



The Victorian 2022

Queen Victoria School

Contents



3	Vision Statement	36	Maths	74	QVS Photo
4	From the Headmaster	37	Science	76	Life @ QVS
6	From the Senior Monitor	37	Technology	78	Prom Night
7	Chairman of Commissioners	38	English	80	Socials
8	Cunningham House	44	Art	82	John Muir Award
12	Haig House	46	Modern Languages	83	Victorian Award
16	Trenchard House	47	Music	84	Jubilee Celebration
20	Wavell House	48	Social Subjects	88	Class of 2022
24	CCF	51	Primary Department	89	Summitting Everest
25	Duke of Edinburgh Award	56	Sports	90	OVA
26	Ceremonial	68	PDD	94	Retirements, Staff Farewells & Obituaries
28	QVS Interact	71	Developing the Young Workforce	98	Staff
32	Grand Day Prize-Giving	72	Eco-Schools		



Queen Victoria School

Dunblane 1908 – 2022

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.

QVS Values

Positivity, Pride, Excellence, Trust,
Responsibility, Nurture, Integrity, Equality,
Independence, Respect

Educate the Child – Support the Family –
Defend the Nation

Board of Her Majesty's Commissioners

**For The Government of
Queen Victoria School, Dunblane**

Patron

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM GBE

Chairman

Mr A J C Plumtree

Vice Chairman

Mr I K Ritchie FRCSEd (Orth)

Commissioners

The Rt Hon Lady Dorrian QC
Maj Gen A Bruce of Crionaich OBE VR DL
The Rt Hon Dame Anne McGuire DBE
Maj Gen (retd) R B Bruce CBE DSO
Capt (retd) P E Du Vivier RN
Col (retd) A P W Campbell
Gp Capt J G Leggat OBE
Mrs L Hepburn
Mrs K Ritchie OBE
Mrs C L Ford
Mr M T Hopton

Headmaster

Mr D Shaw

Secretary and Treasurer to HM Commissioners

Mr N Cunningham



The Headmaster

Grand Day Message

Thank you to you all for helping us get through the pandemic. Your unwavering support of the school is genuinely appreciated by the whole community. We had the school inspectors in earlier this week – nothing like an inspection in the last week of term to keep you on your toes – and I was telling them about the high levels of support we get from parents – they were super-impressed by the strong community vibe of mutual respect and trust between the school, students and parents. Together, we make the strongest possible team. The inspection was a great success and the report was the most positive I have heard.

This last year saw a steady return to normality until the Easter break and then – wham – we were right back to normal for the summer term – it's been hectic, chaotic and crazy at times this term with everything going on, but it's also been wonderful to see the students experiencing everything that QVS can offer them. It's so difficult to distil everything that's happened into just a few minutes but here goes – I've chosen a few headlines from each month.

August saw the year start well with Aaliyah McCloud winning gold in the U15 Scottish 300m championships in a new championship record. This set the tone for a magnificent year for QVS sport, as you will already know.

In September, our gardeners from Mr Renwick's eco group harvested a fine crop of vegetables, a lot of which went to the local foodbank – QVS students always think of how their actions can help others, a great trait to have. We also had our Duke of Edinburgh groups out in all weathers, under the care of Mr Newham – we had a lot of expeditions to catch up on

after the pandemic but his boundless energy has meant that we are back on track already with 32 awards already and 7 students signed up for Gold next year.

In October, S5 student Lily O'Neil led on QVS becoming a dementia-friendly school – Lily pursued this with vigour and even managed to persuade the whole SLT to become dementia-friendly trained. Lily also became president of the MAD group and has led on a number of initiatives throughout the year. Lily was presented with the Rotary club's Volunteer of the year award just yesterday, a fabulous achievement.

November saw the return of Rugby and hockey fixtures, and as you would expect, there will be more on that later in this summary. We had our Remembrance Parade as a Drum-head service and this unique event was well received by the school community. Later in the month, we were visited by Rich McConnell, an OV and uncle of two current students Kaitlyn and Abbie. Rich climbed Mount Everest and flew the QVS flag at the very top of the world. He returned, gave the students a presentation on his adventure and presented us with the flag and a photo of it (and him) at the highest point on the planet. That's a perfect example of just how much QVS means to its students and ex-students.

In December, the Navy cadets enjoyed a visit to the Clyde and a trip on to the HMS Omagh. The MAD group were out and about around Dunblane with planters full of flowers on behalf of the local rotary club. Those planters were built here by our Technical students and if you ever walk around Dunblane, particularly around Dunblane station, you will see those planters as evidence of our students once again reaching out and supporting the local community.



In January, the McCloud twins were once again getting brilliant athletics results, this time at the Scottish indoors. Mr Stacey was presented with the CCF medal to recognise his terrific contribution to the cadets over the years.

In February, excitement started to rise as both the U18 and U16 rugby teams made their way through the rounds, both qualifying for the national shield finals at Murrayfield. Aminio Bogidrau and Amena Cagesau were also doing wonderfully well and both were called up into the Scotland U18 training squad. QVS also set up our first-ever equality and diversity group within the school to recognise the wide range of young people we cater for. We celebrate every young person in our care equally and this group has a lead role to play in the next few years.

March came and the big event at Murrayfield took place – many of you were there and will remember the excitement and drama of both matches. The U16 had a brilliant victory over North Berwick, winning the national shield, with Sam Leweni winning man of the match. The U18 team were runners-up to Loretto but should still celebrate the wonderful achievement of getting to the final. Let's not forget the hockey team as well – they finished their season strongly with a fine victory at Kilgraston. March also saw our new-style Rookie's parade and that will be the format from now on – March will be the new month for Rookies.

April and May saw our full return to normality. During the Easter break, The Moulding family, including Thomas and Rachel, conquered all 96 miles of the West Highland Way, battling all weathers on a daily basis. A fabulous achievement. Amena played for Scotland in the U18 Six Nations in France, scoring a superb try against Italy. Arran Scott was rewarded for his superb attitude and skills in working with the cadets by being chosen as one of the Lord Leutenants Cadets for the next year. That is being presented today and Arran very much deserves the award. Charlie Scott played with his Dad with the Royal Core of Signals at the Dumfries Tattoo, notable as Dad, Jimmy, is also an OV. A proud moment for both.

The band and dancers seemed to be out on band jobs all the time! They were here, there and everywhere, including Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh Castle, the SECC and most notably, last weekend, they performed at the Youth Jubilee Spectacular – we managed to send out one of our biggest groups of Pipers, Drummers and

Dancers ever – PDD are an exceptionally strong team and a lot of thanks must go to Dance Instructor Mrs Landsburg, Drum Major Mr Peters and new Pipe Major, Mr Lowther. The band are very much the 'face' of QVS and seeing them in all of those events has been tremendous. We've had more athletics success with our relay teams all coming back with medals from the Scottish Schools championships for the first time ever. Also, S5 student Ben Main gained a Bronze in the javelin at those championships. Sports Day closed our athletics season and as you might imagine after hearing about all the success this year, many school records were broken throughout the day.

Added to all of that, we've had success in debating competitions from Meggie Clark and Cameron Welsh, we've had sponsored walks and traditional sports to celebrate the Platinum jubilee, and we've had House parties with Abba mania and Axe throwing (not together) and a brilliant prom for all S5 and S6.

All in all, it's been a fabulous year!

To finish, I'd like to sum up the last year, and particularly the last term with a quote about what makes a good life. A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realise how blessed you are for what you have. Our students have that life – I see those smiles every day, I hear that laughter every day and I hope they feel as blessed as I do to be part of this wonderful school community.

Mr D Shaw

The Senior Monitor



I would like to thank everyone for coming here today and offer a warm welcome to the inspecting Officer, Commissioners, fellow Victorians, OV's, and friends and family.

Queen Victoria School means something to all of us here today, but for all of the leavers, this day marks the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. Most of us have spent the past seven years on this campus following the same routine in the same uniform day in, day out. After today, that all changes. Like me, some of you will be off to University or College in September, others beginning training within the Armed forces and some moving straight onto work or apprenticeships. No matter what we will be doing, I am certain of one thing. That is that Queen Victoria School was the place that made us who we are.

Without this school our lives would undoubtedly be very different, we wouldn't be the positive, proud, trustworthy, responsible, independent and respectful young adults that QV has taught us to be. Some of you may recognise these qualities as the Victorian values, and I believe they outline the true meaning of what it means to be a Victorian, and it also stands us in good stead for the responsible OV's we are going to become. A couple of weeks ago I delivered a reading in chapel about Muhammad Ali's quote "don't count the days, make the days count". I feel I can talk on behalf of all of the leavers when I say our time at QV has flown by, and I think this is because we have made every day here count, rather than counted all of the days.

I joined this school four years ago and have never looked back since that day. I believe that QV has changed me for the better by giving me many opportunities to develop my qualities and personality traits. By opportunities, I do of course mean my international exchange to Canada. Although significant this is far from the only opportunity I have had presented to me. During my four years here I have been led by fellow Victorian Aminio Bogidrau onto the training pitch at Murrayfield to win the plate and into Dam Health Stadium to be runners up in the Scottish Schools Rugby Shield. I have been involved in Scottish Schools volleyball and athletics, been on DofE expeditions, become a dementia friend, and along with my prefect team helped create a more aspirational aspect to Victorian life. Queen Victoria School has presented me with countless chances to become a better and more experienced person which leaves me with an unpayable debt to all of the teachers, staff and fellow Victorians who have been a part of my time here.

I think it is more than acceptable to describe the start of this year as a stall. Just as stalling in your car is a setback that makes you have to return to the basics, so too was having to leave and return to QV meant that I had to return to the basic processes of event organising and leadership. Although this was not an ideal situation, with the team of prefects and Subhaashish by my side, we were able to rise above and beyond the challenge and organise as many socials as possible for the whole school all year round; including a couple of whole school activity days. To call the role of Senior Monitor impossible without the help of the Deputy Senior Monitor would be an understatement. Subhaashish is one of the most driven people I have ever met and I want to give him a special thank you for all of his help and support this year and I wish you all the best in your future. I know you will rock those scrubs when you're a doctor.

I would like to congratulate next year's Senior Monitor, Euan Lee on achieving this position and I would like to advise you not to worry if you don't think you are ready for the role. Just as I did you also have big boots to fill but the whole year will become a learning curve and that's half the fun. The other half of the fun is having the chance to have your influence on the school and leave your legacy behind, for when this day comes for you, you should have no regrets.

Queen Victoria School has become a second home for me not only because of the pupils I have shared my time with but the staff who have helped me throughout my time. As we all know, this is Mr Stacey's last Grand Day and the contribution he has given to this school is immense. Mr Stacey has taught the best part of a thousand Victorians how to perform drill to the highest standard. Although your position will be replaced next year, the character you have become, the influence you have had and the legacy you have created will be irreplaceable. On behalf of all Victorians past and present, I want to thank you for your service and state that you too are a Victorian.

Finally, thank you for the privilege of being Senior Monitor – it is an experience I will treasure forever. I'm honoured to have had the chance to contribute to such a wonderful school. And on behalf of S6, thank you for provisioning us with an excellent education, a loving home and years we will always look back on fondly.

Aidan Horsburgh



Chairman of Commissioners

From where I am sitting I look across the valley to Queen Victoria School. Except for the maturing trees and the 1960's teaching block that view has remained unchanged for the last one hundred and twenty years.

If I look down into the valley, there is the River Allan which, except for a diversion to expedite the construction of the Caledonian Railway line one hundred and seventy years ago, has continued to flow as always, come spate or drought, on route to the sea.

If I look further to the right there is Dunblane Cathedral, built almost one thousand years ago, then ravaged before being reconstructed in 1890. In fact almost everything in sight has a great deal of permanence.

Queen Victoria School itself on the other hand has continued to evolve, change, modify and always struggle to improve over the whole of its one hundred and fourteen years existence. But the operative word is improve.

When our School opened its doors to the first intake of fifty, they were all boys ranging in age from 8-15 years old, one of whose parents were or had been either in the Navy or the Army. It was not until 1932 however that the Royal Warrant was amended to expressly include the sons of Airmen! The next major change in potential intake did not occur until 1996 when girls were admitted. At the time the first forty one girls must have wondered what they had got themselves involved in if contemporary accounts are any guide. Now it is hard to imagine how QVS could ever manage without them.

In the beginning most of the intake were destined for careers in the Armed Services. Schooling was aimed at producing useful teenagers who, with a grounding in a trade, would be easily absorbed into the Army or Navy. In 1914 of the fifty nine boys who left that year, thirty eight went into the Army. In 1920 the Corps of Army Schoolmasters who had provided all of the teaching staff was disbanded and teaching was taken over by the Army Education Corps. At first the Commissioners viewed this as a very positive step as teaching would be more closely aligned with State schools. In fact though little changed and it wasn't until after 1945 that graduate teachers began to make a significant contribution. Throughout the 1950s though, many of the teachers were National Service men and the turnover was therefore high and not conducive to good education. By the mid 1960s, Royal Army Education Corp staff had largely been replaced by civilian graduate teachers, many of whom went onto to make their entire careers with QVS.

At Grand Day 1962 the headmaster reported good academic results with two pupils being accepted for university places. After years of pressure the Commissioners finally succeeded in getting a new teaching facility built and occupied in 1963.

It shows how far the standards of education at our School have improved over the subsequent sixty years that we now expect about 80% of our leavers to go on to university. At Grand Day 2022 I was able to note that three of this year's leavers had gained places at St Andrew's University, currently rated by the Sunday Times as Britain's best university!

Not just in academic terms are we moving ever upwards. Our first XV has produced some first class players in recent years whilst field and track are equally outstanding. All of this being achieved by a school with a roll of about 270 pupils!

The country is though moving into difficult times. We are facing economic pressures the like of which we have not seen for perhaps fifty years. It is quite inevitable that financial pressures to contain costs will affect us as much as any other school or branch of the Military. But it is not inevitable that cost cutting will affect the successes that have been achieved at QVS. Cutting of costs as a result of efficiency savings and alternative better ways of achieving our goals are to be welcomed. The substantial savings to be achieved for instance by using solar power to supply the school's electricity requirements are to be lauded and the new teaching block with better insulation and efficient use of daylight are targets worth achieving. In 2014 the Commissioners first proposed that by increasing the school roll the per capita cost of each pupil's education would decrease and existing assets would be used more effectively. We have continued to promote this potential efficiency saving ever since and it now appears that this proposal too is being viewed with interest. His Majesty's Commissioners are however duty bound to resist any diminution in the quality and diversity of the education that we offer, as our part of the Military Covenant, to the children of our Armed Forces.

Queen Victoria School will move on, and it will improve but it will continue to be Queen Victoria School Dunblane, the school for the sons and daughters of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who are or have served in Scottish Regiments or Service bases in Scotland. The School has in fact become an integral part of the landscape of Perthshire and a safe haven for Service families' children.

In April of 2006 I joined the Board of Her Majesty's Commissioners and in retrospect I had little idea what I was letting myself in for. In 2012 I became Chair of Commissioners and we embarked on several school improvement projects. Some we are achieving or have achieved, some we have for the time being abandoned but not forgotten. Undoubtedly though, the new teaching block when finished in three or so years time will be a major step in the right direction.

Like most pieces of military equipment I have now come to the point when I have served my time and need to be decommissioned. I have been enormously lucky throughout to have the support and encouragement from a group of Commissioners who have been, and will continue to be, determined to achieve the very best for Queen Victoria School. I thank every one of them, both past and present, for that support. My successor Mr. Ian Ritchie will I know be a worthy Chair of the Board of His Majesty's Commissioners and I commend him to you.

Fare well Victorians and Take Care.

Alan J. C. Plmtree



Cunningham House



What a refreshing way to begin this editorial – to be able to happily announce that the last year has seen the house, and indeed its occupants, return to a large degree of normality! The past year certainly didn't present itself without any challenges, but they were all very manageable, and the best part of it all was that we were all able to be in residence! COVID was still the “hot-word” of the year, but as we sailed towards the second half of the year we managed to, on the whole, avoid the dreaded word – and indeed all the negative elements that were associated with it.

Being able to see academic year through, in its entirety, was a thrilling experience! Small things that were taken for granted before; spending time in the Common Rooms, eating in whole school year groups, playing gaming consoles with others in your room... these are some of the things that were able to return, things that aren't taken for granted anymore.

At the beginning of the academic year, I like to choose a “theme” to theme the year around, this last one was that of “Growth”. Perhaps the most rewarding part, for me, of being a Housemaster is being able to watch my Cunningham Boys grow and mature into well-mannered & mature young men – I am so pleased to have actually witnessed the Cunningham Boys develop in the way that they speak to others, demonstrate impeccable manners, and just care for one another, and ultimately, for everyone around them. I take immense pride in staff members, from around the school, reporting back to me to say that they are so impressed with Cunningham Boys, they are always so well-mannered and genuine!

I keep reminding our boys that we are here, primarily for academic reasons, I would dearly like to see each and every Cunningham Boy reach his full potential in the academic space. I believe that, although we have seen some decent academic results, our boys tend to underperform when it comes to assessments. This is something that myself and the Cunningham Team are constantly working hard towards – instilling an academic culture within the house, first and foremost. The sport, culture, and socialising will

follow naturally. I like to think of myself as a “realist”, I am under no illusion, thinking that our boys will always choose Maths, Science, and English, over Rugby, Football and Basketball. However, I plan on working closely with our boys as we encourage them to do their absolute best in the academic space. If every boy can look me in the eye, and honestly say; “I did my best”, then I will be a happy HoM!

On to more exciting news of the year – our rugby boys, were involved in two Finals at Murrayfield (U16 & the 1st XV) I was incredibly proud to be affiliated with the school on the day of the finals, our boys were absolutely fantastic, on the field and on the stands! A massive congratulation to our U16 boys who won their final, and I was so proud of the way that our U18 boys held their own against a very well organised Loretto outfit. As the late-great Nelson Mandela famously said; “I never lose, I either win, or I learn”. Our Cunningham Boys love their sports & outdoor activities – it is wonderful to see so many of them involved all over the school, taking part in everything that the school has to offer.

This year also saw the launch of the Cunningham Chronicle – The idea behind this publication is to keep the Parents & Guardians of our Cunningham Boys, up to date with the day-to-day doings of their boys. I envisage this initiative enabling parents and the greater Cunningham Family to catch a glimpse into the lives of our boys whilst they are away at school. I think of it as a 21st Century newsletter, an evolving and real-time update, straight out of Cunningham House. It is within the Cunningham Chronicle that you will find Cunningham House related information; meet the team, have a look at the house notice boards, browse through our photographs from house events, see what events are coming up, hear from the Boys themselves, check weekend team lists, get updates from the Housemaster, and much more! You can even get yourself acquainted with the Cunningham House ethos, which promotes respect and taking responsibility for one's actions.



The Tutors and house staff were fantastic in ensuring that they provided opportunities for our boys to socialise with one another throughout the year, and along with that came many movie evenings, take-away runs, and various other exciting social opportunities, for the whole house – some that stood out was the return of the Cunningham Burns Supper, the Holi Festival, Halloween & a fantastic Christmas party, which included reptiles and owls!

As I conclude, I would like to thank the Cunningham staff team, who continuously give their all to the greater cause, which is ensuring that we create a safe, home-away-from-home for our boys, Cunningham could not function without your crucial input, I thank you on behalf of the boys, and Myself. We are incredibly sad to say farewell to Mr Stuart Wright, who has been a committed and caring member of the Cunningham Team, in his capacity as D HoM. Mr Wright is leaving us to take up an opportunity, as House Parent, at the prestigious Gordonstoun School. We wish Mr Wright all the very best, and we look forward to inviting him back to join us at important Cunningham events in the future. I wish our S6 Leavers all the best with their futures outside of Cunningham House, and Queen Victoria School, I hope that they go out into the “big bad world” and remember their Cunningham Ethos – I have no doubt that you will all be successful in whatever it is that you choose to pursue.

I look forward to welcoming the new school year in August, and with that, a crop of new Cunningham Boys!

Nulli Secundus – Second to None

Mr Pitman, Housemaster





Haig House



“The Haig clan motto, ‘Tyde What May’, seemed to be very appropriate for the experiences which life had thrown at us over the past two years. Emerging back to some degree of normality in August, only to be returned home within a few days may have given us a stilted start to the year, but we have certainly remained true to our motto and returned to continue to move forward from strength to strength, overcoming the initial hurdle to complete the year in our customary celebratory style.

In August our new nine first years transitioned well into the senior house, and have been a source of laughter and fun throughout the year. The welcoming Beetle Drive, Halloween party and all socials in between have seen them throw themselves into what it truly means to be a member of the Haig Community – someone who embraces the best of life, works strongly as a team member and shows an immense understanding, empathy and consideration for others.

Over the year we have seen each member of the house grow and develop, some moving readily out of their comfort zones to try something new; speaking at the Burns Supper, or to adopting the responsibility of House Prefect roles and others, taking on leadership roles within the house. As the year has moved through the rhythm of the seasons, so too has each year group has enjoyed the social aspect of boarding life, with all participating in their socials. S5 students honed their skills as the super sleuths solving the Murder Mystery, with the S2 embracing the teamwork of making the first Haig Guy Fawkes. Working harmoniously they fashioned a rather handsome Guy who decorated the wall of the main corridor – much fun was had on the night, as they gathered around the table, paint brushes in hand!

My thanks go to the staff who created the successful Halloween Party, and to those who, in customary dressing-up mode, graced the Christmas party. I cannot wait for the Summer Party to see who on the staff is closest to either Sandy or Danny from Grease!

There have been some staff changes this year. In March we said farewell to Ali, our Housekeeper. Ali may only have been with us for some eighteen months, but in a short time, she had won the hearts of the boys, all of whom were sorry to see her go. In March Ms Taylor stepped down from the role of A HoM. We are grateful to Ms Taylor for her dedication to Haig and are delighted that she remains in the house as a tutor. Matron has stepped up into the acting AHoM role and effortlessly has quietly placed herself at the heart of house life – we are so fortunate to have Maxine as our Matron – in the words of the boys, “she is the best Matron we have ever had”. Mr Mair has moved temporarily to Cunningham, after many years in Haig – we hope to see him return to us soon. However, we would like to thank Mr Mair for many years of sterling work in Haig House; his conversation, interest in each member and willingness to step up where required are to be commended and certainly do not go unnoticed.

This year, we have been fortunate to have had a wonderful bunch of young men at the helm of the good ship Haih. The Super Seven have always been a strong and cohesive group and this year they have shone through in every way. I would like to pay tribute to Samik, Subhaashish, Joe, Roman, Michael, Amena and William. As S6 leaders in the house, they have attended and supported every house event, organised an easter egg challenge, created the perfect Halloween party, thrown themselves into support roles and in so many ways have simply been there for the younger boys in the house. I could not have asked for more from the present S6, and wish them well, on behalf of the boys and staff for their future endeavours. Please come back to see us and keep us up to date with your many achievements.





Samik, as Head of House, has certainly held standards high, liaising between staff and students and working with me in creating a reflective role on “how we best promote ourselves”.

This has certainly been an interesting year; the year of emergence from the storm? We have navigated some choppy waters, but with the students behind us, have certainly ended the voyage of this academic year in safe harbours.

It has been a pleasure to work at the heart of such a group of wonderful students. May you all have a fantastic summer, returning in August for a new chapter, new challenges and the best of boarding life.

Mr Boyd, Housemaster





Trenchard House



Well thank goodness that boarding house protocols and COVID restrictions have finally left us! I'm sure there is not a single housemate who will miss the early morning LFT testing, mandatory use of facemasks, or even the designated dining room seating plan. More importantly, parents can now breathe a sigh of relief, safe in the knowledge that homeschooling, and Joe Wicks are horrible memories from the past, as is living in fear of the dreaded phone call from the Housemaster requesting your child be collected having provided a positive LFT. Gone are the mandatory COVID acronyms, and phrases including; isolation rooms, circuit breakers, PPE, LFTs, AIRs, SARS, WHO, pandemics, endemic baselines, epidemics, incubation periods, remote learning, blended classes, track and trace, transition rates, droplets, asymptomatic carriers, social distancing, self-isolation, vaccines, the list goes on and on. Finally, we have returned to more recognisable normality here at QVS, particularly in the boarding houses.

Despite the obvious challenges over the last two years, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the Trenchard staff who have fought so hard to retain the essence of Trenchard Boarding house throughout COVID, and worked tirelessly to keep our small but vibrant community safe and happy. As always, I have been fortunate to work with an enthusiastic and dedicated team of tutors who are committed and passionate about laying the foundations of life in boarding, and creating an environment where the children do more than survive, but thrive. More importantly, thank you to our children who have endured such disruption to their young lives over the past two years but who have shown resilience and resolve to just get on with things despite the challenges.

Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Devlin, Heather, Matron, in her role as Assistant Housemistress (AHoM). Happily for us, Heather has been institutionalised over the past three-plus decades and is scared to leave the QVS campus (her words not mine). Honestly, I'm not sure when she last passed through the main gates and ventured out into the big, bad world. But, every cloud has a silver lining as they say, and our silver lining is that Heather remains firmly in place as the Trenchard Junior Boarding House Matron. Thank goodness, because if it were left to me, the children would not look as smart on parade, and I'd probably have to insist that any child with long hair shaves it off before inspection.

Saddened by Heather's departure from her promoted role, but excited by two new appointments over the past year, Mr Dave Gilhooly returned to Trenchard House back in October 2022. Mr Gilhooly exemplifies the characteristics required to carry out the role of Depute Housemaster. Despite me initially thinking that Mr Gilhooly's note of interest in the Trenchard Depute post was a prank, Dave has stepped into the DHoM role with ease, never looking back. His vast experience of working in boarding throughout his time at QVS has provided me and the Trenchard tutors with dedication, support, and humor over the year, often working well beyond his remit, going the extra mile for the staff and children in his care. Thank you so much for everything you have done this year Mr Gilhooly. Long may you live and prosper, because sometimes I worry about you missing your beloved trips to Park Head.

Mr Paul Warner joined us as AHoM at the end of the term. Again, Trenchard benefits greatly from Paul's vast experience as a tutor in the boarding houses over many years. Paul has already demonstrated his commitment to Trenchard throughout the years as a tutor, whilst completing many thankless tasks and fulfilling numerous roles behind the scene. Moreover, Paul has an impressive work ethic and energy, something which will definitely be called upon whilst working in the junior boarding house. Good luck in the months and years ahead Paul.





As another set of seniors prepares to depart, we can look back at their time in Trenchard and QVS with fond memories, despite the obvious mix of emotions that will accompany their impending final Grand Day. Rio Gregory, Gaby Glass, Megan Clarke, Freya Bolgere, and Rachel Brown all head off to university after achieving awesome results in their SQA exams. Each one of my seniors have demonstrated enormous commitment to Trenchard over the years, whilst managing to find a healthy balance between studying, volunteering, and their own personal interests. Best of luck girls and keep in touch.

Turning our attention to individual success now, I am so proud to announce Daisy Leweni as this year's Junior House Award winner in recognition of her contribution to boarding. Daisy has been a model housemate and a beacon of excellence throughout the year. She has involved herself in every event and been a massive support to her friends in times of need. She also set the record for the inaugural 'Trenchard Dash', a unique event created to celebrate the last housemate collected at the end of each term, in a time of 34 seconds. Daisy has embodied the values of Trenchard house and has been a credit to her school and her family. As such she has been awarded the House prize for the most outstanding contribution to Trenchard House.

The P7 boys who arrived back in August 2022 head to Haig and Cunningham Boarding Houses hopefully with strong foundations laid for future success in QVS. I am genuinely sad to see them go. Probably aided by it being such a small intake of P7 boys this year, we all formed strong bonds and this cohort of boys truly feel like my surrogate sons. The S1 girls have worked hard to bond as a year group and head up to Wavell, hopefully, equipped to overcome the challenges that they will face in the years to come, thankfully post-COVID. For both year groups, I believe they have been given a great start to life in QVS and offered the best opportunity to develop and grow in an environment that provides nurture with structure. The Trenchard staff and I wish them every success and will watch their progress with interest and pride over the coming years.

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

Nosce Teipsum – Know Thyself

Mr Mackay, Housemaster





Wavell House



The year within Wavell will be remembered by all as one in which we made the transition from being dominated by Covid restrictions, to returning to normal life. Throughout the year, our wonderful S6 team made every effort to make the year a spectacular, innovative and really enjoyable experience. Led by our Head of House, Irena Watson, who was supported by her amazing deputies, Mirren Wood, Grace Hutchinson, McKenzie Smiles and Keira Cole, the team pulled out all of the stops, making the year truly one to remember. The Wavell staff also worked really hard to ensure that the year was one full of activities and events, from tutor trips to weekend sporting activities, movie nights and other bespoke events, all designed to ensure Wavell girls had the most positive experience possible this year.

At the start of the year, pupils were still governed by Covid restrictions and, initially, there was limited access to the outside world, including limited visits to Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh for senior students, and a limited range of house trip venues which we could go to. However, this made it even more important to make the experience of being in Wavell and socialising within the school grounds a very enjoyable experience. One of the key highlights of the year was our Wavell Halloween party, the theme being a Murder Mystery. The evening began with the house being shown a video (made by the S6 and staff) of 'witnesses' discussing the disappearance of Mr Gilhooly, who was then found to have been murdered (our huge thanks go to Mr Gilhooly who was fantastic at playing along to this!). Teams then had to spend the evening investigating what had happened and to look at various 'clues'. The final 'reveal' video in the Chapel was absolutely hilarious, with Jamie Appleyard being identified as the 'killer' in the end!

The S6 were determined to make our Wavell Christmas Party even more spectacular and made plans to have a whole host of animals and birds at the party. As well as taking part in all sorts of team games, Wavell girls were also able to see snakes, spiders (including a tarantula), chickens, ducks, a bearded dragon, guinea pigs and more. S6 had also organised a visit from an owl charity, who brought with them all sorts of big and small owls, some adults and some baby owls. All in all, it was a hugely successful event!

In the Spring and Summer terms, Wavell girls enjoyed going to the Spring Fling and the Prom and the whole school also really enjoyed our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, organised magnificently by Mrs Adams and her team. The street party and lunch were amazing and the girls were treated to a very festive display of dancing at the end by Mr Wright, Miss Christmas, Mrs Rodger, Mrs Crozier, Mr Bryce and Mrs Humble.

Finally, as an apt end to the year, our Wavell S6 team organised a truly legendary Summer Party. The theme was the 1970s and Wavell girls were treated to a truly spectacular live Abba Tribute band, singing all of our Abba favourites, while also teaching our girls some amazing dance moves. In between this, our S6 (with the very able help of Mrs Pitman) had also organised a huge display of inflatable items, including an assault course, a Bungee Run, some Gladiator arenas, and Sumo wrestling suits. Girls were also able to spend time having face painting, glitter tattoos, a photo booth, and even bracelet making. While we have had some superb Wavell parties in the past, I have to say that this was the most memorable party we have ever had in the house and an amazing end to the year!

Also, during the course of this year, we have had some staff changes. Miss Christmas, our amazing Deputy Housemistress, stood down from this role in December 2022. Miss Christmas remains a fantastic Wavell tutor and we were also delighted to welcome Mrs Moir to the Wavell staff team, as our new Wavell Deputy Housemistress, starting in January 2022.



Ms McIntosh has stepped down from being Assistant Housemistress and a Tutor in Wavell, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to her for all of her work with our girls. Ms McIntosh will stay on as our Wavell Housekeeper, so we will still be able to see her every day in the house. We are delighted that Miss Hastie has been appointed as our new Assistant Housemistress in Wavell and will take on this role as well as continuing as Wavell's Pastoral Support Assistant. In terms of Tutors in Wavell, Mr Leitch has stepped down from being a Tutor in the school for the next academic year. We will really miss Mr Leitch, who has been a fantastic support to his tutees and also a wonderful member of our Wavell boarding staff team. We will also welcome two new Tutors next year, Mr Peters (Drummi) and Mr Lowther (Pipey).

Within our new S6 next year, we have appointed Katie Meikle as our new Head of House (she is also our new Deputy Senior Monitor). Katie will do a fantastic job and has already begun organising her team for next year. She will be very ably supported by her team of Wavell Deputies, Isla Dalrymple, Chanell Parker, Megan Diciacca and LG Methven.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thanks to all of the staff, pupils and parents of Wavell who have worked so hard to make this year a success. What a spectacular year it has been!

Miss Appleyard, Housemistress

Wavell Head Of House

Being House Captain this year has been an unreal experience. We started off the year without socials due to Covid restrictions. However, as a team, we worked through it and managed to make an enjoyable environment for the students.

Our first party was a murder mystery night which was a big hit and it was just as much fun organising it as much as it was experiencing it. We also had a very popular Christmas party where we got lots of animals such as owls, snakes, lizards and more. The students got to play with these animals and lots of photos got taken. However, the Summer party tops any house party that Wavell had ever held. We had an Abba tribute band perform which was insane and one of the best experiences we have ever had! Along with our Abba tribute, we also had a huge number of other activities going on such as bracelet making, face painting, glitter tattoos, and many different bouncy castle activities. This year the Wavell staff have also gone above and beyond for the house and we are all extremely grateful to them.

Irena Watson, Wavell Head of House





Combined Cadet Force

Army

It's been a busy busy year for the Army Section. We have welcomed new staff as PI Jennifer Carr and Lt Andrew Mills have joined the team. Lt Mills was a regular artillery WO so comes with a wealth of knowledge and PI Carr is completely new and wondering what she has signed up to! Cadets have had the opportunity to begin to use the Air rifles on our indoor range. Putting into practise the marksmanship principles and learning the techniques of competition shooting – this will help us to take part in competitions throughout the year.

We've been covering the fun of First Aid, learning life-saving skills and treating casualties. This will set us up as we look to take part in the coming year's First Aid competition.

We have had one of our cadets gain the prestigious position of Lord Lieutenant's Cadet. Arran Scott has already started in this position. Accompanying the Lord Lieutenant at functions across Scotland.

Cadets have also been using new technology, using our new drone to test camouflage and concealment.

Some of our cadets are attending Summer Camp. This will see them spend the week at Barry Budden Training Camp taking part in a three-day field exercise.

Promotions

With many more coming in August.

Current Rank	New Rank
Staff Sergeant Arran Scott	RSM (WO1)
Sergeant Robert Cordiner	WO2
Sergeant Cameron Brown	Staff Sergeant
Cadet Boyd Scott	LCpl



Navy

An enthusiastic and motivated group of cadets have made for a really enjoyable year in the CCF RN section. Easing restrictions have opened up a new range of activities which have given cadets a better understanding of Navy life, traditions and adventurous training. The cadet field gun has been wheeled out on several occasions and they have done an excellent job of getting their heads around the drill. There have been opportunities to get out of school and the section enjoyed a field day where they took the helm of the Clyde Fleet tender. Attendance on national courses is growing with staff and cadets participating in Junior Leadership at HMS Scotia and Adventurous Training at Garelochhead Camp. Numbers for next year are encouraging and the emphasis is very much going to be on afloat training.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

It has been a busy year for DofE staff with a significant expedition backlog created by Covid-19. Happily, the pupils rose to the challenge with all S4 & S5 completing their bronze expedition, which for many, was all that remained to complete the award. S5 & S6 completed a practice expedition around the Crieff and Loch Turret area and then enjoyed exceptionally good weather for their qualifying expedition which took place in and around the Loch Lomond National Park and the Trossachs.

In August our new nine first years transitioned well into the senior house, and have been a source of laughter and fun throughout the year. The welcoming Beetle Drive, Halloween party and all socials in between have seen them throw themselves into what it

truly means to be a member of the Haig Community – someone who embraces the best of life, works strongly as a team member and shows an immense understanding, empathy and consideration for others.

Notable Achievements:

- 41 pupils completed their Bronze Expedition
- 11 pupils completed their Silver Expedition
- 23 Bronze Awards Completed
- 7 Silver Awards Completed
- 2 Gold Certificates of Achievement
- A total of 2740kms walked by Pupils on Expedition

As a new year dawns the future continues to look bright for the DofE Award Scheme. Easing restrictions mean a return to traditional expeditions and good numbers of pupils are registering at both Silver and Gold levels.





Ceremonial







QVS Interact





During the past academic year, the MAD Group has been involved in a huge range of diverse charitable events, which has been really fantastic. It has been remarkable to reflect back on the year we've had since coming out of the Covid pandemic and see how many charities and initiatives we have been able to support.

We kicked off the year with our Winter Warmer project – and what a start it was, the Rotary Club were absolutely astounded with the amount of clothes we were able to donate. In fact the charity actually had to stop accepting donations afterwards as we'd donated so many items. This was then closely followed by our Tub2Pub project and our Action In Mind coffee morning.

The aim of UK-wide project Tub2Pub was to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support while trying to reduce waste and it was great to be involved in recycling all those Christmas sweetie tubs. The Action In Mind coffee morning was the first one that we have been able to host since coming out of strict covid rules and regulations. It was amazing to be able to host this event in the middle of Mental Health Awareness Month, jointly with our local mental health charity (AIM) to encourage locals to use the support we have right on our front doorstep. The positive praise and words of encouragement we received from the staff as well as members of the local community after these few events were immense and this definitely encouraged the MAD group to keep building and growing this year.

It was soon time for our now-traditional Christmas Hamper project in partnership with Dementia Friendly Dunblane and the Boys' Brigade. The Christmas Hamper project was again a huge triumph with such an influx of volunteers looking to help the community. After sending out all the hampers successfully, receiving the letters and cards from the elderly recipients was really heartwarming and we were very moved to hear about how much they appreciated and valued our work, along with spreading a bit of Christmas cheer which put smiles on the faces of all of the volunteers involved. Thank you to Alfie Laing who joined us to make a difference in the community.

We also embraced the tradition of sending out our letters of thanks and praise to all of the staff here at QVS, to show how much we appreciate all the hard work and dedication they put into supporting us, week in and week out (even if I did have to go 'round the whole

school in an elf costume...) It was great to put a smile on their face and say a well-deserved thank you

We then kicked off our Spring term with a stream of events such as our Ukraine Appeal, St Mary's Sunday Church Tea and Biscuits, Ooni the Therapist's Visit, LGBTQ+ Awareness Week our annual Dementia Friendly campaign – as well as cheering on the exciting launch of our Equality and Diversity Group

At our Old Victorian and Rookies Parade, we raised hundreds of pounds for those less fortunate in Ukraine, which we then donated alongside Rotary to make an even bigger partnership donation.. Pupils from all senior year groups also attended Sunday Church to give the elderly some much-needed company and a friendly face to interact with.

Our LGBTQ+ events were hosted to show pupils that you can be yourself no matter what and that we are going to support you and encourage you to bring out your true colours. We were very proud to fly the flag for Equality at Pride Month too. This definitely showed the importance of educating younger students and letting everyone know you can be whoever you want to be at QVS.

To end our year of spectacular fundraising and volunteering, the summer term was jam packed with charitable events & awareness raising – we raised money for The Erskine Veterans Charity at our Jubilee Fun day and the Ideal Home Show together with attending the Dunblane Duck Race, Eco-Fest, and hosting our very own #BeeYellow event in support of Strathcarron Hospice.

We have had a phenomenal year of volunteering and fundraising and I cannot wait to see what the next year brings us. QVS MAD Group continues to strive for excellence and maintain relationships with local charities and form new ones with those who need our support or we feel that we have a strong connection with.

It has been so gratifying to see that all the hard work and dedication of the committee and volunteers are paying off. I cannot wait to see what the next year brings us. Thank you to everyone who has played their part this year whether it be big or small – QVS MAD have most definitely made a difference!

Lily O'Neill, MAD Group President 21/22



QVS Interact



www.qvs.school







Grand Day Prize-Giving





Prize List – S3

1	Biology	Tina Thapa	13	Mathematics	Tina Thapa
2	Business Management	Tina Thapa	14	Modern Studies	Tina Thapa
3	Chemistry	Eroni Tuiwaiwai	15	Music	Maeghan Clark
4	Computer Science	Tina Thapa	16	Photography	Maeghan Clark
5	Design & Manufacture	Alexia McIlwraith	17	Physical Education	James Douglas
6	English	Keziah McCappin	18	Physics	Tina Thapa
7	Fowler Art Prize	Casper Jackson	19	Pdd – Drumming	Fraser Winn
8	French	Lilly Leweni	20	Practical Woodworking	Ethan Murphy
9	Geography	Casper Jackson	21	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Keziah McCappin
10	Graphic Communication	Tina Thapa	22	Spanish	Abigail Valemei
11	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Katie Diciacca	23	Sports Leader	Cameron Leonard
12	History	Keziah McCappin			

Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

		S4	S5/6
1	Art	Liberty Brown	Keira Cole
2	Applications of Mathematics	Cameron McFadden	Leah Wight
3	Biology	Ceara Gowans	Lexine McCappin
4	Business Management	Daniel Evans	Alex Skinner
5	Chemistry	Daniel Evans	Lexine McCappin
6	Computer Science	Ceara Gowans	Isla Dalrymple
7	Cyber Security		Sean Melloy
8	Design & Manufacture	Suyen Thebe Limbu	Anju Gaha
9	English	Adyn Camlin	Theophil Natiri
10	Enterprise & Employability		Anju Gaha
11	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French		Sasha Walker
12	Geography	Suyen Thebe-Limbu	Madison Bailes
13	Graphic Communication	Connor McQuat	Charlie Scott
14	Guildry of Stirling Lead Drummer Award		Alex Skinner
15	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Holly Hunter & Elliott Jackson	Rio Gregory
16	History	Ceara Gowans	
17	Laboratory Science	Thomas Costello	
18	Mathematics	Suyen Thebe Limbu	Lexine McCappin
19	Media		Nanda Seru
20	Modern Studies	Eva Rennie	James Mathieson
21	Music	Litia Seru	Leoni Gallagher
22	Photography	Thomas Moulding	
23	Physical Education	Eva Rennie	Benjamin Main
24	Physics	Daniel Evans	Benjamin Main
25	Practical Metalworking		Aidan Horsburgh
26	Practical Woodworking	Connor McQuat	
27	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies		Leoni Gallagher
28	Spanish	Ceara Gowans	Katie Wilson
29	Sport & Recreation	Mica McCloud	
30	Williamson Salver for Girls		Rio Gregory
31	HMC Centenary Quaich		Arran Scott
32	HMC Centenary Quaich		Subhaashish Gurung
33	Dux Medal		Grace Hutchinson

Grand Day Trophies & Awards

1	Cameronian Shield For Piping (For The Best Piper)	Grace Hutchinson
2	Senior Drum Majors Shield (For The Senior Drum Major)	Freya Bolgere
3	Highland Dancing (Highland Dancing Society Of London Cup)	Mirren Wood
4	Combined Cadet Force (For The Best CCF Recruit)	Robert Cordiner
5	Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy (For Outdoor Pursuits)	Thomas Moulding
6	Victor Ludorum Trophy (For Best Sports Person)	Aminio Bogidrau/ Amena Caqusau
7	The Senior Boys House Award	Samik Gurung
8	The Junior House Award	Daisy Leweni
9	Annual Challenge Cup (For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell)	Irena Watson
10	The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver (For Leadership 'On' And 'Off' The Games Field)	Mitchell Pratt
11	The Prince Philip Medal (For Outstanding Contribution, Participation And Achievement During Their Time At Queen Victoria School)	Aidan Horsburgh



Prize List P7

1	Attainment	P7	Tabitha Clark
2	Progress	P7	Daisy Leweni
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Joanna Osborn
4	Music	P7	Sorrel Wilde
5	Paul McShannon Quaich	P7	Niamh Routledge

Prize List S1 & S2

	S1		S2	
	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
1	Computer Studies	William Stephen	Rhett Jackson	Taylor Morrison-Smith
2	English	Suvandinica Rai	Isabelle Collie	Elina Mudunavosa
3	Fowler Art	Sumer Wilson	Taylor Morrison-Smith	Logan McFadden
4	French	Elainah Bogidrau	Evan Clarke	Orla Dodd
5	Geography		Trina Gurung	Sudhir Gurung
6	Guildry of Stirling History Prize		Sudhir Gurung	Katie Diciacca
7	History		Orla Dodd	Liam Melville
8	Mathematics	Shreya Gurung	Duncan Stephen	Logan McFadden
9	Modern Studies		Taylor Morrison-Smith	Lewis Ferguson
10	Music	Emily McIlwraith	Rhett Jackson	Lewis Ferguson
11	Physical Education	Female – Elainah Bogidrau	Female – Trina Gurung	Male – Taylor Morrison-Smith
12	Religious, Moral & Philosophical Studies	Hallie Spence	Trina Gurung	Isabelle Collie
13	Science	Mhyrren Welsh	Rhett Jackson	Orla Dodd
14	Social Subjects	Shreya Gurung		
15	Spanish	Scarlett Bailes	Trina Gurung	Eve Malcolm
16	Technical Studies	Rhys Melville	Sudhir Gurung	Ashley Stevenson



Maths Department

S1 and S2 Maths Challenge

It was great to see both year groups participating in the annual S1 and S2 Q.V.S maths challenge.

There was a wide range of activities – relay round, puzzle round, building a marble run, aeroplane round and problem-solving round. The pupils were superb, showed excellent teamwork and really enjoyed the challenge!

S1 winners: Angus Cowie, Kelsey Gilbride, Sakina Thapa and Abbie McConnell.

S2 winners: Duncan Stephen, Isla Henderson, Elina Mudunavosa and Maxwell Charlesworth-Smith.

Mrs McBlain, Principle Teacher of Mathematics



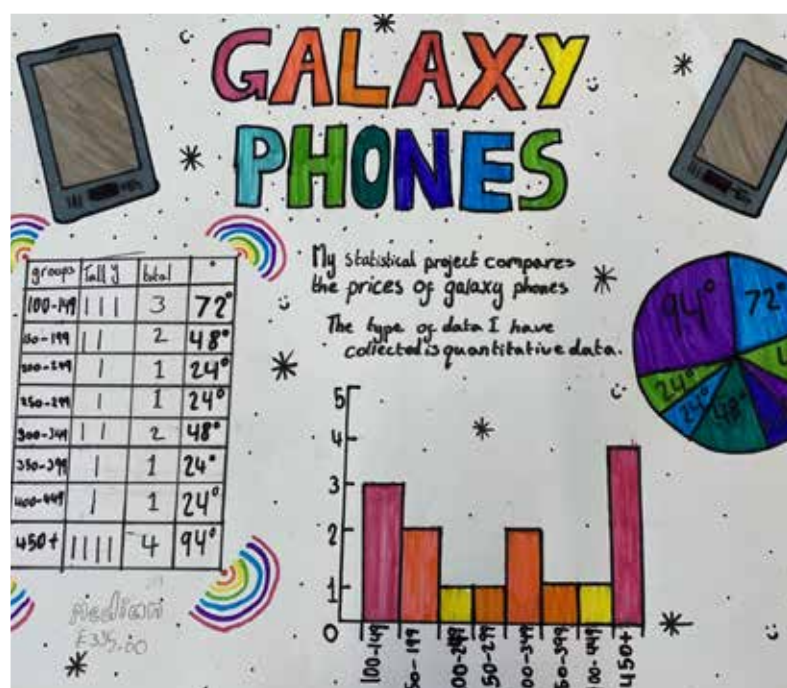
Theme Park Project

This year in S1 maths we have created a theme park poster and leaflet, calculating how much money it would cost to open a theme park.

Whilst making our theme parks we used money and scale drawing to help create our theme park. In our groups of two or three, we chose different attractions we wanted and figured out how much it would cost to build and run our theme parks. Once we completed that we started creating our leaflets to advertise and we created our A2 size scale drawing of what our theme park would look like. Things we had to include in our theme park were a logo, slogan, name, prices and opening/closing times. Our whole year enjoyed working in groups to create different theme parks and seeing what other groups created.

Elainah Bogidrau and Charlotte Douglas, S1

www.qvs.school





Science Department

STEM Day 22nd March

On a sunny Tuesday in March we had five visitors for a STEM themed day.

The S3 children were set challenges by:

- Old Victorian Vicky Marland bring her wide range of forensic science experience.
- Morgan Stewart, Rachel Kelly and George Logan. Graduate engineer and two apprentices from Babcock (Faslane).
- Sandy Neill from the RAF STEM team

The day started with introductions and the first round of activities ranging from taking finger prints to making a catapult!

We then met in the theatre and the visitors talked through how they arrived at their current career and what they hoped for the future. The talks were very engaging, some were quite compelling and explained the range of options from those requiring no qualifications at all, through to graduate programmes.

After a rotation of three activities and five careers talks, Mr Shaw came to thank the visitors for coming to a successful STEM day.

Mr Davey, Teacher of Science

Technology Department

In August 2022 we welcomed Mrs Crozier to the Technology Department after Mr Shannon's retiral. We returned to school with a sense of normality and the hope for a better academic year, without the same level of impact from covid. Sadly, it was not to be and only a week after returning to school, pupils were sent home for a period of two weeks due to covid. Upon return, pupils were raring to get back into their studies. It was great to have everyone back and have the workshops and classroom full of students once again.

In the BGE, pupils were working on CAD, drawing torches, iPods and had the opportunity to 3D print. They were also busy in the workshop making money banks, phone holders, pencil holders and trinket boxes.

Within the senior phase, pupils were very busy. SQA exams were back on for 2022 and pupils had assignments to complete. Work got underway for these in November and continued through to the Easter holidays.

After Easter we returned to school, mask-free for the first time since October 2020, with only one week until the first SQA exam. There was a realisation from the pupils that this was 'really happening' after the past few years of upheaval and uncertainty. Pupils worked hard and will hopefully be pleased with their results in August. It has once again been a different year, but it has been fantastic to get back to normality within school life.

Mrs Sherriff, Principal Teacher of Technology



It's been a busy year in the English department with lots of exciting events and activities all helping to promote reading, writing and speaking at QVS.

Book Buzz is a reading programme run through the Scottish Book Trust, and by taking part, QVS received a book for every S1 and S2 pupil. The pupils chose from a range of exciting titles, including *Tiger Heart* by Penny Chrimes and *The Haunting of Aveline Jones* by Phil Hickes. There was a real “buzz” when the books arrived and pupils could enjoy their chosen titles.

In November we had a visit from Reading Forces, the charity dedicated to developing a love of books and reading amongst forces families. Fiona Maxwell from the charity spoke to the P7s – S3s about the services offered by Reading Forces and all the pupils received a free book from a selection that included *Crowfall* by Vashti Hardy, *The Midnight Thief* by Sylvia Bishop, and *Barakah Beats* by Maleeha Siddiqui. They also received a reading journal which pupils have been using to record their thoughts and feelings about books. There was real enthusiasm amongst the pupils to be receiving these books and journals, and there has been a lot of discussion and swapping of titles with their friends. Excitingly, some pupils were also interviewed by BFBS about the launch event.

This visit coincided with Scottish Book Week which we celebrated with other events such as our “Shelfie” competition. Staff members posted pictures of their bookshelves, and pupils and other staff members tried to match the shelf to the teacher. It was great fun trying to guess the Irvine Welsh aficionado or the Harry Potter fanatic. This week also saw the launch of book groups run by the Literacy Ambassadors, our pupil-led initiative for promoting reading at QVS. The three reading groups read the entries for the *Scottish Teenage Book Prize* and voted for their favourite.

The Literacy Ambassadors have had a busy year. In September, Nanda, Freya and Rio each took a Primary 7 class and taught them a Roald Dahl themed lesson. For Black History Month and

Banned Books Week, they created displays in the library promoting diversity and celebrating the freedom to read. For Valentines Day, they organised “Blind Book Date”. Rio and Freya were the “matchmakers” matching pupils with books and the event was very popular with all who took part. Finally, for World Book Day, the Ambassadors gave a very accomplished presentation in Chapel and created an informative display for the notice board. Their efforts throughout the year have helped to raise the profile of reading at QVS.

This year saw QVS take part in the Procurator Fiscal's Public Speaking competition for the first time. Cameron Welsh and Maeghan Clark were the Forth Valley Champions, beating all of the other schools competing in the area and reaching the Sherrifdom Final which took place at Perth Sherriff Court.

The relaxing of Covid rules has allowed our pupils to once again experience a range of cultural events. In November the S3s took part in the *Into Film* festival, the annual celebration of film and education for young people. In December we had a visit from Ash Dickinson, a published poet and performance artist. He led our seniors in poetry workshops and read from his own work. His enthusiasm and energy helped to create a real interest in poetry amongst our seniors. Our S1s had a fun and educational visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park after studying a unit on animals in captivity, and (at the time of writing) we are looking forward to a trip to the Playhouse Theatre in Edinburgh to see the acclaimed musical version of *The Lion King*.

Finally, we have had lots of fantastic achievements to celebrate over the course of the year. Our classes have produced some excellent pieces of writing in a range of genres, many students have achieved their Bronze QVS Reading Awards, and excitingly, several pupils have had their work published. Rio (S6), Josh (S1) and Cameron (S3) all had their poems published in an MOD Schools anthology called *Across the Oceans*. Four of our pupils had their reviews of the novel *Wildlord* by Philip Womack published in the magazine *Army and You*.

Well done and thank you to everyone who has helped to make this such a fun and successful year for the English department!

Mr McHugh, Principle Teacher of English



Platinum Jubilee Writing Competition

In June, all pupils across QVS were invited to submit a piece of writing for the English Department's QVS Platinum Jubilee Writing Competition.

This could be a creative or informative piece, as long as it linked to The Queen in some way. We had a fantastic array of writing handed in, from short stories to factual reports and chose three very different pieces for first, second and third prize:

1st Prize: Rhys Melville (S1)

2nd Prize: Scarlett Bailes (S1)

3rd Prize: Jack Griffin (S1)



A Platinum Jubilee Thank You...

Elizabeth the marvellous Queen,
None before her stood so keen.
On the throne for 70 years,
So many laughs, so many tears.
For you here, there are no fears,
Day by day, year by year.
There will be no memory forgotten,
For those memories will be with us till we're rotten.
She will reign and never stop,
With her passion we will get to the top.
Longest lived and longest reigned,
In that time many have been named.
You have made your country proud,
Through all the years you have we've had no doubts.
Thankyou for what you have done,
For all our anger we give you none.



English Department

A Little Girl's Best Friend

Love. The deep tenderness, affection, and concern felt for a person with whom one has a relationship with. "Love" is a very subjective and vague term; how can you define the difference between a romantic and platonic relationship? How can someone tell whether another person loves them? Are the qualities that make an enduring relationship the same as those that give us the initial feeling of love? The first moment that your senses lock onto their smell, appearance, identity, and even possibly their desire to open up and greet you with care and affection. That can bring comfort into meeting someone new and the start of creating a new relationship.

When a bairn is born they cry out for that immediate comfort. The initial scent that they acknowledge once having received that warm skin to skin cuddle – from in this instance their Granpa – allows the baby to know that it is a safe place. The first spark in their magical bond has been lit. A journey of loving embrace, giggles, memories and milestones has now commenced.

Someone once wrote, "A Grandfather is a person with silver in his hair and gold in his heart". I personally did not think that he could be described so perfectly but that sentence hit the nail on the head. My Granpa was a true blessing. Considering his age he was still a bonnie wee laddie. The fact he already had to commit to a herculean task of raising my mother and her two brothers, but to take on his third grandwean as well symbolises the caring and compassionate man that he truly was at heart. My dear Granpa shared many experiences, words of wisdom, physical and emotional love and affection as he weaved his streak of magic that would last me a lifetime. My Granpa continuously illuminated many aspects of my life. From things such as: his superior craic, sneaky tricks, hosting unforgettable sleepovers, being the candy man, and mainly giving off the grumpy old man energy that really made the sweetness pop.

Especially when he would whizz round to the local garage to pick up his newspaper in the morning and return with an acidulated neon coloured sour candy at 7am for me to endure which would really get the blood pumping. Those are the core memories that I will always recollect.

There is no doubt about it, my Granpa taught me the values that became the foundation stones for myself to build on – although he was a pure dafty but balanced with righteous intentions. From learning how to respect the elders, how to behave in family gatherings, the black and white difference between right and wrong. He also taught me not to clipe, the importance of hard work, honesty, and the eternal bond within our family. What he shared with me was not just his single experience but the wisdom of previous generations of the Knight family. It's the family's secret recipe that shall continue to be passed on throughout the future generations to come as well.

My Granpa's name was Gordon Richard Knight. He was a very warm-hearted man who found pleasure in caring for those he loved and was very fond of nurturing vigorous relationships within the family. My dear Granpa was the baker of our cake. He united us all as one and encouraged us to find gratification within our family; we were the ingredients to his fantastic recipe. When it all worked out it was 'pure dead brilliant' as he and the Glaswegians would remark.

The centre of his entire world came crashing down when his beloved wife Margaret got taken away by the angels in February 2005. All doors and windows started to close as the days since she passed built up. Mourning became a ritual in his daily routine. Days felt like months. It was inconceivable to comprehend that the lassie he had been married to, seemingly forever, had vanished due to a detestable disease named cancer. Cancer identifies itself as an uncontrolled division of abnormal cells in a part of the body. The part of the body which this demon attacked was her breasts.



Illustration Credit: Rachana Gurung

The lionhearted woman sadly deteriorated in a place that came to hold a prodigious sense of blood curdling trepidation. To provide a better understanding for why herself and her family loathed this hospital so much was because the majority of their family breathed their last piece of clammy, stained, stale air in that place. The courageous women fought against the disease for as long as she possibly could hold onto the will to live. Until she hit the brick wall. Her mind, soul, and body were rapidly shutting down and only her spirit had the freedom to remain.

Less than five months after my Gran left us a breath of fresh air swept him off of his feet. He was right outside as little Miss Lily Margaret Huntley O'Neill (me!) was born on the 17th of July 2005. The automatic connection that zinged was life affirming. This was the beginning of the most gracious and adoring relationship. From that day I idolised my Granpa and formed such an unyielding and indestructible bond. This man would devote time to make precious memories with those he had true endearment for as this is what made him happy and content. It did not involve having lots of money or going out and purchasing exorbitant goods. What he loved most was having a wee coorie on the couch watching the Jeremy Kyle show with me on a Sunday afternoon. My most fond memory, which became a ritual, was driving up to the local chipper to then have that instant smell of grease and a nose tingling sniff of vinegar burning up your nose as soon as you walked in. Once returned home he would then crack open a bottle of unsavoury, treacly whisky which he would endure until he dozed off. It was moments like those that you recall to be class.

On the 25th of June 2015 he reunited with his belle up in the realm entitled heaven. Whilst this will forever bring great distress, I will always hold a special place in my heart for this antiquated gent. Being able to boast that I will forever be his bonnie wee lassie is something to have pride in. Despite the fact he could be a bit crabbit from time to time he continuously had superior craic.

I would sometimes catch a glimpse of him being a dafty. Which was gratifying to witness. Whenever I mourn it brings a warm smile as well as a salty tear to run down my rose cheek.

Love. Comes in packages, momentous or inappreciable. The deep tenderness, affection and concern I felt for my Granpa was so gargantuan that it became indescribable. I sometimes experience immense smells, sounds and tastes that replicate memories that I endured with him. T' Auld Yin was greater than the rest. If I could have a wish granted it would be to have a day with him again. To feel that affinity I shared with him. To feel his arms pulling me in for a comforting cuddle. To hear his hysterical chuckle, or to even be awarded with one of his tender beams once again. I could talk for eternity about all the things I adored about my Granpa. He truly was a gift. The bond that myself and my Granpa shared was imperishable. The way he contributed to my upbringing shaped me into the person I am today. I would not own the same personal qualities that I have, as I wouldn't have been able to inherit them from anyone else. He was unique. He was my favourite crabbit buggar and will remain to be perpetually.

Consequently, may my most precious, adored, affectionate, chucklesome, Granpa rest in peace forevermore. May you never be hindered from your blissful sleep. I will continuously visit your place of rest and share my ceaseless love for you. You were candidly my biggest champion for the lion's share of my life this far. I love you forever and always. Goodbye for now my dear, I will remember and cherish your life for as long as I now shall live.

Lily O'Neill, S5



English Department

Chapter 1: Rise and Fall.

The sky rumbled as he ran down the alley way, his heart thumping in his chest. Between breaths he stole a glance behind him, and instantly regretted it. In the darkness of the alley, he struggled to make out most of the behemoth behind him. It towered over him, about 8 feet tall. Rain started pouring down, making quiet thuds against its metal body. Its head raised, a single glowing red eye opening. He made eye contact with it, and he felt the eye bore its way through him, scanning his brain waves.

And then it stopped.

A voice spoke, its mechanical words causing adrenaline to pump through his veins. "RISER, PREPARE FOR ELIMINATION," the robot said, raising its right arm, revealing a weapon built into it. The weapon hummed, and he saw a red glow begin to emit from it as it charged up. He didn't hesitate and ran, as a blast of energy fired just to his left and into a dumpster, reducing it to ashes.

He turned a corner, hearing the loud thuds as the metal man continued to pursue him, further and further into the dark passageways. The thunderstorm above him continued to get worse, the rain blinding him, causing him to stumble and fall. He tried to reach out for something, anything that could help him. But there was nothing. The thuds got louder. And louder. And louder. He raised his head and again, he saw that glowing red eye, the eye behind a machine designed to kill, to have no mercy.

Time seemed to slow as he thought back to before this happened, when he was asleep, not in control of his body, merely watching as something else controlled him. Until that something lost control of him.

He didn't even know his own name, or where he was, or what was happening. He was on a street of some sort, with simple buildings dotted alongside. There were quite a few people, the street was bustling, yet there was no life in any of the people. They all seemed almost dead inside, puppets being dragged along by an unforgiving puppeteer. He felt alive, but that feeling hadn't lasted long. Only a few minutes after his awakening of sorts, one of the puppets approached him. Its eyes were blank and its face was emotionless, arms sagging to its side. It had a shaved head, and an identification number of sorts tattooed on it. Hung on its frame was a simple black jumpsuit, the same outfit that everyone else was wearing. It stared at him, pressuring him to ask if he was ok. The puppet seemed shocked by this statement, and everyone else on the street stopped dead in their tracks and began staring at him.

That's when he realised. These people, if you could call them that, were being controlled as well. Everyone was being controlled, a giant hive mind. He wasn't, however, under control, which means he was seen as an anomaly. An anomaly that needed to be removed. All the people interlocked arms, and approached him, their voices, not mechanical but human, yet forced, saying, "Please remain calm. An Imperium Pursuer is inbound to help you." They kept repeating it, moving closer and closer to him, attempting to trap him. Whilst at the time he didn't know what an Imperium Pursuer was, he didn't want to hang around to find out. So, he dropped to the floor and squeezed his way under the interlocked arms and started running.

And that's when he heard it for the first time. It descended from the sky, the roaring of its rocket pack filling the street with noise. He didn't spend any time looking, however, and just kept running. That was how he ended up in that alley, and why he was now lying in a puddle, soaked to the bone, staring directly into the barrel of the Pursuer's weapon. The Pursuer repeated its phrase, "**RISER, PREPARE FOR ELIMINATION.**" The weapon once again hummed, and the red light appeared. This was it. He couldn't run any further even if he tried. He closed his eyes as the red light engulfed him.



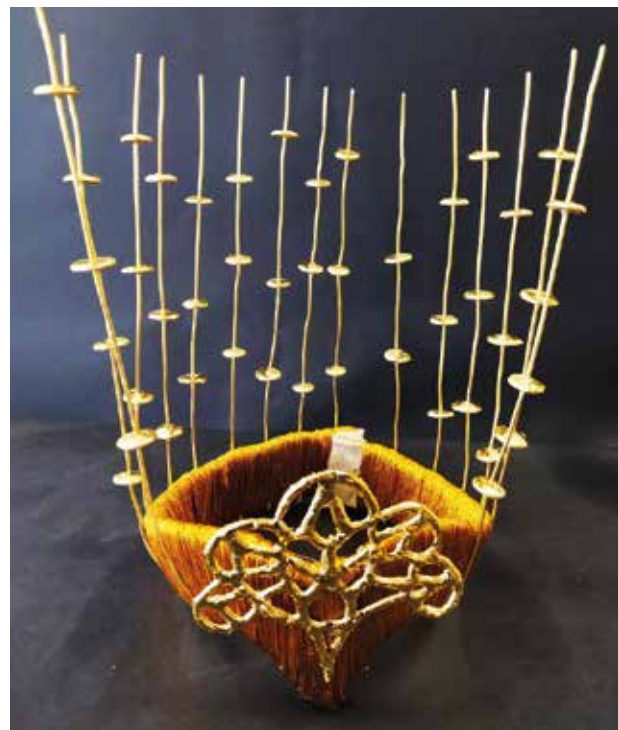
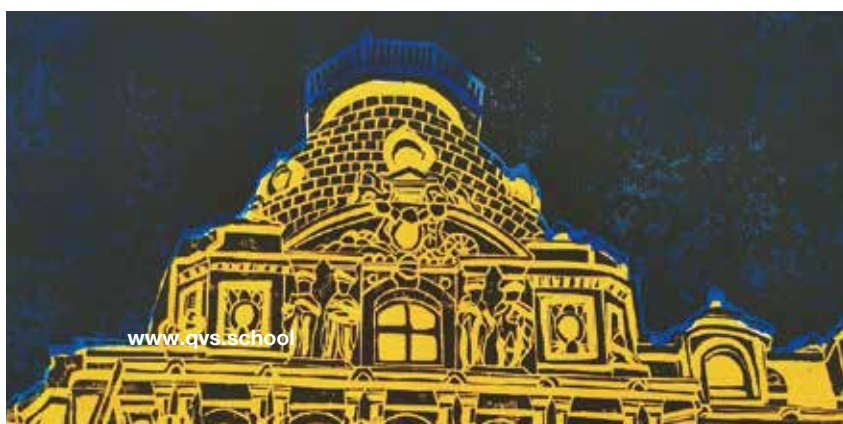
The Pursuer looked down at where the Riser once was. It could see through the rain just fine, and its scanners confirmed the Riser had been eliminated, reduced to nothing. It logged the kill on the Imperium database, briefly scanning at the statistics of increasing Riser incidents. This was the 8th one in the last three days. It didn't look long, as the Pursuer was built to kill and restore order, not think. Yet, in its mechanical brain, as it lifted off into the sky, the notion that something big was on the horizon danced around in the Pursuer's metal head. Was Imperium, the being that had been around for the last century or so, controlling all of humanity, beginning to lose its grip? With this thought, it flew off into the night.

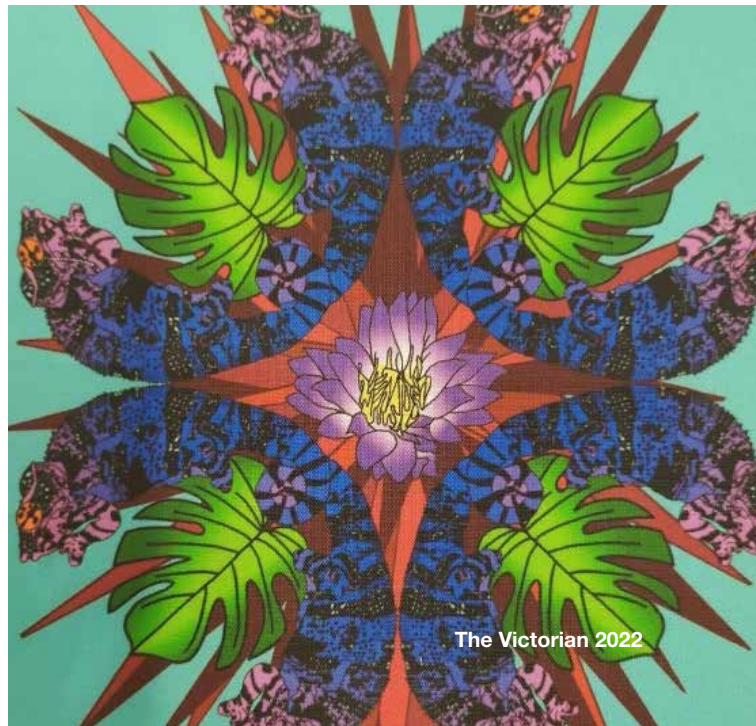
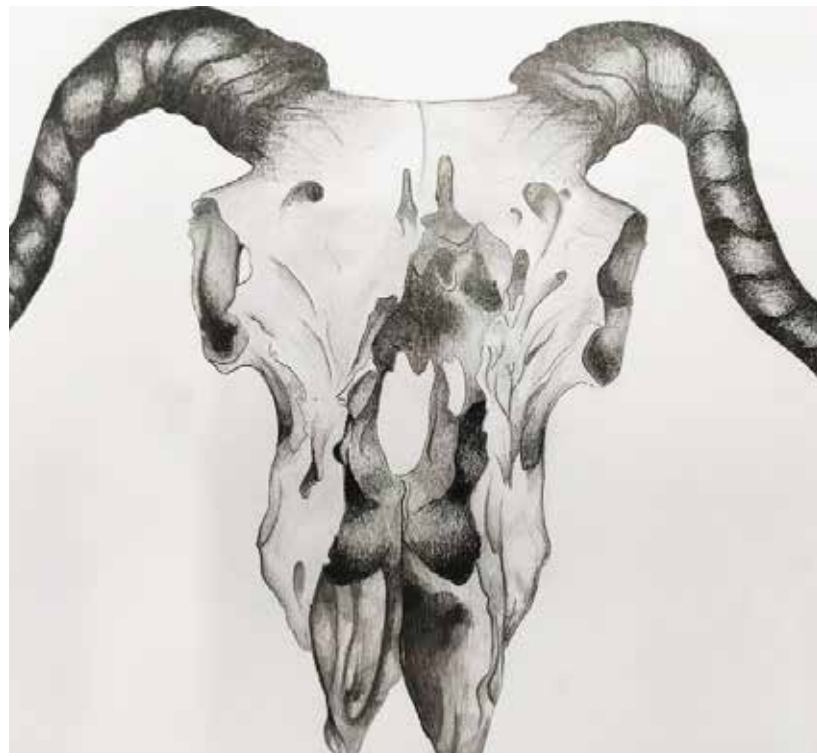
Elliott Jackson, S4





Art Department





Modern Languages Department

It's been so nice to be back on school grounds for (just about!) the full year (after the circuit breaker at the start of the academic year). As we come to the end of Summer Term 2022, things already feel 'normal' again, which is just wonderful.

Languages Day was celebrated in September, as ever with the much appreciated help of the Catering Staff, who served themed dishes at meal times. Lessons that week focused on the importance of learning another language, and the fun you can have with languages. We teamed up with the English department, and pupils wrote a creative piece around the theme of being a Superhero with the power of understanding all languages. In our department, they designed their costumes and labelled them in French.

This year, for the first time, we offered the SQA Award, French for Life and Work. We can congratulate the following S3s who have already received their Level 3 or Level 4 Certificates from the SQA; Eroni, Alex, Lilly, Cameron, Patricia, Ethan, James and Isabel. Well done to all! Ethan Jones compiled a personal dictionary, containing over 1000 words, in the back of his jotter as part of self-study for this course, which deserves a special mention – very impressive! We have a cohort of 10 S3 pupils signed up for this next year and I hope that they enjoy the course.

After studying the topic of 'Food and Drink', S2 French pupils enjoyed trying a variety of French products at our food tasting, which involved paté, pastries, meats and cheeses. The blue cheese was a surprising hit with some of those brave enough to taste it, and Rhett was happy to take charge of the leftovers as a blue cheese connoisseur. Keeping with the food theme, S2 enjoyed some end-of-term fun trying to build the Eiffel Tower out of dry spaghetti and marshmallows. The Juniors have enjoyed some time outdoors during the Summer term trying their hand at Pétanque.

Spanish classes have embraced the Disney movie 'Encanto' and have enjoyed some activities relating to the music in particular. S1 Spanish classes got competitive about their 'Town Planning' and made a mini model town instead of the expected poster – it was very impressive! Mrs Taylor-Meinz's creativity shines through many of the tasks that they have completed this year, and the Spanish classroom is looking very colourful with lots of nods to different Spanish-speaking countries.

As for next year; planning for Languages Day is already underway, and the Modern Languages Department team is working on plans to include more celebrations of languages used by our QV families. Inspired by Mrs Moir across the corridor, my classroom cupboards are getting a bit of a revamp, ready for next year, thanks to some of the S6 & S4 pupils and some leftover paint from my house!

We are lucky to have some keen enthusiastic linguists at QV, and have pupils studying for Advanced Higher level next year. Here are some comments below from our pupils about their time in the Modern Languages Department:

Mitchell Pratt, S6

"French at QVS has to be one of the best subjects I've taken. It's so interesting to learn the differences between the cultures and learning the language is a key skill to learn in life. I hated it in the beginning but once I got going I grew to love it."

Mitchell will be greatly missed next year – he has been a big presence in the department during his time at QVS, and I am thrilled to hear that he no longer hates French!

Sasha Walker, S5

"During my time learning French I really enjoyed learning about the culture of France as well as the language. I feel like I gained an insight into how different it is from our own culture."

Sasha is a mega organised and enthusiastic pupil, who has great linguistic skills. I hope that she'll continue to be a familiar face in the department in S6.

Lilly Leweni, S4

"During French this year I have really enjoyed the French for life and work unit. Throughout this we made CVs and we also prepared a speaking assessment, this pushed us towards achieving the French for life and work award."

Lilly's language skills are developing so well, and with her hard-working attitude, she is a deserving prize-winner of the S3 French prize

Mrs Bairner, Principle Teacher of Modern Languages



Music Department

The arts industry is slowly returning to normal with concerts, theatres, and performances of all sorts once again taking place. Our own QVS has played its part in hosting a number of groups since the end of lockdown. Over the last two years, our young musicians managed to keep playing firstly through Zoom lessons and then in school where our instrumental tutors taught live lessons, with safety measures in place.

Our new P7 group arrived with a healthy group of youngsters who have already played a range of instruments joining our instrumental scheme.

We have had a few changes in the group of expert visiting tutors with some exciting new staff arriving as others move on from QVS.

All P7 pupils have now had a term learning the basics on full brass or woodwind instruments in addition to any other instrumental lessons they have chosen. Now that COVID restrictions are over, on a Monday night you can experience the fun and volume of our mass trombone lesson, not quite 76 trombones, but sometimes sounding that way. Thursdays and we have more than ten flutes all slowly learning more and more notes now that they have mastered A B and C. It's been a strange year with this group as we have not gone outperforming and have only recently started class singing. Despite the interruptions to the year, we have some very able young musicians with two or three who arrived with good skills and are working on multiple instruments. Max must be the first pupil I've ever taught who plays viola, french horn and piano. We also have some excellent young piano players awaiting the resumption of Associate Board exams to progress through their graded music.

Our certificate classes this year had a more normal experience with visiting examiners for the pipes, snare drum, and two-day visits for all the other instruments. The advanced higher class of Magnus, Grace and Ellie worked really hard at this the highest level and I had a lot of fun playing for their exams and helping them prepare for their individual recitals.

Magnus has excellent skills on both lead electric, and bass guitar and played some of his favourite rock solos for the examiner. Both Ellie and Grace performed on Piano and Xylophone just before the Easter break.

My higher group were fantastic fun with Leoni, Holly and Lilly-Grace. Holly and L-G will return to music next year but Leoni has completed her years with us. Having not played the clarinet during the pandemic Leoni worked really well and played an excellent recital for the visiting examiner. L-G charmed the examiner with her Gaelic song and Holly made fantastic progress from absolute beginner to fluent performer on the xylophone.

The Nat5 group included those in class and those taking music as an extra. This group of Tia, Boyd, Ellie and Connor were all well prepared for the big day with the visiting examiner and made their recital day a fairly stress-free event!

On Sunday the 12th of June the school was host to a concert given by the pupils of a local piano teacher, including some staff children, a rehearsal of the Scottish Clarinet Choir and the Dunblane Chamber Orchestra's concert in aid of Ukraine including a performance of the Ukrainian national anthem and the premier of Jubilee 70 a composition for the Queen's Jubilee I wrote for the group.

QVS is always full of music with the pipes and drums our instrumentalists, primary shows, the P7 singers and less well known groups such as our senior Fijian boys who late in the evening often sing together traditional songs and our own Nanda with musical ideas flowing from her.

Goodbye and good luck to all of this year's leavers they've all passed through music and most of them have played and performed during their QV years.

It's been one more pleasurable and exciting year of music I've had the fun of sharing in this amazing school.

Music expresses that which cannot be said, and on which it is impossible to be silent. Victor Hugo

Mr Breingan, Principle Teacher of Music





Geography

I can't believe I am writing this article already; this year seems to have just flown right by! It's been great to get back to the normality of classroom teaching without masks and the regular routine of preparing pupils for exams.

Unfortunately, there was disappointment for pupils as we were unable to run our planned Geography Trips earlier in the year as these had all been scheduled during our short circuit breaker in September, however, a new S3 trip was able to go ahead in the Summer Term to Stirling which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. Even though the city of Stirling is right on their doorstep and a place many of them had visited multiple times, the pupils were really engaged to learn more about the area's geography and urban landscape. Advanced Higher pupil Aidan also managed a trip to Ayrshire for a beach study, accompanied by some willing S6 helpers for the day to help him collect his data.

I am extremely proud to say that this year sees two S6 Geographers heading to St Andrew's University with Rio Gregory studying MA Geography and Aidan Horsburgh studying Geography and Sustainable Development. They were part of my first S3 class at QV and it has been such a pleasure to teach

them over the years, seeing their enjoyment and passion for Geography develop over time. I wish them the best of luck in their next chapter and look forward to seeing what the future holds for them!

It is an exciting year ahead in the Geography Department as we are now offering a new course in National 5 Environmental Science for S5/6 pupils. The course is an excellent mix of Geography and Biology and enables pupils to apply their knowledge to many real-world issues such as sustainability, energy and availability of resources. I am also looking forward to reinstating the National 5 and Higher trips that the pupils have

really missed, with a visit to Balmaha on Loch Lomond planned for September for both classes. There really is nothing better than taking pupils out of school to see the things they have been learning about in class with their own eyes!

I'm already looking forward to writing next year's article, hopefully with no reference to cancelled trips, masks or things being 'normal'! Have a great summer holiday!

Mrs Humble, Teacher of Geography

Modern Studies

It has been a fantastic year in Modern Studies. We have been using our Chromebooks to access online resources galore. Pupils have experienced why it is important to take part in their Democracy, which linked nicely with COP26.

We saw local protests and understood the reasons for this. We have had discussions with the House of Lords and met a peer who gave them an insight into the role of the Lords in holding the Government to account. We have taken part in local council elections, helping our S6 pupils head down to vote.

Pupils have been preparing for their exams, studying the USA and its political developments, we have explored the situation in Syria, looking at the impact of Covid on a recovering nation. We have explored some horrific crimes committed across Scotland in Crime and the Law, learning about some of the science behind how they caught the killer.

Finally, we have focused on the background information to the Ukraine war and understood the use of the media in Britain, Europe and the Middle East to see the different viewpoints and understand the bias in the media. Pupils have also seen the link to this from a historic point of view bringing in the Cold War.





Social Sciences

Another year over, doesn't time fly? It has been so good being back in the classroom for this past academic year. Our pupils once again showed resilience as we navigated change upon change with COVID restrictions. Despite masks and bubbles, and classrooms smelling like swimming pools, our pupils displayed true QVS spirit and simply just got on with the job at hand – learning!

The use of Chromebooks for all year groups brought many advantages (especially once staff could use Securely and close down any “non-historical websites” that were being looked at!!) The speed at which some pupils can type is really something, although the use of spell/ grammar check would be good and many display great skills at being able to cut/paste into Google Slides, but these are challenges that staff have risen to and we are on it!

Having Google at the touch of a button is a great research tool, especially in Modern Studies. With pupils always needing up-to-date examples, they now have no excuse. It has also allowed us to spend time discussing the topical issues of the day as we can use online news outlets to inform and encourage discussion.

Engagement in learning has been high and pupils have enjoyed developing research and presentation skills across a variety of topics, and getting hands-on with the shoe box trenches and the mock election. As we are now back to ‘normal’ we hope to build in more guest speakers and external trips as nothing brings your subject to life than seeing real artefacts or meeting people who have lived through the experience.

The excitement of the S4 Roslyn Chapel and the P7 Gurdwara trips at the end of this term shows just how much our pupils learn and appreciate learning in this context. The annual post-exam Higher History meal was a great night – mainly as we laughed at the boys using their pizza boxes to shelter from the rain where us girls, were warm and dry inside!

The number of pupils in the department in the senior phase remains high, and this year there are a plethora of pupils going on to study either History, International Relations, Criminology or Geography in higher education which is great to see. I hope they all maintain their interest in the subjects and enjoy all that university/ college life has to offer.

Thanks to all pupils for their continued hard work in the department and we look forward to recognising this next year as we continue our termly Social Subjects Star Pupil Awards.

Mrs Rodger, Principle Teacher of Modern Studies



Primary Department





It has been an absolute honour and privilege to see the P7s live our department value this year – ‘be the best version of yourself’. One of my favourite things about teaching P7 pupils is watching each year group take on new challenges and opportunities and seeing them flourish throughout their QVS journey.

The P7s were enthusiastic to kick start the year off with a variety of team-building activities led by *Map Adventures*. Unfortunately, we only managed two out of our three days, as all pupils were asked to return home for a circuit break due to a covid outbreak at QVS before the last day. I must commend the P7s for taking this unexpected disruption in their stride. We had just returned from a lovely day at Loch Venachar and little did they know that we were taking them to the classroom to collect their Chromebooks ready for two weeks of online learning. They then went down to Trenchard to pack for home, having only been at QV for five days!

I know it can be a daunting thought starting a new school, building new friendships and getting used to new school routines, especially at a boarding school, but the P7s showed great strength and resilience and settled into QVS seamlessly despite having such a rocky start. Well done!

After two disrupted years due to Covid (a word I think we are all fed up with hearing), I am so glad that over the year we have slowly been able to resume our normal busy routine of events. It was almost as if we had forgotten what it was like to go on a school trip or invite visitors into the department! We have now started to enjoy school outings again, having our pen pals from Newton Primary School visit to watch our Rookie's parade and show them our school. We've also been able to take part in sports mornings at Newton, and watch the U16's and U18's play rugby in the cup final at Murrayfield, and we performed outstandingly well in the Drill Competition.

One of my favourite times of the year is Christmas and it wasn't long before we were spending our afternoons in the theatre rehearsing for our new Christmas play; 'Who?'. The pupils were enthusiastic about their given roles and learned their lines quickly. Lots of the characters were able to dress up in a variety of costumes, and this gave us plenty to smile about. We were excited to welcome our audiences of staff and pupils and although parents were unable to attend live performances, we were able to send a video of the play home. Don't worry P7, we will remind you of this Christmas play when you are in S6!

In the Spring Term, the majority of the P7s were affected by a Covid wave and I don't think we had a single day where the whole year group was at school. Both myself and Miss Hastie were caught out, Miss Christmas must be made of steel! I would like to congratulate the P7s for successfully achieving their Silver JASS Award. This is a fantastic achievement, and I hope that it will encourage you to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award when the time comes.

P7 also completed the John Muir Award and participated in a variety of activities leading up to the Golden Jubilee. Well done for all your hard work throughout the week, and what a fantastic bonfire you created!

The Summer Term, I know, is a favourite of many and we all look forward to the lighter evenings and enjoying numerous activities outside.

Sadly, I have missed many of the Summer term events, after having a nasty injury whilst skiing during the Easter holidays. If only I had been competing in a major ski event – that would have made it easier to accept.

I must say a MASSIVE thank you to Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas for holding the fort for me and allowing everything to run smoothly in my absence. I am very grateful for all your support and hard work in supporting both myself and the P7s,



I couldn't have gotten through the year without you both, thank you so much.

I would like to wish the P7s well as they continue their QVS journey and thank you all for your continued positivity, determination and SMILES! You have been an absolute pleasure to teach and we are all very proud of your achievements.

Remember to keep enjoying your learning, try your hardest, be proud of what you achieve and always strive to be the best version of yourselves.

Mrs Adams, Principal Teacher of Primary

“Parades are such an important part of QVS.

Rookies Parade is our time to shine.

In Trenchard we feel like a big family.

Many amazing memories are made at QVS.

Ali from 'First Shop' is such a favourite with us.

Rugby and Hockey are a huge part of our school.

You are privileged to gain a place in our school.



Sergeant Major, Mr Stacey taught us how to do Drill.

Evening swimming on a Friday with Mr Mackay is awesome.

Various fun, exciting trips are experienced in Primary Seven.

Events like Celilidhs are run for Primary Seven.

Now we are at the end of P7 we are looking forward to moving up to S1 ”

P7H,

Sophia, Jay, Ruby May, Cameron, William B, William H, Rebekah, Kayley, Nathan, Amy, Ashley, Braea, and Nikolai



Primary Department

School Elections

On monday May 2nd 2022 we started preparing for our Primary 7 elections. We learned about the Scottish elections and the House of Parliament, politics and voting. This was our topic for the next 2 weeks.

The P7 were split up into 6 different parties;

Vay Fay = more wifi,
Party leader = Nathan

Eco Party = fix Wavell woods,
Party leader = Bethany

GFG = better food,
Party leader = Ashley

Charity Party = more charity events,
Party leader = Isobel

Privilege Party = more privileges,
Party leader = Kaylay

Labour Party = being able to enter out of bound areas,
Party leader = Daisy L

After a few weeks of preparation and lots of effort going into posters, manifestos, speeches and a google slideshow, on Friday May 13th 2022 we presented what we had been working on in the chapel to SLT, other staff members and the other groups.

When we presented in the chapel our party leaders stood up and presented their presentation and read their speech to the audience. This went on six more times. We then voted for our chosen party. At the end the Primary Department teachers announced the winners of the election.

In 3rd place = Labour Party

In 2nd place = GFG

In 1st place = Charity Party

Quotes from Isobel Robotom, the winning candidate.

How did she feel?
"I felt happy"

What was her reaction?
"Excited but in shock"

How do you think you won it?
"I feel like I won because I had a good presentation and had a great team of people behind to end help"

How good do you think your team worked together with you as your leader?
"Some people were hard to work with but we all got along in the end"

Written by – William, William and Amy

Activity Days

At the beginning of the Autumn term, as new P7's at QVS, we were lucky enough to take part in some team building activities to help us get to know one another and settle into boarding life.

The activities we did included:

- Air rifle shooting
- Bushcraft skills
- Archery
- Team building tasks
- Raft building
- Canoeing

Monday:

Air Rifle Shooting:

On Monday, one of the four groups did Air Rifle Shooting at the bottom of the cross-country hill. We had beginner rifles but the instructor had an adult rifle. There were many small targets, some harder than others and one big ferris wheel with red target marks.

Bushcraft:

For BushCraft, we learned how to light a fire with flint and steel. We used vaseline as well as cotton buds and fire starters and used twigs and sticks as constant fuel. Only a few people lit them for more than fifteen seconds.

Archery:

When we were doing Archery, we got separated into groups of three so then more people had a chance to release the arrow. There were five big targets we shot at in our groups.



Team building:

In the team building challenges, we did three communication activities which were duplo building, a tennis ball challenge and the tarpaulin challenge.

The duplo building was when we split into two groups and the instructor would build something that only one of the groups would see and the other group would build it with instructions given from the other team.

In the tennis ball challenge, you had to build a bridge to get the ball into a bucket.

In the tarpaulin challenge, we had to stand on a trap and try to flip it without touching the ground.

Tuesday:

On Tuesday, we went to Loch Venachar for the day. It was such a sunny day for Scotland, we couldn't believe our luck! We were split into two groups. One group went canoeing and the other group did raft building. In the raft building competition, we had to build a raft that would float for the longest time and for canoeing we just paddled around the Loch and did a competition for who could swim under two canoes! It was definitely harder than it looked!

We had such a great couple of days and loved having the opportunity to try new activities.

Written by – Daisy, Triyana, Max and Taliesin

P7 Christmas Play

This year, the P7's Christmas play was called 'Who?' It was about two time travelling doctors named Doctor When and Doctor What, who are trying to find the true meaning of Christmas.

We had a lot of fun playing all of our parts in the play and there were lots of important roles in the play, costumes and filming. Mrs Adams, Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas all helped us learn our lines and made sure that the play was really good. Mrs Pitman was really kind and filmed our play for us so that it could be sent to our parents for them to watch. Mr Breingan helped us with the songs and lyrics.

There were lots of different characters in the play, such as; Dr When, Dr What, Mr Pullman and Mr Pushman, the ugly sisters, Mrs Fry, Santa and the lovely narrators. The costumes were made out of some of our clothes and some were ordered for us by the school. We didn't all have turkey and donkey costumes in our wardrobes at home!

The play was performed in the theatre and we had multiple rehearsals. We had three different performances over three separate days and the people that came to the performances were the S1s, our siblings (if we have a sibling!) and one with staff and our Trenchard Seniors.

It definitely got us into the Christmas spirit, ready for the holidays!

Written by – Tabitha, Olivia, Sorrel and Joanna.



Sports Department

Athletics Season Report

It was great to have athletics fixtures back on and pupils gave the impression that they were keen to go (maybe not the 1500m runners). The season started earlier than usual with Mica and Aaliyah McCloud competing at the National Schools Indoor Championships at the Emirates Stadium.

This was an amazing experience for the girls, who had been working hard all year with their dad (coach Pete), to compete against the best athletes in Scotland. Mica, performed brilliantly on the day, getting better throughout the heats and making the final. In the final, she ran a very respectable 8.07 securing 5th place overall. Aaliyah had some tough opposition in the 300m and also grew in confidence after each heat and then the semi-final. She started well in the final and ran a tactically perfect race, leaving just enough in the tank for a sprint at the end to secure Gold with a time of 41.40. Well done to both girls for their commitment and dedication throughout the years and we wish them all the best for next year.

Our first Summer athletics fixture was down at Kilmarnock, hosted by Wellington with Lomond and St Columbas also there. Traditionally this is an event that is nice and relaxed and a great way to build the confidence of the young athletes, which was again the case this year. I was really impressed by how the students stepped up to their various disciplines, especially so early in the term.

Notable performances on the day were as follows:

Girls:

S1 100m	2nd Daisy Leweni (14.35)
S2 200m	2nd Lilly Leweni (31.5)
S2 High Jump	Eve Malcolm (1.25)

Boys:

S1 100m	2nd Viliame Wise (13.60)
S2 100m	2nd Taylor Morrison-Smith (13.14)
S3 100m	1st Jacob Raduadua (12.22)

S1 200m	2nd Viliame Wise (28.2)
S2 200m	2nd Taylor Morrison-Smith (27.4)

S3 200m 2nd	Jacob Raduadua (25.8)
S2 High Jump	2nd Liam Melville (1.40)
S3 High Jump	2nd Eroni Tuiwawai (1.40)
S3 Relay	2nd 55.38
S3 Relay	2nd 55.01

Our next two fixtures were at Hutchesons Grammar School. Their track is such a great experience for the pupils and we always enjoy going along to it and competing. The first of the two fixtures were going to be our toughest for the season. We were up against Hutchy, St Aloysius, High School Of Glasgow, and Glasgow Accies, all schools renowned for their prowess in sport. We filled our buses with three boys' teams and three girls' teams and headed into Glasgow.

All of the pupils competed with confidence and pride in the badge, with notable performances as follows:

Girls

S3 200m	1st Abbie Valemei (31.28)
S3 Shot Putt	2nd Lily Leweni (7.25)

Boys

S2 800m	1st Lewis Ferguson (2.42)
S3 80m Hurdles	1st Ethan Jones (13.87)
S3 80m Hurdles	2nd Jeshon Thapa (14.89)
S3 100m	1st James Douglas (12.21)
S3 100m	2nd Jacob Raduadua (12.47)
S3 200m	2nd Jacob Raduadua (26.03)
S3 Discus	2nd James Douglas (21.37)
S3 High Jump	2nd James Douglas (1.45)
S3 Javelin	2nd Jeshon Thapa (26.00)
S3 Boys	4x 100m Relay 1st (50.02)

Our second fixture at Hutchy was against Wellington, St Columbas, Hutchy, and Lomond. We had already competed against these guys in our first fixture so we knew what to expect. The pupils were keen to get back out there and we again had some fine performances. Unfortunately, no results were sent through for this fixture however we once again punched well above our weight.



Our last school fixture was a Primary 7 competition down in Linwood. We were always going to struggle having so few P7 boys but all those that went gave a good account of themselves. What did come to light was the talent we have, especially amongst the girls.

Notable results were as follows:

Girls

P7 100m	2nd Daisy Leweni (14.07)
P7 200m	2nd Erin Combe (32.85)
P7 800m	1st Erin Combe (2.59)

P7 High Jump	1st Daisy Leweni (1.33)
P7 High Jump	2nd Rebecca Wise (1.25)
P7 Shot Putt	1st Rebekah Humphreys (8.03)
P7 Shot Putt	2nd Niamh Routledge (6.51)

The following Friday was the Scottish Schools Relays: Championships and we were able to put out 3 strong teams.

O17 (A) Boys Amena Caqusau. Mike Dranidalo. Jaheem Thomas, Theo Natiri

U17 (B) Boys Sam Leweni, Alex Skinner, Lewis Andrews, Lagi Halofaki

U17 (B) Girls Aaliyah McCloud, Mica McCloud, Rebecca Holliday, Lily Leweni

I stupidly promised the teams that if they win a medal, I would treat them to a McD's on the way back, that backfired.....The two boys' teams came third with times of 47.59 for Boys B and 46.79 for Boys A. The girl's team went one better with a Silver medal for a time of 53.42. All in all a very successful albeit expensive experience.

Our next event was the Scottish Schools Outdoor Champs. We only had one athlete in this competition as pupils have to attain the qualifying standard. Ben Main was entered into the javelin and was up against some formidable opposition. He eventually secured a Bronze medal with a throw of 41.37m.

To complete our very busy term, we finished with sports Day, and what a day it turned out to be. This is our last competition of Bannerman, Liddell and Ormond and all athletes competed well for their team. On the day, numerous PB's were recorded and many points were acquired for the team.

We had five long-standing records broken:

Senior Boys 4 x 100m Relay	Liddell 48.24
Senior Boys High Jump	Aminio Bogidrau 179cm
Senior Girls 300m	Aaliyah McCloud 43.48
Senior Girls 100m	Mica McCloud 13.40
Senior Girls High Jump	Aaliyah McCloud 140cm

The final results were as follows:

Junior Competition

1st Ormond	186
2nd Liddell	139
3rd Bannerman	136

Intermediate Competition

1st Bannerman	193
2nd Ormond	149
3rd Liddell	148

Senior Competition

1st Liddell	122
2nd Ormond	119
3rd Bannerman	91

All in all, this proved to be one of our most successful seasons at Athletics. The pupils were well and truly through the COVID years and bounced back stronger. Their willingness to compete, their enthusiasm for competition, and their ability to put themselves out there confidently were all impressive. We have much to look forward to in the coming years. A huge thank you must go to Mr Bryce and Miss Crozier for accompanying the teams on Saturday mornings, as without them we could not have provided the opportunities for the pupils.

Rugby 1st Team

U15 Hockey Team



S1 Rugby Team



S1 Hockey Team



S2 Rugby Team



S2 Hockey Team



Hockey 1st Team



U16 Rugby Team



U15 Rugby Team



Sports Department

Hockey Report

The year began with excitement and optimism for the new term after all the disruptions of the previous years but alas(!) the pupils had to go home for a circuit breaker in the first week of term which cancelled our fixtures until the October break. Natural frustration hit as we were also letting down other teams but we decided to take the opportunity to work hard on our skills and dare I say it, fitness. Everyone's favourite.

The Christmas term was a demonstration of grit and sheer determination as driving sleet, rain and wind was the theme of the weather forecast. The younger teams will certainly not forget their away matches at St Aloysius and Wellington as they were sodden and held onto their wooden sticks for dear life. The crack of a ball with cold hands is a feeling you don't forget! Meanwhile, the 1st XI team played their first matches of the season in the Aspire Cup but were knocked out by one goal to miss out on the finals. Just imagine what we could do next year with game practice beforehand...!

Storm Arwen added another spanner in the works to cause a Hockey cancellation in this term against Linlithgow at home. A fixture we usually dominate was much needed in a period that was tough against some strong teams. The biggest team hustle was against Dollar by the 1st XI team. It has to be by far their strongest performance as a collective and something just seemed to click. Annoyingly, a 3-week hiatus involving a holiday followed this very quickly.

The term from January onwards saw a quieter set of matches. It's always nice to play against Mary Erskine in all age groups as they have a huge amount of depth in their teams and can usually field teams that challenge us but also boost our confidence. The last official match of the season, excluding an invite to the Kilgraston Tournament, was at Linlithgow away. We played some fantastic Hockey at this fixture by both the S1/S2/S3 teams and also the 1st XI team. We even had a cheerleading group also known as the 1st XV boys team and some of the 16s coming out in force to support the girls, which was gratefully received.

It's hard not to talk about the year without mentioning the Seru sisters. Both with a natural talent in the sport who would likely play to a high level in whatever they choose to pursue. Nanda is not a player you want to face in a match. Think of the 5 D's of Dodgeball and that's Nanda in goals for you. Younger sister Tia, unfortunately, suffered a broken foot during a match against St Aloysius and will miss the next season due to recovery. Both will be a huge miss to the team this coming year.

Thank you to Mrs Crozier and Miss Christmas for their enthusiasm during Games and weekend fixtures for the P7/S1/S2 teams. Ray Donaldson and Jennie Allan have also been fantastic at helping umpire our matches whilst also providing sound knowledge and advice to our girls during training sessions and matches. Best wishes go out to our S6 leavers; Irena Watson, Nanda Seru, Mirren Wood, Leoni Gallagher, McKenzie Smiles, Gabi Glass, Simoon Pun; who move onto the adventure of adulthood.

Thank you for your effort and commitment to the school team during your time at QVS.

Mrs Elliott, Hockey Coach

Player of the Match (POTM) Awards 2022 – 2022

This season, we decided to introduce trophies to award a POTM for each age group and match. The award is handed out to the impact player of the game who went above and beyond the expected standards of the team. Congratulations to Isabelle Collie and Lauren McCulloch who were awarded them for the first match of the season. Below is a list of the subsequent winners:

POTM

Clifton Hall – 1st XI Lauren McCulloch, S1/S2 Izzy Collie
 McLaren HS – U15 Anju Gaha
 Wellington – 1st XI Tia Seru, U15s Kasey Dickinson,
 S2/S3 Katie DiCiacca, S1/S2 Rachel Moulding
 Kilgraston – 1st XI Aaliyah McCloud, S2/S3 Ceara Gowans,
 S1 Abbie McConnell
 Aspire Cup Matches – Nanda Seru & Abbie Gibson
 St Aloysius – 1st XI Nanda Seru, S2 Rachel Moulding,
 S1 Jaime Young
 Dollar – 1st XI Aaliyah McCloud
 Mary Erskine – 1st XI Eva Rennie, P7/S1 As Daisy Leweni,
 P7/S1 Bs Triyana Purja
 HS of Dundee – 1st XI Nanda Seru, 15s Isabel Gregory,
 S2 Izzy Collie, S1 Elainah Bogidrau
 Linlithgow – 1st XI Millie Keightley, S2 Trina Gurung,
 S1/S2 Bernie Vetanibua
 Kilgraston Tournament – Lily O'Neill

Congratulations to our top goal scorers this season –
 1st XI's Aaliyah McCloud and S1's Abbie McConnell.

Scottish Hockey's Brave Talent Stages Pathway

Congratulations to 1st XI players Irena Watson (Forward) and Nanda Seru (Goal Keeper) who were nominated and then invited to participate in an assessment training day as part of Scottish Hockey's Talent Programme. Despite not being called through to the next stage, both girls enjoyed training and competing against girls with a vast amount of experience in the game. Irena and Nanda found the day rewarding and would encourage other girls at any age/stage to work and play hard during the season. Mrs Elliott puts forward the nomination not just based on skill level but also on emotional intelligence and work ethic on and off the pitch. There will be another opportunity this coming season to be selected – best of luck!

Aspire Cup Debut

The highlight of the season has to be our first-ever appearance at the Scottish Schools Aspire Cup. The Cup is the first stage of progression in Scottish Hockey competition and was created for schools with limited resources and numbers so that they also could work toward a competitive tournament with balanced competition.

Scottish Hockey's match report reads below:

'The girls had two groups, played on different days. Pool A, which was played alongside the boys' competition at Glenalmond, gave us three exciting matches. Aberdeen GS and Kilgraston fought out a 1-1 draw before the granite city team lost 0-1 to Queen Victoria School. This was the Dunblane team's first match in a Scottish Hockey competition and they did themselves proud, with a first-class performance against a strong Aberdeen team. In the final match, Kilgraston scored two excellent goals before Queen Victoria hit back, but the Bridge of Earn team held on for a 2-1 win.'

The team selected for the tournament included:

GK – Nanda Seru (C)
 Defence – Eva Rennie, Simoon Pun, Mirren Wood, Gabi Glass, Deeyana Gurung, Millie Keightley, Lauren McCulloch
 Midfield – Leoni Gallagher, Kenzie Smiles, Abbie Gibson, Aaliyah McCloud, Mica McCloud, Lily O'Neill (VC), Tia Seru, Chanell Parker
 Forwards – Sasha Walker, Irena Watson (selected but absent due to Covid), Katie Meikle

We look forward to doing the school proud again as we enter a senior team again for the 2022-2023 season.

Being Vice Captain for this past season has been exceptional. I have enjoyed all the matches we have played yet most have been tough but we have always risen to the challenge. I feel pride in working with this bunch of girls as every single one of them has a unique set of high-level hockey skills which we can blend to form the team that we call the 1st XI. From all the Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings in the biting winter wind the majority of the time everyone has a smile on their face when we are playing or training together. I'm so proud of everything we have achieved this year and especially for attending the Aspire Cup which is the first time QV has ever participated in a tournament like this. Everyone fought so hard and played the best hockey I think we have ever played together as a team which was lovely to experience and treasure. Another match which exemplified genuine gratitude was when we played against Dollar academy. We knew this was going to be a hard game, yet we went in with our heads held high, played to a very high standard, and worked together to portray the real hockey players we are. I am so proud of everyone on this team this year and I am so happy to have been your VC. Now let's see what next season brings us, ladies!

Lily O'Neill, 1st XI Hockey Vice Captain



Sports Department

S1 Rugby Report

Returning to school after the summer holidays offered the U13 boys the opportunity to get back to competitive rugby. With the first two fixtures postponed due to Covid-19 outbreaks in the opposition teams, and our third fixture succumbing to a waterlogged pitch, the boys kept their spirits high and turned their attention to our main rivals – Morrisons.

Returning to school after the summer holidays offered the U13 boys the opportunity to get back to competitive rugby. With the first two fixtures postponed due to Covid-19 outbreaks in the opposition teams, and our third fixture succumbing to a waterlogged pitch, the boys kept their spirits high and turned their attention to our main rivals – Morrisons. A fine team performance, demonstrating the grit and determination shown throughout training, led us to a 35-23 win. Some excellent forward play and quick action from the backs allowed us to capitalise on the opportunities we faced. A great start to our 'Conference A' campaign.

Our next game was against a well-structured Robert Gordon side. Their ability to maintain both breadth and depth meant our boys had to be at their best – and they excelled themselves. This was the first game they'd come up against a superior team and they didn't let their heads go down at any point in the match. After some impressive defensive work, we eventually lost 30-7 but had plenty of areas to work on.

The Easter holidays allowed us some well-deserved recuperation time to prepare for our first 7's tournament hosted by Dunblane High School. A fun, yet competitive, competition involving a variety of teams from the local area produced some excellent and fast-paced rugby. It was an opportunity to mix around our team and to reflect on the impressive progress our players have made this season. After four competitive games, the U13s won every match played.

The 2021-22 season has been an excellent year for the U13s and they have risen to each challenge they have faced with determination and grit. I look forward to us moving on to the U14 conference next year where I'm sure we'll continue to develop our skills and turn these into some fine results.

Mr Bryce, S1 Rugby Coach

Our 2021/2022 season went pretty well despite the fact that covid was still around. We came here not being the best we could be, losing games wto teams we should've beaten. Over games, we have developed not just as individuals but as a team.

Coming into our very first season as a team wasn't so easy coming 4th in the conference playing poorly in bad weather conditions and as I said before not winning a lot of games.

On the other hand, we had a lot of players realising their potential in the sport such as Josh Robanakadavu, Ron Gurung, Rhys Melville, Angus Cowie, and William Stephen with them putting in important tackles when needed and getting us tries in attack

We also have players which have not yet realised their potential which Mr Bryce and I could see but will reach that level in the years to come. In the year coming we need to improve on spreading the play more and not just cut inside and we need to realise we can't zone out on bad weather conditions other than that I can see this team doing really well in the years to come

I cannot wait to play with these guys throughout my career in QVS.

Viliame Wise, S1



S2 Rugby Report

Boys became men! U14 rugby at QVS continues to thrive. Several special moments stand out, but I guess the whole season boils down to one single game for me... Kelvinside on the 22nd of January 2022. It was a beautiful crisp and sunny morning and our team was playing in the main stadium at Kelvinside Academy playing fields.

Let's not kid ourselves here, the pitch was massive, as were several of the opposition players. On closer inspection, you could just about make out the shadow of a beard on the biggest guy who was genuinely taller than Mr Mackay, minus the cheeky wee bald spot.

Picture the scene, our boys standing in a tight huddle on the far side of the pitch, flanked by a crowd of eager parents, vocal with a nervous chant. The powerful morning sun streaked low, dappling spectators with anticipation, and casting long shadows behind our boys as if to show the spirit of former Victorian rugby players standing right behind each one of them. Slowly rising, the body heat and steam caught the sunlight as did our team's expectations for the game. The bounce of eager feet stamping down on any hint of nerves and doubt, like a bull ready to charge the waiting matador. Boys screaming "this is our pitch!"

The ref's whistle blew, and like a charging army, our players chased down our kick-off as if their lives depended on it. From start to finish, this game had it all, with both sides putting on displays of brilliant attacking rugby and defiant defence. The crowd was captivated and lived every collision, every cheeky kick and chase, every high, and low. The boys literally had the crowd on their feet the whole time whilst playing with real composure at times, forwards setting up solid platforms for backs to run off, backs dancing like boxers sizing up their opponents. Philip and Lewis found form on the day with blistering gladiatorial runs, finished off by expertly timed passes.

Our three tries were scored off the back of an impressive array of set plays including for the first time this season, a solid scrum, backed up by competitive play at the breakdown. Our first two tries

were genuine team efforts, finished expertly both times by Liam Melville. What a player, what a finisher! Our third try came from Taylor M-Smith off a well-fought turnover executed by our hungry forwards. Our impressive attack play was complemented by the best dominant first tackles our boys have produced this season. Particular mention to TMS, Oakley, Duncan, and Rory for the tackling masterclass on display.

Despite our well-organised structure, we were sometimes guilty of try-line-fever and on two occasions gave up the chance to cross the chalk line due to a lack of patience. These little lapses in concentration and inexperience ultimately proved to be the difference between both teams with us losing the game by a single try.

This game will live long in my memory and cements why I love the QVS spirit. I feel privileged to have been on the sidelines wearing my silly oversized red, yellow, and green bobble hat!

Thank you boys for letting me be part of such a special day. As for the rest of the U14 season... who cares, I witnessed boys become men!

Mr MacKay, S2 Rugby Coach

This season for us has been a roller coaster of emotions from us getting battered on home turf to us dominating. Here are some of the highlights like our game against Kelvinside at home which we dominated the game with Taylor scoring four tries, myself scoring one, and Rory scoring two.

But one of our best highlights throughout the season was just the sheer determination and courage to come back from so many defeats and I mean a lot of defeats just amazes me.

I would just like to thank the team and our coach Mr MacKay for letting me have this opportunity and if there was one thing I had to say to the P7s and S1s, it's to never give up because one day you might be in a shield final fighting for the title you never know.

Lewis Ferguson, S2



S3 Rugby Report

This season has been one of individual and team development. Yes, the results didn't always go our way, but that does not dictate the success of a season. The players grew as individuals and started to demonstrate pockets of outstanding teamwork and attacking flare. In defence they started to develop a sound team structure and players grew in confidence to ensure they were able to compete successfully in one on one defence.

Unfortunately, the players, at times, struggled with consistency and were unable to string together a number of strong performances. However, when they did start to perform to their full potential, confidence grew both on and off the pitch. We kept our game plan simple for the season – fastball from the breakdown and to play with pace and width. The boys at times played exciting, open, and expansive play, offloading in the tackle and scoring some great tries. And whilst this strategy was not always executed to the best of their abilities, the players should be commended for their willingness to push themselves out of their comfort zones.

The boys have been led admirably throughout the season by Jeshon. He is well respected by the players, always leading by example both in training and during fixtures.

It is always a pleasure to see the boys grow and develop not only as rugby players but as individuals and it was no different this season. I would like to thank all the boys who have represented the U15s this season. They should be proud of their unwavering commitment and enthusiasm for the game. Week in and week out they train and represent the school with determination and pride and have shown an eagerness to learn and develop from all of their experiences on the pitch. Great effort boys and I look forward to working with you next year.

Mr Adams, S3 Rugby Coach

U16's Rugby Report

Following the cancelled season of 2020-2021, all players and coaches were excited to get some rugby played once again. In the first training session of the academic year, over 30 players turned up, unheard of for a school of our modest size.

Within that group, we had some serious talent and collective drive, and we knew we could have a special season ahead of us.

With Covid-19 disrupting the Autumn terms fixtures, we began the conference in October as an untested group, some of whom hadn't played rugby since March 2020. However, there was never any need to worry – the players quickly adopted their structure and within five minutes Charlie Scott crossed the whitewash following a Sam Leweni line break – a common theme throughout the season. Our following game against Morrisons was a harsh battle for us, with our own indiscipline making the fixture tighter than it had to be. A scoreline of 12-0 had us breathe a sigh of relief – and recognise there was work to be done.

Already it was clear that Robert Gordons were the team to beat in the conference, and following a long journey to Aberdeen, we played in conditions that could be accurately described as biblical. A tough task for the boys was made tougher as we lost influential defensive captain Sitiveni Qalobulawasaikabara and scrum-half, Charlie Scott, five minutes into the match when they clashed heads making the same tackle. Although we battled well Robert Gordon's were conference leaders for good reason, and we succumbed to a narrow defeat.

Our Achilles heel across our last two games was our low possession statistics coupled with our high penalty count. Our focus was to change the structure of our defence – slightly narrower and significantly more abrasive and to make better ruck decisions. It was great to see such young players understand these complex rugby concepts and use them so effectively.



A victory against High School of Dundee was the beginning of the U16s maturing into a really difficult side to play against as we began the knockout rounds in the National Shield competition.

These new skills were put into harsh practice in the Quarter-Final against Linlithgow, a side with a beefy pack, aided by trench-like conditions at QV. It was a morning that we were simply unable to utilise our electric backline and instead had to spend significant time on the wrong side of the ball. Following some heroic defending notably by William Kurisaru the score remained 0-0 at halftime, with some exhausted forwards, youngster (although 6"3) James Douglas came on for his debut to add some serious firepower to the pack. Tries from Daniel Rae and a great counterattack from Sam Leweni saw us muscle through to the semis 12-7.

It was a cliché game of two halves in the semi-final at Balfon. In the first half, QV were able to carve open the opposition backline with ease. Although the partnership between Sam Leweni and Owen Nicol had been so reliable in the first half of the season, an unfortunate injury to Nicol saw Jason Osei-Bonsu slot seamlessly into the 13 channel. This opened up acres of space with Savenaca Golea, Lagni Halofaki and Ayden Paterson making outstanding contributions to our meters made. With Balfon scoring first inside five minutes, QVS woke up to put three quick tries on the board to ease into a 17-5 lead. With a slight complacency from QV – probably not helped by the 'Just Dance' session the backs completed instead of strength and conditioning – Balfon upped the physicality in the second half, and at 17-10 had all the momentum. It took not one Josh Ferrier turnover penalty, but three in quick succession to put QV back on top. The game was finished nicely by returning prop Suyen Limbu scoring in the last play. Balfon 10 - 22 QVS. We were in the final!

Finals day was a special day to be a Victorian; two teams in the finals, supported by Victorians, OVs, friends, parents, staff, pipers, and drummers. A nervous warm-up created a nervous first half, where we didn't quite believe we should be ahead. After giving up our early lead – North Berwick were ahead 17-14 at halftime, but we knew we were the better side. 2 targets: 1. Line speed – we need the ball back, 2. Speed at ruck – we need to look after the ball. With higher possession and greater continuity, we created some lovely tries finished by Jeshon Thapa. The moment of the second half of course was from the influential captain Sam

Leweni who was 'different gravy' (see Scottish rugby Tik Tok) as he gathered the ball in his own 22, chipped the North Berwick defence, and sprinted the length supported by the roar from the QV contingent at the DAM Health stadium.

Winning the National Shield was an amazing achievement for a well-deserving team, and finals day I'm sure will create memories these young men will have for many years to come. Queen Victoria continues to be recognised at Caledonia level, and congratulations to Ayden Paterson and Sam Leweni who have represented at this level. Personally, a thank you to Mr Bryce and Mr Adams who have worked with these groups through their junior years, investing time and effort into developing well-rounded rugby players. Also my thanks to Mr McLay for his wisdom and support throughout the season. And of course a thank you to the boys who turn up week after week and give it their all for Queen Victoria School – you've done yourselves, and the school, proud.

Mr Wright, U16 Rugby Coach



The Victorian 2022



U16 schools shield: North Berwick High School Vs Queen Victoria School

Full time: North Berwick 17 Queen Victoria School 33

Player of the Match: Sam Leweni

Finals Day U16:

Suyen Limbu
Jay Pearson
Dan Evans
Josh Knock
William Kurisaru
Josh Ferrier
Daniel Rae (VC)
Hendry Vono
Charlie Scott
Sam Leweni (C)
Luke Lewis Bannis

1st XV Report

In so many ways I was looking forward to this season. We had a team that was balanced and a squad that provided depth from the bench, something that has been a rarity over the last few years. We had also missed so much rugby throughout the COVID months and it was a sign that things were getting back to normal, or so we thought.

After a couple of training sessions, it was announced that the pupils were to go home for a circuit breaker and no fixtures could be played before the October half term.aaarrghhh. However, we used the time effectively to work on our set pieces and create a game plan for the season. We had players getting used to new positions and others being introduced to a different structure from the U16 team. We knew our strengths were in the backs but we needed to ensure that the forwards could create an effective platform for an attack to be made. What our forwards lacked in

size, they made up for in work rate and mobility and this proved to be very useful throughout the season. Our first weekend back and unfortunately after a deluge, frustratingly we had to cancel our fixture against Belbaxter due to waterlogged pitches. However, the following week we played against Glenalmond and at last, we were able to get the season going. It was a wet and muddy affair but our boys managed to keep the ball in hand and create momentum in attack. With the forwards dominating the breakdown through good body positioning and speed, this allowed our backs time and space to attack. The end result was 29-21 for us, thereby starting the season well.

The next game was against our local rivals Morrisons. We knew that they had put a lot of work into their team to prepare themselves for this season and we would have to be on our game to apply pressure. On the day our set pieces let us down with our lineouts looking shambolic. As a result, we couldn't get any 'go forward' which the team relies on to make the most of our assets. It ended in a 22-14 defeat and we knew that if we were to beat them the next time we met, a lot of improvements had to be made.

Our next encounter was again affected as Storm Arwen hit. I remember driving to work at 06:30 in the morning and dodging all the trees and debris that were strewn across the roads. Yet again, another fixture was cancelled. It was then the time for our journey up to Aberdeen. After over two hours on the bus, it was important to give the teams a good warm-up, however, that was not to be. The weather was again awful (a regular theme this season) as it was windy, cold and at times sleet fell. Robert Gordons had managed to clear the snow off the pitches and they were keen to get started before their players suffered from hypothermia. On the day it came down to who was able to cope with the conditions better. Although it did not make for fast-flowing, exciting rugby, our boys played off shoulders and ran in enough tries to secure the victory. We won 47-17 on what was not an enjoyable experience.

Our last match of the conference was against Dundee and both the U16s and U18s went up to the RPC and were excited about playing on a 4G pitch. The U16s kicked off first and came away with a win, and the U18s were on second. Unfortunately, because the U16's game had overrun it meant that our game was shortened quite significantly. With it being such a tight game, it was a shame



that that had to happen as we were starting to dominate the game as the final whistle went. We lost 29-27.

With the first half of the season done, with not many games played, the team was ready for our friendlies, and also, due to our position in the Conference, we also had knock-out rounds for the National Shield to play. The first part of the term was dedicated to playing the Quarter-final and semi-final of the Shield. Our first match was against Balfron which we won comfortably but we were pressured throughout the game. The ground was heavy and we had to work hard to get the ball into a good position for our backs to strike from. Eventually, our speed, strength, and work rate tired out the opposition and we eventually won 46-12. The semi-final was our rematch against Morrisons, which was looking to be a real humdinger of a match. We had heard Morrisons were moving players around to match our strength through the centre so we knew we had to get our set-piece right, particularly the lineouts. All fell into place and although it was a close towsy affair, played in awful conditions, reminiscent of the Somme, we came out worthy winners, the score being 24-8.

We were now in the final against Lorreto who we had heard were a forwards-dominated team who liked to bully the opposition up front. They were not wrong, we found it incredibly difficult to keep the ball in contact and suffered turnover after turnover. Although we had taken the initial lead through a well-struck penalty, we really struggled against a bigger and better pack when it came to scrums and lineouts. Their forwards dominated all facets of the game and eventually won 43-8. Although it was an amazing experience playing at Murrayfield and the crowd was so supportive, I know the players were disappointed that we didn't front up more on the day, however, lessons learned.

Our last two games of the season were our best. We played against Kelvinside away, and for the first time ever, dominated them across the park. We also had players from the U16 team playing as they had become of age, all of whom gave good accounts of themselves. The last match was our third against Morrisons and the decider of the series. It was a beautiful day and the team were up for a fierce contest, which they got. The teams were well-matched with key players in key positions.

Mr McLay, 1st XV Rugby Coach



The Victorian 2022



PDD





I can hardly believe that I am writing our entry for the Victorian again, it feels like no time has passed at all since last year. What a year it has been, and I am delighted that we are finally back to a more 'normal' way of working. This year has seen the dance team back performing at Parade Sundays and external engagements once again, which feels fabulous.

We were honoured to be asked to represent Erskine Charity at this year's Ideal Home Show in May this year. We kicked off the show with our Pipe Band and Dancers marching down the centre concourse in the SECC alongside Pony Major and the Erskine Charity dogs. We have always had a close working relationship with Erskine Charity and the pupils welcomed the opportunity to raise awareness and money for such a worthy cause. According to the last update that we received, a total of close to £10,000 was raised over the course of the weekend, this sum of money will be used to help support so many veterans and we all felt so proud to be a part of this.

It was a quick turnaround from marching alongside a pony to preparing for the CCF Beating Retreat at both Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Castle. After two (ropey) rehearsals the team arrived at the Palace with excitement. Queen Victoria School had not been able to take part in this event since 2019 so to be back at the Main Gates dressed in our finery felt like something special. It was a glorious evening and the sun was kind enough to make an appearance until the bus journey home. The dancers and band members were thrilled to be greeted by the familiar face of Major General Alastair Bruce, who took the time out of his evening to pass on his words of support and encouragement (he even made time for a few quick selfies). We were all thrilled with the performance and were looking forward to performing at Edinburgh Castle the following evening. There is nothing quite like the feeling of performing at Edinburgh Castle and as we made our way to the Castle Gates, the sense of anticipation and excitement in the pupils was undeniable. Unfortunately for us, just as we stepped off to begin the Beating Retreat set, the clouds opened and we had 30 minutes of non-stop rain. That didn't dampen the spirits of all of the young performers though, and the crowd were wowed by their ability to carry on regardless. I was extremely proud as I watched the team perform, however, I can safely say that sharing a warm coach with 30 soaking wet wool tunics is an experience that I would rather not relive!

Just when we thought there may be a day or two to rest, it was all systems go in preparation for The Platinum Jubilee Youth Spectacular at Kelty in Fife. The pipe band and dancers were invited to take part in this event by Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson, and when we received the invite we knew that it was something that we wanted to be a part of. As a school, we were honoured to be offered our own eight-minute slot in the programme, and we relished the opportunity to showcase the Pipe Band and Dancers in a standalone performance. Whilst we were preparing for this event we knew that it was going to be special, however, I don't think any of us understood just how amazing the event would be. We joined a cast of 500 young people to put on the show of our lives to an audience of over 2000 people, this is certainly the biggest crowd

that the dance team and band have performed to and the smile on their faces as they danced and played said it all. Over the space of two days, the pupils enjoyed meeting new friends, performing with old friends, long lines at the Churros van and taking selfies with Stephen Mulhearn (no less). However, I think if I was to ask any of the pupils involved what their highlight from the weekend would have been, it would undoubtedly be getting to crowd storm the arena during the Red Hot Chili Pipers set. I must admit, I was relieved when the security guard invited them down off of the stands and onto the esplanade – with the amount of jumping and dancing, I wasn't confident that the seated stands could take much more!

Despite all of the ups and downs that we have faced over the past two years, the pipe band and dance team have remained united and I am extremely proud of each and every one of the pupils who have continued to dedicate themselves and their time.

With every academic year end, we must say goodbye to some of our PDD team members, which is always a bittersweet moment for me. This year we have Mirren, Irena, Kenzie, Gabby, Megan, Rachel, Grace, Freya, Subhaashish, Phoenix and Michael who are heading off to pastures new and whilst we will miss them, we wish them all the very best of luck, success and happiness in their new ventures.

**Mrs Landsburgh, Highland Dancing Instructor
Mr Lowther and Mr Peters, Piping and Drumming
Instructors respectively**

Throughout my time at QV I have been part of the dance team. This has given me the confidence I need to put myself out there, and just enjoy dancing as a whole. I have worked with an amazing team, and have had the opportunity to dance at many parades (rain, wind or shine) and be able to do what I absolutely love – dancing. This year I have also had the opportunity of dancing at Beat and Retreat, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Fife, which was a huge achievement and I was super proud. I will definitely miss being part of the dance team when I leave QVS as it has brought me so many memories and I am so glad that I joined the team in S1. Thank you to Mrs Landsburgh for being the best dance teacher and always teaching us new choreography and being someone who is there to talk to.

Rio Gregory, S6 Leaver

During my time at QVS, I have been a dedicated and committed highland dancer within the school and was given the opportunity to perform with the dance team for the first time, in S1, on Grand Day. Since that first performance, I have been given many more opportunities to perform. Being given the chance of performing in both the Beating Retreat and for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was an amazing experience. My favourite memory within the dance team would have to be the Grand Day performance at the end of S3 when I was able to perform alongside my sister for the last time.

Megan Clarke, S6 Leaver



Developing the Young Workforce

Despite the obvious challenges of COVID-19, I am pleased to announce another extremely successful year of careers guidance and Developing the Young Workforce at Queen Victoria School. With the help and support of our external partners, we delivered a range of activities across all year groups in line with the national Career Education Standards.

Primary Department continued to deliver a weekly programme of careers lessons, raising pupils' knowledge of the wider world of work. The impact of the pandemic meant that S1 and S2 were unable to experience visits to external events and limited the involvement of employers. However, Mr Davey and Science Department were able to deliver a very successful STEM awareness day involving a range of employers when restrictions were finally lifted.

All S3 to S6 pupils were again allocated dedicated DYW periods on their timetable with lessons designed around the national 'Skills for Careers' framework and the pupil entitlements within the Career Education Standards. During our enforced absence Google classrooms allowed us to maintain contact with all pupils, ensuring they were fully engaged and supported.

The Wider Achievement initiative introduced last year again proved highly successful. Ceara Gowans S4, Maeghan Clarke and Alex Wilson S3 achieved Bronze 'Inspiring Digital Enterprise' awards while Tina Thapa achieved a Silver award. S6 pupils completed a range of online extracurricular courses across a range of subjects related to their career ambitions while special mention goes to Cameron Brown in S5 who completed five courses lasting over 30 hours, in his chosen field of engineering.

This year saw the welcome return of work placement opportunities for our S4 pupils with 24 taking the opportunity to gain some real-world work experience. These will be documented to enable those involved to gain an SQA Work Placement Award at Level 4. As in previous years, all S4 pupils completed an online Morrisby profile and received one-to-one instruction from Mrs Graham of The Career Place, on how to use the resultant report to guide their course choices towards an appropriate pathway. As further support, each pupil attended a face-to-face meeting with Mrs Ciccu, a careers advisor with Skills Development Scotland.

S5 pupils attended classes on CV writing and interview practice and have received presentations from a range of employers on various routes through apprenticeships, college and university, as they enter their final year of education.

Once again we maintained our fabulous record of every pupil who submitted a UCAS application before the deadline, receiving an offer of a university place. Pupils were given one-to-one support on writing a successful personal statement and guidance from Stirling University on choosing their correct course. Guidance on university funding was provided by Derek Reeve of SAAS who hosted an online session for both pupils and parents. Pupils choosing the College route were offered the opportunity of interview practice with Mr Leitch resulting in a number of successful applications.

The Enterprise and Employability course proved to be extremely popular this year, with 10 pupils across S5 and S6 successfully completing all of the modules. An online evaluation following the course proved it to be both enjoyable and very educational for all pupils. Once more our thanks go to our external partners for all of their help and support: Skills Development Scotland, Margaret Graham – The Career Place, DYW Forth Valley, Gateway Shared Services, Navy Outreach, Strathclyde University, Stirling University, SIFET, JP Morgan and SAAS.

Mr Leitch, Developing the Young Workforce



Eco-Schools



In November 2022, S1 took part in the Transform our World COP26 Youth Summit online in the school theatre. They were engaged in discussion and activities across three themed days looking at individual actions we can all do, how to influence people in power to take action and the importance of living sustainably. They also worked on topical tasks across various departments in the school. This served as a great springboard to begin a conversation about sustainability at Queen Victoria School and how to address any issues we face here.

Work in the veg garden continues. This year we have planted a native species hedgerow around our raised beds – partly to support local wildlife (nesting birds) and partly to deter local wildlife (the deer which eat our growing veg plants!). The allotmenters have been busy this spring bringing on many seedlings. We hope to have a bountiful harvest later this year of; tomatoes, chillies, potatoes, carrots, garlic, sweetcorn, squash, onions, leek and herbs.

To celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee we joined in with the Queens Green Canopy (QGC) initiative. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees through to the end of the Jubilee year. The QGC will create a network of individual trees, avenues and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future. As part of our wider efforts around Learning for Sustainability at Queen Victoria School, we managed to obtain over 100 tree saplings from The Woodland Trust. Initially, the idea was to plant them around the campus here in Dunblane but we felt the QGC provided us with an opportunity to move this initiative beyond the boundaries of the School and serve as a way of connecting us as a QVS Community. Almost 100 of our families and staff members have taken a tree home to join the initiative. Well done to Sam, Alfie, Deeyana, Jayden and Tom for their work to pot up and later distribute the saplings – "but they are just dead sticks!".

We have a sunflower growing competition going on among P7 and S1 – let's see who the winner is after the summer holiday. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, people around the world have taken up the sunflower as a symbol of support for the Ukrainian people. To Ukrainians, the sunflower has always had a special place in their heart as their national flower. In Ukraine, sunflowers signify peace, and while that may be a distant dream, planting sunflowers is a show of solidarity and an act of thanks for the liberty, equality, and safety that we enjoy in the UK. Not only does the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag mimic the vibrant colour of sunflowers against a clear sky, but sunflowers make up a huge chunk of the Ukrainian economy. Did you know that the country is one of the world's major suppliers of sunflower oil?

As a thanks and well done for the efforts of all members of the school veg garden we went on a trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. It was an enjoyable trip for all who were able to attend, albeit a little wet!

Towards the end of the summer term, our Senior Monitor Aidan Horsburgh delivered a presentation on Sustainability. This launched the eco-school programme at Queen Victoria School, which will kick off fully after the summer break. The Eco-Schools programme is a 7-step framework that guides, empowers and motivates pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in school, in the local community and beyond. We can later apply for the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, which recognises, rewards and celebrates the environmental achievements of our school community. It shows the world that we are committed to making a positive impact towards our local and global environment.

Mr Renwick, Teacher of Biology





Queen Victoria School





Life @ QVS







Starry, Starry Night







Winter Formal



www.qvs.school





Spring Fling





John Muir Award

In June all P7 pupils successfully completed the Bronze John Muir Award. This is an environmental award scheme that builds awareness and a sense of responsibility in protecting wild places.

QVS and the neighbouring Kippendavie Estate proved to be an ideal setting for this with pupils having the opportunity to discover, explore, conserve and share a diverse and sensitive habitat from their doorstep. After learning about the history of John Muir the pupils embarked on a programme that included several conservation activities on the Kippendavie Estate. As well as removing deadwood from a recently felled and replanted plantation, they cleared a two-acre area of native woodland in a phenomenal effort to rid the forest of single-use plastic.

John Muir was born on the 21st of April 1838 in California. He sadly died on the 24th December 1914. John's wife was called Louisa Wander Strentzel and his children were called Wanda, Hanna and Helen. He had seven siblings. John Muir lived in California in the early years of his life but was raised in Dunbar, Scotland. John was the reason that we have National Parks, he wanted to make the world have better places through the beauty of nature.

The John Muir Award is where you learn about observation and conservation and we learned all about him, how to recycle and how to look after our planet. In order to achieve the award we had to do some community work and map work. The discovery John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places.

Once we had learnt about John Muir and the award we made an environmental superhero. Sienna's superhero was called Rubbish Man and he picks up all the rubbish. Erin's superhero was called Fairy Man. He made more trees and stopped deforestation with his other fairies. Later that day we did orienteering and we had to go around the school navigating on our maps to try to find letters and unscramble them to make a word. The word was 'conservation'. The winning team was the Monkey Gang.

On Tuesday we went to the library and learnt about Biodegrading with Mr Newham. We were given a variety of pictures such as; leaves, fruits & vegetables, leather shoes, football jersey, cotton t-shirt, wool socks, aluminium (coke cans) glass bottles, plastic bags and take away containers. Then we had to estimate how long it would take for them to biodegrade in months and years.

Next, we went to the Kippendavie Estate and helped build the bonfire that was going to be lit up for the Queen's Jubilee. We had to lay the sticks flat for safety reasons. After that, we got a willow tree branch to plant in the school grounds.

On Wednesday we went to Wavell Woods to clear 2 acres worth of plastic tree tubes and wooden sticks. The tree tubes are there to prevent red wood deer from eating them. The tree tubes also shelter the trees from the sun apart from the top which makes the tree put its energy to grow straight up instead of growing outwards.

We really enjoyed the John Muir Award and we hope to be able to do the next level in the future.

By Bernadet, Erin, Isla, Isobel, Keatley, Niamh and Sienna



The Victorian Awards have been developed in partnership with our students and celebrate their impressive achievements across a wide range of activities and initiatives from Digital Citizenship to Volunteering. These awards celebrate our senior students' contribution to outdoor adventures, hosting social events and supporting whole school Wellbeing and Learning initiatives and showcase the impressive range of wider achievements that Victorians achieve across their time at school.

We were delighted when OVA offered to sponsor these awards and thank them for the stunning silver Quaichs which are presented annually to the winners of these Victorian Awards

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

This year, we were delighted to present the prestigious Victorian Award to three S6 students: Sean Melloy, Rio Gregory and Aidan Horsburgh who have taken an active role in the wider life of the school in an astonishing range of areas, in spite of their senior years being affected by the pandemic – all three S6 students ably represent the QVS Values in action, and we could not be prouder of all they have achieved.

The three winners were awarded their Quaichs at the S6 Awards ceremony in the final week of the Summer term, where the school heard all about their wider achievements. These ranged from supporting the younger students as Literacy Ambassadors, helping our SSM with drill, leading assemblies and school events and achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as organising socials for juniors, volunteering for a diverse array of charities and supporting their peers in sports, volunteering and community events.

All three very deserving winners were presented with their Quaich from the OVA and congratulated on the many skills they have developed outwith the classroom and for being such wonderful role models. These awards have been warmly received as they allow the OVA to recognise the diverse skills which are developed at QVS through our students' impressive array of wider achievements and allow Old Victorians to maintain a strong connection with our current Victorians.



Jubilee Celebration







Jubilee Celebration







Class of 2022





Summiting Everest

So, way back in 1994 I'm on a ridgeline in the Ochil hills with Tom Shannon explaining the nuances of land navigation and how on occasion it's far more economical to follow a ridgeline around a re-entrant instead of going in a straight line...fast forward 27 years and I'm standing on the highest ridgeline in the world, I've just made it to the South Summit of Mount Everest and I'm looking towards the Hillary Step, the Summit beyond still obscured and the extremely narrow and precarious summit ridge, all that stands between me and the summit. I'm fairly certain at this point that I'll make it, barring a fall or some other unforeseen calamity so we wait a little longer in a small col sheltered from the wind for the sun to rise over the horizon, get the timing right and we will arrive on the summit just after sunrise.

As the sun comes up in the east over Tibet and China I can clearly see the curvature of the Earth and in the West, the sky is still dark with a lightning storm way off in the distance.... it's the image from the whole expedition that will stick with me for years to come I'm sure, my climbing Sherpa gives me the nod and we move towards the last real obstacle, the Hillary Step is fairly technical due to the extreme exposure and the altitude but its climbed with relative ease and now we have the last gentle climb

to the summit, I can now clearly see the first climbers reaching the summit, 15 minutes later I am standing on the highest part of the summit, my Sherpa insisted I perch myself on the highest pile of snow so at that moment I am the highest person in the world, the time is 0611 on 11 May 2022.

At that moment I'm both excited and full of differing emotions, it's a far more emotional experience than I had assumed, the sense of relief was overwhelming, I had been carrying so much (self-induced) pressure and just making it here gave a huge release of pressure, I was able to relax now and take it all in, the weather was perfect, clear skies with extremely low winds so I enjoyed around 20 minutes there, congratulating other climbers and anxiously waiting for other members of my team to arrive. Eventually, it was time to leave and begin the dangerous descent, the summit is only halfway... Basecamp is still two days down climbing away so as I climb down I'm relieved to see the rest of the team pushing hard towards the summit, twelve of sixteen team members make it, and the other four all succumbed to illness prior to reaching Camp 2 on the way up so overall a huge achievement for us and a huge achievement for Bahrain, as we managed to put the first-ever Bahraini and nine others on the top! It was a unique set of circumstances that got me a place in the team, but just being open to new experiences and not being afraid to put yourself out there can lead to some pretty awesome experiences in life, just trying is enough to change your life. Having been successful in many of life's endeavours and having failed on many occasions too, I never regret the things I've done, successful or otherwise, but there are many things I truly regret not doing through fear of failure...please please please do not let fear cage you!!!

Rich McConnell, OV

For those who are interested in Alpinism, there are many avenues, the traditional courses and experiences available in the UK and Europe, along with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, University mountaineering clubs and the Armed Forces all provide fantastic opportunities to learn. I am available to talk anytime to any pupil or OV who has any questions.

The Victorian 2022





Malcolm Burrows

This is my account of how two young boys who didn't complete year 10 played key roles at the 1800 hours Menin Gate ceremony.

In the summer of 1955 our class sat 5 GCE O levels namely: English, maths, physics with chemistry, History and French. I failed English and maths. Failing English was a shock as I had produced good work throughout the academic year but maths was no surprise. We later discovered that we were better than we thought and had successful careers.

Malcolm joined the Royal Air Force as a boy entrant. He later became a dog handler. He left the RAF at age 30 and enlisted in the Queen's Own Highlanders. He was runner up as the best all round recruit in the squad. I joined the Metropolitan Police as a junior cadet. Basically I was tea boy in uniform working in B6 Transport at Scotland Yard. I kept instruction books up to date together with other mind-numbing clerical duties.

I joined the Royal Marines having just turned 17 in September 1956 and completed nine months superb training. I'm immensely proud that I had earned the right to wear the green beret before I reached the age of 18.



Like Malcolm I was runner up as the best all round recruit in the squad.. My first tour of duty was in the Persian Gulf on HMS Loch Killisport. Thanks to Leading Coder John Collingwood I completed my 'O' level GCES in English, maths and general studies together with military topography.

John was doing his national service on completion of which he took his place at Oxford University where he played in the annual Oxford versus Cambridge rugby match at Twickenham. I owe him a great deal. My second tour of duty was with 42 Commando RM in the Persian Gulf and the far east. At that time there were about 90,000 British and Commonwealth service personnel in that theatre. The Commando Carrier was HMS Bulwark the world's first helicopter assault ship. During that tour of duty I experienced active service in Kuwait, north Malaya, Brunei, Sarawak and north Borneo.

The combined HMS Bulwark, 42 Commando rugby team swept all opposition aside including a British Invitation 15 of former county players and internationals. We were not given much of a chance but in front of a good crowd at the Singapore Padang we ran them off their feet in a close game. The opposition were members of the Singapore Cricket Club where we enjoyed a great night of wonderful food and drink. There were only four of us from the lower deck. The rest of the team were officers who had been educated at top British boarding schools or grammar schools.

For some years now a group of Old Victorians have kept in touch via the internet ably guided by Jim Fraser I found out that Malcolm lived in Holland. His emails to the group were always cheerful. I informed him that our itinerary included a trip to Bruges – close enough for him to offer to meet with us there. He rocked up at our hotel full of good cheer.

Although we hadn't seen each other for 55 years, there was instant rapport. I told him that on the following day we were doing the Battlefield tour to honour my uncle William Ross Hunter (Seaforth Highlander KIA in the early months of the war). William was a professional soldier and a real warrior.) His younger brother James Durward Hunter joined the Royal Scots and was KIA in the dying days of the Great War. Their bodies were never recovered.

We met in the reception area of our hotel. Malcolm was immaculate in full Highland regalia. His pipes belonged to his Grandfather Pipe Major Willie Mclean. I wore my blazer, green beret, Royal Marines Corp tie and medals. We looked the part. Our tour guide was most impressed.

Our first stop was the Ploegsteert War memorial. I had photographs taken besides the names of my uncles James and William. Malcolm played a suitable lament. It was very moving. During this tribute we were surprised when another tourist arrived on the scene. He had served in the Scots Guards. He was very emotional and felt honoured to have witnessed our tribute.

Ypres was badly damaged during the Great War. It has been restored to its former glory and is a great tourist attraction. Malcolm's role was to play a suitable lament after the local fire brigade buglers had played their part in the evening ceremony. My role was to recite the ode:

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning we will remember them.
Lest we forget.'

Malcolm played a beautiful lament slow marching to the entrance of the Menin Gate. The audience was most impressed. On completion of the ceremony I talked to high school students from Yorkshire and shared my story with them. They were very understanding. After that I shed copious tears grieving for the uncles I never knew and the cousins I don't have.

I love the Corries Flower of Scotland that for many years has been the Scottish rugby team's anthem. Robert the Bruce's army certainly won a great victory at Bannockburn that has been immortalised in Scottish history. The real Flower of Scotland is the Scottish soldiers KIA in the Great War. We lost 147,000 men including 30 Scottish rugby internationals and an Olympic gold medallist.

Malcolm established a great reputation for his mastery of the bagpipes. I later learned that Malcolm played throughout the region for many organisations and individuals over the 35-year period, more often than not declining payment or reimbursement.

He was definitely a great ambassador for Scotland as he performed these duties.

For me Queen Victoria School sowed the seeds for higher learning. For Malcolm he became a skilled piper, dog handler, top soldier and an asset to NATO. I am saddened at his passing and honoured to have been his friend.

David Robert Duncan

It is with great sadness that my cousin David Robert Duncan passed last night. David was at QVS between 90-92 but had to leave due to his life long illness.

He was a kind fellow, always smiling with a glint in his eye. He will be sorely missed.

His family thought he would have very much liked to be mentioned here as he had such fond memories of his time at QV. I'll always remember him (in despite of his illness) skate boarding down the hill next to the magic circle (wavel wood) at full pelt and launching off a ramp at warp factor 10 and crashing splendidly only to be cheered by the masses! He rose, took a bow and did it all over again. I smile as I write this. An OV to the last. RIP buddy.

Jack Quinn

To everyone who knew our Dad from QVS.

I'm very sad to announce that our Dad (Jack Quinn) died peacefully at his home on Sunday 3rd April following a short illness. He lived a full life and enjoyed many friendships along with our Mum, Norma. He'll be missed by all his family and friends. His funeral will be at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr on Wed 13th April at 11:15am.



1



2



3



7



8



9



10



15



16



17

1. Congratulations to OV Tony Harvey, who having started competing in Bobsleigh for the RAF only last year, has been selected to represent GB. Not bad for 8 months training, Tony!
2. Many congratulations to OV Jack Halliday, taking some time out of his action packed life to get engaged to Charlotte - unsurprisingly the proposal took place in the great outdoors!
3. Many Congratulations to OV Steve Page who graduated this month from St Andrews University with an honours degree in Cell Biology. Steve spent 14 years in the army as a military policeman, before returning to study.
4. Congratulations to OV Sophie Tytek, on her graduation First class honours in Primary Education and off to the Classroom, as Miss Tytek this August.
5. Congratulations to OV Daniel Sloan on his wedding to beautiful wife Gemma, accompanied by OV Team, Oliver, Ash, Groom Daniel, Ryan, Gary & Fearghas. Great to see them all still together nearly a decade after leaving QVS, scrubbing up very well indeed!
6. Congratulations to OV Maxine Cameron on her wedding to Sean this summer after a long wait through Covid restrictions.
7. Congratulations to OV Kyle Rowe on his first International Cap for Scotland this season. Great to see OVs doing so well after their QVS sports career.
8. Many Congratulations to OV Stef Miller and wife Heather on their wedding day earlier this year.
9. Many congratulations to OV Emily Collins, graduating with First Class Honours in Physiotherapy from Glasgow Caledonian University this month
10. QVS ROMEO's - Retired old men eating out (From L to R) Andy Sobik - Technical Dept 1985 and 96/97 Tom Shannon - Tech Dept, CCF and Outdoor Stuff 1985 to 2021 Steve Laing - PT Tech Dept -1984 to 2019 and Haig HoM Graeme Beattie - Primary/SFL 1984 to 2021
11. Many Congratulations To OV and Senior Monitor 2018, Madison Robb, graduating as a Bachelor of Law with Honours from the University of Stirling this summer.



4



5



6



11



12



13



14



18



19



20

12. Congratulations to OV Callum Allan who married beautiful Vitalija his sister, OV Tammy Laws says that's she's finally the woman to make Peter Pan grow up!

13. Many Congratulations to OV Hannah Pill, graduating with a BA Honours in International Business and Human resource management at Glasgow Caledonian

14. Congratulations to OV James William Irving, graduating from Leeds Beckett University with a Bachelor of Science Degree (Hons) in Environmental Health Studies, with a First Class Honours. The only OV here with both a University & Military graduation to celebrate!

15. Great to see OV Jordan Oatley getting his Armed Forces U23 Cap after a great match against Harlequins. Well done Jordan! Dad and QVS Hockey coach Dave Oatley in equally natty headwear

16. Congratulations to OV Ewan Christie on his marriage to Kelly earlier this year.

17. Well done to OV Molly Horne on being presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award tis summer at Buckingham Palace. We are sure Mr Shannon is very proud!

18. Congratulations to OV Emily McNair who graduated earlier this summer from RGU with a First Class Degree in Accounting and Finance

19. Congratulations to OV David Honeyman on his marriage to Heather in Ibiza this summer. Fantastic to see Ryan, Alan & Adam making it there from all corners of the globe to celebrate his big day at his side.

20. Many congratulations to OV Kris Edwards, who married the beautiful Laura on 5th July at Lochside Hotel, Cumnock. A wonderful wedding and great to see proud mum and Retired QVS Primary teacher Gail Edwards celebrating by his side.



SSM Stacey

So, the time has finally come for SSM Stacey to hang up his Glengarry and Pace Stick and retire from QVS after his years of leading Ceremonial life at QVS. It is no exaggeration to say that David has engaged with so many aspects of our community that it is difficult to enumerate them all here. As well as being our SSM, he was a promoted member of the Cunningham House Team for many years and worked closely with Mr Eastham supporting the many boys that passed through Cunningham's doors and his energy and commitment to supporting our students will be very much missed.

David also contributed hugely across his years here to the extracurricular life of QVS through his love of football, rugby and athletics and his inimitable support for all students representing the school made a real impact. He was always keen to let students know when they'd performed well - and sometimes when they hadn't - and we will very much miss his vocal support for the young people of QVS when they represent the school in so many fields. David's kindness in ensuring that many students got lifts to fixtures, tutor trips, Duke of Edinburgh and Band engagements will not be forgotten. He went out of his way on hundreds of occasions to make sure that the students got where they needed to be and his generosity with his time and his unstinting encouragement has had a hugely positive impact on many Victorians.

David has extremely high standards in all things Ceremonial and his willingness to go above and beyond, both early in the morning and late at night to ensure that drill and turnout at QVS meet his own very high standards is evident in the highly impressive performances that his students achieve across our Parades and Ceremonial Occasions. These high standards are abundantly clear on the 15 Grand Days that David has coordinated across his time here. The outstanding display our students put on here is a testament to David's patience and perfectionism. His many hours of hard work getting 270 Victorians' drill up to scratch always enhances the pride and respect the students have for our

ceremonial traditions and he will definitely be a hard act to follow. His many Senior Monitors, Colour Parties, Guard Commanders and Orderlies owe a huge debt to David for the hours of time he put in to supporting them to get things right - and it's certainly safe to say that Friday night Parade Practice will never be quite the same again...

David's years of commitment to the wider life of QVS will also be sorely missed. The students remaining will miss his no nonsense approach, his warm hearted and caring nature and his ability to throw himself into all aspects of school life. They have had many fantastic experiences with Mr Stacey - from his Expeditions, which range from Machu Picchu to Borneo and from ski trips to trekking the Great Wall of China - and they all remember him going the extra mile to ensure that they had a good, and safe, time. David was a highlight of many school discos and Proms and his dance moves to Human by the Killers will never be forgotten. He loved judging the Talent Show, getting involved in charity events, supporting PDD on Military Tattoos and Engagements and, of course, coordinating the Sports Day Tug of War, where his love of competition and camaraderie could be seen in abundance.

David also loved entertaining us with his vocal skills and could be relied upon to entertain us with his 'golden voice' at many a school occasion, including his Prom Bus performances (!) We will never forget his farewell performance at the Summer Concert this year where he wowed the crowds with his Dean Martin tunes. His Burns Suppers were always memorable affairs too, and his passion for bringing traditional Scottish music and song to QVS have created many happy memories of sing alongs to The Road to Passchendaele as well as Auld Lang Syne.

The students of QVS remember David as someone who is a very good listener and whose bark is very much worse than his bite. David truly understands military life and can look at things from the perspective of SSM, House Tutor, QVS Parent and Army Veteran - often all at the same time. As a military child himself, our students felt he really 'got it' and could put himself in their shoes when times were hard, parents were redeployed, or homesickness kicked in. His unique mixture of empathy and pragmatism was often just what was needed and many Victorians are hugely grateful for the time he took to make sure



things were okay and remember his tough love, advice and 'reality-checks' with gratitude. Whilst we are all sad to lose him as a colleague, we are confident that David will find the same happiness in retirement that he experienced during his time at QVS and we hope that he gets time to enjoy his passion for football, travel and adventures now that he finally gets some time for himself after looking after all of us.

While David will certainly be missed by all of us here at QVS, we are sure that there can be few people who deserve their retirement more. His hard work and commitment truly have left a lasting impact on our boarding community. We wish Mr Stacey much happiness in his future endeavors with his wife Maureen and look forward to seeing the travel photos and updates in his extensive array of Celtic shirts as he embarks upon his well deserved retirement.

All the best, Sir.

"Beannachd leibh"



Ann McFarlane

Ann McFarlane joined QVS in September 1992, supporting the Assistant Bursar. She then moved on to become the School Secretary, followed by a number of years as the School Purchasing Officer. She then became the School Business Manager's Secretary and finally the Admissions Secretary.

As Admissions Secretary

Ann's excellent interpersonal skills were key in building a fantastic relationship with parents and ex-pupils.. Ann was an excellent organiser and was crucial to ensuring the smooth administration of the admissions process. Ann also worked closely with the School Business Manager in support of Her Majesty's Commissioners (HMC) to ensure the successful administration of Board and sub-committee meetings and for QVS Grand Day. After 29 year's service with QVS Ann decided it was time to retire, to focus on her many interests travelling and her love of animals just to mention two. The QVS community miss Ann and we all wish her a happy and fun retirement.

Margaret Symon

Margaret Symon joined QVS in December 1996, as a typist followed by a move to the School Finance Office. Margaret's accounting knowledge, skills and mindset meant no job was too big. She worked closely with a number of departments within the school, including supporting the boarding houses with their accounts, and supporting Her Majesty's Commissioners (HMC) and School Business Manager with the wider HMC Charity Funds, including managing the 500 Club (a QVS Centenary fund). Her friendly and approachable nature left her a valued member of the QVS family. After serving over 25 years with QVS Margaret decided it was time to retire and to open a new chapter in her life. The Community of QVS miss her big smile, her eagerness to help and we all wish her happiness, good health in the future.



Margaret Skeith

Margaret Skeith joined QVS as 'Sister' of our School Hospital in the early 2000s and ran it as our only school nurse for a number of years before our current Health and Wellbeing provision was in place. Margaret worked closely with Boarding Houses and local NHS services to support our

students and involved herself in a wide range of school and boarding activities across her long and varied career at QVS.

Students will have fond memories of 'Pink Day' for Breast Cancer Awareness and the fabulous Strawberry Teas provided at Sports Days across the years by Margaret, Vivien and the HWBC Team. Margaret and Mollie the Collie provided care, support and 'Therapet' duty for hundreds of Victorians and we wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement.



Kenny Lawrie

Kenny Lawrie first joined QVS in the late 90's as the Finance & Administration Manager. In early 2015 he moved to Hornbill School, British Forces Brunei, as the School Business Leader. He returned to QVS in early 2020, as the School Resources Manager. Kenny had an excellent head for

figures and detail and you could be sure that any information he provided was comprehensive and accurate. He would always challenge before committing to anything, which was a joy for any School Business Manager but probably not so much so for those on the receiving end!

Kenny has left us to take up a post in the Falkland Islands, ironically working for his old boss during his first stint at QVS. Kenny was a much-loved member of QVS, who will equally be remembered for his flamboyant dress sense and a general air of eccentricity. We all wish him the best of luck in his new post and, who knows, we might see him back at QVS one day!



Stuart Wright

Stuart Wright joined QVS in the Autumn Term of 2017 - he was a passionate Maths teacher, Rugby coach, and member of the Cunningham House Team. Stuart will probably be most fondly remembered, by the Cunningham Boys, for his "Dad jokes" in the Wednesday morning meetings.

Nothing was too much for Stuart, he cared deeply for the students, and was often found helping a student with extra Maths prep, or on the fields, helping his rugby team to get their drills right.

Stuart was an extremely successful Rugby coach, in his time at QVS, he guided his U16 Rugby Team to back-to-back victories in the Scottish Schools Plate competition, with his teams playing in the shadows of Murrayfield, for both of the finals. Stuart was offered, and accepted, a House Parent position at the prestigious Gordonstoun School, up in the North of Scotland. We wish Stuart all the best with his new adventure, and we look forward to him visiting the school again, sometime soon.



Gordon Ross

Gordon took up post as Pipe Major at Queen Victoria School in April 1998, after serving 19 years in the Gordon Highlanders. He was very quickly part of the QVS team, helping in the organisation of a Pipe Band and Rugby tour to Perth, Sydney and Brisbane in the summer of 1999. Following the very successful tour of

Australia, Gordon accompanied the band to the Nova Scotia Tattoo, multiple Basel Tattoos and - more close to home - three Edinburgh Tattoos.

During his time as Pipe Major at QVS, Gordon introduced the more academic side of piping, liaising with the SQA and the addition of NPAs for the pipers. In addition to his role as Pipe Major, Gordon also played a major role in the wider school. In his early years, he coached and refereed rugby for the younger students as well as many years as a house tutor in Cunningham House. Gordon hugely enjoyed the boarding experience at QVS and did a 10-year stint as Deputy Housemaster with three years as a Housemaster. Gordon has taught hundreds of students how to play the pipes, a skill many of our Old Victorians cherish. Gordon will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours (on the golf course).



Steve Adams - DHT Pastoral & Guidance

Steve Adams first joined us from the Duke of York's school in Dover as Trenchard Housemaster, where his firm but fair approach with the 'Nippers' had a hugely positive impact on our youngest Victorians. After his move to SLT as Deputy Head Pastoral and Guidance, he continued with his strong boarding ethos in his role as rugby coach and was always very proud of his boys' progress as they moved up the school. Steve has always been a strong proponent of digital innovation and oversaw our implementation of our present digital wellbeing system and our pastoral evolution through Google. His door as DHT was always open and many supportive conversations took place in his office as he guided our students to reflect on their behaviours and consider the wider implications of their actions. He was passionate about seeing the best in our students as a Depute and worked hard to represent pupil voice through the School Council and Catering Committee in order to ensure that QVS students had their voices heard.

Our four housemasters were united in admiring his calm and balanced voice as he steered them through good times and bad and cited his encyclopaedic experience in all matters related to boarding to be something that reassured them, whatever the circumstances. They particularly valued his strong leadership in navigating the challenge of running a 100% boarding school through the Covid lockdowns and the way he embraced the opportunities to do things differently and innovate in our approaches to 'remote' boarding life. We are very lucky that Steve's years of experience and wisdom are not lost to us as he continues in his passion for boarding by joining Cunningham House as Deputy Housemaster in his new role as Maths Teacher. We would like to thank Mr Adams for all of the hard work he has put into developing boarding life at QVS and the difference he has made to the lives of the many students he has supported across the years. Many thanks Mr A, and we wish you all the best in your new posts!

Obituaries



Mark Brailey

Mark joined QVS staff as a General Hand in 2013, and was well-known around the site for his happy, helpful disposition. He was a Staff Instructor (SI) in the school's CCF Army section where he was described as enthusiastic, kind and loved by his cadets. Mark was a terrific artist in his spare time - something he said little about, but would revel in the amazement of friends and colleagues whom he'd gift his artwork to on occasion of their weddings or other celebratory events. Mark passed away suddenly on the 30th September 2021, and his loss is still felt keenly by his friends and colleagues at QVS, and particularly those in the Facilities Management Department.



Alice Hainey – AHT Pupil Support

Alice joined QVS when it was an all-boys institution and oversaw the pastoral transition of the first girls into QVS. Alice joined us from Dumfries & Galloway and brought PSHE and other Pastoral innovations to QVS, at a time of much deployment and change for the students here. Alice was a very committed AHT, who spent hours with the students who needed it the most and her open-door policy and warm approach very much set the standard for the pastoral approach at QVS in the present day. Alice's family have very fond memories of their mother's time here at QVS and are very proud of her contribution to the wellbeing of the many Victorians she cared for in her role here.

Staff

Senior Leadership Team:

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

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Cunningham	D J Pitman BEd
Haig	R M H Boyd BD (Hons) PGCE DipTh
Trenchard	D H MacKay BEd (Hons)
Wavell	R L Appleyard BA (Hons) PGCE

Principal Teachers:

V Adams BEd (Hons)
 L A Bairner BA (Hons) PGDE
 D V Breingan DRSAM DipEd
 D J Davey BSc (Hons) PGCE
 D Gillhooly BA (Hons) SQH PGDSL DipEd
 C Graham MEd AMBDA APC Dip SpLD
 J S Lawrence BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
 C McBlain BSc DipEd
 A McHugh MA (Hons) PGDE
 D McLay BEd (Hons)
 K L Rodger MA (Hons) MSc PGCE
 L Sherriff BEd (Hons) PGCE
 R C Wright BA PGCE

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)
 G Crozier B.Tech.ed (Hons)
 A Duncan MA (Hons) PGDE
 K Elliott BEd (Hons)
 S A M Hastie BEd (Hons) PGCE
 S Humble BSc (Hons) PGCE
 G Johnstone BSc (Hons) PGCE
 S Leitch MA PGDE
 D H MacKay BEd (Hons)
 L MacLeod BA (Hons) PGDE
 L McGeechan BSc PGDE
 M Moir MA (Hons) PGDE
 R Newham BSc PGDE
 S L O'Neill BA (Hons) PE
 D J Pitman BEd
 S W Renwick BSc (Hons) PE
 C-A Taylor BSc (Hons) PGCE Cert PP in BE PGC in SFL
 K Taylor-Meinz BA (Joint Hons) PGDE
 S Wright BSc (Hons)

Ceremonial:

School Sergeant Major	D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)
Drum Major	G Peters BA
Pipe Major	G R Ross Dip Piping (late Gordon Highlanders) to December 2
Pipe Major	I Lowther (late Scots Guards) from February 22
Highland Dancing Instructor	S S Landsburgh Associate BATD

Visiting Music Teachers:

T Barrett	F Henderson	M Sillence
R Digney	I Hood	
V Lopez	M Jones	
G Spowart	M MacSporran	

Visiting Sports Coach:

R Donaldson
 J Allan

House Matrons:

Cunningham	C Pitman
Haig	M Lewis
Trenchard	H A Devlin
Wavell	D Walsh BA (Hons) MA PGCE

Housekeepers:

D McIntosh	A McPhail to March 22
K McVey	L Crow

Medical Centre:

Nurse	M A Skeith RGN to December 21
Nurse	A E Ketteringham RGN
Nurse	A L Simpson BSc
Auxiliary	V J Hiddleston

Business Management:

Resources Manager	K Lawrie BA(Hons)
Deputy Resources Manager	I M Mair MAAT
Deputy Facilities Manager & Dep SSYO	C P Rankin
Library & Information Manager	T Thomson
Information Systems Engineer	S Nevill MBCS MCSE

Business Support:

M Symon to March 22	B McCluskie
A B Gauld BA(Hons)	A Paddon

Academic Support:

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

Facilities Support:

P A Warner	R G MacDougall
L Henderson	R Russell





The Victorian 2022

Queen Victoria School

Dunblane Perthshire FK15 0JY

Email: qvs.enquiries@modschools.org

www.qvs.school