Overall step count for the walk – 25,000! Well done A-team!



Clockwise top to bottom; Greer Walker S2; Gabrielle Codd S2; Amelia Forsyth S3.

BBC News School Report Day

All S2 participated in the National BBC News School Report day.

We experienced what it was like to be the writers, film makers and stars of a news report. The first step was to choose a topic of discussion so we chose to do – school dinners. We chose this topic because there are lots of different opinions about it so we knew we could get different views. We decided to interview a teacher and a pupil so that we could get mixed opinions because staff members

have an option on whether or not they want school meals. It was quite a hard task because we all had to co-operate well in the group and work well and make sure we were fair in the team. Plus we were quite nervous interviewing teachers and Mr Shaw. We then edited our videos Mrs O'Neill uploaded them to the BBC News Website. We really enjoyed the time pressure of having to complete it before we were back in our normal classes and some of the groups chose some really sensitive issues which gave really good interview material.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27th January. The theme for this year was "How can life go on?" The theme asked us to think about: how people who have experienced the horror of genocide can start to rebuild their lives. To mark this, pupils from S2 had a series of lessons explaining that Holocaust Memorial Day is not only about commemorating those who died but about standing with those who survived. A group of pupils then presented this message to the whole school in chapel.

Pupils were asked to think about their strongest memory. For most these were happy occasions including holidays, birth of siblings or the arrival of a pet. They were then shown a series of photographs drawn by children in a refugee camp. For the last 13 years there has been a genocide taking place in Darfur, an area of Sudan, Africa. Thousands have been killed and millions have been forced to leave their homes. All the children who drew these pictures have escaped the genocide and fled to neighbouring countries. These children were asked to draw their strongest memory. All included images of death and destruction. These children have experienced things that most of us cannot imagine. Although they have escaped genocide

they continue to face problems. The things they have seen can't be forgotten.

The pupils learnt about a 15 year old refugee, who after escaping from Darfur faced a long and traumatic journey, ending up in London. Here his struggle continued as he found it difficult to adapt to our way of life without the support of any family. Thankfully, he is now safe and building a new life for himself. He also discovered that his mother and brother survived the genocide and is in contact with them.

On Holocaust Memorial Day we should think about how we would like people who have gone through such terrible ordeals to be treated. We should consider how each of us could support those who have suffered to rebuild their lives.

Thanks to those who delivered a very moving and informative presentation: Mollie Alexander, Eleanor Codd, Gabriele Codd, Lauren Donaldson, Charlotte Kelly, Pratistha Khawas, Aird Matheson, Leah McFall and Rosie Welch.

IDL comes to Social Subjects

In March 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 CfE, the department created a day long programme which gave pupils an opportunity to learn new content and develop many skills.

Our chosen topic was Trade. Pupils completed four workshops, each one led by a different member of staff. Mr Boyd and Miss Appleyard focused on ethical trading, Mrs McDonnell played a trade game, Mrs Rodger concentrated on the origins of the Slave Trade and 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 Dunblane Cathedral Fairtrade Tuckshop. Jean Rutherford spoke about the aim of Fairtrade and how purchasing

Fair-trade products makes a difference. Jean gathered pupils knowledge of Fairtrade with a short quiz and to their delight she brought with her a wide selection of Fairtrade products. S3 Pupils and then the whole school had the opportunity to purchase Fairtrade goods and funnily enough the chocolate sold out! Thanks to Jean for taking the time to visit us and spend time talking with pupils educating about Fairtrade products.

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 day also made it more memorable as it was a different learning environment.

I would like to thank my team – Miss Appleyard, Mr Boyd, Mrs McDonnell and Mrs O'Neill – for all their work on this project. Collaborative working from the outset resulted in effective teaching and learning. Here's to next year's IDL!

Mrs Rodger



Secret Bunker and St Andrews

Question: What is 100 feet underground and the size of two football pitches? Answer – a secret – a Secret Bunker. To give S2 pupils first-hand experience of what it was like to grow up during the Cold War, we headed to the Secret Bunker in Fife. It was built to help safeguard Scotland during the Cold War, decommissioned in the late 1980s and opened to the public in 1994.

We were all given a hand held device which explained the purpose of the bunker and what happened in each of different rooms. This helped everyone to understand how the country would be run if we under attack and gave a real flavour of what it was like to live under the threat of a nuclear 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.

Our next stop was St Andrews. Thankfully the sun shone and after a short walk taking in the coastal path, the ruins of the Cathedral, Parliament Hall and the Divinity faculty of the University we stopped for a well-earned refreshment. Then it was time to head to the beach for some fresh sea air, obligatory paddling and name writing on the sand. Thanks to Mrs O'Neill, Mike, Billy and Hannah and all of S2 for making the trip such fun.

Mrs Rodger

Rosslyn Chapel

The new S4 year group visited Rosslyn Chapel as part of the Religious and Moral Education course on the meaning of symbolism.

A number of the pupils have noted down their thoughts on the experience of Rosslyn....

It was interesting to learn about the history and symbolism of the designs around the chapel. Every design held a meaning, whether it be about Christianity or the history of the chapel itself. Furthermore we got to look around the place where Tom Hanks filmed a scene from 'The Da Vinci Code', which was quite intriguing".
Suprina Gurung

"I found the stone masonry detailed and very interesting, both inside

and outside. The story of the Green Man is also very provoking. The chapel was a lot smaller than I expected, The film, The Da Vinci Code, made it look bigger". Anna Macpherson

"I enjoyed looking at the majestic, awe-inspiring chapel and the mysterious things behind it". Stewart Brown

Every time we leave, the staff are immensely complimentary about the behaviour and the turnout of the pupils.

It is a pleasure to take them along to the Chapel... even when they take an interest in the historical costume corner!

R Boyd



Top to bottom; Amina Caqusau S1; Lucie Evans S1; Megan Clarke S1.



Contact the Elderly

A wonderful time was had by all of our guests this afternoon for the launch of Dunblane's #ContactTheElderly initiative.

Our guests had a fantastic afternoon being looked after by the Interact Group (MAD) and the Rotakids and being entertained by our talented dancers. Will Adam piped in the guests and Sushmita, Joelle, Alec and Lora coordinated the tea party.

Thank you so much to Mr Shaw, Mrs Rodger, Mrs McDonnell and

Maureen Sword for giving up their Sunday afternoon to support the event. As you can see from the photos, it was a roaring success.

Thanks to Mrs Downey, Mr Wright and Mrs Scott Laing who have all pledged donations to cover the costs of hosting the party; if anyone else would like to donate a pound or two, it would be very gratefully received.

Mrs Adams

Winter Treat

Just wanted to write and say a HUGE thank you to all of the staff who supported last night's WINTER TREAT. The pupils were a credit to the school and attracted dozens of compliments about their manners, their caring natures and their sense of fun too.

The pipers and dancers were superb and some impromptu ceilidh dancing along to Skelpit Lug was also well received. Particular mention must go to Sushmita and Lora, who with Joelle and Alec Johnstone organised everything on the night perfectly. Aoife and her dancing team were extremely entertaining and wonderful ambassadors for the school. The time the pupils from the MAD group spent with the senior citizens at the tea break was very heartwarming indeed. Even the most unlikely characters were a huge hit with the old ladies. Mr Shaw's hilarious jokes also went down well!

Thanks so much to everyone who supported the event – particularly to Vivien Hiddleston and Carole Anne Taylor for coming along on the night and supporting the tea and coffee brigade! Many thanks also to Theresa, Jeanie and Elizabeth from the kitchen for all their logistics help. A big thanks to Miss Stinson for coming along with the super half time entertainments and – not least – to all of you who donated such lovely gifts. Some of the guests were quite overwhelmed, and that was before Lennox Baselala offered to see them home safely...

Thanks again and if any of your tutees took part, you should warmly congratulate them on Monday's tutor period for their efforts – they really did an amazing job.

Mrs Adams





World Book Day.

The Library

At the beginning of the autumn term, the library was temporarily in the safe hands of Mrs Balfour, our Assistant Facilities Manager, who looked after the library during lunch breaks. This gave pupils the opportunity to borrow and return books after the retirement of librarian Mrs Sheerin.

Since I was appointed in November 2016, the library has enjoyed a reorganisation, favouring a system of shelving fiction in 'junior' and 'senior' areas. This has proved popular with pupils, who have said that it is now much easier to find what they are looking for!

In December the pupils enjoyed their annual 'Christmas Colouring Competition', where templates and pens were available in the library for all ages, except staff – which was not a popular decision, and may need to be revisited!

In February, the library promoted Safer Internet Day 2016, with a display of informative reference books, and some useful leaflets and factsheets giving tips about how pupils can stay safe while online. March saw our World Book Day programme launch. A week before the event, there were five separate daily announcements in assembly, revealing the activities which would take place on the day. Brand new library books, an author visit (Helen MacKinven visited Mrs Adams English group), a free book for each pupil, a 'Book Token Design' competition, and book talks by staff and pupils were all part of the day. Some pupils also gave a World Book Day themed assembly.

The book talks were popular, and took place all over the school, from the Cunningham House stairwell, to the old gym, to the chapel and beyond! Millie Russell (Michael Morpurgo's *'Private Peaceful'*) and Freya Costello (J. K. Rowling's *'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'*) did a great job in talking about their favourite books. Staff who gave

animated talks were Mr Robinson, (Jared Diamond's *'Guns, Germs and Steel'*), Mrs Bairner (Suzanne Collins' *'The Hunger Games'*), Mr Mair (Isaac Asimov's *'Pebbles in the Sky'*), Miss Sword (C.S. Lewis's *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'*), and last but not least Mr Shaw, who talked about the inspiration for writing his book *'The 13th Doorway'*.

Each House received a stock of World Book Day tokens, giving every pupil the opportunity to exchange a token for a free book. Fiona McMillan from John Smiths Bookshop at the University of Stirling kindly obtained the books, and attended as our 'QVS Bookseller' for the day. Around half the pupils chose a title from the five available, and Fiona had a great time chatting with her 'customers'.

Scottish author Helen MacKinven spent a morning with Mrs Adams' S5 English class, giving a talk about her writing, and also working with the class on some creative tasks. The group loved the interaction with a real life author, and some great creative writing was produced by the pupils.

There was a real buzz around the school for the day, as all things booky were enjoyed, and the joy and escapism of reading celebrated.

As we approach the end of the academic year, the library will not stand still, much is planned for next year in terms of updating stock, and asking for pupils' opinions on how the library can further improve, to support their curricular and extra-curricular learning during their time at QVS. Indeed, as social reformer Henry Ward Beecher said, 'A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life'.

Mrs Sara Lewis, Library and Information Manager



Junior Reward Night.

Junior Reward Night

The following pupils took part in the Reward outing to the Riverside on Wednesday 22 March;

Confident Individual

Mollie Alexander S2

Successful Learner

Molly Horne S3
Charlotte Kelly S2
Megan DiCiacca P7
Amelia Forsyth S3
William Cook S1
Jamie Guthrie S3
Leoni Gallagher S1
Shameer Gurung S1

Responsible Citizen

Lucie Evans S1
MaryKate Charnley S1
Kenzie Smiles S1
Millicent MacDonald S1
Mackenzie Berry S3

Effective Contributor

Stewart Brown S3
Lily Grace Methven P7
Brodie Paterson S3
Rhys Owen S3





Top to bottom; Amelia Forsyth S3; Erin Sim S2.



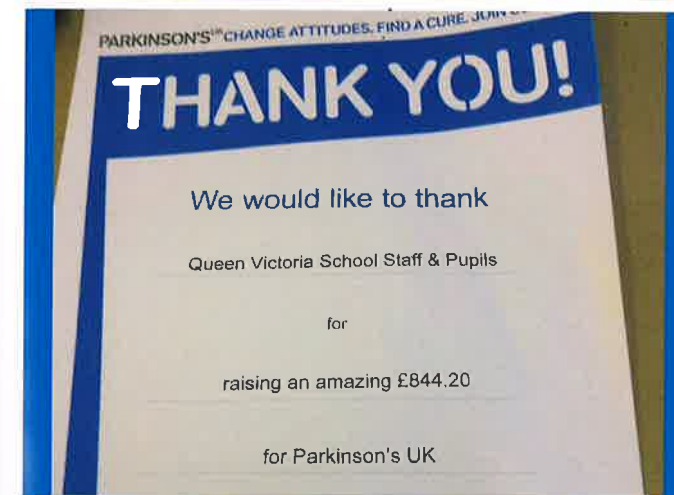
Uphill Trust

QVS Pupils were delighted to welcome Belinda MacDonald from the Uphill Trust back to school this term with personal letters and handmade bracelets from the children in Uganda. We have been raising money over the last year for this small rural school and the

letters were such a fantastic surprise. We are selling candy canes for Uphill in December as we'd like to buy more school books for the children of Uphill to go with the new desks and chairs that the £1,300 we've already raised has provided.



Strathcarron Hospice coffee morning.





Primary 7

My First Tutor Group

My first tutor group was with Miss Hastie. She is really nice and whatever the problem was she can always help you through your troubles.

My tutor group was really fun and nice. We played games and told each other stories and memories. As we got to know each other more we became more social and happy. We've done lots of activities and my favorite was when we tangled our arms together and we had to try to get out of it.

We have also been on many different tutor trips. Our first was a trip to the cinema with Mrs Downey's group because Darran, Daniel and I were away on the Wednesday playing rugby. We went to watch Miss Peregrines home for peculiar children.

Our second trip was split into two. You could either go to Perth swimming pool on the Wednesday or laser tag in Falkirk on the Friday. In the end I went to laser tag with Freya C and Daniel.

Finally our last trip was at school joined with loads of different tutor groups and we done bubble football. We played many different games and in the end it was a really good and fun day.

My first tutor group was really good and anybody that gets Miss Hastie as a tutor would be very lucky!

Charlie Scott

Our Subjects in P7

This year I have been in lots of different lessons. Personally I think I have improved quite a bit since I got here. I'm not really sure what my favorite subject is yet because there are so many. Some of our subjects are Maths, English, Drill, PDD, PSHE, PE, Music, Social Studies, ICT, Tech, Art, Games, French and RE.

Maths and English are just the typical lessons. Drill is where our Sergeant Major, Mr Stacey, teaches us how to march and prepares us for our Parades. PDD is really fun; it stands for Piping, Drumming and Dancing. At the beginning of the year you get to pick one which you would like to stick with for the whole year. I chose dancing and I am really enjoying it and hope to stick with it until I leave QVS. Next lesson is PSHE, which is where you learn about your body and how to have a healthy life. Now is PE, I think PE is quite fun even though I'm not the best at it. In PE we started with hockey and then moved onto gymnastics then tennis and lastly athletics. You do athletics in the summer term and I have enjoyed it the most. Music is next. Music is one of the subjects I have enjoyed, we have done quite a lot of things in music and now we all have our own instruments to play. Social Studies is when you learn about our world. ICT is when we do lots of fun things on a computer. Tech is when you make a lot of things out of plastic. Art is when we draw and do lots of pattern work. Games is when we play hockey. Hockey is quite fun when you get the hang of it. French is when we learn French (obviously) and I am one of the few who enjoy it. Finally is RE which is one of the subjects that no one really likes. It is when we learn about the religions.

That is all of the subjects and I have enjoyed them all so far.

Ellie Robinson



P7 Bookworms.

My First Year at QVS

My first day was very frightening. I didn't know anybody. When I took my first step into my new room I automatically knew I had a big shock coming. Gladly, I was first in my room, which meant I was able to pick any bed! There are three different types of rooms, there are: four man rooms, two man rooms and a one man room. I was in a four man room with a corner bed. My roommates were: Freya, Ellie and Lily. We got on for about three months then we started to argue. Unfortunately, there was a room swap. Lily sadly, moved into another room, but a wonderful girl named Millie came into my room.

Everybody, gets a rookie keeper, I had Millie Macdonald. Happily, I knew her before I came so she was very kind and helpful. On the first weekend you go with your rookie keeper to Tesco. You get four pound every Friday (that's if you want) so hopefully, you'll never run out!

Amazingly, you get to choose out of the three: Piping, Drumming and Dancing. When you choose one, you learn how to do that up till S3 where you can choose to keep learning or stop. The school is very sporty; you have PE twice a week and games on a Thursday. Games is where you do Hockey or Rugby.

I've now been here for about a year now and I already feel more confident in myself and have turned a new leaf. This school has changed me in such a fantastic way, every day I feel more and more cheerful.

In P7 there are a variety of trips to go to. There are seven amazing school trips: Bannockburn, Museum on the Mound, Dynamic Earth Blair Drummond, Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Glasgow Science Centre. It's a blast of a time.

My year in P7 has been fabulous so far and I hope it still goes on like that. So when your here, there's no need to be scared!

That's my year at QVS!

Katie Wilson

My First Year at QVS

My first year at QVS has been great, when you join P7, you might meet new friends. What I like about the school is the sport, the sport I do is rugby.

We get to go on school trips, like Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Science Centre, Bannockburn and Dynamic Earth, the best trip was Dynamic Earth. The amazing thing is that we get tutors, they take us on trips to, Perth swimming pool and bubble football. After Perth pool we went to MacDonalds and bubble football was really fun.

The other thing is that, we get to go on house trips, we went, ice-skating and to the cinema. The one, that I found really cool was the theatre, it was a Christmas play. It was in Glasgow, the play was about a family and an elf. We came back around eleven o'clock at night. When you join P7 you get a rookie keeper, my rookie was Sammay. The first weekend we went to Tesco.

Also in your free time you can go out to the Astro turf or you can play on the field, the other thing is you can sit in the bottom common room and watch a movie or play on the Xbox in the middle common room and there is a top common room for the seniors.

Theo Natiri



Outdoor Week

During Outdoor Week we did lots of fun activities. Some of the activities were writing stories about the forest, QVS Bug Hotel, number poems, pots of adjectives, making skeletons out of woodland resources and MasterChef. Our favourite activities were MasterChef, writing stories and making Dream forests.

The first activity we did was making Carroll diagrams with leaves. For this we were in groups of 4/5. We had to make the diagram about green leaves, brown leaves, small and big leaves.

The next activity that we had to make was a scale house out of woodland resources, we had a sheet of squared paper. 1 square = 30 centimetres, and 2 squares = 60 centimetres. For this task we were in groups of 4/5 as well.

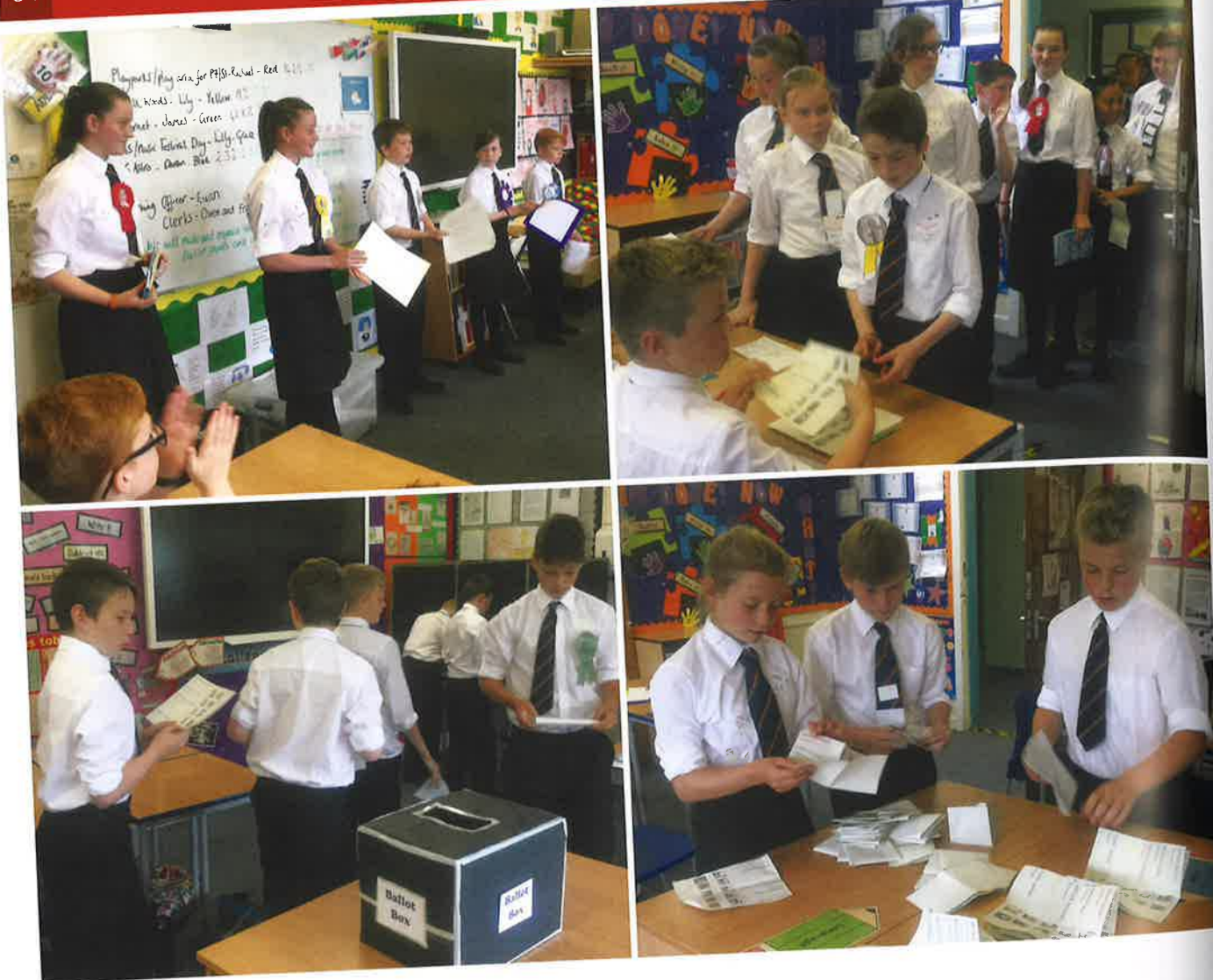
Throughout the whole week we created dream forests. The prizes for the best ones went to Madi, James A, Katie W and Ben. Another activity was making skeletons. We enjoyed this activity and the winners were, Jamie, Ben, Theo, Rays, Euan, Ellie, Madi, Millie and Iona. For the skeletons we had a detailed picture of a skeleton and we had to make a replica of it using sticks, stones, leaves and flowers.

Next, was one of our favourite activities, MasterChef. For this activity we had to create a three course meal, and a drink using resources from Wavell Woods. We were in groups of five for this activity. You can use anything you can find but not things that are growing. The winners for this activity were Lily, Katie M, Reagan, Abbie, James M, Robert, Elliot, Riley, Lewis, Madi, Isla, Megan, Lilly-Grace and Lexine. We did two activities that involved writing but they were still great fun. The activities were writing poems and writing imaginative stories about the woods. The poems were all about nature, the type of poems we did were Number poems and Pots of adjectives. For this we were in pairs, and it was really fun!

The last activity we did was a QVS Bug Hotel. We had to go around the woods seeing what animals lived in different natural locations. We also had to do a tally to see how many bugs we could find. Altogether, it was a great week and we loved being outdoors in Wavell Woods. I'm sure next years P7's will love it as much as us.

Madi and Isla





Election Week

On the 5th of June Primary 7 began their Election Week which had a grand total of five candidates. James Mathieson The JWP (James's WiFi Party),

Rachael Brown The Ruby party, Lily O'Neill The GAP (Golden Apple Party), Darran Young The 4G party, Lilly-Grace The Exete Party. James was campaigning for WiFi for the students, Rachael was trying to get play parks, Darran was trying to get a 4G Astro, Lily O'Neil was trying to get Wavell Woods in use again and Fort Tweedy back whilst Lilly-Grace was campaigning for a music festival.

Each candidate had had some helpers or minions as James calls them. James's group had Jamie Collins, Ben Main, Theo Natiri and Freya Costello. Rachael's group had Rebacca Gurung, Anju Gaha, Riley Jardine, Millie Myers, Iona Duffy and Jay Pearson. Lily O'Neil had Arran Scott, Sam Macpherson, Robert Cordiner, James Ansell, Katie Wilson and Abbie Gibson. Lilly-Grace's group had Lexine McCappin, Isla Dalrymple, Megan Dicacca, Katie Meikle, Ellie Robinson and Madi Bales. Darran's group had Charlie Scott, Daniel Rae, Ruari Imrie, Lewis Andrews, Leon Gregory and Rays Gurung.

The returning officer was Euan Lee and the clerks were Owen Nicol and Freya Welsh, they made the ballot boxes and voting cards.

In our groups we made loads of different things such as manifestos, posters, rosettes and a press release. We began doing Election Week from Monday 5th of June to Friday 9th of June because in the "real world" there was an election going on so we did our own pretend election.

The winner of the election was the JW party with 19 votes. The runner up was The Exete Party with 17 votes. On the Friday the leaders of their party's gave a speech to all the Primary staff and SLT. The SLT included Mr Shaw, Mr Adams, Miss Phipps and Mrs Scott-Laing a few other staff members were there like Mr Bush and Mr Boyd.

We had an amazing week and I hope they do it next year so that the new Primary sevens have just as much fun. I also hope that the SLT keep to the agreement and let the students use WiFi!

Elliot Jones and James Mathieson





P7 Splash Trip

Every year the school have an activity day. Primary 7 have a house trip and that's to go **White Water Rafting** in **Aberfeldy**. I really enjoyed the atmosphere with all of the scenery and my friends. We had two options Cannoning or the Rapids. **S3** had joined us as well, they had went Cannoning whilst we were going on the Rapids. There were eight people in a boat including our guide. In my boat was Evie, Lexine, Lily, Riley, Robert, Iona, Abbie and me! Big Ian was our guide for the day, he was really nice.

I got splashed loads of times, at one point we had to get dunked in by Ian **just to see** what it was like if we had fallen out of the boat and he would **have** to save us. The only way he'd be able to save us would be if he had held onto our straps from our life jackets and pulled us up. Then we had **decided** that we should have a team name, it was "The Galactic Gangsters!" "Awesome, I know right."

As we passed each rapid it got faster and faster. Then Ian shouted

commands like "WHO ARE WE?" and we all said "THE GALACTIC GANGSTERS!" It had came to another rapid and we started singing random songs. Ian thought why don't we sing "You spin me right round baby right round like a record baby" as we where spinning around on a rapid. Sadly the rapids had came to an end and the **S3** had to do the rapids whilst we where cannoning.

P7 all got on the bus and we where heading on to our next destination. After we had arrived it was off to the first jump it was quite small but still fun. Jump after jump the slopes got higher. I've got a fear of heights so I only managed to do the small one and the second highest one. I still enjoyed the experience though.

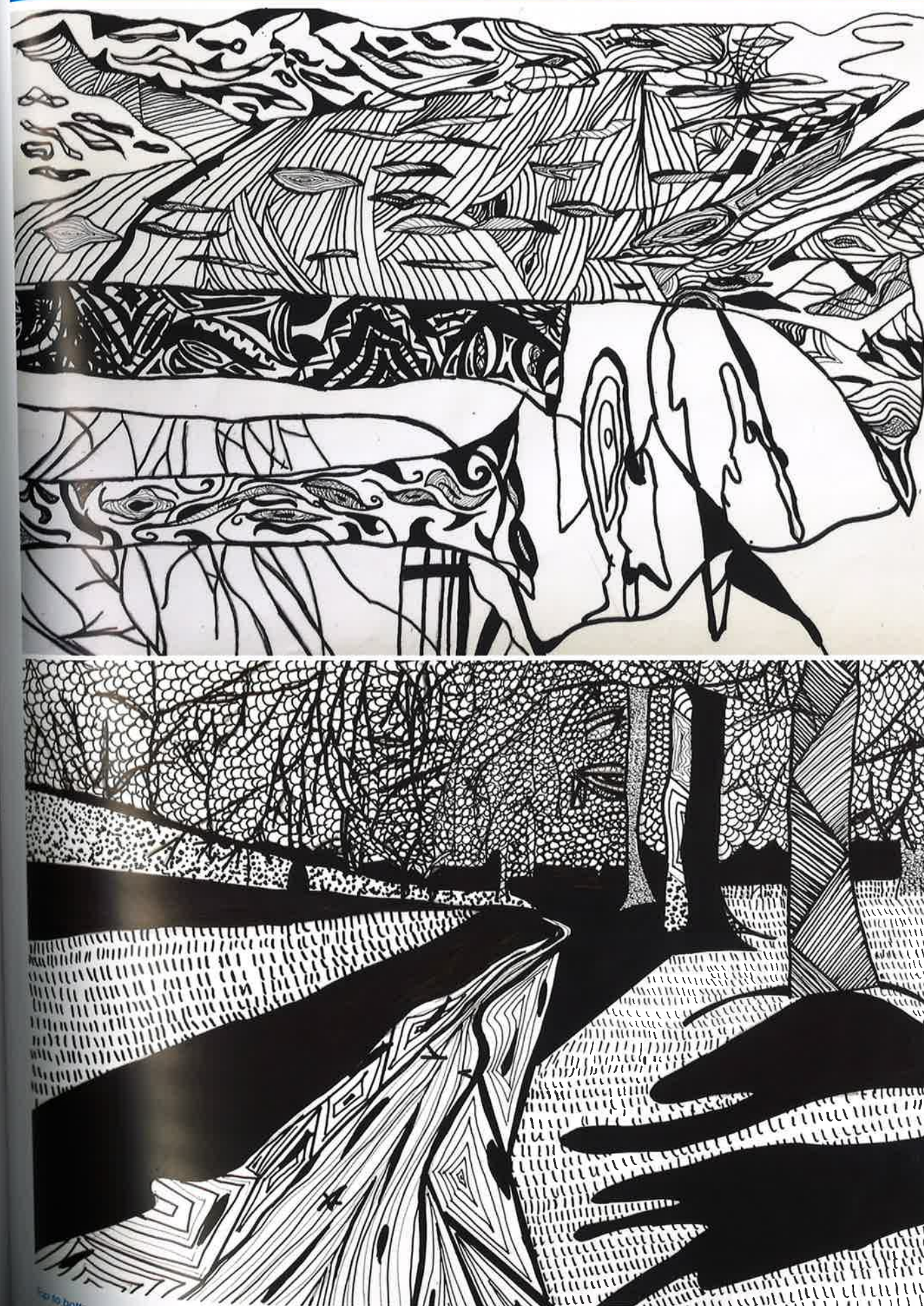
After all of our fun we got changed out of our wet suits and went back on the bus to QV. I really enjoyed it I can't wait to do it again!

Lilly-Grace Methven

Primary School's Quiz

Miss Hastie took Queen Victoria's Quiz team along to The Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane on 10th March 2017. Our team was made up of Robert Cordiner, Rebecca Gurung,

Catherine Meikle and Lexine McCappin. We brought along Anju Gaha, Riley Jardine, Megan DiCiaccia, Isla Dalrymple and not forgetting 'JimBob' the bear for support.



Top to bottom; Amana Caqusau S1; Millicent MacDonald S1.



Modern Languages

European Day of Languages 2016 was bigger and brighter than ever before, and it was really exciting to see how much effort staff and pupils put into it. We had a whole-school Costume Competition, with everyone dressing to represent a country. Mrs Rodger won the staff prize for the second year in a row – has a trend been set?! ESS did a fantastic job and pulled out all the stops to provide a breakfast, lunch and dinner typical of a specific country – there were no leftovers! After a busy day of events, the pace for the year was set and there have been loads of Languages events and activities going on.

92 pupils took over the MacRobert Cinema at Stirling University one afternoon in November, and enjoyed a screening of 'Le Nouveau' in French, with English subtitles. Pupils enjoyed seeing a snippet of life at a French school, and a few of the S2s are now crushing on French actors and actresses! It was also great to have the whole cinema to ourselves! Our seniors were back for a visit shortly after this, and we were all gripping our seats at a screening of 'Made in France'.

Junior French pupils have been learning the Present Tense – they've come up with their own style of playground clapping games, and their lovely verb flowers have brightened up the French classroom. Others have been learning about French food – this of course involved tasting some of it... the macaroon in particular went down very nicely. The downside was that the whole corridor near Modern Languages smelled of cheese for some time! Sorry all! We've also started a Nepalese club this year; it's been really

interesting to learn about Nepalese culture, and the numbers attending have been great!

Some time was spent preparing for a visit from a French school, with many similarities to QVS – the Prytanée National Militaire. In the run up to the visit, letters were exchanged between pupils of each school, which was a lovely, authentic way to work on language skills. The visit itself was a great success; the morning started with the bus being piped in, and was followed by a spectacular performance from members of the band and dancers. Our French colleagues reciprocated with an excellent singing performance – it was amazing to hear a collection of the songs they sing at school, often as part of their parades. The rest of the day was a blur of activity with presentations from senior pupils about each school, tours, lunch and chat!

Everyone is getting excited about the introduction of Spanish next year, and we look forward to welcoming Mr Smith to the QVS staff. At the same time, we must say thank you and all the best to one of our long-term supply teachers, Mr Sheerin, who has been part of the Modern Languages Department for the best part of two years.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing what the next academic year brings to the Modern Languages Department, and of course, to the next MFL trip in October, when a group will head to Murcia, Spain.

English

University education is not essential to be a success in Life and assuming that it is harmful to young people.

"Far too often, academic achievement is seen as the only route to securing a good job; the truth is that there is a wide variety of routes to great careers." Amy Picken, *The Independent*.

In school, we are bombarded with lengthy information sessions, handouts and well-meaning talks which lead us to believe that to be successful in life, you must have a university degree. I fundamentally believe, however, that a degree is simply a head start for some people and that long-term success is definitely brought about through hard work and dedication rather than a piece of paper detailing all the lectures you've attended for four years.

I am not denying that there are some careers which specifically require a degree, for example a lawyer or a doctor, this is clear. I am merely posing the question: for many other successful careers, are degrees really the only pathway to success?

It is often assumed that gaining a degree will increase your chances of employment, but a closer look proves it to be a much smaller benefit than many people might believe. The Telegraph recently published findings by the Office for National statistics which reveals that graduate employment sits around 84.2 per cent compared with 73.4 per cent in people who leave school without entering further education. It could be therefore argued that the cost of a degree and the time it takes out of your career pathway means that it cannot be seen as essential for all young ambitious people who want to succeed in life. So why is it always being rammed down our throats that UCAS applications are the only path to long-term success?

For many careers, a degree is quite simply unnecessary – there are endless opportunities that don't involve going to university or further education. So many young people in society today feel the pressures of academic expectancy and are led to believe that they must apply to further education if they want to stand a chance of fulfilling their goals in life. A survey conducted by Debate.org questioned people about whether they viewed an educational degree as necessary if you are aiming for a life of success. The results showed that a minority of 25% people responded yes whereas 75% people said no. Is it therefore time that we objected to the constant pressure on young people to go into further education and recognise the amount of opportunities that life holds for those who choose a career pathway straight after school?

Many of today's most successful people in business such as Richard Branson, Lord Sugar and Steve Jobs have one important aspect of their lives in common: not one of them left school to enter into further education. This clearly shows that it is possible to be successful without having to put yourself through four long and expensive years of university. Whilst you could say these examples are exceptions and not an attainable reality for the average person – surely being a millionaire is not the only sign of a successful business; you do not have to have created a brand new smartphone or managed thousands of people to have reached your own personal goal. Starting your own business can be a great route towards having a career and starting a prosperous life all on your own. University is clearly not the only pathway and it is surely time that school careers education took this into account.

According to the Huffington Post, "Anyone who makes the mistake of pursuing a college education in this day and age might live to regret it" This, I feel, is because the opportunities existing outside university are increasing and the reasons for having a degree seem to be decreasing. Many business and companies view four years outwith the workplace to be nothing more than a pointless waste of time: when the world is changing and society is continually changing it seems to me that you would have to be insane to spend time and money pursuing a degree which could in turn slow your actual career pathway down.

Those who dare to stray away from the 'traditional' after-school pathway of further education and pursue alternatives can literally end up years ahead of their peers, earning a proper wage and accumulating the funds to actually leave home before they're 30. When employers have the pick of the litter they will most likely go for the individual with the most experience, therefore hiring a graduate 'fresh from uni' is not necessarily the most advantageous or financially intelligent choice. So why are we not being shown this in the classroom instead of being brainwashed into thinking that a course in 'Sports Studies' is somehow better or more meaningful than a modern apprenticeship in the leisure industry?

The Telegraph's recent article "University was never meant to be for everybody. Young people have been sold a lie" addresses this problem, expressing their concerns that just because Universities have created 'expertly' trained people, it does not mean that the jobs will automatically be available for them at the end of their course. In 2015 around 25% of all 21 year-olds who graduated from university with a degree found themselves to be unemployed for up to 12 months afterwards. Because of current employment issues, many young graduates are left seeking work in jobs completely outside of their degree and often end up earning a significant amount less than they expected. The article clearly shows that going to university, despite popular belief, does not guarantee you a high-earning future. It is evident that graduate jobs are in short supply and a degree is certainly not a golden ticket to success.

However, it is definitely not fair to say there are no benefits at all of a university degree. Studying a degree allows someone to pursue further studies in a subject they are inspired by, it means they have the chance to widen their knowledge and perhaps for some reach their full potential. The University Of Kent expresses that choosing to study a degree allows you to develop a number of external skills alongside knowledge of your subject for example: problem solving, teamwork and the ability to communicate efficiently. This shows that whilst a degree is not necessary for success it is still an effective road towards a successful career for those who wish to take it. I'm not against Further Education itself, just against a culture that sells it to young people as their only option.

In conclusion, there are a multitude of roads which can lead to success for young people: it is very important to recognise there is no one single type of success, regardless of the way that some schools present their message. Going to university, taking up an apprenticeship or even starting a job are all achievements in their own right and measuring your success through owning a number of degrees or a earning a particular wage seems to be ridiculous, unfair and inaccurate. As a society, we are all different so why do we continue to believe that one pathway to success is right for everyone?

If we continue to be blinded by these inaccurate ideas we will begin to believe that the academic route of success is the only possible way to succeed in life. We must start to celebrate every different type of attainment and see that an educational degree does not make you a better person, but just a personal choice. Until all personal choices are treated equally by schools, I truly feel that young people are being short-changed and the ambitions and motivations of young people are being suffocated rather than celebrated.

Cameron Smith S6

Cut! Hollywood needs to choose equality in the way that women are represented

It's 2017, and Hollywood has come a long way. It seems as if the representation of women, after a lengthy journey, has improved enough to allow us to watch a film without sighing at the clichés of the woman tied to the railway track, waiting for a man to save her – the damsel in distress. This stereotype of women being the weaker sex has almost been extinguished by the slow increase of strong and independent female protagonists in popular movies such as 'The Hunger Games' and 'Moana'. It seems as if finally, in this decade, Hollywood has got it right. However, not all of the dark cloud of sexism has gone. There are still ways in which women are represented badly on TV, which more often than not convey harmful stereotypes and inequality to men, something we should definitely have eradicated by now. Common stereotypical patterns are sometimes hard to detect, but still insidiously influence our societal attitudes toward girls and women.

To set the scene for how unequal female representation in movies actually is, we should at first remember that sometimes women don't even get cast in particularly important or relevant roles at all. Did you know that worldwide, only 10% of films operate with a gender balanced cast? And that a mere 31% of speaking roles in films go to a female? Although we think we have become used to seeing a strong female character as the main role in a movie, only a tiny 23% of protagonists' parts are given to a female character. These sorts of shocking statistics are frankly appalling and are, I feel, the root cause of the inequalities experienced by young female moviegoers. If you constantly see yourself as 'the victim' – how is it even possible to imagine a different sort of narrative where a girl is actually the hero, the architect of her own narrative?

To further analyse this disquieting state of affairs, Alison Bechdel created a test with three short questions which helps to highlight this issue of women being 'missing in action' in movies. It's surprisingly hard to think of a movie that passes all three requirements of the 'Bechdel Test': does the movie have two female characters in it? If so, at any point do they interact with each other? And is the conversation about something other than men? If your answer is no to any of these questions, the film does not pass. Despite about half of the world being female, it is unsettling to think that Hollywood films are choosing to forget that they exist. So many of my favourite movies have failed this test that it's not even funny. Surely it's time to cast ourselves in a main role in the movies rather than exist as an understudy to our male counterparts forever?

Although women do not appear as much on TV as men, their appearance in terms of their physical appearance is something that is taken very seriously in the industry. You may have noticed that a lot of the plot for movies aimed at teenage girls and women focus heavily on the beauty, sexual availability and attractiveness of the female character. Whether that beauty and attractiveness aids the storyline

in any way, it is almost always mentioned. In fact, there are about five times more comments said to female characters about their looks during a film than those aimed at men. The insidious message here to young women is that we only matter if we are pretty, sexy or available. And how chilling is that?

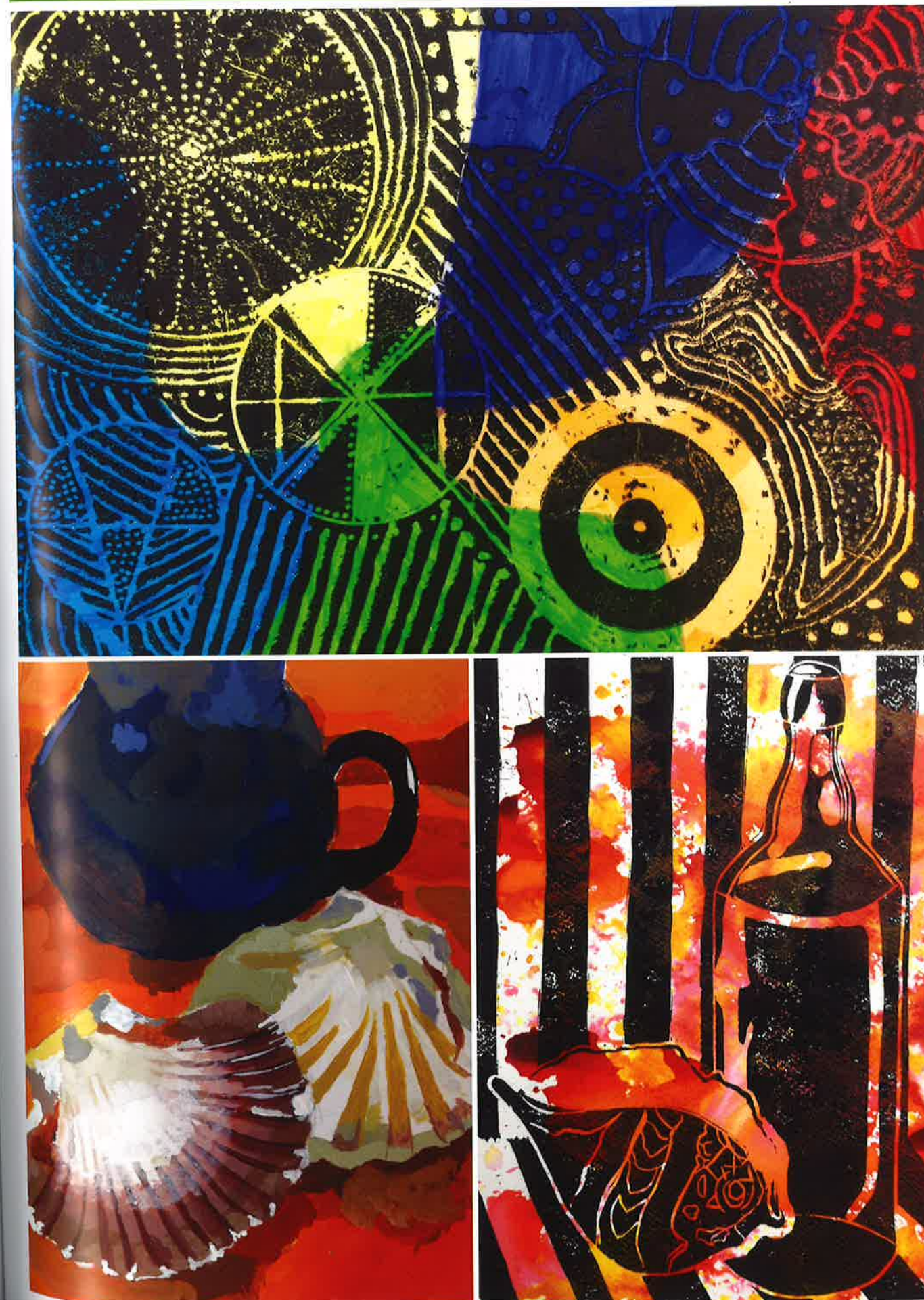
A few celebrities have recently spoken up about the sexualisation of their characters, for example Gal Gadot talked frankly about her hate mail – because the 'hardcore comic book geeks' believed her breasts were too small for her to play Wonder Woman 'successfully' in the new film. Emma Watson, a renowned modern feminist, has made headlines for something as ridiculous as refusing to wear a corset for her latest movie, 'Beauty and the Beast.' This was because she felt a tight fitting corset was unnecessary and would only restrain her movements, when she believed Belle should be seen as a vital and dynamic young woman, able to move freely and engage with the world on her own terms. And how many other women in movies are shown wearing skimpy clothing that shows off their hourglass figure, for no other reason than to be attractive to men? This harmful stereotype of women being represented merely as 'sex objects' is something that needs to stop. Movies and TV shows have a huge impact on our society and it cannot be right that they are filling people's heads with the idea that women are only good for the male gaze, and that their human attributes of intelligence, decency and humour are irrelevant if they aren't filling out a D cup adequately.

However, you might argue that we should stop complaining, with recent movies like 'The Ghost in the shell' and 'Hidden Figures' breaking box office records, aren't movies getting better at representing strong main characters that are female? Yes, that's true, we've all seen 'The Hunger Games' and 'Frozen', – hooray for female protagonists! – but there really aren't that many if you think about it, and the tiny increase that there is happening far too slowly. In 2016, about 29% of film protagonists were female, 7% more than the year before that. A whopping 6% of female characters in 2016 were Asian, and the number of black women shown on screen rose incredibly rapidly – from 2015's 13%, to a staggering 14% a year later. Depressing reading, isn't it. The fact is, young girls are not seeing themselves represented on TV, on the programs or in the movies they watch. It's truly saddening to think that, as a gender, they've been mostly edited out of the stories they know and love.

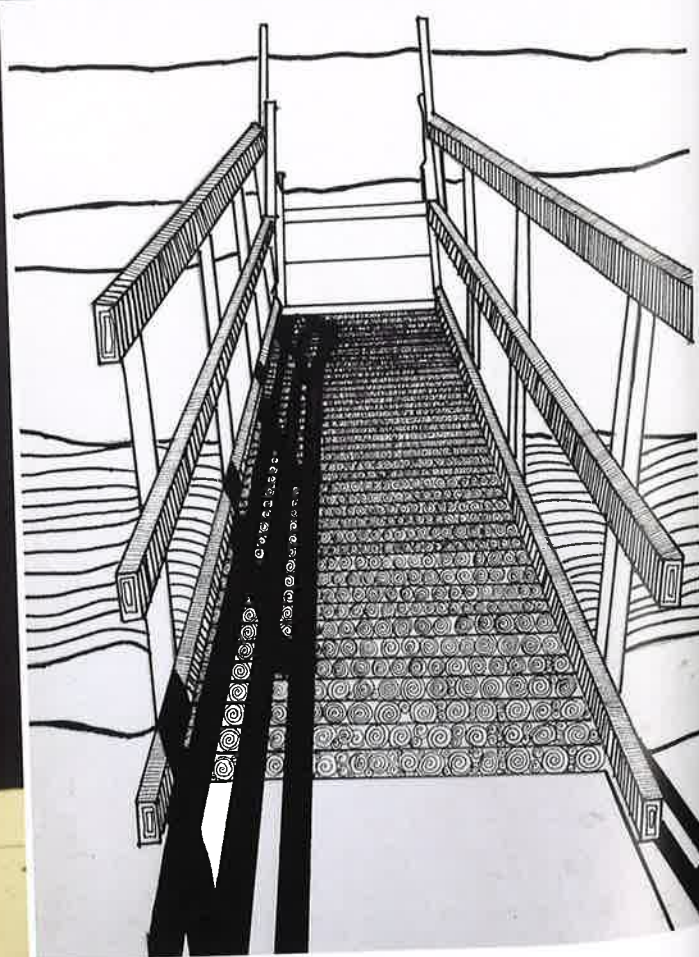
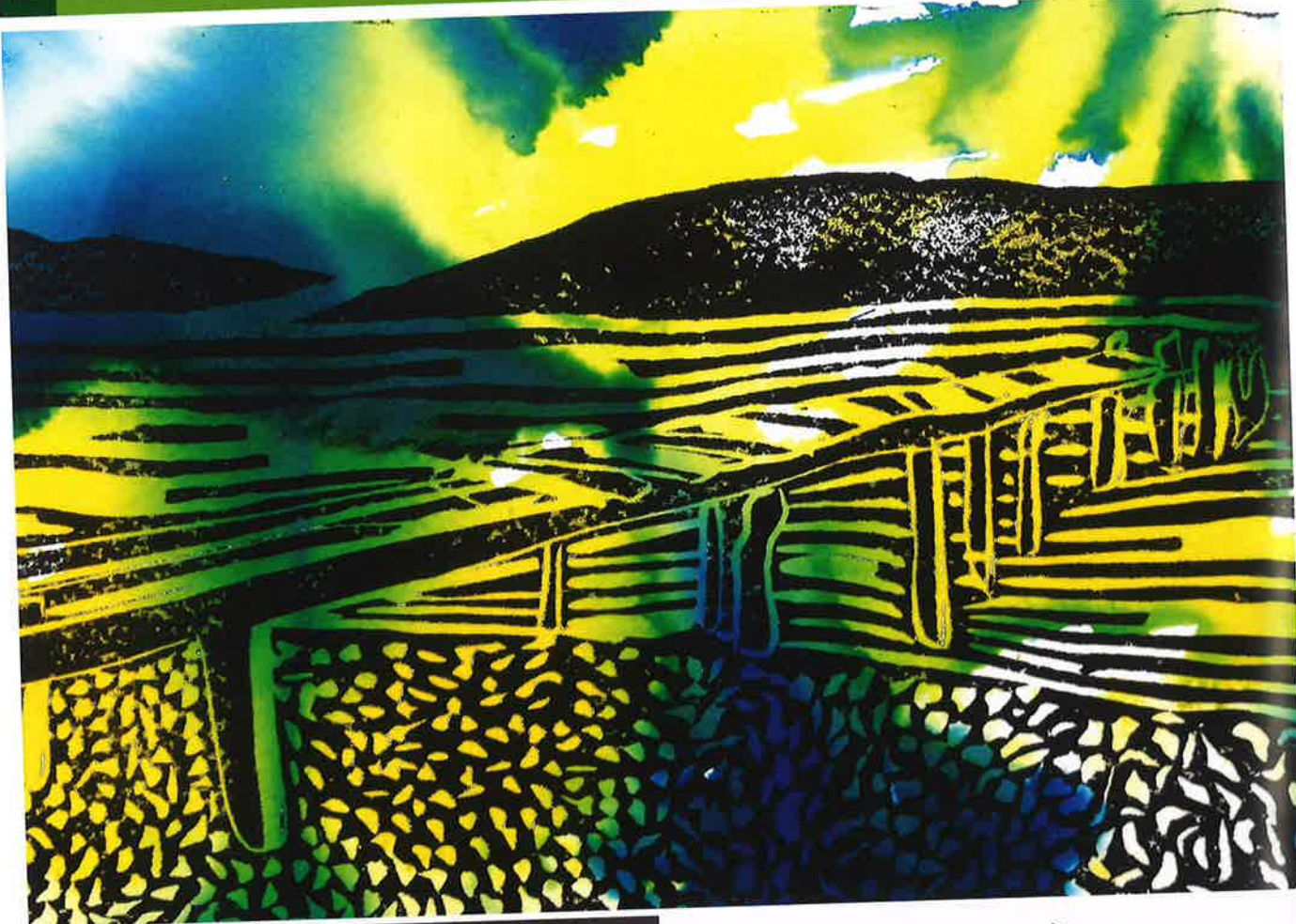
I fundamentally believe that directors and producers need to start making more ethical and responsible choices in terms of casting female characters in their movies, as representation needs to become a priority for Hollywood: a long overdue one. Films today still portray only a fragment of the diverse kinds of people women are, and ignore the rest. The 'rest' being women of colour, and women with any sign of being able to live without men. Surely this disgraceful state of affairs will be addressed – and soon.

The only thing objectifying women and misrepresenting them as characters with no ambition or life is doing is creating harmful stereotypes and negatively influencing attitudes towards girls and women. The hidden impact of this is that the sexes we do not really understand each other or truly see the potential that girls hold. It's time for girls to make the cut and for young moviegoers to see a world that they matter in on screen, regardless of their gender. The age of screen equality is something that we've waited far too long for and we must all play a part in ensuring that the young girls of the future see themselves as people that matter on screen, rather than victims, sex objects or mere decorations.

Mhairi Sibeth, S5



Clockwise top to bottom; Kristin Sibeth S2; Sarah Dilalavanua S3; Anna Gurung S3.



Clockwise top to bottom; Greer Walker S2; Simoon Pun S1; Rebecca Anderson S2.

Assault and Battery: It is time to clamp down on inhumane farming practices.

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity."
George Bernard Shaw

Do you really know the story behind the food that you buy and eat? Or are you, like countless others, oblivious to the horrifying and degrading reality of factory farming: an industry that brutally slaughters around seven billion farm animals every year? It is sickening that in this day and age it is acceptable to sentence so many helpless, frightened and innocent animals to such cruel deaths. What makes this statistic even more appalling is the fact that they've been forced to exist miserably and uncomfortably for their entire lives, all so that we can mindlessly enjoy a tasty roast dinner.

Factory farming's aim is to produce food on a massive scale as cheaply as possible in order to maintain these farmers' profits. The welfare of these suffering animals is completely disregarded; the animals are kept in horrendous conditions which often lead to the animals developing serious physical and mental defects. Many might argue that it is necessary to keep and farm animals in this way if we want to be able to feed our growing population in an affordable way; however you must agree that the suffering that is taking place is far too disturbing to be overlooked. Surely you cannot believe that it's ethical to hold living creatures such as pigs and chickens to cages or concrete stalls that restrict them from the smallest movement: in some cases even lying down is out of the question. This is immoral, outrageous and cannot be condoned.

The animals' comfort and freedom of movement is only one aspect of the grim reality of what goes on behind the closed doors of factory farms. How can consumers have a clear conscience after giving our hard-earned money to an industry that treats living creatures as products in a production line? An industry which cuts costs through disgusting actions such as removing beaks and chopping off parts of animals feet to create more space and protect the price of their 'product'. Chickens often peck at themselves and rub themselves raw against bars on their cages; disturbed and distressed behaviour generated through the psychological torture of overcrowding. It is distressing to read about pigs – extremely intelligent and social beings with well developed brains – being kept in isolation from one another and made to live indoors where they never breathe fresh air or even see the sky. Instead, they are left imprisoned in dirty pens, with artificial lighting where they become agitated, depressed and aggressive. Wouldn't you, given the same circumstances?

It is undeniable that livestock reared in such unnatural conditions will not produce food with the same nutrition or flavour compared with animals who have lived a healthy life, eating fresh green grass and feeling the sun. The farming industry is clearly more interested in generating money than the health and wellbeing of the animals they are rearing: the animals are fed low-cost, poor quality food in order to reduce expenses. As a result, animals contract terrible health issues which result in them being stuffed with harmful antibiotics – which are then consumed by you and me. Consumers who eat large quantities of this 'doped-up' meat have an increased risk of becoming resistant to antibiotics as these drugs accumulate in their system and are passed on into ours. This makes it more challenging to treat simple infections in humans due to built up resistance which is really disturbing. This growing problem throughout the world must be dealt with before we are faced with an epidemic that we could easily have prevented.

A staggering 70% of the antibiotics given to farm animals are not even issued to combat animal illnesses. They are used to stimulate unnatural growth in the animals in order for farmers to 'cash-in' more quickly. Broiler chickens are consistently given supplements that force their bodies to grow at such a horrifyingly fast rate that their hearts and lungs are unable to keep up with. As a result, they are frequently left unable even to stand up due to their grossly inflated bodies being too heavy for their undeveloped legs to support. Cattle, pigs and many other factory farmed animals are also given growth hormones which have unacceptable effects on their quality of life. These vile acts must be exposed in order to educate the general public about just how inhumane modern day farming methods actually are.

The horror of factory farming spreads far wider than you would think. The environment is also suffering through the fact that financial gain outweighs human compassion – it's not only the farm animals that are in trouble, human beings will ultimately pay a terrifying price if we do not act rapidly. Our entire planet is vulnerable to the consequences brought about by the greed of factory farming. One of these consequences is the increase of greenhouse gas emissions. According to 'United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation': "Livestock farming accounts for around 14.5% of our global greenhouse gas emissions – more than the global transport sector." This terrifying fact has to be a wake up call for us to make massive changes in order to save our planet before it's too late. It is so selfish of us to continue to destroy the natural world we live in, especially when humans are only one of the estimated 8.7 million species on earth. In the USA alone, 260 million acres of forestry has been removed so that land can be used to grow food for farmed animals. In the absence of farmed animals, this land could be used to support the native animals that should be living there, protecting the ecosystem instead of our greedy unreasonable desire for cheap food.

The impact on our world of the selfish pursuit of cheap meat might be a price that bankrupts the planet as we know it. Factory farming has no place in a caring, ethical and sane world and steps must be taken by governments to force farmers to consider the consequences of their selfish pursuit of profits – before it is too late.

Amy Main, S5

Mirror Mirror on the wall: The plastic surgery debate and today's young people.

"It is important to determine whether or not these patients are requesting surgery to satisfy their own interest or to meet the expectations of someone else." **Brandon Willis**

Looking all around us, in the media obsessed 21st century, we are bombarded with images of the 'perfect' face and body that very few people feel they can compete with. In order to imitate this unnatural perfection, more and more young people are choosing the 'easy option' of cosmetic surgery in order to move closer to the airbrushed images that magazines tell us are achievable.

Maybe just a tweak to the nose, some plumper lips, a touch of liposuction to get a flatter stomach and a bigger butt while you're at it – this 'shopping list' of body modifications are now appearing regularly in young girls' #Bodygoals. A terrifying percentage of young women – 64% in the last Cosmopolitan survey – would go 'under the knife' just to get that 'perfect' look that they are told will help make them as desirable as their latest #InstagramGirlcrush

The number of young people who are actively engaged in achieving that 'flawless' look through cosmetic procedures are rising dramatically. It's clear that young people have stopped wishing for different faces and started taking steps to achieve it. Shockingly, since 2012, there have been more than 236,356 thirteen to nineteen year olds who have gone through plastic surgery. This terrifying figure is only counting those who have no medical reason for the surgery; it has just come about through improvement reasons alone.

This terrifying statistic raises the question – should young people, with still-developing bodies and minds be allowed to make decisions that may have drastic repercussions on their future mental and physical health? Or does society have a duty to protect them from themselves through legislation and better education?

Whilst big butts and inflated lips may be 'on trend' right now, these trends won't last forever and perhaps rushed decisions with long lasting consequences shouldn't be made so easily. Furthermore, these vulnerable young people never know what is to come in the future: our bodies are constantly changing and sometimes these man-made changes don't turn out to be something we're happy with ten or twenty years later. You only have to look at the number of times some celebrities have altered the size of their breast implants to see that cosmetic surgery is no guarantee of physical perfection.

A group of adolescents from YouTube channel, AwesomenessTV, recently shared their perspective on the controversial issues behind the current craze for plastic surgery in teens. They expressed concern about the idea that teenagers' desire to have invasive cosmetic procedures was often driven by desperation to 'fit in with the crowd'. For example many young people have a certain feature that they believe makes them stand out for the wrong reasons; they believe that everyone else surrounding them look 'normal' and they are a 'freak' as a result. In cases like this, the compulsion for a 'quick fix' is huge. However, as Teala Dunn from AwesomenessTV has said, 'At the end of the day, you can't be perfect. People should really embrace their imperfections because that's what makes you, you.'

Sadly, as these statistics clearly show, 236,356 young people feel that the last thing they want to look like is themselves – and this trend seems to be spiralling out of control.

Supporters of the rising trend for cosmetic surgery in young people say, on the other hand, that if cosmetic surgery is a success, this could increase the young person's self-esteem which will have a positive effect on their life chances as a result. Banning young people from making these positive changes, they believe, condemns them to a life of embarrassment, self consciousness and despair. But the issue is a lot more complex than this.

Our teenage years are often the beginning of a time where young people start to express themselves. Celebrity drag queen, Sharon Needles, says, "I just love that we live in an age where you can be your own piece of clay." Sharon has undergone several plastic surgery procedures to enhance her looks for her job. Sharon considers it a positive move that our 'piece of clay' can be moulded any way we like. Celebrities such as Lady GaGa supports these

opinions, and her open support has allowed many people to change their negative views on plastic surgery: Lady GaGa herself told Harper's Bazaar, "...it's an artistic expression. It's a performance-art piece." Lady Gaga has offered young people a positive message that it's not only okay to be beautiful if you're 'born this way' – but that we can all choose to improve our looks so that who we are on the outside matches the idea of ourselves that we have on the inside.

In answer to those people who still have negative views on plastic surgery, fans of cosmetic surgery feel why can't young people be allowed to make decisions about what they wish to do with their own money, their own body and their own choices?

Surely we shouldn't judge someone based on actions that we might disagree with. It could be argued that buying the service of a plastic surgeon is no different to buying other services such as dental work which also enhance your looks. Plastic surgery is viewed more extremely and more judgmentally by its critics as 'ruining your natural looks' – maybe it is important to remember that we live in a democracy and the way we wish to look is up to us to decide: whether that means changing our look through hair dye, tooth veneers or liposuction.

There has been a lot of recent discussion on young people altering their natural body given by – as some believe – the almighty God. Judaism, for example, has concluded "that plastic surgery for aesthetic enhancement is a form of arrogance and vanity" and is forbidden unless the patient meets medical criteria. Islam also believes that changing your looks through plastic surgery is a sin. In Christianity, there are no Biblical references to plastic surgery, but some interpret the command that we should "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit – Philippians 2:3-4 as preaching against plastic surgery. Some Christians believe that through making their own independent choices, God would be there to guide them along the way – so it cannot be judged as 'a sin'. It's a very complex topic.

Cosmetic surgery is a double-edged sword: it may on the one hand enhance young people's self esteem. Everyone is different and entitled to make their own choices about what makes them happy. So, shouldn't we just mind our own business? We live in a democracy which protects our rights to make our own choices; isn't the right to choose how we look just another part of that?

Having a cosmetic procedure is certainly viewed much less critically than it was even twenty years ago. Many of its critics feel however, that it is society's duty to protect young people from their own impulses so that they don't end up making choices that they live to regret. The culture of 'the selfie' has certainly guaranteed that this is an issue that we can't just put under the knife and will continue to divide people into those who believe that 'Plastic is fantastic' and those who feel that natural is best. It is clear that the jury is still out on this complicated issue and there is no clear cut answer to the plastic surgery debate for today's young people.

Pabina Thapa, S5



Top to bottom; Isla Gilbert S2; Greer Walker S2.



Carley Cunningham S2.



Taste the Industry

Dunblane school transformed into hotel gives pupils the chance to 'Taste the Industry'.

Queen Victoria School, Tree of Knowledge, and Tennent's Training Academy took part in the Taste the Industry event on 1st November at Queen Victoria School. Taste the Industry is made up of interactive masterclasses delivered by local and national employers. They will transform the school into a mock hotel, restaurant and bar to give pupils a first-hand experience of the hospitality industry.

Through this experience we hope to influence a positive shift in perceptions of the hospitality and tourism industry. What is more, pupils will gain deeper understanding of their own transferable enterprising skills, which can be put in practice in their future employment. For the employers the event is an opportunity to create a talent pipeline of young people keen to gain work experience within their organisation.

Taste the Industry is an exciting project, which aligns with the outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence and Developing the Young Workforce. It also has the potential to address local youth unemployment and improve the School Leavers' Destination Report whilst meeting the demands of the hospitality sector.

Stephanie Wade, director of the Tennent's Training Academy shares her passion for the event and its importance: "Scotland has growing

tourism industry and employers need new talent to join their businesses and keep them alive. In our event at Linwood High School, at the start of the day only 8% of pupils said they would like to work in hospitality, leisure & tourism and by the end of the day 93% of the pupils said they would. The employers loved meeting and encouraging the pupils, lots even secured apprenticeships and jobs on the day!"

Dougie Clark, a director of Tree of Knowledge said: "We're delighted to be part of this exciting programme of events across Scottish schools. It's a fantastic way of bringing business and education together in an engaging way for students, whilst equipping young people with skills for learning for life after school and hopefully a successful career in the hospitality industry."

We are thrilled to be joined by both local and national employers. These are Victus Consultancy, Heaven Scent Coffee, Tennent's Training Academy, Chefs @ School, Attraction Inns, Fresh Direct, RBS, Posh Agency, Gleneagles.

Stephanie Wade, Tennent's Training Academy



S1 and S2 Challenges

All S1 and S2 participated in Queen Victoria School's annual Maths Challenge's consisting of the following three rounds:
Round 1 – STEM project; Round 2 – Practical maths puzzles;
Round 3 – Relay.

S1 winners: Harry Smith, Grace Hutchison, Mitchell, Eilidh Paterson.
S2 Winners: Lewis Gibson, Mia Maskell, Scott Higgins, Greer Walker, Isla Gilbert.

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.

Ms McBlain



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: Christopher Skinner (S2), Jake Leatherbarrow (S2)
Pratistha Khawas (S2)

Bronze: Rosie Welsh (S2), Scott Higgins (S2), Gabrielle Codd (S2), Duncan Hughson (S2), Simoon Pun (S1), McKenzie Smiles (S1), Grace Hutchison (S1), Elliot Jones (P7), Lexine McCappin (P7), Lily O'Neil (P7)

Ms McBlain



Junior Minstrels.



Highland Dancing Comp, Magnus Gothard-Oliver S1.



Highland Dance.





QVS Hits the Right Note in Wales

Whilst the Scottish Rugby team might have hit the headlines last weekend, there were other Scots showing their skills to their Welsh cousins, this time working together to produce a spectacular night of music. Youngsters from all over the UK were assembling in Brecon, Wales, last Thursday/Friday to perform at the annual Rorke's Drift Concert in the Theatre Brycheniog. This event is the premier concert of Cadet Force Music, a national tri-service youth organisation that I've volunteered with for a number of years, and this year marked a special anniversary. To help celebrate the 20th Concert the young musicians were joined by the Band and Fanfare Team of the Welsh Guards.

In amongst the 184 Cadet Force musicians were three representatives of QVS (including myself) who had been invited to attend by the organiser, WO1 (Senior Band Sergeant Major Household Division) Adrian Beckett MBE. Three musicians might seem a small number, but the impact of our attendance was astounding. The two young men who took part have come away from the event having established many new friendships, and with an experience and memories that will stay with them forever. They were so taken aback by their welcome and with how much fun they had, that both are now eagerly awaiting the next chance to meet up and perform together. Hopefully, it's not too long a wait!

All long journeys start with one small step, and I hope that this may be recognised as the first (official) step in bringing Military Band music to more of our children and young people. Indeed, we have already been given a standing invitation to perform alongside our friends in the Black Watch Army Cadet Force Band at future engagements. Whilst this is a great opportunity for our School and pupils, it would also be good to allow our musical Cadets to experience progression (both locally and nationally) within the Cadet Force Music and Military Bands setting. This will not only improve the cadets' musical capabilities but also the self-reliance of what will then be 'The Band of Queen Victoria School Combined Cadet Force'. I am sure that everyone can see the value of this, and if it leads to such memorable occasions as that which took place last weekend, then this will be to the benefit of all participants!

Sam Drummond and Callum Pearson both deserve to be congratulated on how well they did, and for representing the School as proudly and smartly as they did.

Scott Renwick



Pipers and Drummers.

If music be the food of love, play on

Duke Orsino: Twelfth Night Act 1

Another year, lots more music. As usual we say goodbye to musicians – young and in some cases at least a little older. A fantastic group of senior musicians who have been a vital part of school music for the last six or seven years have left us to go on into the big bad world outside of QVS. Three of my clarinet players have will leave this year with Aoife Dillon, Francesca Cockburn and Kirstin Hughes departing having completed their sixth year.

With Aoife on bass clarinet and Francesca and Kirstin, we have had a really strong section in the wind band and some excellent solo work in concerts and exams. Also sadly leaving, Alicia Smith – who after years hiding behind other brass players by playing as quietly as possible – finally played out and showed both the audience in school and the visiting examiner what a fine young musician she really is. To all the others who left this year, Will Adam who has been a great asset to both the music department and the pipe band, and Emmy Moore who has been an active student in the music department since P7, goodbye and good luck.

Some of our pupils sat ABRSM exams this year with Kaitlin Martin gaining a distinction in Grade 1 piano and Christian McBrearty merit in grade 3 piano.

Once again QVS musicians have had a busy year with the Junior Minstrels annual performance at Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church, and a first visit by a group of senior pupils to visit members of Viewfield and the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling to perform and tell the story of Queen Victoria School. Many thanks to Kenna, Callum, Ellie, Craig, Charlotte, and Rebekah.

In January, QVS provided the entertainment at the Rotary Club of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane Burns Supper. Will Adam piped in the

haggis and Callum Pearson, Ellie Hutchinson and our own gaelic singing star Lily-Grace Methven sang and played to a very warm and receptive audience.

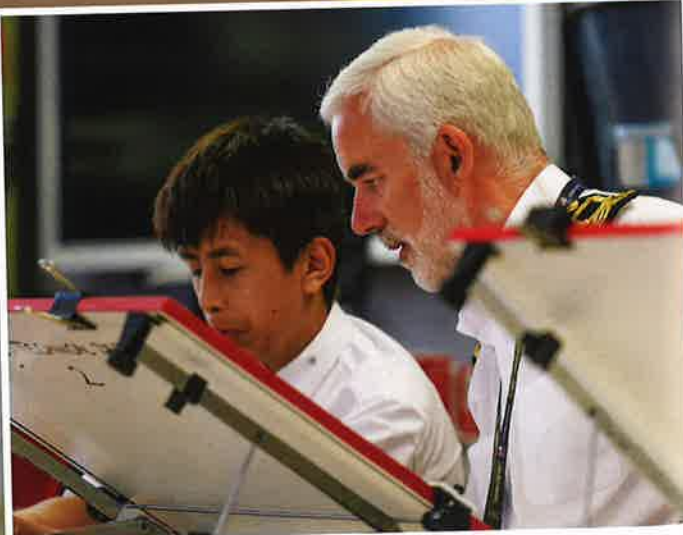
We are saying goodbye to a number of our instrumental tutors with Jill Leavey off to train for a career change, Martyn Hodge is leaving to study drama at the guildhall London, and Andrew Huggin our cello tutor has left to concentrate on his performing career. A big thanks to all our tutors who provide a wonderful opportunity for QVS pupils.

A group of our pupils attended a Russian State Opera production of Bizet's Carmen in September and in May some of our pupils attended the Dunblane Chamber Orchestra concert in which I was performing as soloist in a double clarinet concerto.

"The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils."
Lorenzo: The Merchant of Venice

Christmas saw the return of our annual school Christmas Concert. Firstly an enormous thank you to Lora Marshall who took on the roll of assistant producer sorting much of the organisation for the concert. This was a great fun event with a wide range of performers contributing to one of our best ever concerts. The concert included all the favourites with some enthusiastic singing by the entire school and a great performance of 'Feliz Navidad', led by ukulele group Josh King with solo verse from Lily-Grace. Is this the start of things Spanish at QVS?

The summer concert featured many of our 2017 school leavers as well as some new P7 pupils joining the school wind band for the first



time. A particular highlight was the entire P7 cohort performing on wind band instruments conducted by Rachel Brown. The pupils clearly followed Rachel's conducting and completed their excellent performance with no staff help. (I'm redundant!)

I must also thank Mr Spowart our brass instructor for helping in the band as well as support in preparing the pupils for the performance. Mr Renwick, one of our Biology teachers also performed with clarinet and saxophone students. A big thanks to our GAPs who performed at the concert with Mike and Billy performing "Use Somebody". An enormous thanks to Mike, who just happens to have trained in music

technology! He has been a fantastic help in the department leading and tutoring pupils in the use of music technology as well as helping with guitar and ukulele. We also had a number of items from our singing classes led by Jo Greer our singing tutor.

It's been another different and busy year and as usual a pleasure to see all the young QVS children who have transformed into such impressive young adults leave to make their own future based on the QVS experience.

Mr D Breingan





Clockwise top to bottom; First place at Markinch; Second place at the British Championships; Scottish Schools Championships; Two Nepalese and two Great Danes; What you looking at?



Top to bottom; Amy Gray S3; Sarah Dilavanua S3.



Silver girls.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Due to draconian change in the expedition protocols adopted by our operating authority (Stirling Council) this year's expeditions were in danger of not happening. With the continuing support of the headmaster the situation was saved. A group of parents who volunteered to help with the expeditions allowed us to fulfil the new conditions demanded by our operating authority. Parental support also had a fantastic effect on our outdoor equipment with some much needed replacement equipment being provided by the school. Thank you Joe and Nicola Cook for your work in the outdoor equipment store. With the expeditions thank you to; Darren Rollo, Nicola Cook, David Collins, Mark Ansell, Trish Clark, Johan Donaldson, Ian Jones, Eric Main, Rem Merrick.

The practice expeditions of the session started on the 22nd of April. The Bronze boys groups were made up of; Kenzie Berry, Lewis Campbell, Jamie Guthrie, Ayup Malla, Christian McBrearty, Ross Merrick, Brodie Paterson, James Skinner, Marcus Wakefield, Daniel Wight. The weather was dry and clear so the boys had the extra bonus of climbing Ben Volich with its breathtaking views. Everyone enjoyed the weekend. Mr Ansell, Mr Collins and Mrs Cook were excellent supervisors and instructors passing on a range of skills and techniques to the boys.

The second practice expedition was on 6th 7th May. The Bronze girls group was made up of; Rhaea Clark, Amy Gray, Yancy Gurung, Suprina Gurung, Shristi Gurung, Molly Horne, Lily Miller, Anna Gurung, Rachel Loudon, Sophie Murphy, Molly West, Shauneey-Lee Young, Sarah Dilalavanua. The perfect weather for the expedition

allowed the girls to maximise the training opportunities which covered camp craft and navigation.

The first assessment of the session was on the 18th 19th May. The boys Bronze group was made up of; Kenzie Berry, Lewis Campbell, Jamie Guthrie, Ayup Malla, Christian McBrearty, Ross Merrick, Brodie Paterson, James Skinner, Marcus Wakefield, Daniel Wight. All the boys 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. The weather was good and the groups encountered no problems or difficulties.

The second assessment of the session was on 26th 27th 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. On the second day the weather forced the groups to take an alternative route due to the risk of lightning strikes.

On the 1st to 3rd June we had a practice expedition for the pupils who had missed earlier training and practice expeditions. The mixed group was made up of; Rebecca Kane, Alexandra Lee, Rachel Spence, Jason Galloway, Jacob Codd, Tiernan Bark, Francesca Cockburn, Sushmita Gurung, Aoife Dillon, Megan Beattie. Training was the main aim of the expedition; however the weather deteriorated



Silver girls.



so much on the first day I seriously considered returning to school that evening. The going across peat bog, the driving rain and the poor visibility made this one of the toughest expeditions I have been on for many years. Despite the conditions we persevered and the groups had a very rewarding time. We managed navigation, camp craft, a session of scenarios dealing with emergency situations and river crossing techniques.

On the 8th to 10th June the Silver girls assessed group set off to the island of Lismore on the west coast. The journey by minibus took the girls through some of Scotland's most impressive scenery including Glen Coe. The group finally had to board a small foot passenger ferry to the island. The girls group was made up of; Jasmine Gurung, Emily McNair, Madison Robb, Charlotte Sowden, Pabina Thapa, Olivia Williams, Amy Main. What a fun adventure they had exploring the historic treasures on the island.

On the 14th to 16th June the Silver boys assessed group set off on a long and growling expedition from Dalwhine across Ronnoch Moor to Fort William. The group was made up of; Sam Drummond, Jason Galloway, Lewis McAuley, Adam Conway, Jacob Codd, Tiernan Bark. Although the journey was tough the team did very well and gained a

great degree of satisfaction. One of the highlights of the expedition was reaching Corroir railway station which is the most remote station in Britain.

At the same time on the 14th to 17th June the Gold girls group set off on their assessed expedition in the Trossachs as they studied the life and times of Rob Roy McGregor. The group were; Francesca Cockburn, Sushmita Gurung, Aoife Dillon, Megan Beattie. Starting near the house where Rob Roy was born, Glengyle. On the shores of Loch Katrine the group walked 25km to Loch Achray where they camped. There was a poignant end to the expedition when the group walked the old drove route up over the pass in Glen Finglas to Balquhidder to visit the grave of Rob Roy.

As well as our parent volunteers I must also thank staff members Mr Kirk, Mr Wright, Mr Lawrence, Mr McMinn and Mr Sullivan, for their invaluable help and support with the expedition section. Thanks to all the staff who also provide so many opportunities for our pupils to achieve each of the four sections of the Award (volunteering, physical recreation, skill and expedition).

Tom Shannon, Director Outdoor Pursuits



Clockwise top to bottom; Bronze boys; Silver boys; Gold girls; Gold girls prep; Silver boys prep.



Clockwise top to bottom; Bronze girls; Bronze girls; Bronze girls; Bronze boys; Bronze girls.



Contingent Commander's Report

Contingent Commanders Notes

The last year has seen our cadets involved in a lot more ceremonial engagements mainly connected with various 1st World War centenaries. The first was our now annual appearance at the Dundee Festival of Remembrance. This was closely followed by Remembrance Day itself. On the Monday 14th November our cadets were on ceremonial duty in Stirling Castle supporting a 21 gun salute for HRH Prince Charles's birthday. On the 16th May a cascade of poppy petals were released from the top of the Wallace Monument in Stirling to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Arras. The cadets will be helping at the naming ceremony of HMS Prince of Wales on the 8th September. All of these occasions gave our cadets the opportunity to show off Queen Victoria School and the great military ethos it represents.

After the success of the visit to Ratho (National Indoor Climbing Arena) to meet the Marines last year, we were invited this year to bring the entire Contingent to Ratho. Once again the cadets enjoyed a fantastic two day event on the 13th and 15th of September hosted by the Royal Marines who put on a fantastic round robin of displays and interactive events. Next year the Royal Marines are planning to run the three day event here at Queen Victoria School.

On Friday 18th November we hosted the annual Scottish schools CCF Quartets and Trios piping competition where 15 CCF's from all over Scotland competed. The standard of competition was very high and I am pleased to report our Trio team took second prize in their contest.

The field day in February found our RN Section at HM Naval Base Clyde, our RAF Section at East Fortune National Museum of Flight

while the Army section took advantage of the school grounds for a mixture of military training.

Most of our cadets take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and take advantage of the different section opportunities available through the CCF.

This coming session has a number of exiting events and opportunities for our cadets. Apart from more ceremonial events there will be the three day Royal Marine event and the ski camp to the Aosta valley in Italy.

Thank you

Royal Navy; 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).

Army; 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 (Good luck in your new post.) and Captain Rury Fitzpatrick.

RAF; thank you Sergeant Steph Richardson 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.

CCF Commander Tom Shannon RD, Contingent Commander



Top to bottom; Army; Navy; RAF



CCF Navy

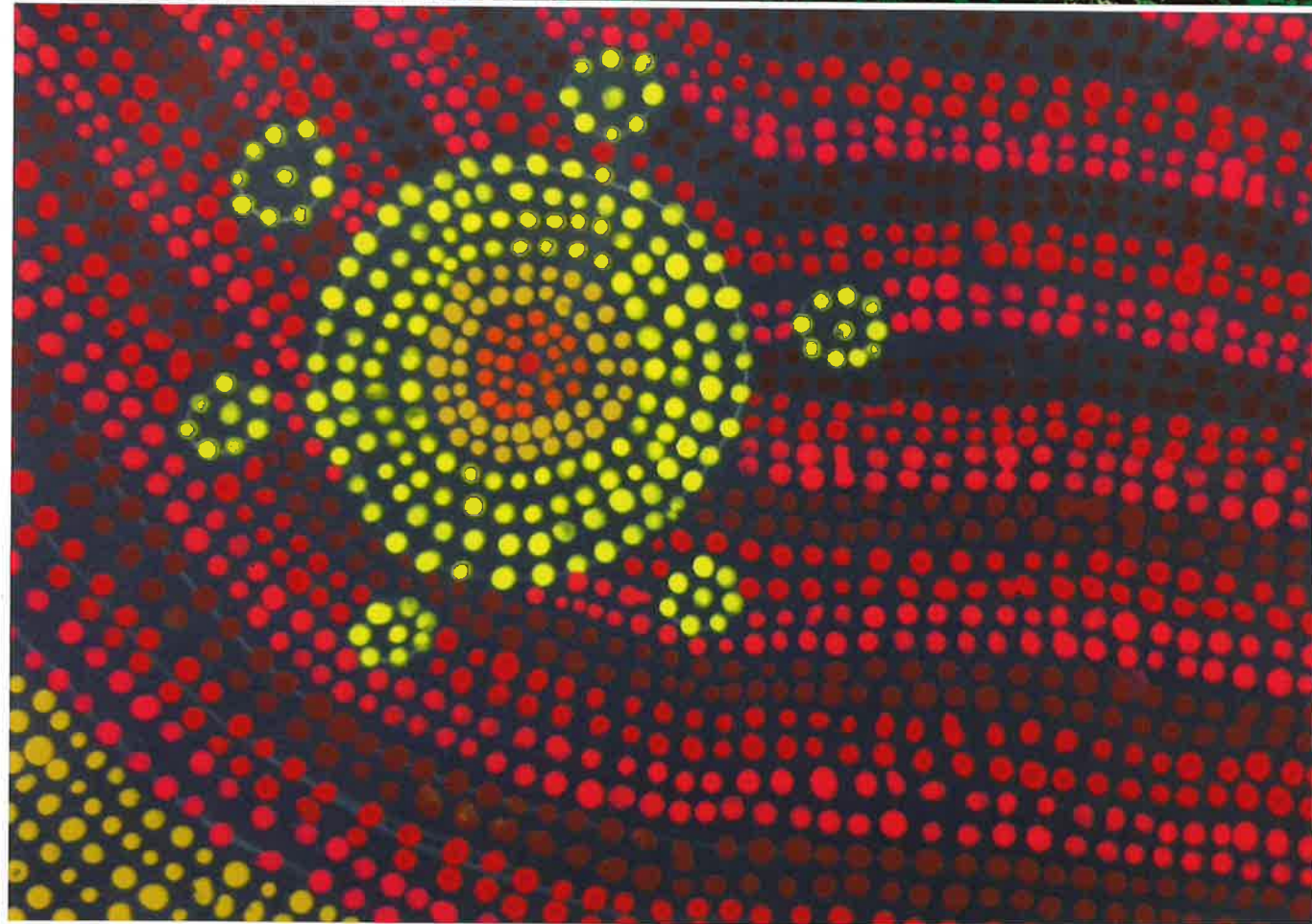
Our time in CCF has been both enjoyable and rewarding. This is mainly due to the fact that we have the amazing opportunity to go on many courses throughout our time in the Navy Section. To name a few, we have been on ones such as the Ocean Divers' Qualification in Plymouth and the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification in Rosyth. These have allowed us to branch out and make friends with people we would never have met otherwise. The courses that we have taken part in have expanded our own personal skills in areas that we already had an interest in.

We have both been a part of the CCF since second year, before going into the Navy section the following year. Since joining, we can collectively say that we have become more confident individuals and improved our leadership skills due to our roles within the section.

Going on to university, we will both be able to transfer the skills we have gained in a way that we would not have been able to if we had not been a part of the CCF. We would like to encourage people to join up and take courses as they are extremely worth it and very rewarding.

Finally, we would like to thank Ms McBlain, Mr Davey and Miss Stinson for all their support throughout this year and the years before and good luck to next year and the head and deputy of the section. You will need it!

Warrant Officer Willis and Chief Petty Officer Moore



Top to bottom; Pratistha Khawas S2; Rebecca Anderson S2.



Kieran Shaw –QVS Student

Kieran Shaw fell while climbing the East Gully of Aonach Mor with another man on 2nd October 2016.

The emergency services were alerted and Mr Shaw, from Argyll, was airlifted to Belford Hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

A spokesman for Police Scotland said: "Around 3.30pm on Sunday, the emergency services were alerted to a fallen climber near the East Gully, Aonach Mor, Ben Nevis.

"Following liaison with Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and the

coastguard, rescue helicopter 951 attended and uplifted the 21 year-old male climber to the Belford Hospital, where despite medical treatment he sadly succumbed to his injuries.

"The man's identity can be confirmed as Kieran Shaw, aged 21, from Helensburgh, Argyll."

Aonach Mor, which features Britain's only mountain gondola, is a popular destination for climbers and tourists.

Kieran will be remembered for his positivity as a former pupil of Queen Victoria School.

Letter from an OV

Greetings from Oversea and a message

With the exception of some of the teachers of the School, those whose memories have the capacity to remember the thousands of people who 'just pass by' over the years, I will not be known. I am one of the pupils who, at one time, had the good fortune to be taught at this School.

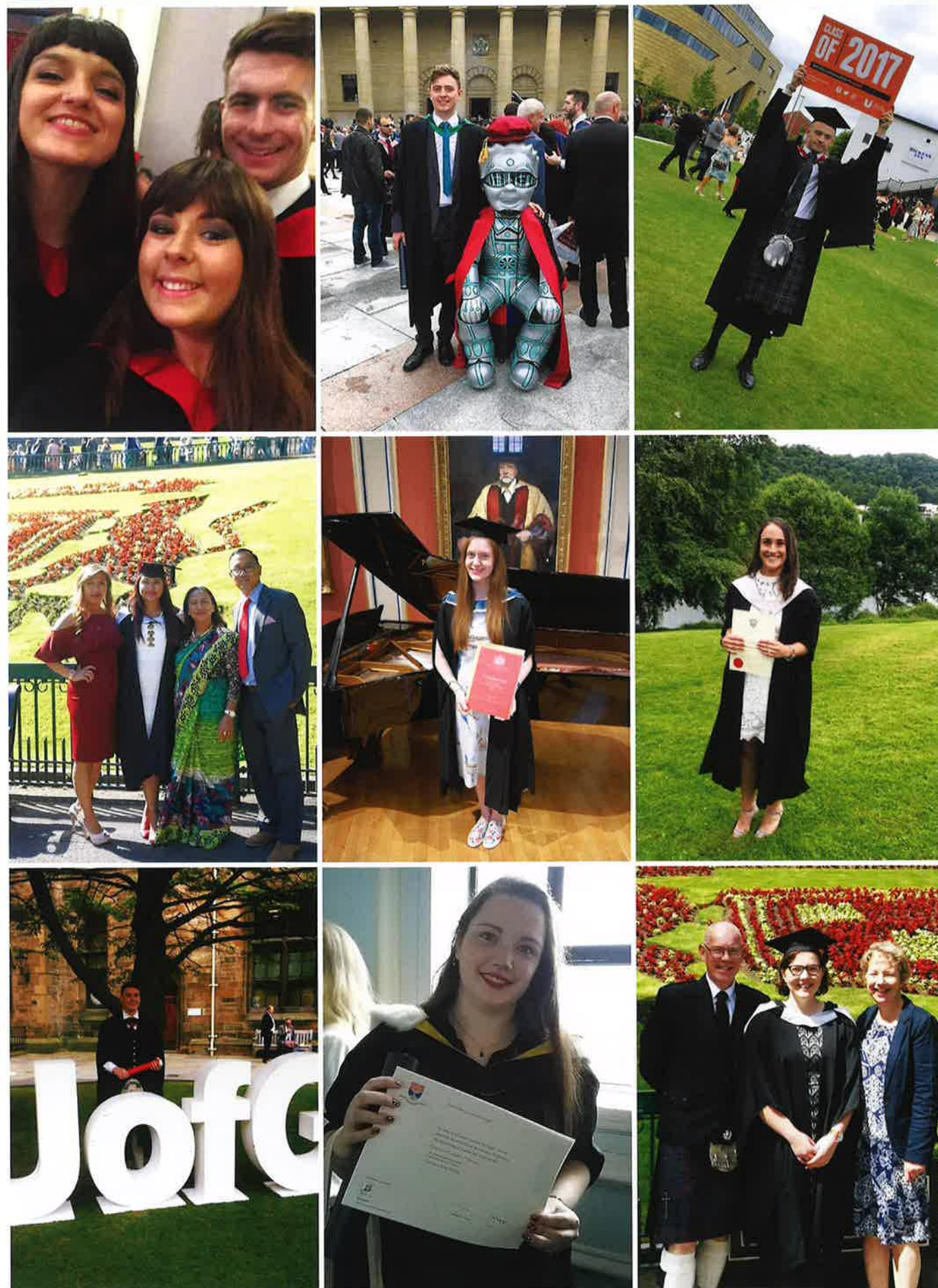
When the time came to leave for South Africa I was overjoyed at the prospect of 'getting out of this dump'. I have never regretted anything more. As the 'experts say' – you never enjoy something until you lose it. Not that I didn't enjoy the School – that would be false to declare I took it for granted, as most of you probably do. When you leave you will shout 'Hooray!' and probably walk away without a second look at your home for so many years.

But you will come back. If you can, you will return, because something will draw you irresistibly. It is drawing me now – I feel sadness when I look at my pals (of Trenchard and Wavell House), and when I see photographs of the school. I wish I hadn't left, I think to myself. If I get the chance, I will return, just for an envious glimpse into one of the greatest experiences in my life. Envious because I have had a little of it, and now it is lost to me.

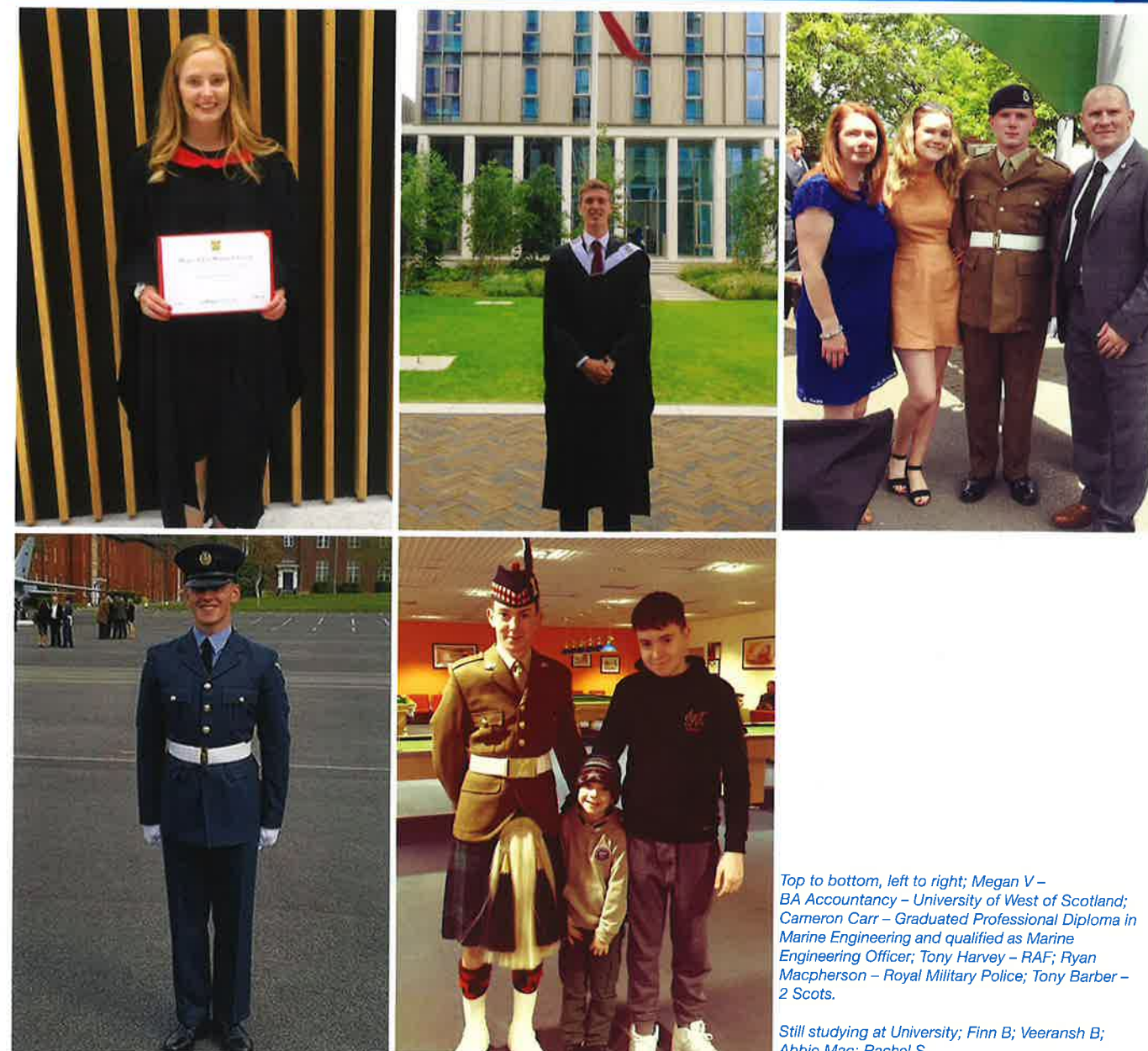
Please, don't take Queen Victoria School for granted. Your School is a unique establishment. Take a pride in her and appreciate your position. You have the best that anyone could wish for. You too will regret, some day, that you left the School.

Graeme Ballantyne, QVS 1970-75





Top to bottom, left to right; Scott C – BA Napier Psychology; Lewis C – BSc Engineering Dundee University; Calum M – BSc Sports Therapy Teeside University; Emily G – BSc Physiotherapy Robert Gordon University; Alanna Mac – Royal Academy of Music – First Class Honours; Eden R – BA Sports Studies Stirling University; Oliver M – MSc Biostatistics Glasgow University; Tamara W – BSc Maths And Accounting Dundee; Kelsey S – BSc Computer Graphics and Animation Robert Gordon University.



Top to bottom, left to right; Megan V – BA Accountancy – University of West of Scotland; Cameron Carr – Graduated Professional Diploma in Marine Engineering and qualified as Marine Engineering Officer; Tony Harvey – RAF; Ryan Macpherson – Royal Military Police; Tony Barber – 2 Scots.

Still studying at University; Finn B; Veeransh B; Abbie Mac; Rachel S.

S6 2013 Destinations After Leaving QVS

Garry Carr	Creative Scotland	Apprenticeship In Digital Media	Ashley Watson	RAF	Weapons Technician
Jordan Clark	Stirling University	BSc Computing	Shona McAuslane	Langside College	HNC Beauty Care & Makeup
Gary Fleming	Adam Smith College	HNC Renewable Energy Engineering	Abbie McDougall	Edinburgh Napier	BA Hospitality Management
Fearghas Gray	RAF Application	Employment	Emily Gurung	Robert Gordons	BSc Physiotherapy
Alex Kenning	Army Application	Employment	Alisha Mccaig	Gap Year	Horse Riding and Care
Ash Price	Motherwell College	HND Music & Technology	Alanna Macfarlane	Royal Academy of Music	BMus Music
Finn Bark	Edinburgh College	HND Sports Science	Eden Reid	University of Stirling	BA Criminology
Veeransh Bohora	University of Aberdeen	MSc Chemical Engineering	Oliver Mitchell	University of Glasgow	BSc Biochemistry & Maths
Scott Calder	Edinburgh Napier	BA Psychology	Tamara Wilton	Dundee University	BSc Maths & Physics
Cameron Carr	RAF	Aircraft Technician	Kelsey Swan	Robert Gordons University	BSc Computing
Lewis Cox	Abertay	BSc Engineering	Megan Vevers	Edinburgh College	HND Accounting
Connor Dickson	Gap Year	Life Guard In Gibraltar	Rachel Stewart	University College Birmingham	BA Theatrical Media Makeup & Hair
Will Lynch	University of Aberdeen	MA Geography			
Calum Marshall	City of Glasgow College	HND Sports Therapy			







Staff List

Senior Leadership Team

Headmaster D Shaw BSc (Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head (PS) C A Phipps BA (Hons) PGCE PGCG
Deputy Head (P&G) S J Adams BSc (Hons) PGCE
Deputy Head (Academic) J F Scott Laing BEd (Hons)
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
 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 PGDSLML DipEd
 T King BEd (Hons) PGCE PGCG ATQ Primary DRSAM PGRNCM
 A M Kirk MA (Hons) DipEdTech PGCE
 J S Laing DipTechEdn
 J S Lawrence BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
 C McBlain BSc DipEd
 D McLay BEd (Hons)
 K L Rodger MA (Hons) MSc PGCE
 R C Wright BA PGCE

Teachers:

J Adams MA (Hons) PGCE
 R L Appleyard BA (Hons) PGCE
 R M H Boyd BD (Hons) PGCE DipTh (School Chaplain)
 A Bryce BSc (Hons) MSc PGDE
 P Bush BA (Hons) PGCE
 A M Downey BA (Hons) PGDE
 A Duncan MA (Hons) PGDE
 M J Eastham BA (Hons) PGCE
 S A M Hastie BEd (Hons) PGCE
 S C B Johns DipEd
 G Johnstone BSc (Hons) PGCE
 O Kirby BA (Hons) PGCE
 N Lear BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
 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
 E Ross BSc (Hons) 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

Visiting Music Teachers:

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

House Matrons:

Cunningham S M Eastham
Haig M del C O'Neill (Acting)
Trenchard H A Devlin
Wavell M C Sword

Housekeepers:

D McIntosh
 K McVey
 A MacDonald

Medical Centre:

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

Foreign Language Assistant:

M L de Dood

Overseas House Assistants ("GAP" Students):

M McMinn	B Sullivan	H Bailey
A Simpson		

Business Management:

Resources Manager R McKinnon Associate MCIPD
Deputy Resources Manager I M Mair MAAT
Facilities Manager & SSYO J Robinson
Deputy Facilities Manager & Dep SSYO T Thomson
Library & Information Manager S Lewis
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		G R McConnell

Facilities Support:

M Brailey	R G MacDougall	T Carr
P A Warner		



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