



The Victorian 2020

Queen Victoria School





Contents

3	Vision Statement	25	Grand Day Retrospective	58	OVA
4	From the Headmaster	26	DYW	62	Movember
6	Chairman of Commissioners	27	Infrastructure	63	Poppy Bud
7	From the Senior Monitor	28	Maths	64	Dance
	The Houses	29	Modern Languages	66	QVS Interact
8	Cunningham House	32	Music	68	QVS Making Connections
11	Haig House	34	Primary 7	69	Dig for Victory
14	Trenchard House	36	Social Subjects	70	Art
17	Wavell House	37	PE Department	72	Class of 2020
20	CCF	38	Sports	74	Victorian Awards
22	Duke of Edinburgh Award	45	Technology	75	Staff List
23	Ceremonial	46	Lockdown		
		54	Lockdown Prize Giving		



Queen Victoria School

Dunblane 1908 – 2020

Stability, continuity and an excellent education in Scotland for Armed Forces children

Vision Statement

We aim to provide a unique, thriving boarding and educational community in which all pupils and staff work to support and respect one another in realising their full potential.

Statement of Purpose

We exist to provide a caring but stretching learning environment, valued by the military families whom we serve. We embody and promote values of honesty, integrity, compassion and empathy.

Queen Victoria School has a long tradition of ceremonial excellence; we take pride in this and all that our School has to offer.

Board of Her Majesty's Commissioners

For The Government of
Queen Victoria School, Dunblane

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Mr N Cunningham



From the Headmaster

The QVS community was spread across the globe for much of 2020. Our response to that has, once again, underlined how strong we are as a team; we stayed connected while apart and engaged fully on aspects of learning, wellbeing and, eventually, reopening. I'm so proud of everyone within our community this year, students, parents, teachers, HMC and the MOD in general for all the support that has been provided during our enforced closure.

Then, on Tuesday August 18th 2020, the community started to come back together. Students from S1 to S6 returned to boarding houses, quickly having to adapt to new protocols and learning new routines for almost every aspect of school life. Parents too had to adapt, as we implemented a number of risk mitigation strategies, including them being unable to enter boarding houses and then a Health Protection Team recommended 14-day lockdown for students, meaning it was to be almost 3 weeks between visits. This would be difficult for some parents at any time but for parents of S1 and S2 boys and girls, in particular, it must have been hard not even seeing their child's room. Typically, our community, our students and our parents just accepted the new rules and got on with it, making the best of a really tough situation. It is often written that the children of military personnel can struggle academically due to moving around a lot – but it's also true that military families develop strength and resilience and strategies to cope with almost anything and this was very much the case with QVS families throughout lockdown.

I like to focus on the achievements of our students and this year is no different. We have two full terms to celebrate while we were together and one term to celebrate while apart.

The academic year started with a brilliant experience for our new P7s – for the first ever time, they were taken away for a team-building outdoor education week and it couldn't have gone any better. The sense of team has stayed with the P7s all year long and there is no doubt this new initiative, introduced by Mrs Adams, was a great success.

We had our, now traditional, visitors from Contact the Elderly, which kicked off our charity and fundraising support for the year. Members of the MAD group have once again shown how to be true Victorians in all they have achieved this year, from raising funds while dressed as giant ducks to providing support, tea and conversation to those who needed it most within our local community. Well done to all involved in the MAD group.

Our parades have involved more parents than ever as our Parade reviewers and this is something which I am really keen to continue. It brings us even closer together as a community when we see parents taking parades while their own children march past – even though we are unlikely to have any full parades until 2021, I am really hoping we can continue to have parents involved in the future.

The Pipe Band played wonderfully well at Stirling Castle in September, that was most definitely a highlight for them and their performance was described as the highlight of the night. Again, they are a group of students who we are all immensely proud of.

As we approached Christmas, on the sporting front, we were able to take a group of students to see Scotland playing the mighty Kazakhstan at Hampden Park. A great night indeed, but the sporting highlight of the entire year was, of course, the U16 Rugby team playing magnificently as they made their way to Murrayfield, eventually winning the National Plate by destroying The Royal High in the final with a man of the match performance from Captain Aminio. A wonderful day, supported by the entire school and the Commissioners.

There were two ski trips for students to enjoy, one before Christmas and one in February. Mr Gilhooly and his team provided memorable experiences for all and the second trip just got out of Northern Italy before that whole country shut down. This sparked a great deal of panic, especially as we had a significant number of students suffering from 'Influenza A' in late February and early March.



As always, there were hundreds of other activities taking place throughout the whole academic year with lots of happy memories created. Even as we continued to endure QVS being closed, there were so many examples of good practice going on; some wonderful activities happening at home, group piping and drumming, new tables and benches and planters being built in gardens up and down the country, miles being run from coast to coast, students, parents and teachers working together to make this situation as positive as it can possibly be.

Now, as we are back together, it almost seems in some way unreal. After three weeks back, students are having as normal an experience as possible. They are back in classrooms, eager to learn and develop their academic skills. They are taking part in Games, honing their talents on the Rugby, Hockey and Athletics fields. They are practising drill again, ready for some virtual parades as the year goes on.

Most of all though, they are just being here...and that's what matters the most. It's been a true joy having them all back with us again.

It's a year we won't forget and it leaves us looking forward to getting back to normal for next year – when Grand Day 2021 will be the first ever Grand Day for two year groups and we also hope to see this year's S6 come back and join us so we can celebrate their time with us too.

Whenever life throws a curveball at us, we have to grab the opportunities that come along with it and I know this coming year will be fantastic, especially now we are all back together at the wonderful Queen Victoria School.

Mr D Shaw, Headmaster

Alan Plumtree

Chair of Commissioners

A Full Life

On Grand Day in 1965 the guest speaker Dr. I.D. McIntosh (who was coincidentally at that time my school's headmaster) complimented Queen Victoria School upon its development of all the desirable qualities of a good modern school. In his view, the school prepared its pupils for "a full life" through a range of intellectual, artistic and practical interests. Paraphrasing his address that day, he also noted a welcome trend away from an authoritarian approach to learning towards more liberal, pupil-centred methods of teaching and learning.

I suspect he would be astonished at how far the pupil-centred approach has continued to be developed at Queen Victoria School over the last fifty-odd years, but I am sure he would have approved. That development though would not have been possible without something else which was starting development around 1965, the pocket calculator, which led to the development of the first microprocessor chip and in 1976 to the foundation of Apple Computers.

Today the Apple iPad or Chromebook is in every pupil's hands throughout their time at school. The iPad was introduced to QVS originally for work in the classroom but events this year took its use as a pupil-centred educational tool to new heights. When COVID-19 closed the school in March, school (for most pupils) continued at home using their iPads, or more accurately school lessons continued at home. I know some members of staff found this almost one to one teaching especially satisfying and I hope the pupils felt the same. Staff across the board put an enormous effort into making this form of teaching work and the Commissioners are rightly very grateful for all the hard work this has entailed and for the continuity of education that has been achieved.

Not content with distance learning by iPad, some of the staff with great speed and ingenuity then developed a virtual Grand Day for 2020. We were not the only school to do something like this but we were one of the first. Everyone that I know of who has seen Virtual Grand Day has been hugely impressed by what was achieved. I even learned about new methods of transferring data between iPads in the process!



And yet, and yet. Computers have let us continue the all-important work of academic learning almost without interruption, but they are not school as we want it to be. Yes, they are a vital part of today's learning process but school is about so much more than an academic education. Here we make friendships that may well last a lifetime, here we learn non-academic skills be they sporting or practical, here we learn to trust and respect and take responsibility. They are life experiences, to stay with us and enhance our capabilities in a myriad of ways. They are qualities that Victorians display every day and these qualities do not come via the Internet.

During lockdown, I had cause to visit school on a few occasions. It was empty, but not like holidays, more a vacuum waiting to be filled once again with variety and noise, but without the certainty of when.

School is now back albeit slightly modified with extra safety and health precautions. I am delighted that proper all-round Queen Victoria School education has returned, with the arrival of the new Chromebooks it is clear that 21st-century learning is becoming embedded at QVS and Victorians are once again being prepared for the "full life" that Dr McIntosh believed was so important. Welcome Back one and all!

Turning to other matters, during this last year two long-serving Commissioners, Mrs Linda Hepburn and Colonel Andrew Campbell decided to retire. The Board with great gratitude thanks them for all their service. Mrs Hepburn's detailed work on the constitution of the school's charitable funds led to a complete overhaul and update of the way our charitable funds can be used and enabled the Scholarship Fund to make awards to pupils for the first time in many years. She was also closely involved with the rewriting of the Governance rules for the school. Colonel Campbell has been a staunch and vocal supporter of the Cadet Force and perhaps less obviously but even more importantly, a forthright champion of the need to ensure proper application of the Health and Safety regulations which are so necessary in a boarding school. We will miss them both, wish them the very best for the future and hope to see them at Grand Day.

Mr A J C Plumtree, Chairman



From the Senior Monitor

Well, what a year 2020 has been. Never would I have expected to be standing in my room, wearing a jumper and running leggings, saying my Grand Day speech. Today we should've all been in the huge white marquee, celebrating pupils' achievements and having a great day and for the 6th years - we would've been concluding our time at Queen Victoria School and entering the "adult world".

Nearly six years ago on a Thursday night in August, I remember being on the phone to my Auntie comparing QVS to a dungeon and wanted to leave after a whopping 24 hours of being here. Just as well I didn't leave otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to make the solid friendships I have now and wouldn't have experienced the opportunities that have made me the person I am today.

Over the duration of my time at Queen Victoria School, there's been many people to thank along the way. My first token of appreciation goes to Mr Shaw for giving me the opportunity to be Senior Monitor this year and allowing me to make my mark on the school.

Another thanks go to the members of staff, in particular, Mrs Scott-Laing, Mrs Hiddleston and Miss Duncan. Not only have you helped this past year as Senior Monitor but have helped me with more or less everything in the last few years. I wouldn't have been able to come this far without you three.

And finally, the Senior Monitor speech wouldn't be the same if I weren't to thank the Deputy Senior Monitor. This year Christian has been the one who has helped me organise events and has

taken the pressure off of me a lot. Yes, with the both of us being quite opinionated people we did have the odd clash here and there but I genuinely couldn't have asked for a better partner this year.

With there not being a proper Grand Day I, unfortunately, won't be handing over the parade stick to the new worthy Senior Monitor. It was so exciting to experience it last year. As I'm still yet to know who will be commanding the parades, I think it would be best to give them advice for next year. Firstly, it's best to ask for help when needed because when I look back, there's no way I would've been able to do it all by myself. Another thing is don't worry over any mistakes you have made - the best thing to do is learn from them and become even better. I really do wish you all the best for next year and I'm looking forward to seeing if your drill is as good as mine.

To conclude my time at QVS I'd like to say that the last five and a half years will forever be a highlight of my life and I will be holding onto the memories I've made with everyone for many years to come. Once again, stay safe and I hope the best for you all. Thank you.

Sophie Murphy, Senior Monitor 2020



Cunningham House

It was with just a little trepidation that I took on the role of Housemaster in August to tide things over until Damien and Caitlin's arrival at Christmas. I keep a diary on my Maccy called "Journey". Not terribly regularly, I admit, but there are some notes on key moments. The entry for my first Friday night duty as Cunningham Housemaster says: "Long day with getting to grips with classes and admin. Friday night duty - all went well. Can't believe how well everything is going, although I uncovered some shenanigans at 2315 - boys playing games on devices. I'm getting used to it, bit by bit..."

At first, I was a bit aghast at what I'd let myself in for - I'd been Housemistress of Wavell seven years previously so I knew most of the ropes - but even so, it can be a daunting prospect stomping around the silent corridors in the late hours to ensure shenanigans don't occur. Treading the "thin tissue over ginkums", as Norman MacCaig might have said. The funny thing is, Cunningham boys are generally a well-meaning, co-operative, kind bunch. I've never really understood why, when there's fifty-four of them and one of you, they do what you say, usually without quibble.

There are no more diary entries between August and the October break. It was a busy life. The House log could fill in the blanks.

Not long after I first moved into Cunningham a rugby ball got lodged in a down-pipe on the roof and the result was a deluge pouring through the skylights in the flat. The gruesome yellow carpet was made even more gruesome with horrible black stains discolouring it. Eight years later they finally got around to replacing the carpets, in November 2019. My diary entry reads:

"A week in which the flat looked like a bomb had gone off in it. New carpets were being laid in the east wing, hallway, living room and bedrooms. That meant moving the furniture all over the place - upheaval galore. Still, it's done now and the place looks a lot better. Still to move stuff around and get the dresser and video cabinets off the landing, replace the books, etc, but I'm on a long weekend so I'll make the time.

"Decided now to move back to Tullibody, maybe at Easter, maybe at the end of the summer term, giving up the Deputy post. It's time to take some life back and rediscover what proper weekends are like. It will be very strange moving away from the school environment having grown used to being surrounded by kids and noise."

And that is what is happening. 26 years of erratic weekends, because we used to teach on Saturday mornings as well, and the last eight years of house commitments. There are many memories I take with me from the Cunningham flat: apart from a couple of legendary parties, those memories include chatting to and reassuring emotional youngsters at the table by the door, letting one boy see an episode of the Simpsons and have a pizza to cheer him up because he was homesick, tea with the seniors after 10pm (getting the goss), my tutor group singing hymns in the minibus on our way back in the dark after an outing to Namaste, bursting in and waking up Fraser Arnott with the dramatic words "Soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the sun!" It was the sun, and he got the joke as we had been studying Romeo and Juliet. And I've learned that, when it comes to House Parties, the boys seem to prefer KFC to school food: I've no idea why. One of my favourite times was actually Saturday morning wake-ups, with the early sun streaming in the windows and I used to wonder what else I would be doing in another parallel universe. Well, now to find out... As Charles Dickens might have said: "Cor blimey, gov!"

I'd like to thank all the boys in Cunningham, past as well as present, for making my residence comparatively pleasant. There was hardly ever an angry word needed. Of this year's lads, I must pay particular thanks to Brodie (who saw it through) and Cameron (the organisation-meister). But all the boys helped to contribute to the smooth running of the ship, that is for sure. I wish Damien and Caitlin the best for the future and I know Cunningham is now under very capable and caring leadership. I'm not done yet, though: as Arnold Schwarzenegger would say: "I'll be back!" (as a tutor next session).

Mr Kirk, Acting Housemaster August to December



In the month of June 2019, Caitlin and I travelled, full of expectation, across to Scotland from South Africa, to have a look at what was going to be our new home in a mere five months' time. We visited Queen Victoria School, having already been offered the positions of Housemaster and Matron of Cunningham House, one of the first things that struck us was how friendly and welcoming everyone (staff and pupils) in the school were. Caitlin and I were privileged to have been invited to Grand Day last year and we were blown away by the "pomp and ceremony" of the occasion, it truly is a magnificent event, something that Queen Victoria School can be extremely proud of. We headed back to South Africa with happy hearts and a huge sense of expectation as we sought to wrap up our lives in our beloved home country and prepare for the adventure of a lifetime in what was going to be our new home in Scotland.

Fast-forward five months later - Caitlin and I were greeted, by Mr Adams, at Edinburgh airport on the 16th of December. The cold, wet and blustery weather which welcomed us was a stark difference to that of South Africa's 33 degrees Celsius! However, the warm hospitality of the Adams household, whilst we awaited our container full of furniture and belongings from Johannesburg, made it all the more bearable. Luck must have been on our side as our container rolled up the QVS driveway on the morning of the 17th December, a matter of hours after we arrived at the school, we would now begin the mammoth task of unpacking our worldly belongings and making Flat Number 5 in the Main Building our home. Caitlin and I spent days putting our new home together and then on the 20th of December we received a call to say that our little dogs - Chesney and Lizzy - had arrived in the country. If we thought that we were shell-shocked by the Scottish winter, these two four-legged bundles of joy were in for a shock. We were extremely happy to have made the decision to travel over to Scotland in December, rather than January, as it gave us the opportunity to become acclimatised before the house sprung back into action in January. Caitlin and I cooked and prepared our first Christmas dinner in our new kitchen and we thoroughly enjoyed our celebrations with one another and the dogs.

January arrived and we were ready to meet and welcome the Cunningham Boys back to their home-away-from-home. Again - we were put at ease straight away by the warm welcomes that we received by our Cunningham family, life soon settled into some modicum of routine as the boys got along with their daily routines with ease. Time flies when the school is in full swing, January rolled into February and February soon rolled into March, Caitlin and I managed to learn all of our boys' names, fairly quickly and we enthusiastically began to build on our new house ethos and motto which we introduced to the boys upon our arrival, Nulli Secundus, which is Latin for "Second to None" is the motto which we believe to be appropriate for Cunningham House.

Of course, the Coronavirus had other ideas and schools were shut, on the advice of the Scottish Government, as social

distancing, lockdown regimes and shielding became the "new norm" for most of the world. Never in a thousand years would I have believed that something of this magnitude would occur, but it did. What have I learned from this period of time? I have learned to appreciate human contact, and not to take it for granted, I have learned to appreciate my environment, I have learned the importance of love and care. I also understand that people come from a multitude of different backgrounds and that everyone has their own set of unique circumstances. Most importantly, I have learned that Queen Victoria School is a community of resilient, caring and loving people, who may not be together in person at this very moment, but they are together in spirit and they will return to one another with new stories to tell and the school will continue to provide a loving and caring home for children from all walks of life.

I would like to mention and thank Mr Alan Kirk for stepping up to the plate as Acting Housemaster, at the beginning of this academic year, as Caitlin and I prepared to make the move across to Scotland from South Africa. Mr Kirk, you are a wonderful servant of Cunningham House and you are greatly appreciated by the boys and staff. Mr Kirk has also decided to step away from the Deputy Housemaster position at the end of this year, however, we are thrilled to retain his services as a house tutor. In line with that, Mr Stuart Wright has been appointed as the Deputy Housemaster and Mr Lewis McGeechan will fill the position of Assistant Housemaster, I wish you both all the best and I am excited in our endeavour to take Cunningham to new heights as a newly formed promoted staff team.

In the short space of time that I have got to know the boys, I am acutely aware of the fact that we are blessed to have such a wonderful group in our house, the boys have been brilliant since our arrival, whether it is offering to help Caitlin or me, or simply just asking us if we are settling in alright. Caitlin and I often remark to one another that we have a good bunch of boys and we are excited to provide for them in the best way that we know. I would like to wish our two S6 boys, Brodie and Ayup, all the best for their future endeavours, I am sorry that they had to leave in such a rush, but I have no doubt that things will work out just fine for the two of them as they are both grounded and confident young men.

A house such as Cunningham cannot function without a team of devoted staff and I thank the Cunningham team who pour so much of their hearts and souls into creating a wonderful environment for our boys to flourish. Thank you for making my takeover an easy one, I look forward to the new year as I believe that there is a tremendous amount of love, care and energy which will continue to be injected into our house as we strive to build upon the house ethos and structure.

Nulli Secundus - Second to None
Mr Pitman, Housemaster





Haig House

It can certainly be said that 2020 will go down in history! I am writing this article at a time when Haig House should have been celebrating the end of the year in the haze of BBQ smoke, swirling around the bouncy castles and obstacle courses. However, as a well-known Scottish poet once wrote, “The best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men Gang aft agley.” Who would have thought that we would have parted in March, to not return in person. However, Haig went virtual for lockdown, and the bonus has been the creation of the house website! Our motto “Tyde what may”, proved to be true; we could remain together no matter what an epidemic would throw at us!

That being said, our year started out in a very positive way. On the first weekend we gathered in the fields on a beautiful summer evening for our welcome back BBQ, which kick started the social aspect of life in Haig, which nearly always revolved around food. We welcomed our ten new first year students into the house, and all settled very quickly into the routine and rhythm of Haig life. We enjoyed our first year design your pizza night, our infamous Halloween party, and year group socials, including, our Scottish Night, our Guy Fawkes night, and even our Murder Mystery, right up to the end of our time in school, in a physical sense. We were also privileged to host the Strowan Scholar in September; a visit which included a trip to Loch Lomond, and the unforgettable cooking and sharing of a curry. Ombre, certainly threw himself into life in the house, and into the cooking of the curry!

Lockdown and the school closure ended our year so quickly and abruptly. I do feel for the S6 and leavers who found themselves ending their school year, and their time in QVS and Haig without all the normal rites of passage; Prom, preparation for Grand Day and of course, Grand Day itself. I would like to pay tribute to Charlie Fanshawe who, after only one year in Haig, was appointed House Captain. Charlie had headed up the Haig team so well, he along with Christian, our Deputy Senior Monitor, Marcus as Deputy House Captain and Lewis and Daniel have all contributed to Haig in a variety of ways over the years. It would have been wonderful to see you on the fields in full Ceremonial mode, for your final Grand Day, but sadly that is not to be. I wish you well in your futures, and do hope that you will return soon to tell us of your plans and achievements.

This has been a year of change as no other, in October we said farewell to Anne King, our Matron for just over two years; in December we said farewell to Carmen O’Neill, our housekeeper for many years, and latterly, our acting Matron. From January, we have been so fortunate in having Karen McVey join the Haig team, as Acting Matron. I know that the boys have loved having Karen in the house, and in this role. Our thanks Karen, are beyond words, for the care and compassion you have brought to Haig. You have contributed so much to our house in these few months, but we look forward to you continuing until our new Matron, Maxine Lewis, is in post. In August we welcomed Kimberley Duffy into Haig, and sadly never had the opportunity to say farewell to her in person, Kimberley, thank you for your outstanding support to the boys and your contribution to the team during your time in QVS, our best wishes go to you for your future endeavours. We also were delighted to welcome Lorna Sheriff into Haig, as a house tutor. Over this past year she has made her mark on the house in a most positive way. We thank you for your contribution to and enhancement to the house and look forward to you being with us for many years to come.

The changes continued with the departure of Carol-Anne Taylor as our Deputy Housemaster at the end of summer term. We look forward to Clare Rankin taking up the reigns of DHoM in August. I would like to thank Carol-Anne for being such a wonderful DHoM over the past three years, we wish her well however in her new role as AHoM from October. With Carol-Anne’s willingness to take on this role, I know that the boys will be able to enjoy the knowledge, that, as they have so often said, “she will still be in charge”; what do they say in a very stereotypical way? Behind every man, there is a woman in charge! Looks like I now have two!!

Iain Mair has been our acting AHoM since August 2019; a role which he has carried out faithfully, giving of his time and his many talents. Our thanks go to Iain for ensuring that there was continuity in Haig during a period of change. Iain is totally committed to Haig House and ensures the highest quality of care for you all. Thank you, Iain, for stepping up to the plate during this past year, on behalf of the boys and the house team.



Haig has not been the same without you over this summer term. I wish our final term as a house community could have been different; and I would have liked to have had the opportunity to speak to you all in person at the Summer Party, but it has not been possible. However, my thanks go to those of you who have contributed to the virtual house. I hope that the winners of the numerous quizzes enjoyed their posted prizes courteous of Amazon.

Wherever life takes you, be assured of a warm welcome in Haig. We are always so happy to have you visit and update us of your achievements and your next steps.

Mr Boyd, Housemaster

House Captain

For my final year at QVS I had the pleasure of leading the Haig boys as their captain. I felt very lucky to be able to captain the house given the circumstances of my late arrival into QV and the difficulty adapting to this unique environment in S5. The challenges I faced during the early stages of my arrival made it incredibly hard to fit in and make solid friendships but I overcame these and took advantage of all the opportunities presented to me by boarding life. Haig was, and still will be, a very vibrant place to live and has memories that will stick forever. I vividly remember juniors bashing the electric keyboard early on a Saturday morning (thanks for that), staying up and chatting in the office with Mr Boyd or Ms Taylor until way past lights out and even playing Blackjack, betting all our snacks and fizzy drinks and

consequently regretting our decisions when we saw what was on for tea. These are just a few laughs that will make looking back at being a member of Haig so memorable.

On behalf of all the 6th years, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Boyd and Ms Taylor for all their hard work in taking a parental role in our lives and teaching us the basic necessities of life. As a year group, the majority of us have had many ups and downs and your support to us through all these stages is warmth and kindness we will never be able to return.

Our gratitude for you both is limitless and we will miss you both greatly. Although I never truly got to know Carmen, I feel I should shine a light on all her kind acts and work towards the house and we all hope she enjoys her retirement, she deserves it. In addition to our appreciation for our fantastic Housemaster and Dept Housemistress. I should also say a big thanks to all the house tutors whose gentleness won't go unrecognised. It'll be impossible for me to forget Mrs Rodger and Mr Davey's wild Tuesday nights and listening to Mr Wright's and Mr Beattie's life stories. Us 6th years will leave the school with your memory embedded within us and disturbingly everyone's questionable dance moves at the Christmas party. Thank you for everything.

Sadly, the class of 2020 left QV abruptly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we all regrettably had to miss Prom, Grand Day, and all other end of year celebrations and our sixth-year experience is now upsettingly scarred by these horrible circumstances. However, we can't let the horror of 2020 get in the way of all our bright futures and we will all take away our remarkable memories from this beautiful school.

Charlie Fanshawe, House Captain





Trenchard House

Once again, I have been extremely fortunate to work with an amazing team of Tutors who have remained committed to providing the best opportunities for the children in their care. This is despite the significant challenges 2020 has thrown at us as a school community. Turning my attention to the children, thank you to each and every housemate for engaging so well with our new virtual world and blended learning approach over the summer term. It wasn't an easy transition for some but I am so proud of you all for pushing yourselves outside your comfort zones.

This has been the strangest term I have taught in throughout my whole career. It is sad to see the S1's leave and head up to Wavell, and the P7 boys head to Cunningham and Haig. It feels as though we were just beginning to find a rhythm in the house and that we missed the fun summer term. It has been an enormous privilege getting to know you all over the last two years. Remember, with greater freedom, comes greater responsibility. This is even more true for the cohort of girls who will be staying in Trenchard and welcoming all the new P7's at some point hopefully soon. I am confident that these girls will be super role models to the younger children when they get here and will offer the support and kindness that they benefited from as rookies.

Last year I commented on our very own Matron, Heather Devlin, often working beyond the remit of her job description and I guess she has taken me at my word. I am so pleased to announce that Heather has in fact stepped into the role of Assistant Head of Trenchard House. We are all delighted for her and wish her every success in this role over the coming year.

In last year's article, I announced the arrival of Clare Rankin who very quickly stamped her mark on Trenchard House and helped to raise the standard of care for our children. Over the years, I have come to realise that it is both a blessing and a curse to encourage staff to be ambitious and to develop their own leadership skills as part of a strong outward-looking team. Whilst working in this culture of high standards, valuing personal growth and devolved leadership, inevitably talent moves on. Notably,

in this spirit, both Mrs Rankin and Miss Hastie are moving onto pastures new. Mrs Rankin moves to the assistant facilities manager and DHoM in Haig House. Miss Hastie has been an absolute joy to work with over the last three years, always going above and beyond for her pupils and colleagues alike. 'Farmer Hastie' as she is sometimes known by, is also a fine cake baker, a talent I am sure has contributed to my ever-expanding waistline. Miss Hastie moves up to Wavell House as Head of S2, whilst maintaining her primary teaching commitment. I am genuinely very sad to see her move on, but happy that S1 Trenchard girls will not need to wait long to see her again.

I would also like to fly the flag for unsung heroes of QVS and say how appreciative I am of all the help and support my staff and I receive from numerous departments working behind the scenes. Facilities Management, Finance, Human Resources, Stores, Generals hands and not forgetting our SBS colleagues. Without these departments and the people who work in them, the tutor teams would not be able to provide such high standards of structure and nurture for the children in our care.

This year has been marked by the sad passing of our much loved and respected colleague Mrs Tracy Carr. Tracy passed away suddenly which came as a huge shock to the children and especially her close colleagues. Tracy was often heard before she was seen and had an infectious laugh that could chase away the dreich days of winter. The junior children had a deep respect and love for her. Both Mrs Carr's children Cameron and Garry are themselves proud Victorians, meaning that Tracy was acutely aware of the needs of our service children, and as such, was passionate about going above and beyond her job description in order to provide the best experience possible. Tracy leaves QVS staff and pupils alike with a massive hole in our hearts, but a very proud legacy of high standards and attention to detail. Each time I look at our QVS children on parade I feel immensely proud of the attention to detail both Mrs Carr, and our very own Matron have cultivated over the years. This results in the standard of uniform that we have all come to take for granted on the parade square.



The start of our 2019/20 academic year witnessed a new initiative with Mrs Adams kick-starting the term with a week of outward-bound activities for the newly arrived P7 cohort. This event marked a new beginning for the primary department and heralded in new traditions in QVS for the young P7 group. Life, for all of us, has changed dramatically over the last six months claiming many of the events in the academic and social calendar for QVS children. However, due to its huge success, the outward-bound experience is sure to return with a bang as will Trenchard's summer beach party. Notable events in the calendar which actually managed to sneak in before lockdown arrived include the numerous academic trips, midweek social events, weekend sporting fixtures, Halloween costumes, and Christmas parties, all of which paved the way for the Trenchard senior pupils to step up and display their impressive leadership qualities.

Say cheerio to Rachel Loudon, Shristi Gurung, Yancy Gurung and Charlotte Kelly who are leaving us to start a new chapter in their lives at university and further education. On behalf of the staff and pupils of Trenchard, I'd like to say a massive thank you to each and every one of them for all the energy and effort they put into making Trenchard such a vibrant place to live and work. Best of luck for the future.

We are looking forward to welcoming new seniors down to Trenchard when we return to our new normal. Mollie Alexander, Megan Clarke, Simoon Pun, Rio Gregory, and Gabrielle Glass

were successful in their application to join Trenchard this year and join an already established and vibrant team of senior girls who are keen to make Trenchard the place to be this year. This talented team of big sisters is now eight strong, with Jazmyn Dougherty, Freya Bolgere, and Merewalesi Seru who leads her team as Head of House. Good luck for the year ahead girls.

Turning our attention to the younger pupils in the boarding house, I am so proud to announce Connor Bullock as this year's Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl winner in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the life of Trenchard boarding house. Connor is such a lovely young man and has embodied the values of Trenchard house whilst being an enormous support to his friends and wider P7 cohort throughout the year. Connor is a credit to our QVS community and to his family.

Finally, all is left for me to say is thank you, and good luck to everyone associated with Trenchard House in the year ahead.

Mr MacKay, Housemaster





Wavell House

This year has been one of the most extraordinary years we have ever experienced within Queen Victoria School and one when the world as we know it changed beyond recognition. Throughout it all our Wavell Community stayed together and made it truly a year to remember!

Led by an outstanding prefect team, the start of this academic year was one of magnificent parties, wonderful tutor trips and lots of fun! Our own Wavell Prefects, led by our amazing Head of House Rhaea, Senior Monitor Sophie, and with unwavering support from Amy, Shaune, Anna and Molly, organised a huge number of house and whole school events. From year group movie nights, and Big Sister nights, to our very scary Halloween party, the S6s put their all into making this year amazing. The climax to this was our legendary Wavell Christmas Party, when the Wavell S6 girls organised for a team of real reindeer and Santa's sleigh (as well as several elves) to move into the ground floor within Wavell itself. This was certainly one of the best parties Wavell has ever held and a real credit to Rhaea and her team.

Once lockdown began, very suddenly, it became clear that we would not be together again for some time and would need to stay connected as an online community instead. However, as ever, our Wavell Community rose to the challenge, demonstrating inventiveness, superb technology skills and a real sense of fun, despite the difficult situation. As well as keeping up very well with academic work commitments, our girls (and also a number of very talented family members) helped to make this a year to remember.

Many of our girls cooked meals and baked cakes for their families during lockdown, including a variety of birthday cakes and other mouth-watering recipes. Special mention here goes to Rebecca Anderson who managed to make a whole set of delicious cupcakes modelled on her dog! Many of our girls and their families displayed amazing talents on the dance floor this year and the YMCA video extravaganza produced by the Gregory Family was absolutely fantastic! We also have some wonderful photos of the other activities our Wavell families become involved



with while on lockdown in various countries, from having a Mexican night in full costume like the Robinson family, to seeing giraffe in Kenya, riding helicopters, doing water sports in Cyprus, house painting, bike riding and looking after a variety of Wavell pets at home.

Finally, just as we thought the year was over, there was a murder! Your ideas on who was responsible as part of our Wavell Murder Mystery Challenge were hilarious and really innovative. Who would have thought that Mrs Humble could do such a thing and with a bottle of fake tan of all things!

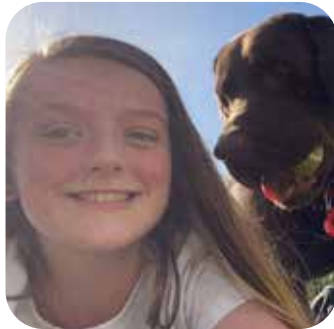
For all that you have done this year, despite really challenging circumstances, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful Wavell girls, parents and staff. Very special mention goes to our amazing S6 team, whose kindness and good nature to all throughout this year were a real bedrock for Wavell. Also, special mention goes to our Wavell tutors, who did their best to stay in close touch with their tutees, making use of all sorts of new technology to do so. I would also like to say a big thank you to Miss Christmas, Deputy Housemistress of Wavell, to Diane McIntosh, our Assistant Housemistress and to Mrs Sword, our Matron, for supporting our students so well and for working so hard to help keep our community together. Mr Leitch also worked extremely hard to support our S2 girls this year as Wavell's Pastoral Support Assistant and I know that Miss Hastie is looking forward to taking on this role next year, supporting our new S2 girls within Wavell.

Looking forward to next year, many congratulations to our new school leaders, particularly Hollie Scott who will make an outstanding new Senior Monitor. Also, many congratulations to Olivia Oatley, our new Head of House next year, and to her team, Eleanor and Gabrielle Codd, Erin Sim and Mia Maskell, our new Deputy Heads of House.

We are all really looking forward to having our Wavell Community back next year and being together once again. In the meantime, I hope you are all able to have a wonderful summer and we will see you all again very soon!

Ubi Concordia, ibi Victoria – Where there is unity, there is victory!

Miss Appleyard, Housemistress





Combined Cadet Force

Biennial Inspection 2019

The session started well with a very good report in our Biennial Inspection. This is the Inspecting Officers Report; Impression on Cadet Turnout and Training – The Inspection commenced with an impressive Parade of Divisions of all three Sections and the Pipe band, with turnout appearing to be very good. A great deal of effort had gone into the Training for the day which was mightily impressive and spanned:

- Realistic RTA and Immediate First Aid
- Classroom-based CPR
- Indoor range target shooting
- Swimming assessments and Training
- STEM and Subs In School project
- Creative dance (Hornpipe)
- Paintball competition
- Practical Leadership Exercises
- Cadet led talks and experiences (Inc sailing expeds) and Laser dingy rigs
- Field Comms Ex and Force Protection (signals)
- Shared lunch which provided the opportunity to meet and chat with the cadets.

And more...

The Contingent Commander, Tom Shannon, leads the CCF with the utmost enthusiasm, imagination, and genuine desire to add to the cadet experience. He and his Section leads should be applauded for their incredible work.

Another area of acknowledgment is the local Reserve and Regular forces, some of whom were former students at QVS, who assist in weekly training, some high valued assets were accessible due to this relationship, very impressive.

It was also good to meet two of the School 'Commissioners' former RN and Army Officers who both took a very enthusiastic approach and engaged with all cadets and staff alike.

Overall impression of CCF –

Very impressed by the Cadets across all Sections, the key CCF staff alike were full of enthusiasm and clearly devoted their time and energy to the fulfilment of the Cadets and thereby the students' whole experience.

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Other supporting staff too impressed me, Inc Mrs Lansburgh, SSI, New CFAV Mark Brailey and the Volunteers from the Regular and Reserves. QVS has a proud and rich heritage which is built on amongst other things; the Ethos, Values and support of the Armed Forces (MOD). Keep up the good work.

Commander Gary Mills, Royal Navy
Chief Of Staff, Naval Regional Commander, Scotland
And Northern Ireland

Signals Section

Capt Jimmy Scott arranged a 32 Sigs Christmas visit. The afternoon consisted of some training and sport. The evening was very special with the Cadets being treated to a mess dinner in the Officers Mess.

The list below of promotions and awards that the cadets earned last year and would have been presented by CO 32 Sig Regt on his visit before COVID-19 struck.

All promotions and awards are the result of completing the mandated parts of the syllabus as well as showing leadership development and attributes throughout the year. They all worked very hard last year and achieved some fantastic results both technically and practically in the classroom and on the field exercises. Of note, Darren Young received the Commanding Officer's Coin for scoring the highest score on the 1 STAR written technical assessment. Charlie is set to receive the Commanding Officer's Coin for scoring the highest score on the 2 STAR written technical assessment. The three S6 girls all achieved their instructor qualification and can now instruct other junior cadets which is another fantastic achievement for them personally, but hopefully now an asset to the Army Section in general.

S6:

Erin Sim – Promoted from Sgt to SSgt and recommended to assume Army Section Commander as now the highest rank in the Army Section and in the senior year. Also awarded the 3 STAR.

Hollie Scott – Promoted from Cpl to Sgt and awarded the 3 STAR.

Kristin Sibeth – Promoted from Cpl to Sgt and awarded the 3 STAR.



S4:

Robert Cordiner – Promoted from LCpl to Cpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Rays Gurung – Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Riley Jardine - Promoted from LCpl to Cpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Sam Leweni - Promoted from LCpl to Cpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Lauren McCulloch - Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Lucy McMorran – Awarded the 2 STAR.

Chanelle Parker - Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Charlie Scott - Promoted from LCpl to Cpl, awarded the 2 STAR and Commanding Officer's Coin for the highest score in the 2 STAR technical assessment.

Alex Skinner - Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Sasha Walker – Awarded the 2 STAR.

Katie Wilson – Awarded the 2 STAR.

Darren Young - Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Molly Young - Promoted from Signaller to LCpl and awarded the 2 STAR.

Thanks to SO2 Carly Cooper for all her help and support from HQ in Stirling

Thanks to Major David Harvey, Capt Ruairi Fitzpatrick and Capt Colin Carr from the Cadet Training Team for their continued help and support

Thanks to Capt Jimmy Scott and his team from 32 signals for their fantastic support. Very much appreciated.

Thanks to Flt Sergeant Steph Richardson without whose help and support the RAF Section would struggle to continue.

And thanks to all the other people and organisations behind the scenes. We are always looking for staff to come and join or help out in the CCF, the opportunities for teachers joining the CCF are amazing. As well as the unique opportunities in training, development and leadership, it's great fun. If you would like to become more involved in any aspect of the CCF your help and support will be greatly appreciated.

Mr T Shannon, Contingent Commander, QVS CCF

Ski Camps

Our biennial Ski Camp was an amazing success, so many Cadets wanted to attend; we had to run two separate camps - one in December and one in February. Both Camps were in Italy, the December Camp in the Aosta Valley at Pila. The February Camp was in the Dolomites.

There are so many people and organisations external to the school that provide valuable help and support to the CCF Staff and Cadets. Thanks to Stevie O'Neil CPOPT CCF AISNI for looking after the RN Section and supporting Caroline and Stephanie.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

Like everything else everything was progressing well, our pupils were working at all levels of the award. The volunteering, physical and skill sections were nearing completion, and in some cases complete when, as our expedition plans were all organised and ready to go, we were hit by COVID-19 lockdown.

The Award was quick to set up an online system to allow pupils to continue the volunteering, physical and skill sections at home in lock down. Pupils could change their activity and guidance was given on how to continue in lockdown. One of the most helpful initiatives the Award has made is that the Bronze pupils who could not complete their Bronze training expedition or their assessed expedition can, when circumstances allow use their silver training expedition as their Bronze assessed expedition as well.

This is a message from DofE Scotland;

What a year it has been! The impact of COVID-19 has had a significant impact on us all but maybe most particularly our young people. DofE Scotland want to take the opportunity to celebrate the success of young people from the Queen Victoria School in the volunteering, physical and skills sections of their DofE Award.

I am, therefore, delighted to attach your Social Value Certificate. This outlines the number of hours which young people have put into these sections in 2019-2020 as well as the impact of their volunteering expressed as a monetary value.

We are hugely proud of the impact of the DofE on young people across Scotland, and indeed the UK. You can find case studies and further information on our website. This also outlines the adaptations we have made to allow young people to continue with their DofE including the exciting Certificate of Achievement. The Certificate of Achievement is available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at all Award levels, but haven't been able to do their expedition and/or residential at Gold because of the pandemic. Any participant who enrolls between 1 June 2018 and 31 July 2021 will be eligible for a Certificate of Achievement meaning your new cohorts can take advantage of this exciting development.

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Thank you for your support of the DofE; we hope you will proudly display your certificate and tweet a photo to @DofEScotland using #MakingADofEDifference.

As always, your first point of contact for all things DofE is Andrea McFarlane (mcfarlanea@Stirling.gov.uk). We both look forward to working with you to widen the reach of the DofE in the coming months.

Pupil statistics;

65 Bronze, most of who just need to complete the expedition section. There are 45 S3 pupils in the process of starting Bronze. 16 Silver and 2 Gold.

We all can't wait to get back out on expeditions. At the moment the soonest will be April 2021.



Mess Dinner

@QVSchool A huge Thank you to the @32SignalRegt for hosting the @QVS_CCF Signallers last week for a wonderful dinner in your officers Mess



Ceremonial







Grand Day Retrospective

Since we couldn't host a 2020 Grand Day at QVS, it seemed like a good excuse to look back at Grand Day over the years and celebrate our Ceremonial history and traditions. We can see that no matter what the year, Victorians have stepped out on parade, proud to represent their school and we hope that these photos bring back many happy memories to all Victorians.





Developing the Young Workforce

Developing the Young Workforce is a Scottish Government priority aimed at reducing youth unemployment, by increasing the positive destinations of pupils and covers all aspects of our traditional 'careers' lessons. To reflect this our careers programme was expanded this year to include all year groups from Primary 7 through to S6. The majority of the activity was delivered directly through timetabled careers lessons and events; however, additional input was provided through skills development in subject classes and skills recording in Tutor group activities.

Primary Department developed a scheme of work related to DYW, delivered within the weekly curriculum. This included classroom lessons and a half-day careers event, with input from external employers. All P7 pupils also participated in the RBS Moneysense educational programme, involving two financial awareness events, delivered by RBS staff and visited the HBOS, Museum on the Mound.

For S1 and S2 pupils specific targeted interventions were provided, including the Army STEM for schools programme and a visit by S2 to a STEM careers fair organised by Forth Valley local authority. S2 pupils also attended a STEM team building careers event, organised by Mrs Sherriff, PT Technical and delivered by Balfour Beattie. Within the curriculum, all S3 to S6 pupils had one hour per week dedicated to DYW on their timetable. For each of these year groups, a scheme of work was developed, designed around the national 'Skills for Careers' framework and the pupil entitlements within the Career Education Standards.

S3 pupils concentrated on identifying their personal skills and career preferences and widening their knowledge of potential employment sectors.

S4 pupils worked toward achievement of the 'National Progression Award: Work Placement', at Level 4 and completed 'Outcome 1 -preparing for placement'. Unfortunately, the subsequent units involving participating in a placement and reflecting on learning could not be undertaken due to COVID-19. In addition, they completed an online profiling tool which provided targeted guidance on potential career pathways. This was supported through individual interviews with Margaret Graham a careers consultant, to help them understand and interpret their profile.

For S5 the emphasis was on improving their skills in CV writing and interview technique, with a broader exposure to career opportunities from external employers. This included a presentation by OV John Nelson to all S5, on the Programme and Project Management opportunities within Turner and Turnbull. All S5 and S6 pupils attended a very hands-on Army Elite team building and careers event in school.

Pupils in their final year were supported in their applications for university or college or in identifying alternative career paths. S6 pupils received wider exposure to the realities of the world of work, including education on employment law, managing finances and a Health & Safety at Work – Awareness Training course, internally delivered and certificated by John Robinson, QVS Facilities Manager.

All senior pupils in school were offered the opportunity of personal careers guidance from Rosanna Ciccu of Skills Development Scotland who visited the school every Wednesday.

The Enterprise and Employability course was on offer again this year, with Lewis Gibson, S5 successfully achieving the National Progression Award at Level 5. This course is becoming increasingly popular and will be delivered in two columns for the 2020-21 session.

Careers classes, advice and support didn't stop when we entered lockdown! Pupils remained fully engaged in preparing for their future careers by continuing to submit work set for them through Google Classroom. The new S3 group were particularly active, conducting interviews with family and friends to learn all about their careers!

The year would not have been possible without the help of the following, and our thanks go to them: Skills Development Scotland, Margaret Graham Consulting, Rachael Dorman - DYW Forth Valley, Gateway Shared Services, Live & Learn, Sqn Ldr George Morris - RAF Careers Engagement Officer, Amy Mackay - Army Careers, John Nelson - Turner & Turnbull, RBS Moneysense, Army Outreach Team, Students Award Agency Scotland, Balfour Beattie and Laura Jane Robinson – SFRS.

Mr S Leitch DYW



QVS Infrastructure Investment

Over the past 18 months or so, QVS has seen significant infrastructure investment, with over £1.2M spent in Financial Year 2019/20 alone. Whilst you could argue this was long overdue, it is nevertheless against a backdrop of competing demands across Defence for limited resources. Our thanks, therefore, go to the Army Regional Infrastructure Cell and the Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) for prioritising key QVS projects. This has included major investment in a new all-weather pitch; replacement of the Macmillan Sports Hall floor; new heating plant, piping and main boiler house upgrade (still ongoing); swimming pool changing rooms refurbishment, and installation of energy-efficient LED lighting across the campus.

As you will appreciate, 2020 has been a particularly challenging year to deliver works services in the COVID-19 environment. However, our in-house Facilities Management team, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and contractor staff all rose to the challenge to ensure key projects were kept on track and essential maintenance tasks carried out during lockdown.

Future investment

The business case for re-provision of our Teaching Block continues to be progressed by HMC and DCYP with Army HQ. Other major projects on our works programme for funding approval include refurbishment of our existing boarding accommodation (in particular Cunningham and Haig Houses) and a rolling programme to upgrade boarding staff accommodation.

Mr Nigel Cunningham, School Business Manager



Maths Department

2 019/20 saw QVS launch their first Numeracy/STEM day. Staff helped organise and run activities for 1st year pupils.

A massive thank you to the Navy STEM team for supporting the day with some great STEM challenges.

On the feedback forms 100% enjoyed the day!!!!

Miss McBlain, Principal Teacher of Mathematics

Parkrun

Q V pupils took part in two ParkRun events at Stirling University at the start of the year. ParkRun is a free, weekly timed 5km run which takes place each Saturday morning at locations all across the world. Christian, Eleanor, Charlie, Kristin, Greer and Ellie braved the first trip on a cold January morning. All six of the pupils did well to complete the 5K run along with 267 other runners. Christian was the first of our group to finish after 25 minutes followed by Charlie in 29 minutes.

On our second trip in March, Christian and Charlie returned along with Aidan and Magnus. Aidan was the first to finish this time in 22 minutes, followed by Christian who knocked 2 minutes off his previous time. The following Saturday was the final ParkRun to take place at Stirling before they were stopped due to COVID-19. Once ParkRuns have restarted, we hope to attend with groups of pupils more regularly.

Mrs S Humble





Modern Languages

What a whirlwind of a year for all of us at QVS! This year comes to an end with a very different and rather bizarre feeling as I write this from my 'home office' still under lockdown restrictions due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. For those of you who don't follow our Twitter pages, our 'home offices' have very much consisted of multitasking around our young children, sneaking in recorded lessons during nap times and at times including our children in our lessons to help! And likewise, all of our pupils have thrived in their virtual, fully digitalised classrooms very much engaging on a whole new level.

I can say from the bottom of my heart that whilst this is the least expected way of ending our year together, I have been so incredibly impressed by the resilience, determination and unity that all of the QVS family have shown. Through the good times and the not so good times, we have remained connected and have all done our absolute best throughout this entirely unexpected experience. That is such a special quality indeed. And that, in my mind, is what makes QVS!

So we find ourselves now in the present moment and one day we'll look back on this with a different perspective and even more resilience than before. So here it is...

Our Modern Languages 2020 Time Capsule.

Life before Lockdown...

We started the year off by taking a walk on the wild side with our new Primary 7 cohort by going on a Spanish Day at Edinburgh Zoo where we continued our classroom learning about animals native to South America and took part in an interactive Spanish quiz against other schools there too. In true QVS style, the pupils gave some fierce competition! We then explored ALL of the zoo after a quick picnic and even managed to catch 'La marcha de los Pingüinos' before a quick march back to the coach on Mr Stacey's orders!

As ever, we enjoyed our Celebration of Languages Day and our wonderful Languages Ambassadors started our customary Languages Takeover of Morning Assembly with a Presentation on the Importance of Learning a Language. The P7s also relished the takeover, with Madame Hamilton's class giving an uplifting

rendition of the French song 'Si tu as la joie au cœur' (If you're happy and you know it) and Miss Taylor's class giving a dramatic performance of 'Un Poco Loco' from Disney's Coco. Merci beaucoup/ muchas gracias to Mr Breignan for giving so much of his time during rehearsals, and of course, his wonderful musical talent and direction! My absolute gratitude also goes to all of the Kitchen Staff who worked so hard to prepare an excellent feast fit for a Spanish King! The Modern Languages Department also organised some fun lunchtime activities for all with Madame Hamilton hosting some fun French games and snacks (I have never seen pain au chocolat disappear so quickly!) and in the Spanish classroom, we had non-alcoholic sangría making with the winners having just the right balance of limón and azúcar!

La isla bonita

All of this was made extra special as we welcomed our first ever Spanish Language Assistant, Laura Arteaga, all the way from the beautiful Islas Canarias. These islands are very close to my own heart and it was great to be able to share all of the cultural nuances and an authentic Canarian experience, accent and all! On Languages Day, pupils enjoyed an inspirational video presentation in Chapel from Laura about the island of La Gomera where she is from and left us all feeling a pang of wanderlust! Throughout the year, pupils benefited greatly from all of Laura's language input but they have also broadened their horizons with many of them asking for a school trip to the Canary Islands (one day!) Laura has been a welcome addition to the Modern Languages Department and Trenchard during her time here, for example, creating resources, sharing quirky quotes and popular songs, encouraging Spanish conversation and helping with pronunciation, accompanying all Modern Language events and trips and going above and beyond to make us all so happy. Much more than that, Laura was a true presence throughout the school and I know that many staff enjoyed her lunchtime company too. It was an absolute pleasure to have such a cheerful, dedicated and passionate Language Assistant and she most certainly has set the bar high for future Language Assistants to come. We will all miss you very much Laura, we wish you mucha suerte for the future and look forward to you visiting us again. I hope you will enjoy reading Laura's personal account and thoughts of her time at QVS below:



"My adventure started in August and I now can come forward to say that it has been one of the best experiences of my life. Since that time I have felt like at home and I could not be happier to be here. It is true that in the beginning it took me a bit to adapt to Scottish customs and the weather (!) but in the end I got used to it. If I went back to all these months ago I could confirm that this experience has not only enriched me professionally but personally as well. The children at Queen Victoria School are amazing and with all the activities that have been carried out in the school, they have made me be in continuous movement and learn new things every day. All of this has made me a better person."

"A good education at an early age is an essential part of creating new generations. Here, in this distinguished school, I realize the importance of certain values such as respect and a love for teaching. In regards to the staff, I only have beautiful words because they have treated me in an exceptional way just as they do with each child. They are great professionals who go out of their way for their work."

"In conclusion and although my stay here has an expiration date, like everything else in this life, I must say that I feel very fortunate to be happy and proud to be part of this excellent team and that I would repeat this experience a thousand and one times, but not everything ends here. I love being able to continue training in this amazing country and continue visiting magical places that Scotland has to offer."

Language is the Roadmap of a Culture

As an extension of Languages Day celebrations (which inadvertently turned into Languages Week), all S1 Modern Languages pupils enjoyed the unique experience of Articulate Languages Camp by completing challenges and team-building exercises together in both French and Spanish and they truly gave it their all despite the dreich weather! I was so pleased to see such camaraderie and strong team spirit between the pupils and they most certainly demonstrated their ability and readiness to communicate in the Target Language to complete each challenge they faced.

We were fortunate enough to have our supply teacher Madame Hamilton join us during Madame Bairner's maternity leave and we thank her very much for her effort and involvement in such a short space of time.

Madame Hamilton very much enjoyed being a part of QVS during that time and below she shares some of her memories:

"QVS is so different from any school I worked at, with its military background, parades and close community. On nice summer days I also enjoyed taking my classes outside to play games such as French pétanque, as well as exploring Dunblane during Activities week."

"In September, I organised for a Theatre Company to perform a show in French for P7-S1 and it was a good memory involving both staff and pupils! Just before I left I still remember going to The MacRoberts cinema in Stirling to watch the French film la Famille Bélier, with senior classes, all organised by Miss Taylor. I also can't forget my S1 class enjoying doing a French fashion show and the surprisingly nice words from my S3 class back in December 2019. I was sad and felt a bit guilty leaving my classes in December especially as the senior pupils were preparing their exams but I was sure that they would do well; they were a really nice & hardworking bunch and had Miss Taylor to teach them too. After leaving QVS I have often thought of the pupils I taught there and I later wondered how they would be doing during these very different times. I hope that all pupils are happy and safe with their families while still keeping up with their school work online. QVS is definitely one of a kind with its strong heritage, its Grand Day and regular parades. But what makes it special is all the pupils and staff there."

"I definitely won't forget my 10 months at QV and the pupils and staff I met there. I wish you all the best for the future! Bon courage et bonne santé à tous!"

The French play that P7 and S1 pupils enjoyed was called Vive la France and we witnessed some fabulous audience participation from pupils and staff alike – Mrs Adams (Primary) and Mrs Scott-Laing even got up on stage, bravo! We also saw some great fun in the classrooms with impromptu fashion shows and some of our staff and senior pupils also dressed up on Languages Day – my absolute favourite were the 3 musketeers who made a trip down to Tesco just for the authentic baguettes! S3 – S5 pupils also enjoyed a French Cinema trip to the MacRoberts Theatre to see the film La Famille Bélier which certainly was a typical French film to say the least! The general consensus was that the pupils looked forward to and enjoyed this experience especially the surprise pain au chocolats in their lunch packs - thanks again to the Kitchen Staff!



Pupils studying Spanish celebrated Día de los Muertos in a variety of ways in the classroom and some of our S1 pupils engaged in an Interdisciplinary Learning Project between Spanish and Art. This was such a great experience seeing the pupils transferring their knowledge of Spanish Speaking countries & culture to the Art Classroom to make their own papier-mâché Día de los Muertos masks. These are now proudly on display in the Modern Languages corridor with some background information on the benchmarks used and our research and design process. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs MacLeod who relished this opportunity to collaborate and help to inject some more creativity into language learning.

In November, pupils engaged in an Anti-Bullying week in Spanish and created mini campaigns in class to raise awareness of bullying and spread kindness. This led to the creation of our Árbol de la Amistad (Friendship Tree) where pupils posted kind Spanish notes to each other to show appreciation for each other and also give them a boost of happiness during what was another very dreich month. There is a common theme emerging with the weather in Scotland.

To spread some Christmas cheer, the Spanish Song and Dance Club performed a salsa routine to Feliz Navidad and we had some excellent readings from S3 pupils with most people so astounded at the incredible Spanish accents that they had to do a double take to make sure! We also had some Christmas elves who handed out caramelos which went down a treat too. This was followed up nicely by writing Christmas Cards to a school in Columbia too and we even received some back!

Our very own Sergeant Major, Señor Stacey, has also been working hard to learn more Spanish this year too and is almost fluent. He has been learning the really important things like ordering drinks on holiday and how to watch the fitbaw.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade! Lockdown and beyond..

2020 started with a bang! Miss Taylor was running the department solo and if you had a chat with her on one of these speedy lunchtimes, you might have found her speaking to you in a mix of Franglish or Spanglish and sometimes if you were really lucky, a bit of German too! And yet somehow through it all she survived, got all of the Senior pupils through their Prelim exams and kept her same daft sense of humour too! We were



all working away like busy bees to prepare the Speaking Exams, Madame Bairner had just arrived back after her maternity leave and that is when the global pandemic struck. Just like that, we were sent home to keep safe and lockdown began. And so goes the saying: when life gives you lemons, make lemonade! Like most teachers and pupils across the UK, we have been thrown into the deep end and have become digital educators overnight. This is something that has been new for us all and demanded complete adaptation and for some of us to come out of our comfort zones but something that we have both done with gusto as it has enriched us professionally and personally. From Screencastify lessons recorded a billion times over, Bitmoji classrooms, virtual trips and quests to live Gimkit games, Duolingo bonanza challenges and Cliché Dress Up Fun, we really have made the most of our online language learning adventure. We have enjoyed seeing you thrive throughout this time and helping to make that happen and I hope it has been as enjoyable for you as it has been for us, despite the surreal circumstances.

As your teachers, we will always do our utmost to give you the best educational experience wherever we may be in the world and in whatever weather we find ourselves. You have all proven yourselves to be so resilient and vibrant in what has been a rather uncertain and gloomy moment in time. And it really is true that after the storm comes the sun and all of the joyous colours of the rainbow. Thank you to you all for being so spirited and wonderful and we are so looking forward to welcoming you back into our classrooms when the time is right and it is safe for you all. Until that time, we hope you all remain to stay safe at home and continue to enjoy your Google Classrooms. To all of our Senior pupils, we wish you bonne chance and buena suerte with your results!

We regularly post pictures and information about what is happening in the Modern Languages Department on Twitter, so give us a follow and stay up to date with the latest news!

Follow @qvsmfl and @QVSSpanish.

Miss Taylor, Principal Teacher of Spanish



Music Department

Yet Another, Another Interesting Year. Last year I wrote that the year 2018 - 2019 might be the most interesting, unusual year in the music department and school's history. However, look what has happened since then. Having had some weeks of discussing the growing pandemic and the world's attitude towards it, I went up to Haig to do my evening duty. At the end of the night we had almost 30 boys who had to go to the Health and Wellbeing Centre. Our own epidemic had struck, the flu! However, a few days later we were evacuating the school as all schools in the country were closing. Our certificate music students had just performed in front of the visiting SQA examiner on the 10th of March and were in the process of completing their composition assignments. The SQA has since decided to ignore these performances and apply each school's student estimates.

This might be good news for some but disappointing for most who would have been very proud of their live performance on the day. This year we had Grace, Rio, Ellie and Magnus playing for their Nat 5 qualification. Grace, Ellie and Rio all played piano as one of their instruments and Magnus used the option of performing on Electric and Bass guitar. I had my normal task of accompanying Ellie's ukulele, Rio's flute and Grace's xylophone. Our higher class was made up of Scott on drum kit and xylophone, who performed to a very high standard, Charlie, who having only recently arrived at QV made amazing progress to reach and exceed the required level on both piano and xylophone, Lewis, who worked miracles to progress from zero to the required grade 4 on drum kit and xylophone with only days to spare, Rachel on drum kit and xylophone, who also developed her skills on these instruments from scratch, and Daniel who having completed the course last year was a very accomplished and confident performer this year. Advanced Higher had only one candidate this year with Christian McBrearty.

What can I say about this tutee of mine? Firstly he's still here! Christian is an unusually talented young musician with an ability, through lots of hard work, to make rapid progress in a wide range of instruments. With a possible choice of tuba, bassoon, piano, and since being gifted one at Christmas, piano accordion, it was as usual difficult to pin him down to which two instruments he should use for the SQA recital. It was not to be, as all the Advanced Higher recitals were cancelled.

It's been an upsetting and difficult year for our S6 and S5 leaving musicians. Their exams have been cancelled and their final school events including their opportunity to shine in the Summer Concert in front of their parents and peers will never happen. I do hope that some of them can make guest appearances sometime next year! I also have a great collection of compositions, some were used in the virtual prize video, that will never be marked by the SQA.

After last year's influx of instruments from Germany, we're still sorting out places and spaces for them and we're in the middle of assigning instruments and lessons to our P7. Our group of visiting instrumental tutors continue to do fantastic work with Victorians from the P7 beginners to the advanced students who may make music their career. We had a fantastic group working over the last year including some new staff. On piano, we have Fiona Henderson, a graduate of the now renamed Royal Scottish Conservatoire and retired opera singer. She has asked me to pass on that she has had a fantastic year with Charlie making astounding progress from beginner to playing grade 5 and 6 material, Grace playing and now reading at a higher level, Christian now learning to play slower with much more accuracy!, Mollie working so so hard at her graded pieces, and a fantastic bunch of super talented and enthusiastic P7 players.



Victoria Lopez, a professional bassoonist and tutor with the 'big noise', teaches both bassoon and piano for us, making endless arrangements of chart songs for our youngsters as well as presenting them with some superb cartoons. Victoria is an extremely talented artist who leaves bassoon drawings on whiteboards around the department (sadly I have to clean the boards to use sometimes). Victoria has recently managed to return home to visit her family in Spain, but she will be returning at the start of the school year. Our longest-serving tutor Gavin Sport continues to enthuse our youngsters. Not surprising as Gavin is one of the countries most sought after big band trumpet players and retired tutor from Perth College and Strathclyde University Jazz course. Gavin has been joined this year by Tim Barrett on french horn, who has already started a group of three horn players. Tim has recently retired as a manager for one of the world's top instrument manufacturers. On harp, we have one of Scotland's top harpists Iain Hood and on guitars and ukulele Gordon Buchanan. Robert Digney, Hanna Vigren, Jennifer Lindsay and Jean Thewlis have joined us on clarinet, flute, cello and violin in recent years. Robert is at an exciting stage in his career and is now getting frequent work with the RSNO. Hanna, a member of the chamber music group "Light Pink and Amber", are both recent graduates of the RSC. Jennifer and Jean both play in a number of local groups with Jean running the local string band "Rusty Strings". I am sorry to say that, after fantastic work with our young flautists this year, Hanna due to the pandemic has returned home to Sweden and will not be returning at the start of term. Jean, whose birth date I share, but not year, having experienced the tranquillity of lockdown has decided to retire from teaching. A massive thank you to two wonderful musicians and teachers at opposite ends of their teaching journeys.

Queen Victoria School continues to be a centre for local and national music. We have the local Dunblane Chamber Orchestra rehearsing and performing in the School Chapel. We should have had the May concert including a young London based soloist performing the Schumann piano concerto this year. We're hoping that this event will go ahead next year. The country's

largest clarinet orchestra 'The Scottish Clarinet Choir' are also based at QVS and gave their first Edinburgh concert in St Giles with international soloist Nicholas Baldeyrou (check him out on YouTube. You'll be amazed)

Unlike 2018-2019 we did manage a Christmas concert or two. A small QVS minstrels group went down to the Victoria Halls, to play for one of our local community groups with a mini wind band, led by Mollie Horne, Arran Scott on pipes and a small choir to lead the carol singing. The two primary classes had performed 'Lights Camel Action' a new Christmas musical. Two casts, 7A then 7B two performances. The P7's then performed some of their musical for the concert. We had Freya reading the QVS version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' followed by the P7's then a Christmas piping medley. Our sax players worked hard playing in the wind band and supplying their own items. The Nat 5 class played their arrangement of Mary's Boychild. L G sang 'Somewhere Only We Know', Charlie and Christian played their piano duet version of 'Sleigh Ride'. Ashley in P7 played superbly carrying on the Egyptian theme from the P7 show with her piano solo. We all sang 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' at least twice per concert and at the end of the Friday went home full of the festive spirit.

We were all in the middle of the annual mad dash towards the exams when IT HAPPENED! We all went home and the school year 2019 - 2020 came to an abrupt end. So for the sixth year and leavers a big goodbye from the music staff. Special thanks to Daniel, Charlie, Lewis, Rachel and special thanks to Christian and Mollie who have been the bottom and top of the wind band and contributed so so much to QVS and QVS music. Goodbye to all the leavers I'll miss you all.

Mr D V Breigan, Principal Teacher of Music



A Year in Primary 7

It's hard to believe that the P7's first year at QVS has come to an end, although not the end of a year we all had in mind. We kick-started the year with a three-day activity programme led by Map Adventures and what a brilliant start to the year it was. The first time we have started the year off like this and it certainly won't be our last!

Pupils took part in a variety of activities such as rock climbing, archery, team-building challenges, fire craft, and kayaking to name a few. It was a fantastic way for the pupils to get to know their peers, settle into boarding school life, and try something new. I can still picture all the somersaults and variations of star jumps splashing into Loch Venachar after kayaking, followed by some delicious hot chocolate and cake.

We welcomed a variety of visitors to the department over the year, making links to Developing the Young Workforce. This allowed the pupils to gain an insight into a variety of careers and think about their future careers. It was great to hear what they all want to be when they are older. We had visits from Firefighter Robinson, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Mr Johnstone who spoke about his Military career, an accountant, and an ICT firm.

We also made a lovely connection with Mr Smith from The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum after our visit there to support our World War II topic. Mr Smith came to visit us at school on a couple of occasions and the pupils always looked forward to his visits. Mr Smith did a workshop about Scot's Language which was perfect timing for our Burns morning. The pupils recited poems, danced and piped for us and we also had a special visit from our one and only Mr Stacey. Although I think they enjoyed the Irn-Bru, shortbread and haggis the most!

Mr Smith also came in and supported the pupils with their performance for 'Play in a day' about the life of Robert Burns and Tam O' Shanter. And yes the pupils learned their script and stage directions in 5 hours, amazing! I think one of my favourite scenes was watching Rabbie Burns (played by Lewis) in the pub scene, drinking a little too much beer with Soutar Jonnie (played by Rory) while Kate, Rabbie's wife (played by Ashley) was questioning his timekeeping skills! A superb performance by all and I look forward to working with Mr Smith more in the future.

Whilst we are on the acting side of things, I can't not mention "Lights, Camel, Action!" A fantastic Christmas performance full of laughter, humour, dancing and singing, a perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. It was the first time we planned for two performances by Group A and Group B separately. It worked really well, providing all the pupils with parts to play in the performance.

A big thank you must go to Mr Breingan for his musical support, Mrs Landsburgh for her creative choreography for the camels, wise men and shepherds and Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas for their encouragement, support and persistence during numerous rehearsals, I couldn't have done it without you all. I have lots of fond memories from the play, Oliver and Rhett playing a disdain Caesar, the funky camels grooving away, Rory and Oakley playing Mary and Joseph and also Ashley and Zara playing Mary and Joseph. We will definitely be looking forward to Lights, Camel, Action 2 next year!

Another highlight for me this year was creating links with the P7's from Newton Primary School. Pupils initially started writing to one another to find out a bit more about each other and then in November, we welcomed Newton to QVS. They came to watch the P7's perform a practice Rookie's Parade, led confidently by Eve, Rory and Izzy. Newton even tried some drill commands led by some of the senior pupils and enjoyed a tour of the school and Trenchard House. In January, we visited Newton to celebrate Burn's Day with poems, songs, and dances, followed by a Scottish quiz and of course Irn-Bru!

This year, all pupils participated in the Jass Award (Junior Award Scheme for Schools). They successfully completed four elements that make up the Silver Award. The four sections included, My Interests, Get Active – Stay Active, Me and My World and Adventure. I was delighted with the success of this programme and the pupil's determination to complete the required number of hours to receive their Silver Award. Congratulations to you all!



After Christmas, we focused on a variety of Science topics - States of Matter and the Skeletal System. The pupils loved the experiments and analysing various results. We had planned to complete a couple of science experiments in the science lab but unfortunately, we weren't able to complete these this year but let's hope next year we can get our aprons and science glasses on. Sadly, our year came to quite an abrupt stop and home learning began. It was new to us all - getting to grips with Google Classroom, making videos, pupils interacting with teachers on video calls and probably one of the hardest aspects for the pupils was being away from their friends. Trying to find the right balance and juggle new routines was challenging at times but I am sure that most were grateful for the extra family time at home.

Pupils learned some valuable lifelong lessons at home, whether it was how to work the washing machine, baking, hoovering or managing your daily school tasks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm and determination during this challenging time, you coped brilliantly and we are ever so proud of you all. It has been an absolute pleasure working with the pupils in the classroom and within Trenchard House. As a department, we have loved seeing the P7's grow and develop over the year and turning into fine young Victorians.

Thank you to Matron and our gap students; Caitlin, Matthew and Gareth for joining us on all our trips and to Mr Stacey for organising all the buses for us too. Thank you!

I would like to say a massive thank you to my amazing team; Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas for your continued commitment and support throughout the year to both myself and the pupils. I feel very fortunate to have such a hard-working and committed team who, not only have a desire to care for and support the pupils but continually look at ways to improve the department and thus improve the experience for the pupils - Thank you.

Finally, I would just like to wish the pupils well as they transition into senior school. Remember to work hard, have fun, and be the best version of yourself!

Mrs Adams, Principal Teacher of Primary



Modern Studies

And the votes are cast . . .

In S2 Modern Studies, pupils study a unit called 'Taking Part' where they learn about elections and how UK citizens can be involved. The unit ends with our very own mock election based on the real political parties and their policies. Pupils worked in groups representing the five main UK political parties and wrote their own manifestos, created campaign materials and drafted a candidate's speech.

Thursday 5th December was polling day. The theatre was transformed as posters, leaflets, and rosettes from all political parties contesting were displayed. Pupils took part in a tense Question and Answer session where they had the opportunity to ask some hard questions to their opponents and gather last-minute evidence to use against the other parties in their candidates' speech. The candidates then delivered their speeches to the year group. Hats off to every single one of them for having the confidence to speak out on behalf of their group. It was great to see them standing proud and for some pushing themselves out of their comfort zone.

Voting then took place using First Past the Post as per UK General Elections. Some S2 pupils assumed the roles of the returning officer and polling clerks to ensure the voting ran smoothly, and with the help of some S6 pupils the ballots were counted quickly and the results were announced . . .

With a clear majority, the winning party was 2B LABOUR. Their candidate was Daniel Evans, the Campaign Manager was Suyen Limbu and they were ably assisted by team members Junior Robanakadam, Kasey Dickinson, and Mica McCloud.

All of S2 were superb ambassadors of the school that morning. They were engaged, motivated, and respectful of their peers, there was a real buzz in the theatre. Congratulations S2!

Mrs Rodger, Principal Teacher of Social Studies

Geography

Well, Academic Year 2019-2020, where to start? It has certainly been a year of two halves!

In September, the Higher pupils visited the Quarrymill Woodland Park and other areas of Scone to study the Annaty Burn. They enjoyed a day out collecting river data for their assignments followed by a good feed at the Macmillan Coffee Shop. We used dog biscuits to measure the speed of the river since they float and are biodegradable. It turned out they were multipurpose as some of the pupils decided it would be a good idea to make friends with a few dogs on our way along the path!

The S4 pupils also enjoyed our annual trip to the village of Balmaha on Loch Lomond. The National Park Rangers were so informative and told us lots about the impact of tourism on the landscape. It was a glorious sunny day and we decided there was only one thing for it, an ice cream to celebrate completing our fieldwork. Food seems to be a common thing on a successful Geography trip! It is amazing how the promise of a food-based treat can increase motivation for getting work done!

Isn't it crazy how things changed so quickly this year? Two fantastic trips, lots of hard work following up with data processing and assignment write-ups, and then the disappointing news that these would no longer be marked by the SQA. However, I hope the pupils will still recognise and appreciate the skills they developed during these projects.

The Geographers, however, have been excellent Lockdown Learners! It has been a steep learning curve for us all, however, it has been great to see how much effort has been going into work at home. The Advanced Higher pupils, along with thousands of pupils across the UK, took part in two 'Fieldwork Live' sessions run by the Field Studies Council. They were able to learn and carry out new fieldwork techniques from the comfort of their living rooms, no waterproof jacket required! The S3 pupils created some fantastic comic strips inspired by Drippy the Raindrop and his journey through the water cycle. Junior pupils were encouraged to complete a field sketch of a local landscape, learning a new skill whilst also getting some all-important fresh air!

Mrs Humble, Teacher of Geography



PE Department

Annus Horribilis

I will remember 2019-2020 for many reasons and some good some not so good. It started in September with the Sports Hall floor being ripped up, which should have been a fairly straight forward job with it being handed back in December. Unfortunately, that was not the case as we are only just back in a whole year later. If that wasn't enough of a challenge for curriculum planning, we were also told that the astroturf was going to get it's much needed resurfacing over the same time that the hall was out. Thankfully this time the work went according to plan and we now have a wonderful facility with amazing lighting that is already being used extensively by the pupils throughout the week.

Mrs Elliott went on maternity leave in October to look after wee Calum, which then saw the arrival of Mr Tierney. It was a big undertaking as Mr Tierney needed to take up not only Certificate classes but also the whole hockey programme. He settled in very quickly and was soon up to speed with all of the idiosyncrasies of QVS life. He brought a wealth of knowledge regarding the Certificate courses which enabled our students to confidently get through the syllabus and ultimately pass at Nat 5 and Higher.

I then had to take some time off due to surgery, which meant that Mr Lafferty was brought in on supply. His enthusiasm and energy throughout the curriculum were very much appreciated by the pupils and he quickly became a popular member of the community.

We also had Mr Reynolds come in January for supply when Mr Tierney secured a full-time post in Edinburgh. What Mr Reynolds didn't know about strength and conditioning is not worth knowing. Many of the seniors really benefited from his expertise and his enthusiasm for the subject.

I then returned in February, just in time for COVID-19 to take full effect and for the school to close for lockdown WHAT A YEAR!...

As much as it was a challenging year, the pupils, as expected, were receptive to the changes and embraced the restricted curriculum we could offer and made every new member of staff feel welcome and appreciated. All of the supply teachers commented on what a wonderful school QVS is and how lucky we are to have such motivated and well-behaved pupils. It's great to be reminded of this every now and again so we don't take it for granted.

So in a year, we say many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Elliott on the arrival of young Calum, we say a huge thank you to Mr Tierney, Mr Lafferty and Mr Reynolds for their enthusiasm, time and effort whilst at the school, a massive thank you to Mr MacKay and Mr McConnell for being the only constants in the ever-changing face of the department and the composure and care they showed to the pupils throughout this disruptive time and of course our appreciation to the pupils for being so understanding and positive even after their 100th session in the pool.

Mr McLay, Principal Teacher of PE



Rugby Report U15

This was to be a real low for me as the 1st XV coach and a first in the 22 years I have coached at the school. The name itself alludes to the fact that you need 15 players to have a team and this year, as a result of small year groups and key players leaving after S5, we only had 3 eligible players. Morrisons kindly offered to take them under their wing, and the boys enjoyed several training sessions and a few games in the maroon shirt but it was never the same as pulling on a red, amber and gold one and playing alongside your mates from QVS. Well done to Tom, Brodie and Cameron for getting as much as they could out of season.

However, even though I missed having a team to coach, I spent many a night ferrying our Caledonia/Scottish representatives around the country. Aminio and Amena continued to impress the coaches at the Caledonia District sessions, so much so that they were selected for the Scotland Blues team. They trained tirelessly throughout the week, (unfortunately sometimes to the detriment of their homework) and developed as players under the coaching of Kris Burney and his team. Unfortunately, just as they were ready to travel down to Wales to play for Scotland, COVID-19 came along and put paid to that idea. It was such a disappointing end to what was looking to be a promising start to

both of their representative careers. Congratulations to both the players in reaching the level they did. They demonstrated just how far a player can go through hard work and enthusiasm and to have two boys in the Scotland Blues squad from a school our size is truly an incredible feat.

Euan Lee, Rays Gurung, Ben Main, Theo Natiri and Daniel Rae were all put forward for the U15's Caledonia trials and all gave a great account of themselves. One of the coaches remarked that he had not come across such motivated and focused students before.

We have so much depth in our squads now and there is a real culture of training hard to play hard. Success breeds success and with the U16's winning the National Plate (with the whole school watching), has led on to a real desire to succeed from the younger years. It doesn't come about by chance though and a huge thanks must go to all of the coaches for their hard work and dedication over the years. Mr Bryce, Mr MacKay, Mr Adams and Mr Wright give up their time selflessly to ensure that the boys have the opportunities that they will remember for a lifetime.

Mr McLay



Rugby Report U16

In the 2019 Victorian I made reference to the unfortunate position of QVS being unable to field a traditional 1XV side due to a lack of boys in the senior years. This was a great shame, and although Brodie Paterson, Tom Main and Cameron Morrison-Smith trained and played with Morrisons Academy, it's not quite the same as playing for your own school.

Consequently it became the U16 side that formed Queen Victoria School's most senior side, and what a side it was. A side that had shown throughout p7-s3 a fantastic ability to attack out wide and a tenacious desire to defend. Mr Adams had developed this group into a real force to be reckoned with.

In taking on this group I knew that we had genuine opportunity to challenge Nationally and as such we set ourselves two targets; 1. Win the Barbarians Conference 2. Play at Murrayfield on School Finals Day.

The Barbarians Conference contained only one team that truly challenged us, St Columba's school from Kilmacolm, they also happened to be our first fixture. Without any real time to develop our structure we were lucky to win this one, Amena Caqusau scoring all 4 tries as we won 24-20. We knew we had to be better to get to Murrayfield.

Mr McLay and I spent tireless hours developing the defense of this group. More disciplined, more structured, more aggressive, more desperate to gain possession. In attack we had to become interesting to create space, creating a stacks model with more running lines, allowing space for attacking threats out wide, such as Michael Draunidalo, Jaheem Thomas and Roman Gurung. This development would have not been possible without the buy in from the team, Amino Bogidrau is everything you could want in a captain, and backed by Jake Leatherbarrow, standards were driven higher and higher.

We went on to win our remaining conference games by 50 points (the maximum difference before the fixture is made a training game). These games were excellent opportunities to imbed our new attacking structure and defensive game plan. We were unlucky to only finish joint top of the conference, as cup fixtures and inclement weather stopped us from playing all our fixtures.

Our 2nd target proved to be our key focus of the first term. Our cup - and laterally plate - run took us on 6 additional fixtures this season that pushed and tested this excellent group of players.

Cup Round 1:

Galashiels Academy 12 - 19 Queen Victoria School (3/9/19)
MOTM - Jake Leatherbarrow

A trip to the borders to begin our campaign was the challenge this group had been craving for. Refereed by former professional referee David Changeleng this was a feisty affair that must have reminded Changeleng of his days in the Heineken cup. Our new look attack saw us race into a 19-0 lead, and this group, unchallenged so far, let their foot off the gas to make this a far closer game than it had to be.

Cup Round 2:

George Heriots School 55 - 19 Queen Victoria School (10/9/19)
Whilst the score line does not make happy reading. This game was 43-0 at half time, as we were blown away by a very disciplined and structured Edinburgh side. At half time we gained some composure and chose to play more street wise - and less....QV. Not throwing every offload and sticking to our fundamentals, line speed in defense, width in attack. This game saw us move into the Plate Competition, and as a group we promised we were still going to Murrayfield.



Preliminary Round:

St Columba's School 21 - 46 Queen Victoria School (7/10/19)
MOTM - Amena Caqusau

This fixture was quite bizarre, going 21-19 down with 15 minutes to go, Mr Wright was feeling more nervous than any of the players were. A quick reply saw the score line go into QVs favour, but more drama was yet to come. Roman Gurung received a long kick off and moved the ball to stand off Aminio, a ball to Shameer Gurung created a 2v1 with Jaheem Thomas on the outside a lovely draw and pass saw QV score a 2nd try in as many minutes. Cementing a place in the Quarter Final.

Quarter Final:

Berwickshire Schools 7 - 22 Queen Victoria School (31/10/19)
MOTM - Theo Natiri

A tight affair that saw the U16 team start to play with a full 70 minute performance. Leading 10-0 for most of this fixture, Berwickshire broke down the wing (with a potential forward pass) to come back 10-7. As a side that aren't used to tight games, it came down to pack leader Leatherbarrow, lifted by Arran McLeod and Theo Natiri to turn over a lineout ball, allowing Aminio Bogidrau to unleash the QV attack with Berwickshire on the backfoot. Some deceptive running lines from Subhaashish Gurung allowed Amena acres of space to run the ball wide and put QV firmly in the semi-final.

Semi Final:

Queen Victoria School 21 - 14 High School of Dundee (28/11/19)
MOTM - Michael Draunidalo

This fixture was QV's first home fixture of the cup run and to celebrate the occasion, the whole school came pitch side to support the team. My thanks go to the SLT, the teaching staff and all our pupils for this support.

Whether the occasion had got to us, or the absence of calming influence Mr McLay, this fixture proved to be a gruelling contest that we were never allowed to control. Defensively we were awesome, and we had to be, spending almost all of the 2nd half camped in our own 22, at 14-14. A moment of pure magic from

captain Aminio Bogidrau, that will be talked about for years to come, gained us our winning score. Bogidrau is fed the ball from Lee, chips over the Dundee defensive line, gathers his own chip and spins a backhanded offload to the onrushing Draunidalo. The crowd goes wild.

Having accomplished both of our targets at this stage season 2019-20 had already been a special year for Queen Victoria School rugby. My sincere thanks go to the support we received from the school; staff and pupils; throughout this cup run. Thank you for allowing us to miss lessons, for covering classes, making extra packed meals, allowing us to do another run through against the U15s - every effort made has been appreciated. Thank you also to Mr Stacey for accompanying us for the long bus journeys and Mr McLay for his enthusiasm and guidance throughout the season...

Of course - we weren't finished yet. The bus journey to Murrayfield, the nervous warm up, the even more nervous opening ten minutes. Tries galore, and some of them special to behold. A perfect 2nd half. Seeing a group of 20 young men screaming in jubilation as we lifted the U16 plate. As one. Well done boys. Memories for a lifetime.

Mr S D Wright



Rugby Report U15

Mr Bryce U15's

This season has provided many opportunities for the U15's to enhance their individual talents and combine these successfully as a team; both in training and against challenging opponents. There have been tremendous improvements made throughout the season and the players have grasped the additional opportunities to enhance their skills in training. In addition to Tuesday's 'Senior Games', the players excelled themselves at Thursday after school rugby training. Euan, Theo, Rays, Ben and Daniel were invited to develop their skills at the local composite club, Stirling County, on Monday nights. Feedback from the setup was very positive and the boys enjoyed the opportunity to engage with players from other teams.

The first challenge of the season was against the second toughest team in the group, St Columba's. After a gruelling first half the players showed a determined spirit to win the game 57-10; a result that delighted Mr McLay. Further victories continued with a 46-26 win over Hills, 50-7 win over Lenzie, 50-25 against Carrick and a 40-10 win against Balfron. The season was concluded with the players being crowned conference champions.

A particular highlight for me was the opportunity to work with our 7's 'B' side during a home competition. The boys came up against formidable opposition and contested each match strongly, drawing one game and winning the rest. It was a pleasure to see many of the players step up to a more intense match environment and demonstrate the fine skills they had developed throughout the season. The 'A' team performed remarkably well and received very positive feedback from a delighted Mr McKay.

I would like to thank all the players, gaps and coaches for their hard work over the season. Their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment is a major factor in their success and their ability to show dedication through all the conditions thrown at them is impressive. The boys' willingness to learn, adapt and support each other through their experiences sets them in good stead for S4 where I am certain they will continue to learn and excel themselves.

Mr A Bryce

Theo's Report

The under 15s this year had an undefeated season, we came back a bit rusty but as usual Mr Bryce made us do fitness. The under 15s came 2nd in the Conference last year and we were determined to come 1st this year, we all came into training determined to get stuff done, also preparing for the fitness part as well. We played our first game against St Columba's, we played well that game but although we won, it wasn't our full potential, we had a few things to work on.

After several training sessions of hard work from the boys and Mr Bryce of course, we won quite a lot of games, the boys and I knew that we had one more game to play to end the season, so we wanted to end on a high note but sadly it got cancelled due to weather, so we won by default wasn't the best way to win a conference but we still won. After a few more training sessions we had a 7s tournament held at school, we played well for the first game, using the wings and passing the ball down the line nice and fast. The second game didn't go that well, but we still gave it all our best we lost by one try, after a few words from myself and Euan, we went on to our last game and dominated the opposition, with a little glory run from Charlie from half way scoring the last try for us. It has been a great season for the under 15s, we have come a long way from last year, working hard to reach that number 1 spot. Myself and the under 15s cannot wait to be on the field again.

Theo Natiri



The Victorian 2020



Hockey

This season has been an interesting one but nevertheless, it's been one of the most memorable seasons I've been a part of at Queen Victoria School. Although this season was cut short slightly, our team still managed to play great in matches and pull through with many victories.

This season, our defenders have been Yancy Gurung, Shristi Gurung, Amber Goodall, Rebecca Anderson and Amy Gray. We've also been lucky enough to have two goalkeepers this year: Molly Horne and Nanda Seru. Their focus this year was to be more confident when tackling the opposition and I think it's fair to say that there were many occasions where it didn't faze them at all. They also managed to improve on passing at an angle rather than passing straight, so the opposition wouldn't be able to intercept the ball.

Our midfielders this season have been me, Olivia Oately, Caitlin Smith, Leoni Gallagher, and Millie MacDonald. As a group, we aimed to improve our transfers between right and left midfield by passing to either top and bottom diamond. In addition to this, we focussed on supporting both sides of the pitch more rather than sticking to the middle. Yes, this was much more tiring to do but overall had a greater impact on the team's performance.

Rhaea Clark, Shaunelee Young, Irena Watson, and Pratistha Khawas have done amazingly well this year playing in the striker position, mainly focusing on supporting each other when attacking the opposition. Another improvement they aimed to make this season was to transfer between themselves and the midfielders to prevent the opposition from getting the ball.

With the absence of many key resources for training, including an AstroTurf, a sports hall and Mrs Elliott, we still managed to improve our technique and implement the skills into real games.

Despite the few defeats this year; they definitely don't match the number of successful matches we've had. Our notable games have been against the High School of Dundee, Kilgraston, Clifton Hall, and more. A memorable defeat for me was against Strathallan in September. We narrowly lost by one goal in the final minute but we didn't feel disheartened by this loss as we all came off the pitch knowing we had played superbly together.

This season wouldn't have been as successful if it wasn't for the PE and games staff, in particular Mrs Scott-Laing, Miss Hastie, and Mr McLay. Thank you for giving up your lie-ins on Saturday mornings to make sure everyone, specifically Yancy and Shristi, were on the bus at the correct time. Our biggest thank you goes to Mr Oatley for giving us his expert advice, being the most positive member of the team, and most importantly drilling his famous quote into our heads during most training sessions.

With myself and over half of the team moving onto the next chapter of our lives, we'd like to thank the rest of the team for all the great memories we've made over the years. From making Tiktoks in changing rooms to Mr Oatley running around the pitch with us, holding the speaker so we could hear the music, it's clear that being on the 1st XI team was about more than just hockey.

Good luck to next year's team and I hope your season is full of success!

"Come on girls. Hockey players don't walk, they run." - Mr Oatley

Sophie Murphy, Hockey Captain



S2 Rugby Report

The 2019-20 session proved to be a successful year in so many different ways for the players. The boys will be the first to admit that both individual and group mindset at the start of the season was not as it should have been. However, they worked tirelessly both individually and collectively to change that approach. The team was keen to embrace the concept of personal and collective responsibility both on and off the pitch and I have been particularly proud of them for this. We often discuss as a team how far they've come as players (and how far they have to go) but they do look back with a smile when they think how they used to be.

I mention this every year, but we should not underestimate the commitment required to train throughout the season, in all weather conditions. Their positive attitude to train twice a week, get up early on Saturday morning, when many of their friends are still tucked up in bed, and to travel around Scotland in the pursuit of success, should be commended.

The team adapted well to meet the increased physical demands of S2 rugby and as the year progressed, they appeared to relish the contact areas of the sport. They started to take ownership and responsibility for their development and began to take pride in not just their performances on a Saturday morning, but the manner in which they trained and how they conducted themselves in the wider school setting. The boys really started to buy into what 'we' were trying to achieve. They showed a willingness to 'have a go' and take on board new ideas and persevered with endless hours in trying to execute the simple skills well.

They learned both individual and team defensive techniques and structures and quickly applied them confidently during game time. The boys started to enjoy the physicality of the game which helped build a strong platform to reduce the number of conceded

tries. They also competed with grit at the breakdown which in turn increased the percentages of the turnover ball to help create counterattacking opportunities.

In attack they played with a simple philosophy, "find the space and hit it with pace!" and the boys did just that. As a team they started to play with their heads up, scanning for 2 v 1 situations, supporting the ball carrier, and really started to play with confidence. With this attacking mindset, the boys really started to enjoy playing open expansive rugby which was brilliant to see as a coach.

The boys played five conference matches (four of them away) all before the Christmas break. They racked up a total of 168 points whilst only conceding 27 points. So, we were scoring 6 points for every 1 point conceded - not a bad statistic at all.

There is no doubt that the boys have developed a greater respect for the game, themselves, and one another. The squad now plays with 15 leaders on the pitch.

It was a pleasure to work with the boys this year and I am really looking forward to helping them develop further next year.

Well done lads!

Mr Adams



U16 Plate Champions 2019

Queen Victoria School 44 - 0 The Royal High School

Tries: Leatherbarrow, Horsburgh, Caqusau, Patterson, Bogidrau, Thomasx2, Natiri
Conversions: Bogidrau x2

- "Before we went out we exchanged a few words Man to boy" Samik Gurung (Hooker)
- "When the final whistle blew I have never had so much joy in my life" Lewis Gibson (Prop)
- "I can't even lie about the feels man, I almost had tears. Cheers boys" Chris Skinner (2nd Row)
- "My best moment of the whole match was getting away with being well off side and scoring a try, however, we don't talk about the off side part!" Aidan Horsburgh (2nd Row)
- "One thing I made certain to them was that we were going back to QV with that plate in our hands and there was no other option" Aminio Bogidrau (Stand-Off/Captain)
- "The best part of the cup run, in my opinion, was being able to win with my friends that I've been with for the past five years and it just shows how close knit we all are" Subhaashish Gurung (Centre)
- "That feeling of the whole school watching us play was amazing. The chants and the crowd screaming our names was something else." Mitchell Pratt (Prop)
- "We were all on the podium and roared when Aminio lifted the plate. We had done it we had won the plate!" Joe Long (2nd Row)

Team Sheet

1. Arran McLeod
2. Samik Gurung
3. Lewis Gibson
4. Chris Skinner
5. Aidan Horsburgh
6. Saphal Gurung
7. Jake Leatherbarrow
8. Theo Natiri
9. Euan Lee
10. Aminio Bogidrau
11. Rays Gurung
12. Subhaashish Gurung
13. Roman Gurung
14. Michael Draunidalo
15. Amena Caqusau
16. Mitchell Pratt
17. Joe Long
18. William Cook
19. Connor Patterson
20. Jaheem Thomas



Technology Department

It has been an exciting year within the Technology department this year. At the start of the year, we saw the retirement of Mr Laing and the arrival of Mrs Sherriff as PT. In November, there was lots of activity. We had a visit from Balfour Beatty who, in conjunction with the Institute of Civil Engineers, worked with our S2 pupils with their Bridge to Schools activity.

A few weeks later Mr Leitch organised a trip to the Engine Shed in Stirling where pupils attended a STEM careers event. At the end of November, a 3D printer arrived in the department and pupils began creating their own 3D printed work after an introduction to the new skills required.

As well as embracing new Technology, we have also continued to utilise more traditional skills too. S3 pupils in Practical Woodworking created trinket boxes and the lids of the boxes incorporated the old seats from the dining hall into their models.

As the year progressed, we, unfortunately, entered into the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant that a planned STEM event at Dunblane High School did not happen in May. However, as a result of the pandemic, we moved to online learning and our pupils continued to demonstrate their skills at home.

Mrs Sherriff, Principal Teacher of Technology



Visor Manufacture - Covid-19 Initiative

In April of 2020, during the Easter holidays in lockdown, there was a distinct shortage of PPE due to the Coronavirus pandemic. I had seen on Twitter that people were making PPE using laser cutters and 3D printers.

As we had a 3D printer at QV, I decided to begin the manufacture of face visors for key workers within the NHS and elsewhere. I spoke with Mr Shaw and approval was given for production to begin.

My husband, who is also a Technology teacher, was given permission to access his 3D printer too. We then began work from our conservatory to create the visors. The printers were switched on at 8.30am and we were shutting them off around 11pm.

Barring any technical issues, we were typically able to print off forty masks a day. We donated to lots of local businesses including medical centres, care homes, hospitals and solicitors. I was also very lucky to be able to help some of our parents who requested visors after seeing posts on Twitter, or by contacting the school directly.

As the wearing of PPE by key workers increased, pain was also being experienced by those who were wearing masks that had to be hooked over the ears. In response to this we also started to print ear protectors.

Work on the visors and ear protectors began to slow down during the month of May as the pandemic spike eased. In total 575 visors were printed and delivered to those in need. I am pleased that I was involved in helping in a small way during the strangest of times.

Mrs Sherriff, Principal Teacher of Technology

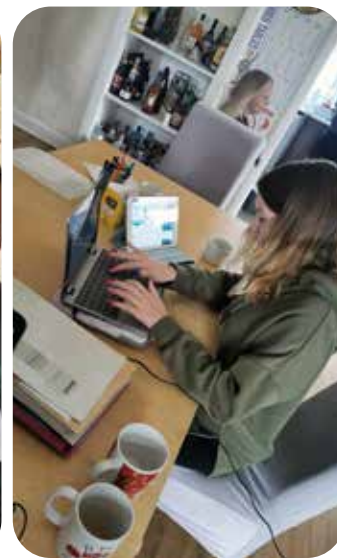


Digital Learning

This year school might have ended in March, but learning definitely didn't! The introduction of Google Classroom meant that all Victorians could continue with their learning at home and keep on going, right through the lockdown, together whilst apart.

There was a lot of innovation going on, from Bitmoji classrooms to virtual challenges. We even had a remote field trip, digital competitions and online notice boards. QVS Students embraced outdoor learning and saw a more practical side to their subjects when they put their skills into good use in the garden and kitchen as well as their digital classrooms. The teachers were really impressed with the creativity and resilience they saw across the student community and the many ways we managed to stay connected in spite of the miles between us.

Now we are back at school, digital learning has not left us and we are all adapting to life with our new Chromebooks and working collaboratively in a digital space. COVID-19 might have forced us to adapt our ways of learning and teaching, but the innovation that has gone on is something we will be continuing to build on and foster in the months and years ahead as we take learning and digital literacy into the 21st century at QVS.





Lockdown

Lockdown life at QVS had a theme which was #QVSCConnect

As a boarding school, relationships are our number one priority and that was why building a group of digital communities was so vital for us as a school. All four boarding houses developed their own online platforms where students could come and connect with one another and their Tutors even though they were living in so many different places.

Our Boarding Staff ensured that there was never a dull moment and there were many opportunities for staff and students to connect with one another through games, competitions, and virtual get-togethers. We had Bake-Offs, crafting, painting and art, piping and drumming continued with virtual teaching and playing, outdoor learning challenges, fancy dress competitions, and Tik-Tok dance moves made us laugh through the tougher moments of lockdown and the virtual fitness sessions made sure that the banana bread we were all baking didn't cause us all to gain too many lockdown pounds.

Staff stayed in touch by producing their own video messages to their classes and tutor groups, they taught and produced Screencastify tutorials and provided challenges in their online Tutor Group sessions. In return, we saw students' DIY efforts, their pets, their cookery skills, their artistic flair, and their moves!

Lockdown certainly wasn't easy, but having a virtual space to connect in meant that our community remained together even though we were many miles apart from one another.

Our year culminated with our first ever Virtual Grand Day which allowed our end of year celebrations to be marked as a community with speeches, awards, and words of advice from our Senior Monitor and the Governor of Edinburgh Castle. We celebrated across the UK and beyond by dressing up, toasting our Leavers with some fizz, and looking forward to returning as a school community in August.

Although this was a year that brought many challenges, the QVS community certainly rose to the occasion and showed that the things that connect us cannot be diminished by distance and circumstances. This year will go down in history as a unique year, but one that brought a unique sense of community, connection, and laughter with it and you can hopefully see from these photographs our students certainly made the most of the circumstances and had a lot of fun and moments to remember in spite of the difficulties and challenges that COVID-19 brought us.



Lockdown - Miss You

A message from your Teachers





Lockdown Life with The Mouldings

The Experiences of a Military Family at home

2020 has brought our family many challenges, one of the biggest turned out to be the reality of having to home school during a global pandemic. On one hand, it was novel to have all 4 of us at home at the same time after many years of being separated by hundreds of miles, but on the other hand, we were faced with the reality of having to keep the children engaged with schoolwork during such unprecedented times, when all they probably wanted to do was watch Netflix or play X-Box all day.

As parents, we found ourselves in a lucky position to be either working from home or working reduced hours outside of the house, so we were able to be present during the day for Thomas & Rachel and manage a daily routine to ensure they were able to complete the school work which their teachers worked so hard to deliver. It wasn't a hugely popular decision with the kids, especially the setting of morning alarms, but it worked well and they were mostly able to meet their prep deadlines.

We didn't want them to be sat at a computer all the time though, so we did as much outside as we could, helped by the wonderful weather we had. For PE, we worked out with Joe Wicks on YouTube most mornings, and for 3 days a week for 9 weeks, we started and completed the Couch25K running programme. We also tried to take advantage of being allowed out for 1 hour a day, so we found lots of new local walks and cycle routes.

Thomas had chosen Practical Woodwork for one of his S3 options, so he and his dad planned out a project to build a large flower planter from some pallets we had laying around, whilst Rachel built a small herb garden from the remaining wood, along with a bird table which she'd designed for one of her prep tasks and wanted to bring to life.

Both children helped with our veggie patch and gardening (we've had the best year for produce in years!), taking regular time out to light the fire pit and toast marshmallows in the evenings.

One of Rachel's prep challenges was to plan and make a 2-course meal, so she had great fun making meatball pizza & sticky toffee apple pudding from scratch and Thomas didn't want to be left out so his dad taught him how to make a Naval favourite – Cheesy Wham Bams!

We had a garden party for VE Day, both kids helping with the decorations and food prep (cakel), and playing a piece of music on their instruments and played a few garden games such as Giant Jenga & Hoopla.

For the Virtual Grand Day, we felt it was important to make it an event for the kids – Rachel especially was so sad to be missing her first one and it's usually a well looked forward to day for the kids and our family alike. And after a term of home-schooling, we felt we needed a celebration just for the fact that we survived it! So we set up the laptop on the deck to watch the Grand Day YouTube stream, made a picnic, played some pipe music, and had our own day in the garden, and it really felt like the end of the school year and the start of the holidays.

We all have a reinforced respect for teachers - we were a very poor replacement, but we have managed to come out the other side of the whole experience with some fantastic memories and grateful for the time that we've been able to spend as a family. The kids were certainly looking forward to going back to QVS though!

Mrs Moulding, QVS Parent



Lockdown

Return to School



VE Day



Virtual Grand Day

Grand Day Trophies & Awards 2020



1	Cameronian Shield For Piping (For The Best Piper)	Hollie Scott
2	Senior Drum Majors Shield (For The Senior Drum Major)	Pratistha Khawas
3	Highland Dancing (Highland Dancing Society Of London Cup)	Rhaea Clark
4	Combined Cadet Force (For The Best Ccf Recruit)	Sitiveni Qalobulawasaikabara
5	Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy (For Outdoor Pursuits)	Marcus Wakefield
6	Victor Ludorum Trophy (For Best Sports Person)	None
7	The Ben Philip Senior Memorial Bowl	Christian McBrearty
8	The Ben Philip Junior Memorial Bowl	Connor Bullock
9	Annual Challenge Cup (For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell)	Rhaea Clark
10	The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver (For Leadership 'On' And 'Off' The Games Field)	Sophie Murphy
11	The Prince Philip Medal (For Outstanding Contribution, Participation And Achievement During Their Time At Queen Victoria School)	Sophie Murphy

2020 Prize List P7

1	Attainment	P7	Trina Gurung
2	Progress	P7	Lewis Ferguson
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Trina Gurung
4	Music	P7	Ashley Stevenson
5	Paul McShannon Quaich	P7	Zara Long

2020 Prize List S1 & S2

	First Year		Second Year	
	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
1	Business	Tina Thapa	Ceara Gowans	Lewis Loudon
2	Computer Studies	Tina Thapa	Charlie Deacon	Mya Ellis
3	English	Katie Diciacca	Daniel Evans	Mica McCloud
4	Fowler Art	Tina Thapa	Suyen Thebe Limbu	Holly Hunter
5	French	Caela Welsh	Deeyana Gurung	Harriet Golder
6	Geography		Deeyana Gurung	Ryan Graham
7	Guildry Of Stirling History Prize		Savenaca Golea	
8	History		Holly Hunter	Mya Ellis
9	Mathematics	Tina Thapa	Ceara Gowans	Savenaca Golea
10	Modern Studies		Ceara Gowans	Katelyn Mcconnell
11	Music	Maeghan Clark	Millie Keightley	Ayden Paterson
12	Physical Education	Female – Lilly Leweni	Female – Aaliyah Mccloud	Male – Ayden Paterson
13	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Skylla Craig-Waller	Deeyana Gurung	Mica McCloud
14	Science	Tina Thapa	Finlay Jones	Alfie Walker
15	Social Subjects	Alexia McIlwraith		
16	Spanish	Tina Thapa	Ceara Gowans	Jayden Gregory
17	Technical Studies	Tina Thapa	Deeyana Gurung	Thomas Moulding

Virtual Grand Day

Prize List – Third Year - 2020

		Attainment			Attainment
1	Biology	Samuel MacPherson	13	Modern Studies	Chanell Parker
2	Business Management	Rachael Brown	14	Music	Ellie Robinson
3	Chemistry	Lexine McCappin	15	Physical Education	Euan Lee
4	Computer Science	Ellie Robinson	16	Physics	Benjamin Main
5	Design & Manufacture	Alexander Skinner	17	PDD – Dancing	Katie Wilson
6	English	Lucy McMorran	18	PDD - Drumming	Charlie Scott
7	Fowler Art Prize	Madison Bailes	19	PDD - Piping	Lexine McCappin
8	French	Sasha Walker	20	Practical Woodworking	Alexander Skinner
9	Geography	Euan Lee	21	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Daniel Rae
10	Guildry Of Stirling History Prize	Leon Gregory	22	Spanish	Elliot Jones
11	History	Euan Lee	23	Sports Leader	Lilly-Grace Methven
12	Mathematics	Lexine McCappin			

2020 Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

		S4	S5/6
1	Art	Gabrielle Glass	Yancy Gurung
2	Applications Of Mathematics	Keira Cole	
3	Biology	Grace Hutchinson	Rebecca Anderson
4	Business Management	Merewalesi Seru	Pratistha Khawas
5	Chemistry	Aidan Horsburgh	Pratistha Khawas
6	Computer Science	Grace Hutchinson	Pratistha Khawas
7	Cyber Security		Mollie Alexander
8	Design & Manufacture	Aidan Horsburgh	
9	English	Grace Hutchinson	Pratistha Khawas
10	Enterprise & Employability		Lewis Gibson
11	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Simoon Pun	Hollie Scott
12	Geography	Rio Gregory	Rebecca Anderson
13	Graphic Communication		Marcus Wakefield
14	Guildry Of Stirling History Prize	Aidan Horsburgh & Merewalesi Seru	Gabrielle Codd
15	History	Grace Hutchinson	Hollie Scott
17	Mathematics	Gabrielle Glass	Pratistha Khawas
18	Media		Shauney-Lee Young
19	Modern Studies	Eilidh Paterson	Eleanor Codd
20	Music	Grace Hutchinson	Christian McBrearty
21	Photography	Eilidh Paterson	
22	Physical Education	Subhaashish Gurung	Olivia Oatley
23	Physics	Gabrielle Glass	Christopher Skinner
24	Practical Metalworking	Joe Ruickbie	Lewis Campbell
25	Practical Woodworking		Anna MacPherson
26	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Leah Wight	Eleanor Codd
27	Spanish	Freya Bolgere	
28	Sports Leader	Joseph Long	
29	Williamson Salver For Girls		Rhaea Clark
30	HMC Centenary Quaich		Christian McBrearty
31	Dux Medal		Mackenzie Berry

Social Distancing

The New Normal

Who would've thought that after all these years of humanity, 2020 was the year everything would go wrong? Let's just think quickly back to what has happened since we welcomed the new decade in with style. In January we had the horrible events of Australia's fires. Then the threat of WW3 in February and now this, which has been the most tragic of all!

The day COVID-19 was reported in the UK no one worried, we didn't do anything, nothing changed to our lifestyle, less than two months later we are staying at home with the highest death toll in Europe. How did this happen? Were we not careful enough? Did we take it as a joke at first? We have seen the consequences of this disease and the measures to try and stop it from spreading further. The first step was cancelling exams in England, soon later Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland followed suit. It's strange how we have been home for so long, don't you think? You watch the BBC news every night and you hear about the number of deaths around the world and you have to take a minute to realise "Wow this is really happening!"

Two months ago, I was allowed to do whatever I wanted, now there are restrictions. I am not allowed to pop out whenever I like, I have been confined to the luxury of my home. Friends and family, we haven't seen for weeks, you forget what everyone looks like. Zoom quizzes become the new normal- who would've thought that the capital of Australia wasn't Sydney! You exercise more regularly than ever as this is the only thing that gets you out of the house on a daily basis. Masks are becoming increasingly popular because they make people feel protected! People are scared of contracting the virus, and they should be, no one knows how hard they will be hit by the coronavirus.

Social distancing was another measure used to stop the risk of the pandemic. You now have to queue to shop for your necessities. People stay 2 metres away everywhere you go, that doesn't stop people from still being friendly and supporting one another. Clapping for carers has become a normal Thursday evening duty. When they need me, I go shopping for the elderly couple who live close by, it is a privilege to help them out. In some ways, people have become kinder and more caring perhaps, because of this pandemic.

I have personally not had any problems with the pandemic. The only time we were really worried was when my little brother Jayden had to go to the hospital because he was special enough to not contract COVID-19 but another infection altogether called 'Mumps' he was really poorly and we were all worried that if he contracted coronavirus during this time it could be potentially dangerous!

It has been difficult -as every sibling can empathise - not to strangle my brothers. Everything they do annoys me but that is life and we move on. Time suddenly has sped up and it feels days are whizzing past- nope that is just weekends- days are still the same. Waking up is a challenge because all you have to do

that day is schoolwork but sometimes, we have got to persevere.

During this lockdown, I have learned to cook. Now that might not sound dangerous to you but anyone who knows me will think it is not such a good idea. I proved everyone wrong though and managed to make my family happy with what I created, and it felt good. Maybe there is a silver lining to this problem after all! Me and my family have also turned on our crazy sides and dressed up as all sorts of things and danced to the YMCA, much to the delight of our Wavell fans. It made us happy, it joined us together with a bond we haven't seen for a long time. We enjoyed it so much; Beyoncé's 'Single Ladies' is next! This is the thing though if you sit behind screens all day long, you shut off from humanity, you will never know what it is like when we are allowed to see our friends and family again. We have kept ourselves busy because frankly, we don't want to be sad or depressed, mooching about like this is the end of the world. We are making the most of the time we spend together!

Frankly, I cannot wait 'till I am allowed to see my family again. Tell them "it's going to be okay!" Hug my grandad again, see my friends. For now, though we need to follow the social distance guidelines, always staying 2 metres away. We need to accept that this is the new normal and it is here to stay for now anyway. Though it's hard to come to grips with, it will be hard if we just throw away the progress we have made. I am also excited to head back to Queen Victoria School, see the teachers that have been teaching us all these months and say "Hi." Simple but filled with so much meaning! Smile at all the juniors coming in to start their own unique journey and never take anything for granted again!

Finally, I would like to say a warm thank you to the NHS, the bin men, the care workers, shop assistants, teachers, and the government. Who have stood by us through it all, they never gave up and they are still fighting. They have all adapted, like us, to the new rules and provided us with the service we need to keep going. We clap for all of you every Thursday. You are the ones that keep us motivated and we couldn't thank you enough! Also, I guess I couldn't miss out Captain Tom Moore, could I? He is inspirational, the work he did to raise money for the NHS was just phenomenal and I am so happy he was there every day never giving up! Just wow!

So, for now, we've got to keep on smiling because the storm will pass and we will meet again! Thank you to everyone who is taking their time to look after us, it doesn't go unnoticed. Social distancing will help us and will become the new normal. So there is one more thing to say: Stay home, protect the NHS, and save lives.

Rio Gregory, S5





Virtual Grand Day



1



2



3



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7



8



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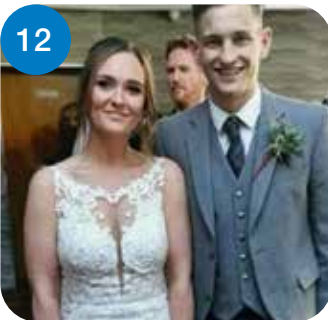
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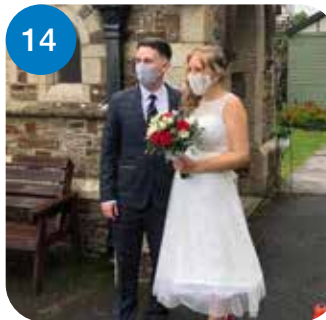
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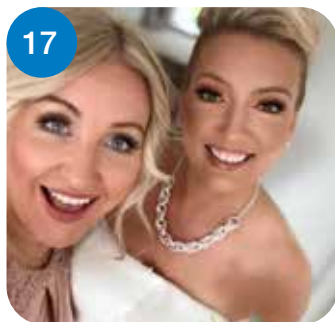


14



15





1. OV Emily McNair continuing her love of PDD at the 2019 Edinburgh Tattoo where she performed as a drummer after maintaining her passion for drumming with the University's OTC.
2. OV Craig Farquharson appears on Sky News showing how the Royal Marines are protecting British shipping in the Gulf.
3. OV Stephanie Ferrier (Craig) and family, returning to QVS with her younger sister who has just enrolled as a Victorian. #DoubleTrouble
4. OVs Ilona Evenden & Stuart Hill meet in Norwich for coffee and reminisces of their times at QVS
5. OV Leanne Bridgeman & new husband Darren celebrating at their Highland wedding in August of this year.
6. OV Louise Kircaldy celebrating being commissioned as an Officer in the Royal Navy, joining the family tradition with father and brother Andrew.
7. OV and former Senior Monitor Jordan Angus marrying, at last, this September after COVID threw a spanner in the works of his wedding plans to his American bride Jaci
8. OV Stuart Mooney celebrates his engagement to fiancée Vicky earlier this year
9. A big day for QVS as three Victorians celebrate passing out as Police Officers at Tulliallan in August of this year. Congratulations to OVs PC Finn Bark PC Alice Quinn & PC Lewis Shaw
10. Congratulations to OV and former Deputy Senior Monitor Cpl Jordan Oatley, RAF Physical Training Instructor and Winner of the Best Practical award for teaching, fitness and sport
11. A few years after leaving QVS and after building a career supporting young people into achieving qualifications and achievements, many congratulations to OV Mhairi Prendergast (Henderson) on achieving her own MSc in Social Enterprise from Stirling University.
12. OV Jordan O'Brien (Cox) celebrating her marriage to Thomas earlier this year and congratulations to them both on their new arrival in 2021 too!
13. Many Congratulations to OV Rebecca Johnson for being awarded a fully-funded PhD studentship on the project of 'Assessing young people's experience of mental health stigma and discrimination' She'll be responsible for designing and validating a measure of how young people experience stigma and discrimination, to be used across the sector.
14. Congratulations to OV Jamie Irving who did not let the COVID measures get in the way of celebrating his marriage this year. The only disappointment here is the mask getting in the way of showcasing his legendary moustache!
15. A double celebration this year for OV Stefani Miller who celebrated her 30th birthday as well as getting engaged to fiancée Heather
16. Well done to OVs from Class of 2003 Alastair Maclellan and Kris Reid who ran the Loch Ness marathon together earlier - still looking fresh at the end, Team QVS
17. Congratulations to OV Fiona Coyle on her marriage in the summer with bestie and fellow Victorian Aimee Orrock (Hoskins) by her side as Bridesmaid
18. Congratulations to OV number 2612 James Kay for compiling and sharing this wonderful record of his time at the school from 1953-1962.
19. Well done to OV Jenna Galloway for hosting a Fundraising Ball for SAMH and raising over a thousand pounds to support Scottish mental health in memory of her wee brother, Jason.
20. Well done to OV Carys Dodd on passing out as part of No 645 course- Douglas Intake. Carys now heads off to undertake Air and Space Operations (Aerospace Systems) specialist training at RAF Shawbury. Lovely to see OV Olivia Williams celebrating alongside her.
21. A massive congratulations to OV Charlotte Barron on her graduation this summer in BA (Hons) Drama and Performance from Queen Margaret University. Hopefully the family business, Mackintosh Gin, means that Char and her sisters will not be short of a fancy cocktail or two to toast her success
22. A great photo from OV Stirling Bell of himself and two of his OV compadres celebrating Oktoberfest 2019 in Germany. I'll bet those outfits brought back memories of your Rookies year in corduroy shorts!
23. Well done to OV and newly qualified PC Vanessa Campbell on passing out this year as a Police Officer in Arbroath.
24. A day to remember when Top Guns Nick Burge and Stuart Ruthven gave the students at QVS an OV flyover and called me up live to give a running commentary.
25. Five OVs rub shoulders after bumping into each other in Sydney for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo - Craig Duncan, Phil Collie, Neil Collie, Lucy McNair and her younger sister Emily too representing a fair bit of QVS PDD talent across the decades.
26. OV and former Senior Monitor Caitlin Yool celebrating being awarded a first-class honours degree in Theology from the University of Aberdeen. Caitlin hopes to take her studies forward and we may even see Dr Yool in time
27. Many congratulations on OV Andy Martin Senior Monitor 2004 on his marriage to Kath last December.
28. Congratulations to OV Zoe Halliday on her wedding to Russell. You can take the bride out of QVS, but you can't take QVS out of the bride. Zoe and her OV retinue entertained the guests with a traditional OV highland dancing display at their wedding and the bride was even piped in by... the bride. A memorable occasion for all and wonderful to see, Zoe.

OVA Obituaries (1960-68):

John (Jack) Lee, School Number 2907, (1960-68), Died: 19th November 2019
 John (Archie) Moore, (1962-68), Died: 11th August 2020
 David Fingland, School Number 2898, (1960-68), Died: 13th October 2020

Jack had a heart attack following health issues for some years, although he was always bright and cheerful whenever we saw him. Archie also had a heart attack while walking on the West Highland Way and David had a stroke 5 years ago and then contracted bowel cancer. Jack's funeral was in January and there were 12 OV's at Guildford for it, from quite literally all over the country; sadly both Archie's (John's) and David's have been during the Covid-19 pandemic and we were unable to attend either. They will all be sadly missed by their families as well as their former classmates.

OV Hamish Grigor 2903

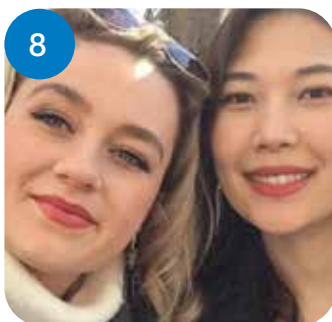
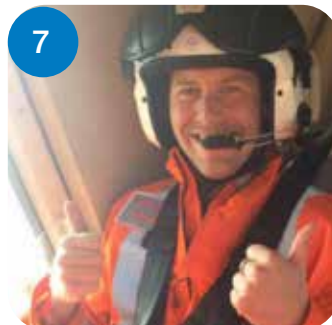
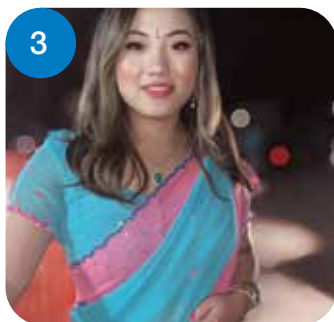
OVA - NHS

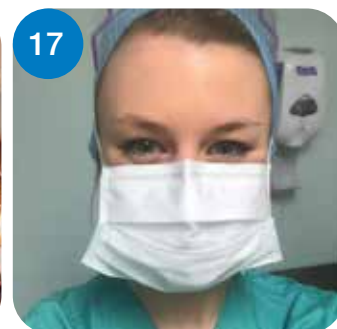
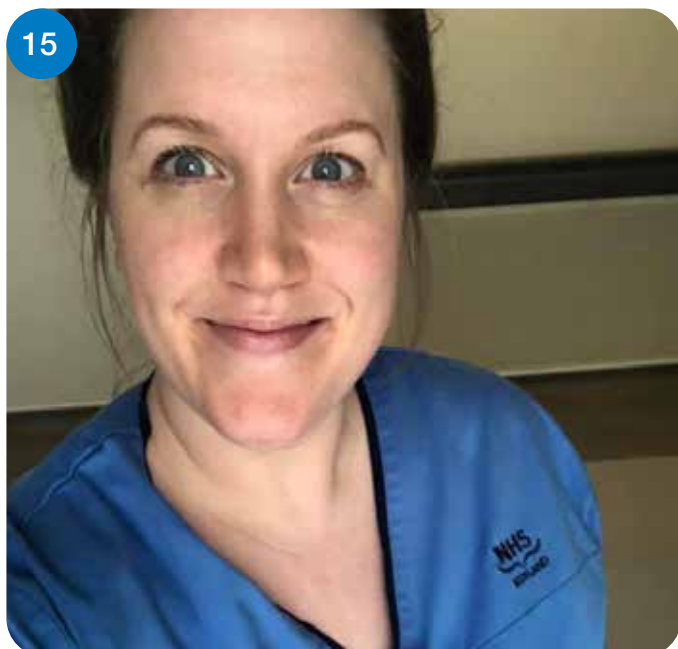
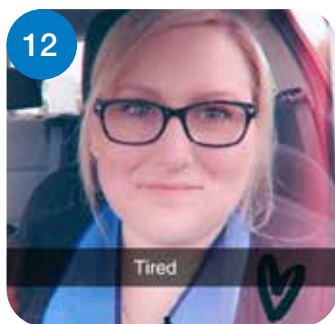
In a year when we have all been celebrating the achievements of our NHS it seemed only right to dedicate this page to the many OVs who have joined the NHS after leaving QVS.

We can't stand and give you the round of applause that you deserve, but this page will stand as a 'virtual' commemoration of all that you have done across these last months when you have been working to protect us from COVID 19.

A huge QVS thank you to our OV NHS Representatives and all the other Victorians & parents of Victorians who have done their bit to protect us this year. #QVSHeroes

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Kirsty Lawson | 10. Alanna King |
| 2. Fiona Gannon | 11. Christine Hinton (Guthrie) |
| 3. Navino Gurung | 12. Gemma Scott |
| 4. Robina Ferguson | 13. Katrina Leith |
| 5. Sarah Harrower & Jamie Lee Read | 14. Jordan O'Brien (Cox) |
| 6. Carly Gray (Macdonald) | 15. Steph Gargan |
| 7. Leigh Bissett | 16. Lindsey Coleman (Maclean) |
| 8. Bishnu Dura & Megan McColl | 17. Caitlin Willis |
| 9. Matthew Lovell | 18. Toni Gunn (Guthrie) |
| | 19. Chloe Swan |







November

It was a dilemma when confronted in October 2019 with the prospect of having to be clean-shaven for the first time in over a year! After much peer pressure from lots of my colleagues, I came to school on the 1st of November bare-faced and feeling rather cold! It was of course for Movember. Movember is a yearly challenge in November where men are sponsored to grow a moustache for the full 30 days. This sponsorship is used to fund issues affecting men's health, specifically, research into prostate and testicular cancer, and work into preventing male suicide.

In addition, there is a 'move it for Movember' challenge, in which participants run 60km over the month, representing the 60 men who take their own life per hour. Every hour. Over 20 staff took part across both challenges - a brilliant commitment showing how meaningful these causes are to the Queen Victoria School community. Due to the generosity of friends, family colleagues and parents - the QV 'Movers and Shavers' group raised an incredible £4000.

This made Queen Victoria School the top fundraising school in Scotland, and top 5 in the UK for Movember. We are all so grateful for your contributions to this fantastic total.

As well as monetary sponsorship, Movember opens up honest conversations about mental health, particularly in young men. Conversations that are challenging but important, and we continue to break down perceived barriers to having these conversations. On Friday the 29th of November, we held our Movember coffee morning, where the 7 'Moustachio Heroes' were judged on their whiskers.

3rd place - Mr Shaw
2nd place - Mr Renwick

And the Moustachio Hero of 2019 was awarded to Mr S Wright!

Movember was a lot of fun for a very good cause. To all our support; whether monetary, retweets or a good laugh at some hideous moustaches. Thank you.





Poppy Bud

This year we were privileged to host Poppy Bud at QVS. Bud is a travelling interactive exhibition space that allows students across the country to hear the poppy story and see exactly how poppies are made as well as trying their hand at producing their own poppies and learn about WW1 history in a very interactive way.

We were very lucky to have two visits from Bud, organised by Mrs Laura O'Neill who is mum to S3 Lily. All of our students from P7 to S3 had the opportunity to visit Bud and try their hand at some of the multimedia learning as well as the practical skills involved in poppy making.

Hearing the huge truck roar up the drive and seeing it come to life generated a great deal of excitement in the student community who all had a great time on board as well as learning about the reasons we wear poppies and how the money raised goes to support our veterans too.

In a school like QVS, we consider it so important for our students to feel connected to their military history and really understand the story behind the poppy. This travelling exhibition space brought the story to life very vividly and made a real impact on the students who got the chance to visit.

It will certainly mean that this year as we move into the season of Remembrance that our younger students will have a much greater understanding of the poppies they wear and the stories behind them as they stand in the chapel for the laying of the wreaths and hear the Flowers o' the Forest play. Thank you so much to the Poppy Bud team for taking the time to bring history to life at QVS and share their story.





Dance

This year has been such an interesting one for us all at QVS, and the dance team was no exception. Normally, we have lots of events or parades to look forward to and prepare for, however, this year had different plans for us all. We missed out on the opportunity to travel to France and perform at the Palace of Versailles, or spending time as a group choreographing and working on our Grand Day Dance. It was a hard blow for the department and now that we are all back at school, hopefully, it won't be too long before we are gearing up for these kinds of events once again.

As an instructor of a practical subject like Highland Dancing, trying to get my head around online learning and how I could continue to teach in a meaningful way without actually having any pupils in front of me was really challenging. I was forced to adapt to the situation and embrace technology - anyone that knows me will know just how hard that was - I am not the most switched on with all things tech. However, once I had my Google Classroom set up things seemed to just go from there and I enjoyed making new lesson plans for the pupils to enjoy from home. Reluctantly I created a YouTube channel for everyone at home to access, I am sure, if anything, the pupils had a good giggle at my lack of camera presence or at Marvel the pup constantly trying to steal the limelight.

The one thing that really touched during lockdown was just how amazing my pupils are. Despite the fact that things were drastically different and that we were each experiencing lockdown in different ways, they all engaged with online learning in ways that I never expected. Each and every one of the dancers made me feel so proud to be their instructor and to see the dedication

and progress that was made during such challenging times is absolutely fantastic. I want to say thank you for all of your hard work.

I also want to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to the S5/6 leavers who never got the opportunity to step off the field for the very last time on Grand day. To Rhaea Clark, Amber Goodall and Caitlin Smith, the dance team wishes you every success in the future.

Mrs Landsburgh, Highland Dancing Instructor

This Year In Dance

Katie Wilson S4

"Dancing this year has been a very interesting experience for me and a lot of other dancers. It's been very weird because when I dance at home it doesn't feel the same as it does at school, I felt like I needed a teacher there to correct me or give me advice on what to do but obviously, I just had myself and I'm not the best at giving advice to myself. It was also weird because you're so used to being with other people going over dances but instead, you are by yourself trying to motivate yourself to jump higher or put your arms straighter, and to be honest for me that just doesn't work. I think it is a lot harder to actually get myself up and dance whereas at school you have to go after school and do it because you have your teacher there. Overall, it was definitely very weird and different but it was a fun experience."



Becca Holliday S3

"Dancing in lockdown was a challenge in some aspects. For me personally, it was harder not getting corrections and the help you would need. I did enjoy getting to see what I was capable of doing as Mrs Landsburgh sent challenges to our classroom like create a dance in any style or learn some dances on YouTube. It was a shame not getting to dance on Grand Day and not being able to get ready for the parade. It was nice as the week before school finished Mrs Landsburgh set up a meeting for our class to have a chat about what will happen in our course as we come back and just a small catch up before the summer began. I am so glad to be back at school after a long few months and I can't wait for this year."

Dancing During Lockdown

Olivia Brash S3

"During the lockdown, dancing was hard to do. On days that we could go onto Microsoft Teams, we went over our dances and tried to learn a new one. This was really fun but also really difficult because we could all see Mrs Landsburgh but she could not see us. Most of the S2 dancers practised dancing during the lockdown and when Mrs Landsburgh made a YouTube channel it helped us go over our dances when we couldn't have lessons in person. Overall, I found dancing quite challenging but we managed to practice and learn as much as we could."

Lilly Leweni S3

"So, throughout lockdown, we learned a lot of things in dancing, although it was hard, we still did loads. Every week Mrs Landsburgh would set a task on Google Classroom and we could also use the YouTube channel that the teacher made. I found this really helpful. One week we were learning a new dance and used the Microsoft Teams app to call and we could see Mrs Landsburgh but unfortunately, she couldn't see us. We still managed to learn loads and make improvements during lockdown and the good thing was that we had loads more time to practice."

Katie Meikle S3

"Dancing during lockdown sounded hard at first but as home learning went on it became easier. At the start of lockdown, the dances were fresh in my head and Mrs Landsburgh was sending us technique videos online. Mrs Landsburgh was also recommending some fun dance events that were also online with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. Once we had gotten further into lockdown, we were still getting involved with our dancing by creating a Virtual Grand Day video. Overall, I have really missed dancing and can't wait to get back into it!"



QVS Interact

The MAD Group were involved in a vast number of events this year that contributed to integrating pupils from QVS into the wider community.

Our volunteers worked really hard to help people of all ages whether it be in the Dunblane Centre supporting the youth club, or the Memory Café where individuals worked with the more elderly members of our community. We continued to work with the Rotary Club on a regular basis.

We had some of our pupils selling ducks for the annual duck race in Dunblane – this activity seemed popular among some of our more senior pupils who got to dress up as a giant duck and be the mascot for the day. The annual shoebox appeal was a roaring success in which a large number of pupils donated gifts for families in Eastern Europe before we had our Christmas Break. And of course, we hosted the largest event in our calendar – The Winter Treat.

This was an opportunity to enjoy the company of our elderly community as we provided entertainment, music, refreshments, and chatter. A special mention must go to our excellent Highland

Dancers who were definitely the favourite act of the night (after the raffle, of course) who not only danced but also served refreshments to our guests. The Pipes and Drums also provided excellently rousing musical support during the interval – A big well done to those musicians that also gave up their time.

Sadly, as we all know, our school year was cut short. This meant that we were unable to complete all of the fundraising activities the committee had planned for the summer term which was really disappointing for those of us who look forward to these events all year.

Despite this, I am certain that the MAD Group and the President for 2020-21 will continue to develop and strengthen the relationship with our chosen charities, as well as forge new allegiances with other charities in our community. Good luck!

Christian L R McBrearty, Interact President





RCET Conference

Visit From Abrilli Phillip DCYP

Visit From Governor
Edinburgh Castle
Alastair Bruce

QVS Making Connections

Even though this year was shortened by COVID-19, we still managed to fit in some time to connect with the military community and host some visitors at QVS which is one of the things that our students really enjoy doing as a team.

Pipers, Drummers, and Dancers from QVS represented the school at the annual RCET Conference. The Royal Caledonian Education Trust supports military families across Scotland and it was great to connect with other communities as well as see what they are doing to support military families in innovative ways. It is great to continue to have a strong connection with RCET and work with them on developing our Youth Voice community here at QVS.

Earlier this year, we hosted Abrilli Phillip the Chief Education Officer within DCYP MOD Schools who had her very first visit to QVS. Abrilli was hosted by our senior students and got the chance to have a tour of the school as well as sit down and

chat with them about life at QVS. Ms Phillip left with a sense of the busy life of the school and how much our students love entertaining guests to the school and showing them life at QVS from a student's perspective. We hope that Abrilli enjoyed her first visit to QVS and look forward to hosting her again in the future.

Our final visit here was from Major General Alastair Bruce, who is the current Governor of Edinburgh Castle as well as SKY Royal Correspondent and an advisor on TV's Downton Abbey. S6 students Sophie and Charlie gave Alastair a tour of QVS including our Centenary garden, Colours Room, and Band hut where he got a pupils-eye insight into QVS life. We must have made a good impression, as Alastair was keen to return virtually to deliver a memorable speech at our Virtual Grand Day where he reminded our students to look at the school badge in an original way and think about what they stand for as people as they look to their own futures. We look forward to another visit from Alastair once things have returned to normal at QVS.



Dig for Victory

In January of 2020, the HMC General Purposes Committee agreed on funding to support the setup of a school veg garden on-site, situated on the grass on Nason Avenue. Within the month we had taken delivery of our brand new 12x25ft polytunnel and the timber for the construction of four raised beds.

Work started immediately to build the structure of the tunnel and I received great support from one of our gap year students, Matthew. We began by meticulously measuring out the location of the twelve anchor plate holes which ultimately would secure the hoops of the structure into the ground. After digging out twelve 2ft2 holes of mud and rubble we were able to secure the anchor plates in the ground with concrete and backfill the holes ready to attach the hoops and supporting brackets – all in the bleakness of February!

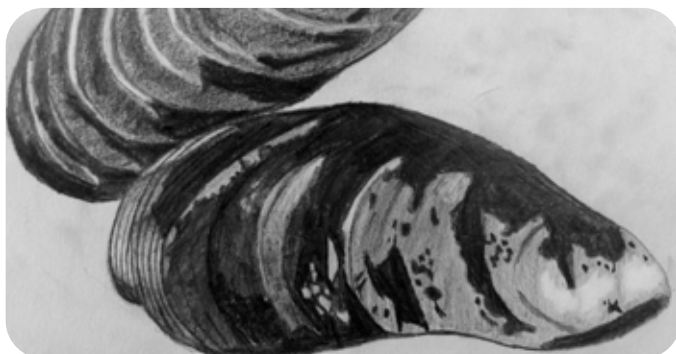
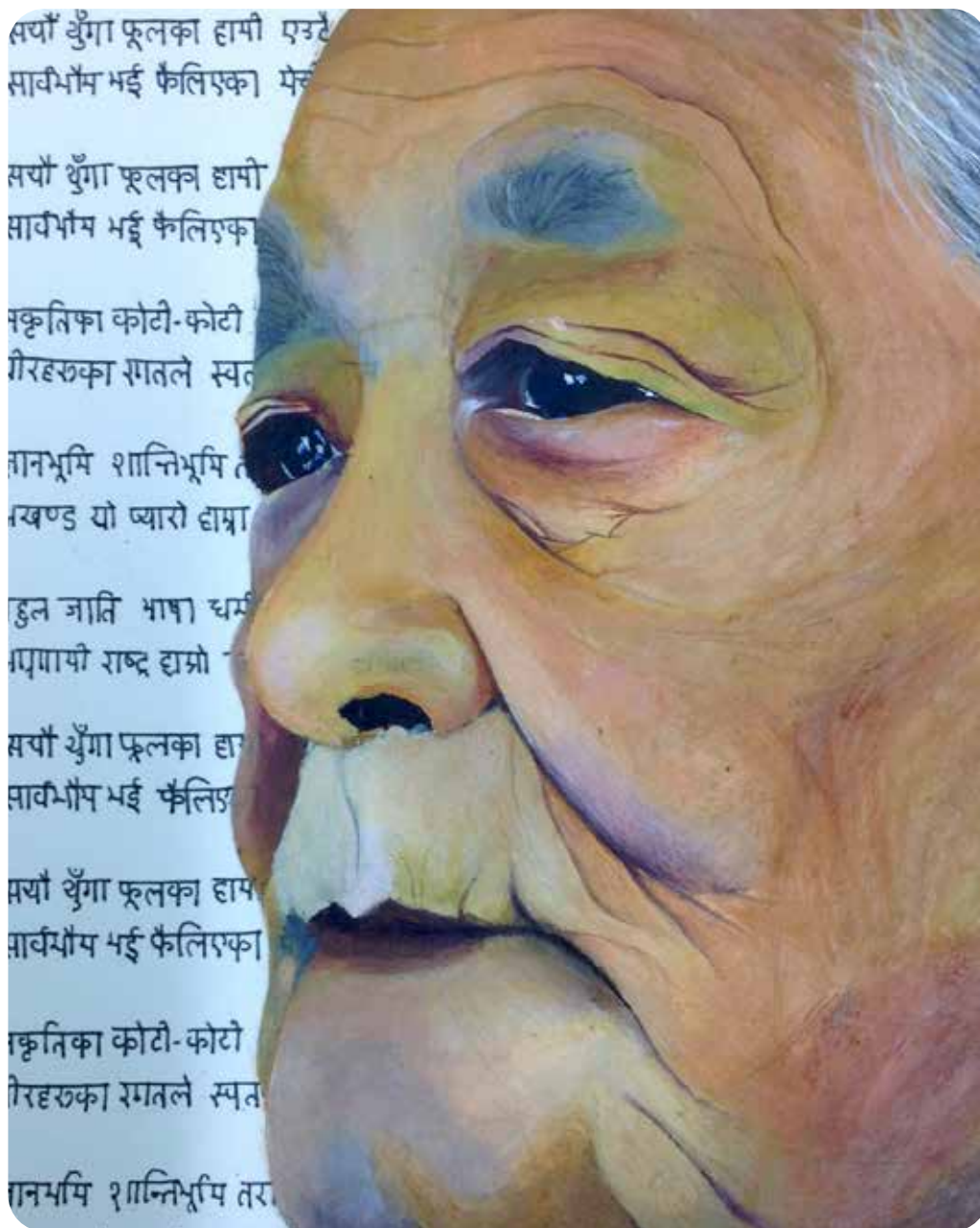
The initial plan was that I would construct the polytunnel in the spring term and have this completed for the return to school after the Easter break so we could get growing. Alas... COVID-19 struck!

The country was put on lockdown and the weeks and months started rolling in. I did manage to return to school during the summer and, with help from Mr Warner, get the hoop structures, timber doors, and door frames erected. When the pupils returned in August, the garden gang got back together to build the raised beds. The pupils had great fun doing this task – I wonder if they'll have as much fun filling them with the 12 tonnes of soil and compost over the upcoming winter term?

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has helped get this project off the ground, with a special thanks to Mr Warner for offering his time after work and during his leave to help with the build. Likewise, to the pupils – Alfie Walker, Cameron McFadden, Daniel Evans, Darcey Clark, Deeyana Gurung, Holly Hunter, Jayden Gregory, Kasey Dickinson, Millie Keightley, Thomas Costello and Thomas Moulding - who are patiently waiting to eventually get dirt under their nails. You're contributing to the making of something which will go on for decades and be used by many Victorians to come.

Mr S Renwick, Teacher of Chemistry and Biology









Class of 2020

This year's leavers had an unexpected ending to their final year at QVS when we closed earlier in March due to the national lockdown. After seven years together, our 16 S6 spent their last days as Victorians at home, rather than perfecting their drill on the field or celebrating Prom in their finery.

They couldn't even get a group photo for their yearbook, so here they are in a collage tribute to Sgt Peppers and in their final photo all together at First Shop for their last visit. We wish all of our leavers good luck and success in the future and thank them all for the many ways they have contributed to life at QVS over the last seven years.





Class of 2020 - Prom





Victorian Awards

Over the last few years, we have been working on developing a bespoke system in order to recognise the wider achievement of our Senior Students. The Victorian Awards have been developed in partnership with our students and track their achievements across a wide range of disciplines from Digital Citizenship to Volunteering and taking responsibility for whole school Wellbeing and Learning initiatives.

We were delighted when the OVA offered to sponsor these awards and present a stunning silver Quaich to the winners of these Victorian Awards at Old Victorians' weekend.

The Awards begin in S4 with the Bronze Award, presented to students who gain achievements in 3 challenges, S5 and S6 undertake 5 and 7 challenges as part of the Silver and Gold Awards respectively and S6 students who complete all 9 challenges are eligible to apply for the Victorian Award which recognises excellence across all nine of the designated areas of the challenge.

Our inaugural awards were presented to four S6 students: Shristi Gurung, Molly Horne, Christian McBrearty, and Sophie Murphy who have taken an active role in the wider life of the school in an astonishing range of areas and definitely represent the QVS Values in action.

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The four winners attended the Old Victorians AGM and spoke to the OVs present about their wider achievements which ranged from appearing at the Nanchang International Military Tattoo to setting up Maths Coaching sessions to tutor younger students, training all S3-S6 as Dementia friends, trekking for 28 days in Mongolia and achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as organising ceilidhs for their peers, volunteering for Poppy Scotland and celebrating the OV contribution to WW1 through remembering our fallen at the Centenary of the Great War.

All four very deserving winners were presented with their Quaich from our Inspecting Officer and Old Victorian, Captain A J Murdoch, who spoke warmly about the lifelong benefits of the skills we develop outwith the classroom and how delighted he was to see the school recognise the range of skills which are developed at QVS through our students' diverse array of wider achievements.

We look forward to this presentation becoming an annual event and congratulate the four winners from 2020 who have really set the standard for the award in years to come.

Staff List

Senior Leadership Team:

Head	D Shaw BSc (Hons) PGCE
Depute Head (Academic)	J F Scott Laing BEd (Hons)
Depute Head (P&G)	S J Adams BSc (Hons) PGCE
Depute Head (PS)	J Adams MA (Hons) PGCE
School Business Manager	S N Cunningham AdvDipBFM (CIPFA)

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Wavell	R L Appleyard BA (Hons) PGCE
Haig	R M H Boyd BD (Hons) PGCE DipTh
Cunningham	D J Pitman BEd From Jan 2020
Cunningham Acting	A M Kirk MA (Hons) DipEdTech PGCE August to Dec 2019
Trenchard	D H MacKay BEd (Hons)

Principal Teachers:

V Adams BEd (Hons)
 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 PGDSLMDipEd
 A M Kirk MA (Hons) DipEdTech PGCE
 J S Lawrence BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
 C McBlain BSc DipEd
 D McLay BEd (Hons)
 K L Rodger MA (Hons) MSc PGCE
 L Sherriff BEd (Hons) PGCE
 R C Wright BA PGCE
 K Taylor BA PGDE

Teachers:

R L Appleyard BA (Hons) PGCE
 R M H Boyd BD (Hons) PGCE DipTh
 A Bryce BSc (Hons) MSc PGDE
 A Christmas MA (Hons)
 K Duffy BA
 A Duncan MA (Hons) PGDE
 K Elliott BEd (Hons)
 S A M Hastie BEd (Hons) PGCE
 S Humble BSc (Hons) PGCE
 S C B Johns DipEd
 G Johnstone BSc (Hons) PGCE
 S Leitch MA PGDE
 D H MacKay BEd (Hons)
 L MacLeod BA (Hons) PGDE
 L McGeechan BSc PGDE
 S L O'Neill BA (Hons) PE
 D J Pitman BEd
 S W Renwick BSc (Hons) PE
 T McP Shannon RD HNDMEchEngDipTechEdn
 C-A Taylor BSc (Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGC in SFL
 S Wright BSc (Hons)

Ceremonial:

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

Visiting Music Teachers:

C Buchanan	F Henderson	J Thewlis
H Vigners I Hood	G Spowart	V Lopez
R Digney	T Barrett	J Van Der Zwet
M MacSporran		

House Matrons:

Wavell	M C Sword
Haig Acting	K McVey
Cunningham	C Pitman (From Jan 2020)
Trenchard	H A Devlin

Housekeepers:

D McIntosh	L Henderson	M del C O'Neill
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Medical Centre:

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

Foreign Language Assistant:

Laura Arteaga Álvarez

Overseas House Assistants ('GAP' Students):

M Leishman	G Komene	C Campbell
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Business Management:

Resources Manager	K Lawrie BA(Hons) From April 20
Resources Manager Acting	I M Mair MAAT From March 19 to April 20
Deputy Resources Manager	I M Mair MAAT
Deputy Resources Manager (Acting)	M Symon From March 19 to April 20
Facilities Manager & SSYO	J Robinson
Deputy Facilities Manager & Dep SSYO	C P Rankin
Library & Information Manager	T Thomson
IT Systems Engineer	Vacant

Business Support:

M Symon	B McCluskie	A B Gauld BA(Hons)
A Paddon	A MacFarlane	

Academic Support:

L M Craig	A Nicolson	G R McConnell
L Sprouting BSc(Hons) RsciTech		E Clark BEd
E Mason BA		

Facilities Support:

T Carr (Deceased)	P A Warner	M Brailey
R G MacDougall	R Russell	



Queen Victoria School

Dunblane Perthshire FK15 0JY

Email: qvs.enquiries@modschoools.org

www.qvs.school

