



The Victorian 2023
Queen Victoria School

Contents



Queen Victoria School Dunblane 1908 – 2023

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

Vision Statement

We exist to provide support, continuity and
stability in education for children and young
people from military families.

Statement of Purpose

We aim to provide the highest standard of
education within a nurturing, welcoming and
inclusive boarding environment. Our traditions
of ceremonial excellence, wider achievement
and high standards in all areas of school life
will be forever upheld, underpinned by our
core school values.

QVS Values

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

Educate the Child – Support the Family –
Defend the Nation

Board of His Majesty's Commissioners

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

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Mr DJ Shaw BSc (Hons) MSc Educational
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Mr SN Cunningham AdvDipBFM (CIPFA)

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The Headmaster Grand Day Message

At this point in the year, I usually give a summary of all the positive things that have happened throughout the year at QVS. However, this year is just a little bit different, as I'm going to focus on the words of an external organisation, Education Scotland, the Inspectorate of Schools in Scotland, or for those who are used to the English system of education, our equivalent of Ofsted. Better than Ofsted, more supportive than Ofsted but equally as rigorous.

Queen Victoria School was last inspected fully in 2004/2005. As well as annual visits from our link inspector, the inspectorate came back for a quality improvement visit in 2012 and then again for a post-covid recovery visit, by invite, in June 2022. However, when the phone call and email came through in early February, announcing a full inspection, my heart rate quickened and my stomach lurched – this was going to be a whole new experience for every member of staff at QVS.

Surveys were sent out, on behalf of Education Scotland, to all parents and young people, all HMC and some DCS staff. The staff did some self-evaluation against the 'How Good is our School' standards and a pre-inspection report was produced. I was feeling confident as I love what we offer here and I tried hard to pass on that confidence to the rest of the staff.

The week of the inspection soon arrived and what better way to welcome the team of seven inspectors than a wonderful display of Piping, Drumming and Dancing before they even got into the building. The PDD team did us proud, as they always do – we started with one of our finest strengths, as you frequently see at our parades, and that first impression set the tone for the week ahead.

The first meeting took place and my first words to the inspection team were as follows: "We really hope you leave at the end of the week with the same impression of the school that we have – we all know just how lucky we are to work at QVS and what an incredible job it is to provide educational stability and continuity for the children of military families. That shared purpose is the core reason we are here." That was me setting my tone for the week.

And then, off we went in a whirlwind of activity for the whole week. Every single teacher was observed at least once, groups of students, staff and parents were all spoken to, as were HMC and DCS. Files were examined, facts were checked, information was poured over, everything was checked, triangulated and re-checked. It was, by a long way, the most rigorous process of evaluation we have ever been involved in. But that's what made it so good – the Education Scotland team drilled right down to the core of QVS, found out everything they could about us and what makes us tick, as a school, as a community, and as a family.

The final report, when it was published, did an absolutely brilliant job of summing us up.

A quote taken directly from the report:

"Children and Young people achieve very well in the highly supportive learning environment and the genuine family nature of the school community. This is underpinned by shared values and mutually respectful relationships between learners and staff."

We know that every organisation strives to live by values. MOD values define how all military and civilian personnel who work for the MOD act – Courage, Discipline, Respect for Others, Integrity, and Loyalty. Key values we can all recognise. QVS is no different and in fact, there are many

parallels between the values of Defence and the values of this school. We too have Respect and Integrity as our values, along with Pride, that is Pride in our traditions and our link to the Armed Forces. We have values that represent how we care for our students, such as Excellence and Nurture – a key value as well as values which reflect how we want our young people to behave, such as Independence, Responsibility and Equality.

The words in the Education Scotland report confirm that here at QVS, our values are being lived by our community, underpinning respect as a core value of QVS and of course, the MOD itself.

Another sentence sums up the value of Nurture: "The school's approach to wellbeing is embedded in core values which impact very positively on learner's wellbeing, inclusion and equality. Children, Young People and Staff benefit from caring, nurturing and positive relationships with each other. Small group settings provide an ethos of care, trust, high expectations and celebration."

If I was asked to sum up the care we provide at our school, those words from Education Scotland would definitely do the job.

But what about the teaching, you might ask?

"Learners' experiences are enhanced significantly by teachers' creative use of digital technology. This is a major strength of the school's work."

"Staff use a range of regular assessments very well to identify gaps in learning and to target extra support for any learner at risk of underachieving. They undertake careful analysis of summative assessment and set appropriate individual targets for each learner.

As a result, almost all learners talk confidently about their strengths and what they need to do to improve."

"As a result of staff's embedded approaches to supporting individual learners, standards of attainment at QVS are consistently high."

One of my own favourite quotes is a comment made about the Primary department:

"The experienced and highly skilled primary teachers use a range of assessment approaches very effectively to identify these gaps and to support all children. They use differentiation, precision teaching approaches and ongoing formative assessment particularly well to close gaps in learning, with very positive results."

It could hardly be better! Most of you in the audience will recognise that those are some of the first reasons you decide to send your children here. The quality of the education experience. Students themselves tell us, as early as their P7 year, that they come here because it's a good place to learn. We have smaller classes, every single child wants to learn and behaves well in classes, teachers can teach without distraction, it's a winning combination and this was recognised by the inspectorate.



So, we've covered living by values, wellbeing and nurture within the boarding house and teaching in the classrooms. The last area to be recognised as deserving of high praise is the amount of wider achievement our students have the chance to be involved in.

"All children and young people across the school are developing a broad range of skills and attributes through participation in the school's extensive programme of achievement opportunities."

"Children and young people are achieving very highly in cultural and other school-based activities, as individuals and team members."

We all know this – all we have to do is look at our Twitter feed and anyone can see the massive range of activities on offer. Even within this academic year, our band and dancers have performed at Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Holyrood Palace. Our students have had a trip to Italy for skiing, a trip to France for some culture and play and a trip to Morocco to do their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The rugby team, hockey team and athletics team have had continued success. The MAD group continues to serve the local community and beyond. We've had students doing podcasts for Forces Children Scotland and we continue to promote ceremonial excellence in everything we do!

And our most recent event, just last weekend, proved that our Fijian community certainly know how to put on a cultural celebration to add to the wide experiences we offer our young people.

In summary, if you are ever in any doubt about what we offer our young people and our community, please just take another read of the inspection report. We have always offered our young people a wonderful holistic education but now you don't have to take my word for it, it's been recognised by others too. We will continue to work as hard as we possibly can to get things right for you and your children. I wish you all a very positive and happy summer ahead. Thank you.

Mr D Shaw

The Senior Monitor

I stand before you today as the outgoing Senior Monitor of Queen Victoria School 2023. As a child, I would accompany my parents to watch my older brother, a student at QVS, on parade. It was during those moments that my fascination with this school began to take root. I witnessed him wearing the uniform, with such pride - little did I know then that we would embark on similar paths within this special place.

My journey started by being appointed as P7 Parade Commander at the Rookies Parade as we became Victorians. I then joined the pipe band at the earliest opportunity. When the time came, I took on the responsibility of Senior Monitor, following in my brother's footsteps, both leading as Parade Commanders.

Reflecting on my years at QVS, I am overwhelmed by the range of experiences and opportunities I have experienced. Many of these came from my time in the pipe band, as I had the opportunity to play at events like the Basel Christmas Tattoo in Switzerland and welcoming Princess Anne at Edinburgh Castle. Many more amazing opportunities came through the diverse trips that the school offers. These are the kind of experiences that many may never have in a lifetime, let alone during their school years. But QVS offers much more than unique experiences; it equips us with the essential skills needed to navigate our future paths, instilling discipline, independence, and a sense of respect and pride. We learn to honour and protect our traditions as Victorians — a lesson we will witness later today on Parade.

A recent celebration that truly showcased our school's strength in diversity was Fiji Day. As our entire school came together to commemorate this special day, it highlighted the richness of our various nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, and religions. It was heartwarming to witness this unity as a school. I am lucky enough to have experienced the warmth of Fijian culture on many occasions through my many close friends. I very much feel part of their family through being given my Fijian name Enoki. Just like the importance of family in this culture, QVS shares this same value at the core of its existence. Just like any great family, our community thrives through the contributions of every member. We have a complex network of cogs that make this system work seamlessly—the students, the staff, the Parent Liaison Group, and the esteemed Old Victorians. Together as a whole, we create this sense of one big community at QVS which drives to encourage the development of those who join it.

Boarding life at QVS offers an experience unlike any other. For us leaving school is not just progressing on from an educational institution but instead reminds us of the several years we have spent at this school and the many memories made in these boarding walls. I believe the friendships made during my time at QVS are the most valuable thing I will take away and miss. This is what really makes your time at school special, as the friendships made are lifelong and feel like just another member of your family. Since S1 I am proud to say I have been a part of Cunningham House and I owe gratitude to the impact that Mr & Mrs Pitman, our Housemaster and Matron, have had on Cunningham and my personal life especially since they arrived. Over the past few years, they have built the Cunningham ethos that we live by today based around our most important value of respect, which in the early years I don't think a house meeting went by without this word being mentioned at least once and it was always funny trying to guess before a house meeting how many times it would be said.



Sports have played a significant role in my personal journey, and rugby, in particular, has shaped me, under the mentorship of Mr. McLay. He has been more than a coach, guiding me not only on the field but also in life and I'm sure he's enjoyed watching my rugby journey as I developed into a hooker/prop from a scrum half in the span of two years as he had been suggesting for years. The countless hours spent driving to rugby commitments proves his endless commitment to us as students. As an Old Victorian himself, Mr McLay embodies the very spirit that defines this school—an unwavering commitment to giving back to QVS. I believe the bonds formed within our rugby team are the strongest of all, and this is something I will truly miss the most. Going out on a Saturday morning, we all know that each and every one of us has each other's backs on that field and this is solidified with our infamous QVS squeeze before games which no matter how many times you do it, always gives you goosebumps.

I must also acknowledge the invaluable support of Mrs. Humble, our S6 coordinator, who has been a guiding presence throughout this year, assisting me in fulfilling my responsibilities even if it did take a few messages and emails to do so. And, so on behalf of S6 we have great appreciation for you and your dedication to us this year. Additionally, Mr. Stacey, our School Sergeant Major, and overall school legend has set high standards for us from the day we first joined. Mr Stacey has been retiring for the past five years as many of us know and yet although we were never shocked to see him back for another year we are grateful that he has stayed on to share his final Grand Day with us, whether intentionally or not. I think due to Mr Stacey's contribution to this school I think the least they could do is build a Mr Stacey monument to represent the everlasting mark that he has left on us all.

Another important person that could not go without mention is my Deputy Senior Monitor, Katie Meikle, whose unwavering support and collaboration has been instrumental throughout our adventure this year. Our complementary strengths and teamwork have enhanced our ability to lead and serve this school. Although I know this is a staple piece heard in every Senior Monitor speech year by year, I am truly very fortunate to have had Katie by my side this year assisting me with my Senior Monitor responsibilities and stepping up for me when I was occupied with rugby commitments outside of school - I'm sure I'll never live down Movember day.

I would like to give my final thanks to all the staff who work so tirelessly in the background to keep this school running seamlessly for us students: Mr Shaw has done an amazing job at leading and guiding this school through change since taking the role of Headmaster. I would also like to thank the staff that have given such great contribution to this school throughout their time, many of which have been here to witness multiple generations and siblings of a family, including mine, for example, Mrs Adams, Mrs Scott-Laing, Mrs Nicolson and Mr Gilhooly, who will be departing with us this year. For next year's S6 I ask that you preserve and take pride in the traditions that we hold here and carry yourselves with high standards as you become role models for the school, but most importantly enjoy yourself in your last year. I look forward to revisiting in the next few years, where maybe, just maybe, the new teaching block build is underway.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you present here today. Your support and presence make this occasion all the more special. I encourage you to embrace the spirit of Grand Day, celebrating our achievements and the future that awaits us.

**Viinaka Vakalevu, Dundebhat, Thank you.
Euan Lee**



Chairman of Commissioners

This is my first Grand Day as Chair of His Majesty's Commissioners, and it is my privilege to welcome you all to our annual prize-giving held again in the magnificent setting of Dunblane Cathedral. Our thanks to the Kirk Session and minister of the Cathedral, and to Historic Scotland for accommodating us in this beautiful old building.

At this point, I would like to pay tribute to Alan Plumtree who has stepped down as Chair after many years of service as a commissioner and Chair of the Board. Unfortunately, due to ill health, he is unable to be with us today, but on behalf of His Majesty's Commissioners, I thank him for his dedication to the welfare of the school over the past eighteen years.

It has become a tradition that at this point in the proceedings, that Alan would talk about the new teaching block. I will not do that although, be assured that in the year that the first spade goes into the ground, I will be sure to mention it... if I am still the Chair of HMC!

A school depends on having staff to provide education and support for its pupils. In a boarding school, the support is much wider than purely educational, so it is my pleasure today to recognise the contribution made over the past 25 years by two of the staff.

Jill Adams joined QVS as an English Teacher and Assistant Housemistress in Wavell House in August 1998, throwing her energetic and dynamic personality into both roles. She became the first Head of S6 in 2007 and worked hard to embed many innovations for our Senior students. Our Victorians have much to thank Mrs Adams for, including founding The Talent Show, Prom, Yearbook, Winter Formal and Spring Fling - all of which have become a huge part of QVS life for our students.

Outside the classroom Jill loves volunteering. She founded the Make a Difference or MAD Group in 2014 and I am told that she is still MAD almost ten years later. Her enthusiasm for charitable works has led to much stronger links with the Dunblane community, and she was the proud recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship for services to Youth Volunteering in 2015. In 2019, Jill was appointed Pastoral DHT. In this role, Jill continues to support our young people in all aspects of their lives.

Her latest project is the QVS Lighthouse which supports Victorians as they 'navigate the stormy seas of life'. Jill really does live by her motto of 'Make a Difference' and is as committed to QVS now as she was twenty-five years ago.

Carol-Anne also joined QVS in August 1998, when she took up the post of Biology teacher in the Science Department. She quickly embraced all aspects of boarding life, working firstly as a Tutor in Wavell House, then progressing to Deputy Housemistress, a post she held for many years.

Carol-Anne's inspiring delivery and ability to enliven her subject is remembered by generations of Victorians. During her time at QV she has taken on acting Principal Teacher roles in both the Science Department and the Pupil Support Department, providing stability for our students at a time of change.

Beyond her direct teaching roles, Carol-Anne has supported the Pipe Band and Dancers, both at home and abroad, providing pastoral care for the students and throwing herself into tour life whatever the occasion. One might say that she was 'Taylor made' for this role as she is extremely organised, has a great sense of humour and makes the best of every situation.

Carole-Anne is one of the few members of staff who has had promoted roles in more than one house. She took up the role of Deputy Housemistress in Haig to support the newly appointed Housemaster, providing her vast pastoral experience and unstinting nurture for the boys of Haig.

Teachers like Miss Taylor are rare and we are so grateful for the quarter of a century of care and support she has given our students.

As you know, the school Scholarship Fund makes awards each year to school leavers who go on to further education or training. The purpose of these awards is to support the recipients as they transition from school to the next phase of their education. The successful applicants this year are:

Rays Gurung, Ellie Robinson, Lexine McCappin, Katie Meikle, Isla Dalrymple, Madison Bailes, Lily-Grace Methven

They will receive their award on confirmation of their place at their chosen institution.

Our Inspecting Officer today is Mr Alexander Stewart MBE MSP. He is well known in Stirlingshire and Perthshire, having spent most of his life in the area. He has been a regional list MSP since 2016 and he lives in Bridge of Allan.

After obtaining qualifications in Management studies, Mr Stewart worked as a management professional in the hospitality, housing and retail sectors. This led to a period working with the Chamber of Commerce in the City of London and in 1994, he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London.

Before he went into the Scottish Parliament, he was a local councillor with Perth and Kinross Council for eighteen years and served as leader of the opposition on the Council for eight of those years.

Since his election to the Scottish Parliament, he has served as the shadow minister for Local Government, International Relations and Migration, Deputy Chief Whip, and also Shadow Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning.

He is now the Shadow Minister for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work and Shadow Minister for Older People. He is a member of the Order of St John and was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen in 2016.

Mr Ian Ritchie FRCSEd (Orth)



Cunningham House



Cunningham House is not just a place to sleep and study; it is a home away from home for many boys who live in our boarding house. At the heart of our community is the Cunningham ethos, a set of values and beliefs that guide our actions and shape our identity as Cunningham boys. As we reflect on the year that has passed, it is evident that Cunningham House has been bustling with activities, fostering a spirit of involvement, academic growth, and personal development.

Throughout the year, our boys have enthusiastically embraced a wide range of hobbies, sports, and cultural activities. From music and art to drama and debate, our students have explored their interests, nurtured their talents, and broadened their horizons. This dedication to diverse pursuits has contributed to the vibrant and dynamic atmosphere within Cunningham House.

At Cunningham House, we believe in the importance of education and the pursuit of one's true potential. Our students have displayed a commendable commitment to their studies, embodying the value of academic diligence. We encourage a culture of discipline, punctuality, and accountability, which fosters an environment conducive to learning and personal growth. As we work together to create an academic culture, we empower our boys to excel in their endeavours and embrace a lifelong love for learning.

The Cunningham ethos serves as the backbone of our community, guiding us in our actions and shaping our collective identity. It encompasses values such as discipline, good manners and dress, mutual respect, brotherhood, zero tolerance for bullying, theft, and substance abuse, as well as respect for the environment. These values foster a sense of responsibility, integrity, and camaraderie among our students, providing them with the confidence to excel and contribute positively to the world around them.

As we bid farewell to our leavers, we wish them all the best for their futures. Their time at Cunningham House has equipped them with the tools they need to strive for excellence. In line with our house motto, Nulli Secundus (Second to None), we remind them that they possess the potential to achieve greatness.

As they venture into the world, we encourage them to seize every opportunity, embrace challenges, and never settle for anything less than their best.

Amidst the sad news of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II passing away, three of our boys from Cunningham House, namely Arran Scott, William Kurisaru, and Robert Ordiner, were chosen to represent the school at the King's Proclamation in Stirling. This honourable invitation showcases the respect and recognition our students receive for their dedication and commitment to their education and the broader community.

At Cunningham House, we believe that embracing traditions and fostering a deep appreciation for diversity enriches our community and strengthens the bonds between our students. Throughout the year, we celebrate various cultural events and traditions, highlighting the unique backgrounds and experiences of our boys.

One such celebration is Burns Night, a special evening where we pay homage to the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns. This event is a testament to our commitment to Scottish heritage and provides an opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and express their cultural pride. The evening is filled with the sound of bagpipes resonating through the halls, as our talented pipe band captivates the audience with traditional Scottish tunes. The recitation of Burns' poetry in different languages further emphasises the diversity within Cunningham House, as boys and staff proudly share their heritage through their native tongues, be it Czech, French, or Afrikaans. Burns Night not only commemorates a literary icon but also showcases the beauty of multiculturalism and encourages a deep appreciation for different cultures.

In addition to Burns Night, we also celebrate the vibrant and colourful festival of Holi, a significant event in the Indian calendar. Our decision to host this event stems from our commitment to inclusivity and respect for diversity. Holi represents joy, unity, and the triumph of good over evil. By organising this event, we create an atmosphere where boys from various cultural backgrounds can come together and participate in the festivities, regardless of their personal beliefs or traditions. During the Holi celebration, vibrant colours fill the air as our students joyfully engage in friendly



colour fights, spreading happiness and fostering a sense of unity and acceptance within our community. This event serves as a reminder that Cunningham House is a place where differences are celebrated, and every individual is valued for who they are. By celebrating traditions and embracing diversity, we create a nurturing and inclusive environment that encourages mutual respect and understanding. Our boys learn the importance of accepting and appreciating different perspectives and forging lifelong friendships that transcend cultural boundaries. These celebrations not only bring joy and excitement to our community but also foster a sense of unity and belonging among our students.

Cunningham House stands as a testament to the power of community, values, and inclusivity. Through our commitment to embracing traditions and fostering an appreciation for diversity, we create an environment where every student feels valued and supported. From the celebration of Scottish heritage during Burns Night to the colourful festivities of Holi, Cunningham House showcases the richness and beauty that comes from embracing different cultures and traditions. As we continue to uphold these values, we nurture a sense of unity, respect, and acceptance, ensuring that Cunningham House remains a home away from home for all its members.

No article about Cunningham House would be complete without expressing our deep gratitude to the dedicated and passionate staff members who contribute their time, expertise, and unwavering support to our students. Their commitment to our students' well-being and growth is evident in every interaction and activity. From the house parents who provide a warm and welcoming home away from home, to the teachers who inspire and challenge our boys to reach their full potential, and the support staff who ensure the smooth running of our boarding house, each member of the staff contributes in their unique way to the success of Cunningham House. Their dedication extends far beyond the classroom or boarding house walls. They serve as mentors, role models, and trusted confidants, guiding our students through the challenges of adolescence and helping them develop into responsible and compassionate young men. Their tireless efforts and genuine care for our boys create a sense of belonging and a strong support system that is fundamental to our community. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Cunningham staff for their unwavering commitment, their endless patience, and their genuine love for our students.

As we embark on the Summer break and await the new academic year, we eagerly anticipate the return of our Cunningham family. Our boarding house's warm and friendly environment continues to be a source of pride for us, ensuring that new boys settle into Cunningham Life seamlessly. We take great joy in witnessing the positive experiences our new students have and the support they receive from their peers and staff, fostering a strong sense of belonging from the moment they arrive.

Nulli Secundus – Second to None
Mr Pitman, Housemaster





Haig House



Over the past year, Haig House has been running to capacity with 63 boys living and working together, united in community living. I am delighted to report that Haig is very much in good heart and despite some of the challenges that come along in any given year, there is a strong ethos of respect, understanding, acceptance and support among the boys of Haig. In Haig, we strive to embrace diversity and celebrate the life of our community.

In the first term, we held a number of workshops with our S2 year group, exploring the characteristics and qualities for living together in a boarding environment and it was wonderful to have displayed these in visual format in their dorm, where the bricks of construction displayed qualities of integrity, honesty, respect, friendship and understanding of diversity. All these qualities were identified by the boys. Even more pleasing has been the demonstration of these qualities in daily life, showing just how much these qualities are embedded in the lives of the boys.

Over the course of the year, we have celebrated a number of events through our year-group socials. We have marked St Andrews Night, Burns Night, Chinese New Year, Guy Fawkes Night, along with our customary challenges in the form of our Murder Mystery, where sleuths worked with true determination and focus to solve the crime over a meal and an evening of much laughter and good conversation.

We have celebrated Halloween and our amended Christmas Party, cancelled at the last minute with our premature closure in December, became a highly successful New Year Party on our return in January.

There is a strong sense of tradition within Haig House and this tradition, coupled with a true sense of celebration and community brought the S6 to the decision that, rather than a trip, they wished to continue with our traditional end-of-year celebrations, where they said "it means we can do things together". They created their cross-year teams, ably led by the S6 and enjoyed eating their body weight in burgers, sausages and ice cream. I am always amazed that the simplicity of this evening brings them so much joy, as they celebrate the transitions which the month of June brings to the house and the school.

As we move into the new year, I have restored the House Site for parents and pupils, where there will be regular updates of house events along with a newsletter with contributions from the students and staff. I am confident that as we move forward we will continue to grow and develop the ethos of Haig, where personal achievements are to be celebrated and commended and where every boy is encouraged to be the best version of themselves, whether on the fields, in the classroom or in their own commitment to volunteering and self-development.

All of these achievements and events would not be possible without the hard work and dedication shown by the staff of Haig; I would like to thank them for their support to the boys and for the enthusiasm they bring to the house events. In so many ways they create and model the ethos of the house and along with the boys I wish to show my deep appreciation, for all that you do on a weekly basis throughout the year.

As I close, I pay tribute to the leavers of 2023. The S6 leavers were my first, first-year students in 2017. We have been through many highs and the occasional lows, not least the COVID pandemic with all its disturbance of our lives. You were filled with potential in 2017 and I am so proud of the achievements you have made as you have become the young men that you are today.



Haig is a home from home; our door is always open to each of you and we all hope that you will maintain contact with us; just as you will always be Victorians, so too, you will always be a part of Haig House and we wish you every happiness in life's journey and in your next chapter of life's story.

Mr Boyd, Housemaster





Trenchard House



I would like to take this moment to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire Trenchard staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work in nurturing and supporting each and every child in Trenchard over the past year. Everyone has worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and happiness of our small yet vibrant community.

As always, I consider myself fortunate to be part of an enthusiastic and committed team of tutors. Their dedication to laying the foundations of a fulfilling boarding life and creating an environment where our students not only survive but thrive is truly commendable.

Indeed, despite the challenges we faced due to transportation limitations, Trenchard Boarding House has managed to create some unforgettable memories through various trips and events over the past year. From ten-pin bowling and ice skating to swimming, trampolining, and cinema outings, we've strived to provide our students with exciting experiences.

One particular event that stands out is our summer beach party in St. Andrews, which will surely be etched in our memories. Despite the unpredictable weather and soggy buns, it was the culmination of a wonderful year, filled with laughter and joy.

However, the most amusing parade trip memory for me has to be when we managed to squeeze almost sixty housemates onto a train and then had to pay for each ticket individually at the ticket gate. These are the kinds of shared moments that make our boarding house experience unique and memorable, creating lasting bonds and shared stories among our students. Here's to many more fun times ahead!

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Mrs. Hiddleston, who served as the Senior Girls' Tutor and worked alongside Mr. Gilhooly on Wednesday evenings in Trenchard. Viv continues to work in the Health & Wellbeing Centre in QVS serving all four boarding houses, but her departure from Trenchard leaves a void, and she will be dearly missed. However, Viv has promised to supply us with her awesome home baking throughout the year so it's not all bad.

Though saddened by Mrs. Hiddleston's departure, we are thrilled to welcome two new members to our Trenchard family - Mrs. Simpson, affectionately known as Sister Ashley, and Mr. Rose from the geography department. We believe their contributions will be invaluable.

As we prepare to say goodbye to another set of seniors, we can fondly reflect on their time in Trenchard and QVS. Despite the mixed emotions surrounding their final Grand Day, we are immensely proud of their accomplishments. Katie Wilson, Madie Bailes, and Sasha Walker are all embarking on their university journeys after achieving outstanding results in their SQA exams. Each of these seniors has displayed immense commitment to Trenchard over the years, effectively balancing their studies, volunteering, and personal interests. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

Turning our focus to individual successes, I am delighted to announce Scott Gowans as this year's recipient of the Junior House Award, recognising his positive contributions to our boarding community. Scott has been an exemplary housemate, consistently demonstrating excellence throughout the year. Scott epitomizes the values of Trenchard House and has been a credit to both his school and family.



The P7 boys who joined us back in August 2022 are now moving on to Haig and Cunningham Boarding Houses, hopefully with strong foundations laid for their future success at QVS. Their departure brings genuine sadness, perhaps accentuated by the close bonds we formed over the year, but such is the circle of life in boarding.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude and offer my best wishes to everyone associated with Trenchard House in the upcoming year.

Nosce Teipsum – Know Thyself

Mr Mackay, Housemaster

The S1 girls have worked diligently to forge strong bonds as a year group, and they are now moving up to Wavell, equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead. I firmly believe that this year's group has been given an excellent start to their lives at QVS, in an environment that offers both nurture and structure. The Trenchard staff and I extend our best wishes to them and eagerly anticipate their progress with a sense of pride and interest in the coming years.





Wavell House



The academic year 2022 to 2023 has been a difficult one for our Wavell girls because we have had a much more restricted social program than in previous years, due to having significantly less staff, both during the week and at weekends. However, next year we are looking forward to having our staffing restored, and are all determined to make Wavell the busiest and best house at Queen Victoria School, as it has been in previous years!

Despite having a more restricted social events program this last year, the Wavell girls still took part in a whole host of social events and activities this year. As well as tutor trips to activity centres, cinema trips, restaurant visits, movie nights, Coronation celebrations, an amazing Fijian Day, the Winter Formal and Spring Fling, we have also held our usual big Christmas party, Halloween Party, Easter Party (a new event) and a Summer event. These were all very different and all innovative, with the Christmas party based on teams making different Christmas crafts being very popular. Our Halloween party was also extremely successful, with our girls being involved in a whole host of creepy activities, from mummy wrapping to bobbing for sweets, all led by our S6 team of fairies!

A new event for us was our Easter party, during which our girls were encouraged to bond with a variety of animals, including plenty of fluffy rabbits and chickens, as well as making friends with a tarantula, various snakes, a tortoise and lizards. It was certainly memorable! Finally our Summer event this year was a surprise trip to M and Ds Theme Park in Motherwell. The day before Grand Day, Wavell House embarked on two buses and spent the whole day at M and Ds. The girls were able to go on almost every ride, and Miss Christmas, Mrs Crozier and Mr Newham did try out every ride with our girls at the park!

As well as taking part in a whole variety of events and activities this year, our girls also took the opportunity to embark on a variety of trips abroad, with the school. As well as going skiing, accompanied by three of our Wavell Tutors, Mr Newham, Miss Hastie and Mrs O'Neill, our girls also went to Paris, accompanied

by two of our Tutors, Mrs Macleod and Mrs Taylor-Mein, and a small group of S6 also went on a Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Morocco, again led by two of our Tutors, Mr Newham and Mrs Crozier. All of the girls really enjoyed their experiences and, on their return, we celebrated with a weekend of international food, ranging from an Italian night to an Indian curry night.

In terms of Wavell Staff this year, we were very sad to say goodbye to Mrs O'Neill, who has been a Tutor in Wavell for a number of years and will be missed by all. We also welcomed our new Matron, Miss Hoodcamp, and our new Housekeeper, Mrs Russell this year, who have worked tirelessly to make our girls feel that Wavell is a home from home. Miss Hastie, who has been our much loved Assistant Housemistress this year, also steps down and our new Assistant Housemistress next year will be Miss Hoodcamp. Miss Hastie will remain within our Wavell Team as our Pastoral Support Assistant, with special responsibility for S2 and as an S2 Tutor, much to the relief of the Wavell girls!

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff and S6 girls this year. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to make sure that the Wavell girls are well supported, nurtured and very well entertained this year. Mrs Humble, a Wavell Tutor and Head of S6 has also provided invaluable support to Wavell and to the school as a whole this year, ensuring that the S6 Prefects were well supported. A special thanks too goes to Ms Duncan and her amazing Tutor group who, between them, achieved the most Merits in the whole school this year! Our S6 team has also been outstanding. Very ably led by our Head of House, Katie Meikle and her Deputies, Megan, LG, Chanell and Isla - they have made every effort to ensure that our girls have had the best experience possible this year, from supporting their Little Sisters in S2, to arranging amazing social events, and providing much valued advice and support to all. Thank you so much, we simply could not have done it

Miss Appleyard, Housemistress





Combined Cadet Force

As the 22-23 CCF year draws to a close we take time to reflect on the achievements of our cadets and staff across the three sections. We salute those senior cadets and staff who have so ably given their time to offer the best possible cadet experience to the pupils at QVS.

We thank the following for their service and leadership:

- Capt David Acheson (Army - Contingent Commander)
- Sgt Sarah O'Neill (Army)
- Cadet RSM Arran Scott (Army)
- Cadet WO Lexine McCappin (Navy)
- Cadet SM Robert Cordiner (Army)
- Cadet FSgt Lily O'Neill (RAF)

Despite the challenges of the last year it has been great to see the sections rise up to overcome these and, when possible, get pupils out of the school to put their training into practice.

Navy

The Navy section enjoyed several field days this session and after the suspension of AT due to Covid it was wonderful to get the whole section afloat on keel boats at Port Edgar. Senior cadets joined Lt Newham for the HMS Montrose capability demonstration as she visited her home port for the final time before decommissioning. This was especially poignant as HMS Montrose is our affiliate ship. In the Spring Term, our Navy cadets joined forces with the Strathallan RN section for a joint field day. It was great to bring two sections together providing an opportunity to work with different cadets and establish new friendships.

This year the pupils were ably supported by Lt Newham, SLt Landsburgh, SLt Davey and CPO O'Neill and the delivery of the curriculum along with visits from external organisations such as the RNLI and the crew of HMS Montrose who joined us for the Grand Day Rehearsal.

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As the Navy section took to the water it is only fitting that the RAF section, under the command of FLt Lt Gilhooly, took to the skies. Although weather proved to be a limiting factor it was awesome to see a return to flying utilising both gliders and light aircraft.

Army

The Army section has continued to develop strong fieldcraft skills and senior cadets had the opportunity to pass their Weapons Handling tests with both Sgt O'Neill and the Cadet Training Team. Cpt Hubcock is a new addition and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience, he took a small but motivated group to the CCF Army summer camp at Barrybudden where the skills learned in school were applied during field exercises and on the range.

As a new year dawns, we welcome new staff and cadets into Leadership roles within the Army and RAF sections. Improved staffing will allow for the continued growth of the Contingent and yet more opportunities for our cadets.

Lt Newham, (OIC RN Section)



Duke of Edinburgh Award

It has been a very successful year for the DofE award at QVS as we complete our first academic year as a Directly Licensed Organisation.

Staff have been busy writing assessor reports for the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections which has created a steady stream of pupils completing awards and progressing to the next level. Pupils have participated in expeditions at all levels and in the summer term the Bronze and Silver groups completed their qualifying expeditions in unseasonably good weather. The Gold group took on the challenge of an overseas expedition and congratulations should go to Arran Scott who has now completed his Gold Award.

Awards fully completed:

- Bronze - 16
- Silver - 12
- Gold - 1

Expedition Locations:

- Bronze - Aberfoyle
- Silver - Loch Earn & Crieff/Comrie
- Gold - Cairngorms & Morocco

Over the year, DofE stores have been ably managed by Thom, Sam and Elliott. With assistance from HMC, we have been able to refresh and replenish our expedition stores with a new set of tents and stoves and I thank them for their ongoing support.



The Victorian 2023



Duke of Edinburgh Gold - Morocco

Summer 2023 was the final DofE expedition for 6 of our pupils who bravely took on the challenge of an overseas DofE expedition. It was the culmination of 3 years of hard work and I can confidently say that they are unrecognisable as the S4s who once struggled their way around Sheriffmuir.

Having completed several expeditions in the Atlas Mountains, Mrs Crozier and I were confident that the expedition would offer life-long memories while pushing them with new physical and cultural challenges. Morocco is a bustling and vibrant country. From the busy streets of Marrakech to the steep Valleys around Imlil, it's impossible not to be awestruck by the stark contrasts with home. Combine this with legendary Berber hospitality and we were guaranteed an unforgettable adventure.

To prepare for the expedition we took the group up Ben Nevis - a first for most of the group. Although challenging at times it gave them a taste of things to come but also an insight into what they are capable of achieving both individually and as a group. Mrs Crozier's 6.30am circuit class proved equally as popular but served to show what the pupils were capable of achieving.

Finally, the day arrived and on a balmy summer evening, the group walked out of the school gates towards Dunblane to begin their journey to Marrakech. A good few hours later we descended from the plane and took our first steps on North African Soil. The heat of Marrakech was impossible to ignore but in reality not dissimilar to the weather we were seeing in the UK. Mrs Crozier and I were secretly relieved as we'd been watching the

forecast with some concern - while Scotland was experiencing unseasonably good weather Morocco had been forecasting the opposite. Thankfully our concerns were unfounded. After a short transfer to the hotel, we enjoyed a final dinner and comfy beds before heading into the mountains the next day.

The colonial legacy left by the French made our trip to the local Carrefour supermarket the next morning fairly uneventful and the pupils quickly sourced their expedition supplies. From here, we jumped on the bus and began the journey from the vibrancy of Marrakech to the stunning alpine uplands of the Atlas mountains to meet our Berber Guide Hicham and his team of Muleteers. We couldn't have asked for better support from Berber Treks and they really went the extra mile to support our pupils and were ever ready to lift spirits with a glass of Moroccan tea.

After an acclimatisation hike, the qualifying expedition got underway completing a circumnavigation of Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa. For 4 days and three nights the team trekked through terraced valleys lined with juniper, acacia and walnut trees. The valleys were steep but every effort was rewarded with a new and contrasting vista. There were tears, tea, laughs, goats, more tea, doubts, sore feet but all a small price to pay for a phenomenal sense of achievement at the end of each day. Travelling through remote mountain villages gave the pupils a glimpse of a simpler life. The Berber children were curious and wanted only for "stilos et bon bons" which gave us all an opportunity to reflect on what we have versus what we need.

After 4 days of sun and gentle breeze, the weather began to turn as we reached Azib Tamsoult to explore the breathtaking waterfalls. With an end in sight and the clouds rolling in the group pace picked up with a final push to the finish line above Imlil. The worsening weather didn't dampen spirits as the group took their final steps on their DofE journey, arriving at the gite in Arned. A final celebration meal with our new Berber friends marked an end to our time in the Atlas mountains and the conclusion of the expedition phase of the trip.

The next day the glorious weather returned and the team took a final stroll from our site down to the mountain town of Imlil - the Aviemore of the High Atlas. Here we met our bus and returned to Marrakech for some well-earned R&R at the Oasira Waterpark. An oasis of fun and flumes on the outskirts of Marrakech that rinsed away the dust, but not the memories of the last 5 days.

A successful expedition and two 18th birthdays were cause for celebration on our final night, as the team were surprised with a traditional Moroccan feast at a Berber desert Camp. The evening was spent enjoying sumptuous tagines, dancing and watching the sunset over the dunes and our expedition in Morocco.

"If it was easy, everyone would do it!" A phrase that often comes out of my mouth but on this particular expedition it was well deserved. I've had the pleasure of being on every expedition Arran, Maddie, Katie W, Katie M, Sasha and Lily have completed on their journey from Bronze through to Gold. As they tie up the final sections of their awards I'm proud to say they are fitting ambassadors for the DofE at QVS and a true testament of what can be achieved with courage and commitment to achieve a common goal.

Mr Newham, DofE Coordinator





Ceremonial





QVS Interact



Across 2023, I am really proud of everything that the MAD Group has achieved together. We have been a really strong team and tried hard to make sure that the whole school can get involved in supporting charities and raising awareness of important causes.

We kicked off the year with our annual Food Bank initiative to support local charity Start Up Stirling, our friends and fellow fund raisers at the Rotary Club were blown away by the generosity of the QVS community and really proud of what we managed to achieve. It has been amazing to build such a strong relationship with the Dunblane Centre and we have loved all the events there from Sunday Funday with Mrs Bhatti to volunteering at Reception and community events, we have loved the chance to Make A Difference in Dunblane.

Our coffee mornings have been very popular and we are really grateful to all the staff for getting behind us again. It was amazing to be able to host an event in the middle of Mental Health Awareness Month. The positive praise and words of encouragement we received from the local community definitely encouraged the MAD group to keep building and growing this year and it is amazing to see our younger students getting more involved.

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 a fantastic success with so many 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. We love the intergenerational projects we support with Breda and her team and feel proud to be able to work as a team across all the age groups - it was great to host the Winter Treat again and invite so many guests up to be entertained by Skelpit Lug and QVS working together.

We also continued our new MAD Group tradition of sending 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. It was great to put a smile on their face and say a well-deserved thank you - even if Mrs Adams did force me back into that Elf Costume!

We then kicked off our Spring term with a stream of events such as our Barista volunteering at St Mary's, Ooni the Therapist's Visit, and our Eco Week Volunteering as well as Christian Aid Cafe in the community. We have also loved increasing our presence in chapel and spreading awareness of many more diverse charities!

We were very proud to create a stall in Central Hall and celebrate Diversity with QVS Equality & Diversity too. This definitely shows 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 Scotty's Little Soldiers through our Coronation Convoy Sponsored walk together with attending the Dunblane Duck Race and hosting our very own Tea Party event in support of Strathcarron Hospice.

It has been such an honour to be the MAD President for the last two years. I am so proud of our group and cannot wait to see what the next year will bring you under a new President. I wish them the very best of luck and will definitely stay in touch. Thank you so much to Mrs A and Mrs Sherriff who work so hard to make it all happen. We could not do it without you! I'd like to finish by thanking 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 21/23



QVS Interact





Grand Day Prize-Giving



Prize List – S3

1	Biology	Trina Gurung	14	Modern Studies	Taylor Morrison-Smith
2	Business Management	Trina Gurung	15	Music	Lewis Ferguson
3	Chemistry	Rhett Jackson	16	Photography	Lewis Ferguson
4	Computer Science	Rhett Jackson	17	Physical Education	Michael Haigh
5	Design & Manufacture	Rory Rennie	18	Physics	Evan Clarke
6	English	Oakley Clark	19	PDD – Dancing	Zara Long
7	Fowler Art Prize	Trina Gurung	20	PDD – Drumming	Logan McFadden
8	French	Rhett Jackson	21	PDD – Piping	Rory Rennie
9	Geography	Duncan Stephen	22	Practical Woodworking	Liam Melville
10	Graphic Communication	Libby Cordiner	23	Religious, Moral & Philisophical Studies	Oakley Clark
11	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Rory Rennie	24	Spanish	Isabelle Collie
12	History	Rhett Jackson	25	Sports Leader	Eve Malcolm
13	Mathematics	Duncan Stephen			

Prize List – S4, S5 & S6

1	Art	Cameron Welsh	S4		S5/6	Keira Cole
2	Applications of Mathematics	Connor Mathieson				Leah Wight
3	Biology	Tina Thapa				Lexine McCappin
4	Business Management	Tina Thapa				Alex Skinner
5	Chemistry	Eroni Tuiwaiwai				Lexine McCappin
6	Computer Science	Tina Thapa				Isla Dalrymple
7	Cyber Security					Anju Gaha
8	Design & Manufacture	Keziah McCappin				
9	English	Eroni Tuiwaiwai				Holly Hunter
10	Enterprise & Employability					Mica McCloud
11	Environmental Science					Alex Skinner
12	Eric Drew Memorial Prize – French	Eroni Tuiwaiwai				Anju Gaha
13	Geography	Keziah McCappin				Katie Wilson
14	Graphic Communication	Casper Jackson				Suyen Thebe Limbu
15	Guildry of Stirling Lead Drummer Award					Charlie Scott
16	Guildry of Stirling History Prize	Ethan Murphy				Ceara Gowans & Thomas Moulding
17	History	Alexia Mcllwraith				Holly Hunter
18	Laboratory Science	Steven McCallum				
19	Mathematics	Tina Thapa				Alfie Walker
20	Media					Lily O’Neill
21	Modern Studies	Tina Thapa				Jason Osei-Bonsu
22	Music	Maeghan Clark				Ellie Robinson
23	PDD - Piping	Isabel Gregory				
24	Photography	Cameron Welsh				Cameron Brown
25	Physical Education	Cilla Gaha				Ayden Paterson
26	Physics	Tina Thapa				Suyen Thebe Limbu
27	Practical Metalworking					Ethan Sim
28	Practical Woodworking	Casper Jackson				
29	Religious, Moral & Philisophical Studies	Alex Wilson				Darcey Clark
30	Spanish	Alex Wilson				Adyn Camlin
31	Sport & Recreation	Regam Bura				
32	Williamson Salver for Girls					Catherine Meikle
33	HMC Centenary Quaich					Robert Cordiner
34	Dux Medal					Sasha Walker

Grand Day Trophies & Awards

1	Cameronian Shield For Piping (For The Best Piper)	Lexine McCappin
2	Senior Drum Majors Shield (For The Senior Drum Major)	Darran Young
3	Highland Dancing (Highland Dancing Society Of London Cup)	Katie Wilson
4	Combined Cadet Force (For The Best CCF Recruit)	Thomas Moulding
5	Sir Charles Grant Memorial Trophy (For Outdoor Pursuits)	Samuel Long
6	Victor Ludorum Trophy (For Best Sports Person)	Theophil Natiri
7	The Senior Boys House Award	Robert Cordiner
8	The Junior House Award	Scott Gowans
9	Annual Challenge Cup (For Outstanding Contribution To Wavell)	Katie Meikle
10	The Dr Lindsay Memorial Salver (For Leadership ‘On’ And ‘Off’ The Games Field)	Lily O’Neill
11	The Prince Philip Medal (For Outstanding Contribution, Participation And Achievement During Their Time At Queen Victoria School)	Euan Lee

Prize List S1 & S2

	S1		S2
	Attainment	Progress	Attainment
1	Computer Studies	Archie Melville	Sumer Wilson
2	English	Olivia Charles-worth-Smith	Suvandinica Rai
3	Fowler Art	Brooke Muldoon	Rihibha Pun
4	French	Olivia Charles-worth-Smith	Shreya Gurung
5	Geography		Scarlett Bailes
6	Guildry of Stirling History Prize		Mhyrren Welsh
7	History		Shreya Gurung
8	Mathematics	Nathan Collie	Angus Cowie
9	Modern Studies		Rihibha Pun
10	Music	Sorrel Wilde	Angel Pun
11	Physical Education	Female – Daisy Leweni	Female – Elainah Bogidrau
12	Religious, Moral & Philisophical Studies	Olivia Charles-worth-Smith	Male – Ron Gurung
13	Science	Sorrel Wilde	
14	Social Subjects	Tabitha Clark	
15	Spanish	Daisy Leweni	
16	Technical Studies	Tabitha Clark	

	Progress		Progress
	Rebecca Wise		Sophie Waugh
	Sorrel Wilde		Ava Milne
	Nathan Collie		Kristian Savu
	Joel Ralawa		Laighney Weir
			Kirstian Savu
			Rhys Melville
			Sakina Thapa
			William Leonard
			William Leonard
			Sumer Wilson
			Ron Gurung
			Jack Griffin
			Rhys Melville



Prize List P7

1	Attainment	P7	Arpan Pun
2	Progress	P7	Bethan Welsh
3	Fowler Art Prize	P7	Elinore Stoddart
4	Music	P7	Phoebe Wain
5	Paul McShannon Quaich	P7	Nathan Hartland



Technology Department

It has been an exciting and quick year within the Technology department. We continue to have high numbers of pupils taking subjects and have had to offer an additional subject in the Senior Phase, to cope with demand moving forward into 2024.

During the year we were successful in gaining a laser cutter and a vinyl cutter within the department. The vinyl cutter was quickly put to good use being incorporated into pupils' assignments for SQA. When the laser cutter arrived in April, it too was quickly utilised by classes to very good effect. The aim is to embed the use of both of these machines into the curriculum as we progress. In the BGE, S1 pupils have been introduced to CAD, creating their own iPods and having the opportunity to 3D print. They were also busy in the workshop making money banks and pencil holders. S2 also used CAD to create torches and later Lego people, they also spent time in the workshop making phone holders. S3 made their choices and spent a lot of time developing their skills in their chosen subject field and their future looks promising as they head into S4.

Within the senior phase, pupils were very busy; the focus was on SQA and assignments. Work got underway for the assignments in November and continued through to the Easter holidays.

As well as being busy within the department Mrs Sherriff continues her involvement with the QVS Interact group (MAD), alongside Mrs Adams. Mrs Crozier is very busy helping with Senior Games, Hockey and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Mrs Sherriff, Principal Teacher of Technology

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Athletics Season Report

For some reason, we had a very condensed season this year. After a couple of weeks of preparing the pupils, our first fixture was hosted by Wellington and we were up against Wellington, St Columbas and Lomond.

All the teams were excited about the fixture and we were really lucky to not only have great weather but also the event took place in a brand-new stadium.

Throughout the day, many personal bests were broken and the notable first positions were as follows.

P7 100m	Scott Gowans (14.33)
P7 200m	Joshua Taroga (32.17)
P7 600m	Scott Gowans (1.58)
P7 4x100m Relay	(65.00)
P7 High Jump	Scott Gowans (1.15cm)
P7 Long Jump	Mia Jones (3.20cm)
P7 Shot Putt	Josh Taroga (6.52cm)
P7 Shot Putt	Hannah Kurewaka (5.24cm)
S1 100m	Daisy Leweni (13.73)
S1 200m	Rebecca Wise (30.14)
S1 800m	Max Rees (2.46)
S1 High Jump	Max Rees (1.20cm)
S1 Long Jump	Daisy Leweni (3.90cm)
S1 Shot Putt	Ruth Vakaloloma (7.90cm)
S2 100m	Vilame Wise (12.38)
S2 200m	Vilame Wise (25.77)
S2 200m	Sophie Waugh (32.71)
S2 4x100m Relay	(55.49)
S2 Long Jump	Jack Griffin (4.01cm)
S2 Shot Putt	William Stephen (8.76cm)
S3 Long Jump	Duncan Stephen (4.84cm)
S3 Shot Putt	Rachel Moulding (7.32cm)

Our next fixture took us to Morrisons Academy in Crieff. This was to be against Morrisons and Balforn. Once again, the sun shone, and both the boys and the girls teams, confident from the weekend, took part and competed well against very good opposition.

Notable first positions were as follows:

S1 100m	Daisy Leweni (13.97)
S1 200m	Rebecca Wise (31.49)
S1 200m	Leo Hunt (31.63)
S1 4x100m Relay	Girls (59.70)
S1 High Jump	Max Rees (1.20cm)
S1 Shot Putt	Ruth Vakaloloma (8.78cm)
S2 800m	Erin Combe (3.02)
S2 High Jump	Ron Gurung (1.55cm)
S2 Javelin	Joshua Robanakadavu (23.15cm)
S2 Shot Putt	Kieron Mackintyre (7.63cm)
S2 Shot Putt	Joshua Robanakadavu (8.65cm)
S3 Javelin	Joshua Robanakadavu (23.15cm)
S3 Long Jump	Duncan Stephen (4.56cm)

The day after Morrisons, we took a girls and a boys team to the Stirling Schools Secondary Athletics Championships. This is an event that takes place at Stirling University and our pupils were up against all of the state schools in Stirling and Clackmannanshire. We knew that many of the athletes trained with clubs and that the standards would be high, however, once again the pupils were determined to achieve personal bests, and many, in fact, medalled on the day, and the list of medallists is below.

S1 100m	1st Daisy Leweni (13.7)
S2 Long Jump	2nd Jack Griffin (4.14cm)
S2 Shot Putt	2nd Ron Gurung (8.74cm)
S3 200m	3rd Liam Melville (27.0)
S3 200m	1st Ron Gurung (25.9)
S3 800m	3rd Zac Wilson (2.31.34)
S3 1500m	3rd Duncan Stephen (5.56.59)
S3 4x100m Relay	3rd Boys (51.03)
S3 Long Jump	2nd Duncan Stephen (4.88cm)
S3 Shot Putt	2nd Taylor Morrison-Smith (4.14cm)
S3 Triple Jump	2nd Pau Qalo (9.65cm)

So, having had three athletics events in a week already, on Saturday, we ventured over to Hutchesons Grammar School. Our opponents were Hutchesons, Wellington, St Columbas, and Lomond. We had come across three of the schools already, but we knew Hutchesons Grammar School would have many fine athletes amongst their ranks.



Sports Department

This event Involved many track and field events that pupils had not taken part in yet, but all coped admirably. It was a full day and it was wonderful to see both the boys and the girls competing so well on the track and in the field events. The results for this event are yet to come through, but it was clear that many of the pupils achieved personal bests throughout the competition.

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to put any relay teams into the Scottish Schools Relay Championships, having been incredibly successful last year. This year the event clashed with a sleep-in weekend which meant that many of the pupils were unavailable.

Our next event was the P7 Stirling Schools Championships held at Stirling University. Both the boys and the girls were excited about the competition and we took two teams of six to compete both on the track and in the field. It was wonderful to see that, even in the short time many of the pupils have been involved in athletics, they not only tried their hardest but also enjoyed the opportunity to compete. Below is a table of medallists on the day, however, all pupils deserve credit for the effort put in throughout the competition.

Notable results were as follows:

P7 150m	2nd Scott Gowans (22.05)
P7 600m	1st Elinore Stoddart (2.01)
P7 Javelin	3rd India Byth (1.92)
P7 Javelin	2nd Arpan Pun (21.00)
P7 Long Jump	2nd Isabelle Inglis (3.62)
P7 Shot Putt	3rd Joshua Taroga (6.73)

The last major event on the athletics calendar, with the exception of Sports Day, is the Scottish Schools Athletics Association Track and Field Championships. On the Friday, Mica and Aaliyah McCloud entered the 100m and 300m respectively. Mica was tactically astute throughout the heat and in the final achieved the bronze medal in a time of 13.02. This is a wonderful achievement for Mica and is a just reward for all of her determination and perseverance that she has shown over the years. Aaliyah cruised through her heat and was known as the firm favourite in the final. However, true to form, Aaliyah is always humble and very much downplays her ability at the 300m. The final was competitive but at no point did Aaliyah look threatened as she ran in first position achieving a badge standard time of 39.95. This made her both the indoor and outdoor National champion at 300m, an incredible achievement, and once again, so well deserved.

This goes to show that focus, determination and hard work enable pupils to achieve the highest standards. The school is very proud of both Mica's and Aaliyah's achievements and we look forward to hearing about Aaliyah's results as she competes for Scotland in the summer.

On the Saturday, Mica was down to compete in the 200m but unfortunately had to pull out at the last moment due to injury. This left Ben Main as our last medal hope in the Group A boys Javelin. Although Silver and Gold were unlikely on the day with competitors throwing over 55m, Ben certainly had a chance of achieving Bronze. Unfortunately, he missed out by 0.1m, which left Ben gutted. However, Ben has always worked hard at improving and his willingness to compete at that level, despite being up against club athletes, deserves a lot of respect.



Sports Day

This was to be our first Sports Day with the new house names. Holyrood, Balmoral and Glamis battled it out on the sports field on what turned out to be a very hot and dry day. The lines were freshly painted and the venue looked the best it has looked in many a year. The captains had done a good job choosing their teams and the pupils seemed primed to go out and gain as many points as they could for their team. This year we had the addition of members of staff being assigned to a house which created an even more competitive environment on the day. The only disappointing thing on the day was that there were too many gaps in some of the races and field events which lead to points not being picked up, which would have proved crucial in the final results.

The results were as follows.

Junior	Points	Total	Position
Holyrood Boys	95	150	3
Holyrood Girls	55		
Balmoral Boys	77	155	1
Balmoral Girls	78		
Glamis Boys	61	152	2
Glamis Girls	91		
Intermediate	Points	Total	Position
Holyrood Boys	73	143	2
Holyrood Girls	70		
Balmoral Boys	85	132	3
Balmoral Girls	47		
Glamis Boys	94	192	1
Glamis Girls	99		
Senior		Total	Position
Holyrood Boys	78	106	2
Holyrood Girls	28		
Balmoral Boys	72	94	3
Balmoral Girls	22		
Glamis Boys	95	123	1
Glamis Girls	28		

Several records were once again broken and these were as follows:

Junior Girls High Jump	Daisy Leweni (1.35cm)
Junior Girls Shot Putt	Ruth Vakaloloma (8.31cm)
Junior Girls 4x100m Relay	(60.92)
Senior Girls 200m	Mica McCloud (27.42)
Senior Girls Long Jump	Aaliyah McCloud (1.62cm)

All in all it was a very successful season and the pupils really enjoyed being given the opportunities to not only compete against other schools but also make friends along the way.

We have many talented athletes in the school and having missed out during the COVID years they have come back with a hunger and enthusiasm for this sport, we look forward to many more years of competitive events during the summer months.

Once again, it doesn't just happen, so a huge thank you must go to Mrs Elliott, Mr McConnell, Mr Bryce and Mrs Crozier for helping out throughout the term. We were also joined by many of our seniors who always are a pleasure to take along and show the school in such great light.

Mr McLay, Principal Teacher of Physical Education

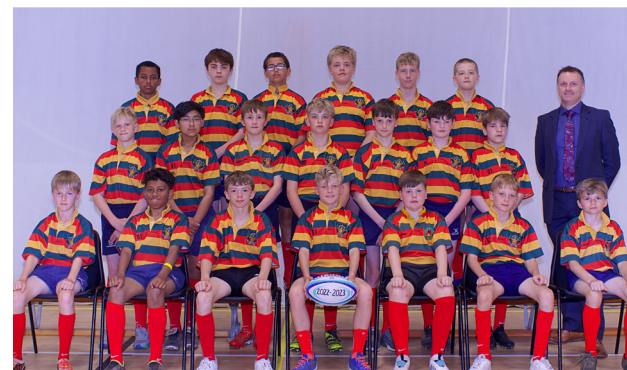


Rugby 1st Team

U15 Hockey Team



P7 Hockey Team



S1 Rugby Team



S1 Hockey Team



S2 Rugby Team



P7 Rugby Team

Hockey 1st Team

U16 Rugby Team



U15 Rugby Team



S2 Hockey Team



Hockey Report

The 2022 season kicked off and it was strange not dusting off my trainers and recognisable Nike kit as I sat at home looking after baby #2, Ceitidh May. My Maternity leave lasted from Easter to the October holidays and it was strange not being part of the Hockey preparations.

It appeared that whilst having been away for the first term, there had been somewhat of a goal drought for the teams. Particularly for the 1st XI team, the immediate focus after the October break was to get the ball between the posts. Sure enough, the floodgates opened and the girls began to notch up some nice wins. Captain Lily O'Neill and Vice Captain Aaliyah McCloud prepared the team as well as they could for the Aspire Cup in November but for some reason, the team just didn't click into gear and find their groove when they needed it. It knocked the wind out of their sails and come the beginning of December, it was clear the frustrations from the Aspire Cup were still in the air as the girls struggled with their team dynamics. The intensity of boarding life tensions took its toll on the team and an intervention was put in place. It is particularly delicate work dealing with senior girls(!)

Thankfully, a Christmas break and New Year allowed for a reset and the girls were firing again. It was fantastic to see Tia Seru back in the thick of the action as she recovered from a bad foot/ankle break. Deeyana Gurung and Mica McCloud were moved positions to form a formidable forward duo. The biggest highlight for the season were the running penalties (with 8 seconds to score 1v1 with the goalkeeper from 25 yards) taken by Lily, Aaliyah and Deeyana. They managed to score 2 from 3 but Isabel Gregory, in goals, saved HS of Dundee's final shot to secure a shock win as we regularly punch above our weight against the majority of schools we compete against.

Proud moment for the whole team. The game was to play out for minor placings but you would have thought we had won the whole tournament the way we celebrated!

One of the performance highlights also came from the 15s team who played St Aloysius and managed to overcome a 2-0 deficit to win 3-2 in the match. This team have demonstrated good unity and a hunger to chase the ball and had a fighting spirit right to the end. Harriet Golder with her defensive strength and Alfie Walker for his silky stick work were picked as the main game-changing players for this match.

Notable performances elsewhere came from the P7 and S1 girls who were invited to Kilgraston's Junior Tournament held in March for the first time this year. Well done to the following girls who were identified either as an umpire's player of the match or coach's player of the match in the games: India Byth, Isabelle Inglis, Mia Jones, Angel Pun, Jessica Botterill and Daisy Leweni.

Finally, a farewell to our dedicated S6 leavers who have been through thick and thin together. They will be missed for their no-nonsense approach to Hockey and their ability to make light of a tough situation. Good luck to Lily O'Neill, Katie Meikle, Abbie Gibson, Lauren McCulloch, Sasha Walker, Chanell Parker and LG Methven as they venture into adulthood. Also a last-minute farewell to Millie Keightley, S5, who will be missed greatly by next season's team for her adaptable approach to the game.

Mrs Elliott, Hockey Coach

1st XI Captain's Report - Lily O'Neill

The season of 22/23 has been bumpy but we have definitely exceeded most expectations. What a motivated, competent and sporty group of girls I have been able to captain for this year. It has been a pleasure to always represent you whether that be home or away. I will never forget the memories we have shared together from our most memorable moments such as going to the Aspire Cup, competing in the Kilgraston Tournament and our final game against Morrisons Academy. Finishing off the season by pushing ourselves to the max and supporting each other was truly phenomenal. People such as myself, Aaliyah McCloud and Deeyana Gurung all stepped up to take running penalties to lead us to our win against HSD at the Kilgraston Tournament.

Meanwhile, having the whole team behind us supporting us is something I will never forget when looking back on this season. As well as taking and scoring my first-ever penalty flick at our game v Morrisons Academy. I wish the 1st XI all the best for the 23/24 season next year. Good luck ladies!

S2 Report - Abbie McConnell

With the hockey season at an end, it is fair to say that the team has played to the best of their abilities even though there were some ups and downs. There was a bit of a rocky start to the season but we progressed throughout our matches by gaining ourselves some wins, one of our team's highlights is winning a home game 9-0 to Linlithgow. We started with a really strong start getting 4 goals from Erin Combe, Daisy Leweni and myself. The team worked really well by pushing up and spreading out considering it was only a 7-a-side game. Another match that stood out was when we were playing St Aloysius and we had some really good defending from all of the defenders and some good hitouts from Elainah Bogidrau and Orla Dodd. We were making some really good quick shots by Libby Cordiner. Well done all!

S1 Report - Tabitha Clark

This year has been a tough one, it hasn't been the best year for us as from August to October we never had Mrs Elliott to help as she was on Maternity Leave but we pushed on and tried our best. We have won a good handful of matches and sadly we have lost a lot of matches as well but that hasn't stopped us from pushing on and we have had a great time playing this season with our S1 team. Our captains this year have been Daisy Leweni, Ruby May Gibson and myself. We have all had our fair share of matches and we have plenty of amazing players that have brought us to victory. We have had new people join our year not knowing the sport but we can see that some of them are very passionate about the sport and they have earned their spots on the team. This year we have had a great goalie Ashley Brown and she has shown her skill and determination at the Kilgraston Tournament as she did a fabulous job at defending and saving some close goals. Overall we think it's been a great year filled with all the games and tournaments we have played as we are all pretty keen to get back to playing after the upcoming Athletics Season.





U13 Rugby Report

U13 rugby at QVS has continued to thrive, and there have been several special moments that stand out in our journey. As the coach, I want to express my gratitude to all the boys for allowing me to be part of such a special inaugural season. I also want to acknowledge our captain, Josh Taroga, and vice-captain, Archie Cowie, for their contributions and leadership. Both boys have played with passion and led by example.

Our team consists of players with a vast spectrum of experience, ranging from those who are new to rugby to those who have been playing for a while. Despite our differences, we have shared lots of laughs and created several special memories together. Every boy has played their heart out, displaying great team spirit and bravery in facing some freezing cold weather as well as enjoying lovely sunny mornings. Some of us who are more experienced have also played up in the under-14 squad, making valuable contributions to the outcome of those matches as well. I want to extend a special thank you to all the parents for their pitch-side support. Your encouragement and presence have meant a lot to us.

Throughout the season, our squad has displayed guts and determination. We've witnessed big tackles, fast feet, and great creativity, such as Josh's kick and Jacob's chase which he finished off superbly with a lovely try against Dundee early in the season. Resilience has been a key trait of our team, as we never give up and always fought until the final whistle.

One of the highlights of away matches has been the bus journey, where we all get a chance to plan, scheme, and bond before the game. On the way back, we analyse and evaluate our performance, making the most of our time together as a team.

We have developed a culture of teamwork and camaraderie, where every player understands the importance of leaving nothing out on the pitch. This means giving everything we have to the game and never coming off the field feeling like we could have played harder. In rugby, when we compete against other schools, we may be rivals on the field, but off the field, we are friends. This sportsmanship and respect are fundamental to the values of the game and something I and the team of coaches work hard to foster and cultivate. Thank you, boys, for the wonderful memories we've created together, and I wish you all the best of luck as you continue your journey in the under-14 squad.

Mr MacKay and U13 Rugby Coach

P7's Captain Report First match - QVS vs Dundee

The game started off strong when we all pushed up together strongly. In the first five minutes one of the Dundee players ran through us and scored and they kept scoring and scoring but we never gave up. Near the end of the game, Arpan made a stunning pass out to me and I kicked and Jacob caught it and finished it off with a powerful and fast run. Our final game of the season was against our local rivals Morrisons. The game was played at a really fast pace with quick passing and even quicker footwork. We secured the first try when Jacob crossed the chalk line. However, we struggled to keep up with the pace and ultimately lost. Despite the disappointment, we left the pitch with our heads held high and feeling proud that our parents were with us to watch our final match. I think this was a really good first season and for the people who have never played rugby played really well. I know some of us lacked experience at the start, but eventually, we all just got stuck in. I'm confident that we will continue to improve in the next season.

Josh Taroga, P7 Captain



U14 Rugby Report

The S2 rugby team embarked on a challenging conference fixture this season, facing formidable opponents like Balforn and St. Leonards schools. The early matches didn't go in our favour, resulting in defeats against both teams. However, despite these setbacks, the team displayed unwavering determination and a strong spirit.

One remarkable highlight of the season was the notable improvement shown in the rematch against St. Leonards. In the initial encounter back in September, we failed to score a single point. But in November, the team underwent an impressive transformation, putting an outstanding 28 points past them. This significant improvement demonstrated the team's dedication and growth as the season progressed.

Throughout the season, adverse weather conditions proved to be a significant challenge for the team. Rain, wind, and unpleasant circumstances became a constant companion during the matches. Nevertheless, the team exhibited resilience and adaptability, bravely facing the elements and consistently delivering their best performance.

Amidst these challenges, a great victory against Watsons B side brought a sense of triumph and elation to the team. It was a hard-fought match where the boys showcased their skills, teamwork, and determination, securing a well-deserved win. The S2 rugby team's progression during the season was truly impressive. A shining example of their development was the comfortable win against Dunblane, a team that started on equal footing with us. The players demonstrated improved techniques, coordination, and tactical understanding, resulting in a satisfying victory.

As the season draws to a close, it's bittersweet to pass the boys onto Mr. Adams for S3. It's been an honour and a pleasure to witness their growth and development. Their camaraderie, dedication, and passion for the sport have been truly inspiring, and bidding them farewell fills us with mixed emotions.



The S2 rugby team has proven themselves to be a resilient and determined group of individuals. They have faced tough challenges head-on, showcased remarkable improvement, and achieved significant victories. Their hard work and commitment serve as a testament to their potential, and we have no doubt they will continue to shine in the future.

Mr Bryce, U14 Rugby Coach

U14's Captain Report

This season has been very eventful and a lot has been learnt. We've been through ups and downs, wins and losses and some nail-biter games. We have evolved as a team and learnt from our losses but still, we persist. To start things off it was rough due to the lack of technique and training we had done, we experienced massive losses to Bell Baxter, Balforn and Madras Blues. We saw these games as a lesson and worked on our weaknesses whether it was as a team or as individuals and we saw the next games after Christmas as benchmarks. Our first game was against Hutchy - we've never played them before but it was a good game with the score being 28 - 41 to Hutchy. Then we went against one of the biggest schools in Scotland George Watsons B' team with Ron scoring 7 tries and myself scoring 2 with the score being 63 - 12. We saw this game as motivation to carry on winning the next few games. Then finally Morrisons: the game we'd been waiting for - we came into the game ready for anything. It started off well at the start, making tackles and keeping them in their half. They found a gap, hit that gap and they scored first. Tries flooded in for both teams and solid defence for both teams but Morrisons got the best of us by winning 35 - 24. Once the season finished, we had a friendly against Dunblane High. We came to the ground ready for anything but all we wanted out of this game was a decent win and we got that. Tries came in faster than the speed of light with Ryan, Nick Jack, Ron William S and Vili scoring. Vili slotted in seven conversions and Ryan two with the Final Score being 68 - 26 to QV. We know what we have to do for the next season and we hope our plans for next season will go in our favour.

Viliame Wise, U14 Captain



Sports Department

U15 Rugby Report

It's been a fun journey with this group of players. Our first match of the season against Howe of Fife saw us swapping a number of players with them at halftime just to even up the game!

At that point, it felt like it was going to be a long season, but this group of players have embraced everything that has been asked of them and truly turned it around. They have shown a 'never give up' attitude and proved to be a physically strong side at times. From a personal point of view, I am super excited about going again for the U16 season with this group.

Mr McCulloch, U15 Rugby Coach

The U15's 2022 / 2023 season has had its highs and lows with us having wins with significant differences, to the difficult wins with tight margins. The boys played their best so far this season which led to the season playing out in our favour - for the most of it - earning us the win in the majority of our matches. Despite the minimal amount of losses - which were learned from - the season was quite possibly one of our most successful ones so far. This was down to the boys' resilience to try harder in training, and the sheer determination to win after the difficult losses we came across. Some of the boys took several trips to both the A&E and the MIU, however, these don't compare to our very own Philip Draunidalo who somehow managed to break his collarbone not only once, but twice. Throughout this season, we've seen the entire team develop and improve to become better players for our upcoming matches. A perfect example of this was Zac Wilson who joined only at the start of the season and has already committed himself to some outstanding performances. We have also seen many performances of the highest standard with our outside centre, Taylor Morrison-Smith, scoring a huge number of tries on every occasion and is a key contributor to our wins. Also, our fly half, Pau Qalo, who has won several games for us through last-minute conversion kicks resulting in those games being won with just one point in it for us. Finally, we would like to thank JR, our coach, on behalf of the entire team. JR has come in to help us out and develop us into the team that we are today and we hope next year we can continue to make

progress. Thank you for putting in all the effort for us as a team. We would also like to thank all of the boys in the team that have stepped up this year, it is clear that everyone has worked hard due to the results we've received. We hope this carries on until next season and hopefully, we can go from strength to strength.

Rory Rennie and Leo Rees, U15 Captains

U16's Rugby Report

"Punching above our weight" springs to mind when think about our small dynamic squad this season. We not only managed to compete but defeated a number of schools that, on paper, should have beaten us. It was clear from the start of the season that due to the small size of our squad we needed to avoid getting it wrong off the pitch to ensure all were available for selection on a Saturday morning.

We were caught somewhat off guard during our first fixture of the year and suffered a significant loss by Howe of Fife, 50-0. Clearly, the summer holidays had not involved too many fitness sessions for some of the boys! However, to the boys' defence, they were competing against a squad with in excess of 40 players, who had been involved in a number of pre-season sessions and games prior to that match. The boys used that performance as a catalyst to motivate them both individually and collectively to ensure they never experienced a loss like that again. To their credit the boys bounced back brilliantly, working hard in training to get up to speed with the physicality, pace and technical skills of U16s Rugby. The boys started to put snippets of outstanding play together during the next few weeks, but struggled with consistency. Our defence, at times, struggled to cope with some of the opposition's physicality, but having said that should be commended for their sheer determination and courage and really started to impact on the opposition as the season progressed. With the ball in hand, we were able to create opportunities, causing endless problems for our opponents. As a result of their hard work, willingness to learn and ability to execute in games the boys finished second in the conference.



Results of the Conference:

St Leonards v QVS	10 - 31
Morrisons v QVS	14 - 17
Strathendrich/Balfron HS v QVS	31 - 44
Howe Fife/Bell Baxter v QVS	0 - 50

Played	Won	Lost	F	A	Diff	Position
4	3	1	92	105	-13	2nd

As captain, Jeshon led by example in fly half, orchestrating the attacking play for the team. The ball-handling skills of the team certainly improved with every player from 1 to 15 playing with confidence with the ball in hand.

As the season progressed the forwards started to play with greater aggression and understanding of the 1-3-3-1 system in attack. They worked hard to provide quality ball for our backs, they slowed down the opposition ball and created endless turnovers. Our lineouts functioned well as did the scrum. It was a solid, well-drilled pack and credit should be given to all the players for their relentless ambition to improve. In my view, they were one of the strongest, if not the strongest pack in the conference. James, Ethan and Charlie should be credited for making endless metres with the ball in hand and their individual tackle counts - They certainly led by example in training and in fixtures. Reegam, for his relentless tackling and desire for turnover ball - he would always be found at the bottom of a ruck creating havoc! Finlay, for having the determination, as flanker, to make endless and effective tackles during every game he played. He loved to play with the ball in hand as well. Well done to Eddie, Archie, Swayam and Harrison for creating a solid platform, not only in the scrums but at the breakdowns during open play. With brilliant footwork and ball-handling skills they were able to create numerous opportunities in attack. All the forwards boys should be commended for their willingness to learn and embed new structures of play which will no doubt stand them in good stead for 1st XV rugby next year.

At scrum half, Cameron not only provided quality ball for Jeshon, but with ball in hand, he loved to find gaps in the defences and expose their weaknesses with his fast feet and change of pace.

He was also tenacious in defence. Jeshon's understanding and execution developed throughout the season, as he continued to cause endless problems for the opposition with his array of attacking plays and individual skills with his kicking and passing. Jayden, with his brilliant ball-handling skills, grew as an inside centre - becoming a more aggressive ball-carrying player, trying to break the defensive line to free up space for the outside centre and wingers. Save was outstanding with ball in hand, he was physically strong and fast - he loved taking on the opposition with his pace and footwork.

As wingers, Ryan and Jacob were patient, especially at the beginning of the season when they weren't getting as much ball as they would have liked. But once they had the ball they both loved attacking defences and scoring tries. Jacob had electric feet and could find space when he really had no right to. Ryan, with his physical presence, loved to dominate his opposite number. Both were very effective in defence as well. Ethan continued to learn his trade at full-back and enjoyed the physical nature of his defensive roles and started to become more involved in the attacking play as the season progressed.

When the backs played with confidence and aggression, looking to find space and break through the defensive line, they looked dangerous - creating plenty of opportunities to score. The U16s played some cracking 'QVS style rugby' - quick ball, fast open expansive play, whilst being courageous and organised in defence.

Relentless determination, self-discipline and team cohesion started to have a positive impact on performances. They earned a quarter-final National Plate match against Glenalmond. Unfortunately, the boys came second to some of the worst weather I have seen rugby being played in for some time - Glenalmond coped better with the conditions winning 12-5. Rugby was certainly not the winner that day!

The boys continued to compete admirably in the friendly fixtures during the second part of the season and were unlucky to be defeated by our local rivals - Morrisons, in a close, well-fought match.



Congratulations to James and Save, who have both been selected for the U16s and U17s Caledonia U16 squads respectively. We wish them both all the very best with their future endeavours. Finally, I am immensely proud of this group of players, having worked with them over a number of seasons. It has been a pleasure watching them grow and develop as individuals and as a team. Success has not happened by chance, dedication, enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to challenge themselves in both training sessions and fixtures has been key. They have grown not only as players but as Victorians, they have really tried to get it right both on and off the pitch. I would like to wish all of the boys every success as they progress to 1st XV schoolboy rugby next season. I have no doubt that they do themselves and the school proud. I look forward to seeing you perform next year.

Well done lads, I'm really proud of you all!.

Mr Adams,, U16 Rugby Coach

1st XV Report

We started with not only one of the biggest squads I have seen at U18 but also one of the strongest sets of players across the board, offering so many options in both the forwards and the backs.

With great work being done at U16 by Mr Wright, the foundations had been laid for a team that would be well organised and structured. Our forwards were fast and mobile, ably led by Daniel Rae and latterly Euan Lee. As always, it took time for the team to embed the systems and through the early games against Howe of Fife and Balforn, we gave away possession too easily by mistimed passes or silly penalties at the breakdown. Balforn, rather cynically played us on a smaller pitch to make it more difficult for our backs to exploit space, however, we coped admirably in the end and although the forwards were well matched, our backs opened up their defensive line on the edge through fast feet and offloads. The next big match was against Morrisons away, and the team knew

that they would need to up their game. They are a well-drilled side and, as it is our local derby, we knew they would be up for it, having lost on the last three occasions. The game started and both sides made mistakes, we were continually being penalised for infringements around the breakdown, and the team did not adjust quickly enough. As a result, we found ourselves down by two tries and Morrisons looked the stronger side. It was 25-22 to Morrisons and all Morrisons needed to do was kick the ball out to win the game. However, to their credit, they looked to play it and one of their big forwards became isolated. This enabled Josh Ferrier to get over the ball and secure a penalty for QVS. Sam Leweni, the Captain, lined the kick up and slotted it making the end result 25-25.

Our next match against St Columbas was another tight game in horrendous conditions. The wind and rain didn't make for fast-flowing rugby, however, the forwards to a great job grinding out the yards so that the backs could then exploit the space. The memorable moment was when Josh Ferrier came out of the bottom of a ruck, completely oblivious to the fact that he had blood pouring down his face having already dislocated his finger, none came more hardy than Josh, a huge miss for the team next season. That brought an end to our Conference games and for the first time, we were crowned U18 Conference champions.

Results of the Conference:

Howe of Fife v QVS	07 - 29
Balforn v QVS	31 - 12
Morrisons v QVS	25 - 25
St Columbas v QVS	14 - 19

Played	Won	Lost	F	A	Diff	Position
4	3	1	104	58	-46	1st

Congratulations to all the players involved and their commitment and work ethic was rewarded with a quarter-final slot in the National Shield competition. This was to be against Kelvinside away, a team that we knew would be tough to beat. The game ebbed and flowed with no team really being dominant. Too often we would break the line but then get caught isolated and the opposition were quick over



the ball. Eventually, Kelvinside managed to get over the line after some phenomenal try-line defence from QVS making the score 7-0 at halftime. Six minutes into the second half, Kelvinside, relentless in their pick-and-go's, once again managed to break our defence down and get another try but with a missed conversion the score was 12-0. With more line breaks and offloading, we became more dominant towards the end of the second half and with three minutes to go, from a ruck, the ball was passed to Euan Lee who used his strength and power to drive over the line. The end result was 12-7 to Kelvinside, meaning that we were out of the competition.

The second half of the season involved friendlies being played against a variety of schools. With notable wins over Dundee, Hutchesons Grammar School, St Columbas and Balforn. However, our last match was against Morrisons again and unfortunately we lost, only our second defeat of the season. Morrisons scored twice within twenty minutes through sloppy defence and poor communication. We then got one back early in the second half from a well-rehearsed lineout move with Euan again using brute force to get over the line. We then scored again with a quick ball from William Kurisaru's well-placed ball, Ben fed Theo who then handed off two players and leapt over the line. Morrisons replied with a blindside move, exposing space and easily going over in the corner. We then scored again from a great lineout drive, pass into Theo, behind Rays, then onto Langi who quickly shipped it onto Save who had space and the speed to go over the line. Deep into the second half, we then scored one of our best tries of the season, it started with Hendry offloading to Langi, Langi breaking the defensive line and then offloading to Theo, Theo with Save on the outside, and performed a great dummy which the Morrisons defence bought, giving him the space to go for the line.

This meant that we were up 24-20 with only moments on the clock. Morrisons had the bit between their teeth and all we had to do was defend for one minute and see the game out. Unfortunately, through tired defence on the blind side, they managed to get over the line in the dying minute. End result being 25-24 to Morrisons. Not the result we wanted to finish on but a cracking game nonetheless.



Throughout the year we also had players being selected to play at various levels. For the U16's Jeson Thapa and James Douglas, U17's Ayden Paterson, Save Golea, Siti Qalo, Arden Paterson and Josh Ferrier and the U18's Theo Natiri, Euan Lee and Sam Leweni were all part of the Caledonia District squads. Euan, Theo and Sam were then chosen to represent the Glasgow Warriors U18 team against Edinburgh. From this, they were all selected for the U18 National wider squad with Sam eventually playing in the Six Nations Competition for Scotland. The school is very proud of all the boys' achievements and look forward to seeing where the leavers go from here.

For me, it has been another great year, even though we missed out on several matches due to the wet conditions over the winter. Rugby is in a good place at the school as we are now, quite rightly, in the Tier 2 Conference for next year. The seniors have played an important role throughout their time and have led by example. Many of the youngsters have been inspired by our S6 leavers which bodes well for the future. We wish Langi, Euan, Rays, Daniel, Owen, Ben, Alex, Lewis, Darran, Hendry, Charlie, William, Robert Josh K, Josh F, Theo, Jay and Sam all the very best and thank them all for their time and commitment over the years. A special mention to Sam, who has led by example on and off the pitch and has been one of the best Captains we have had at the school.

Mr McLay, 1st XV Rugby Coach



It's been another year of exciting activities and accomplishments in the English Department, filled with literary achievements, creative endeavours, and memorable experiences for our pupils.

Throughout the year, our pupils have demonstrated a deep commitment to reading, and we are proud to announce that several of them received QVS Reading Awards. These awards recognise reading achievements and encourage a lifelong passion for reading. Special congratulations to Demi Mutch who received her Gold Award for reading more than 15 books.

A number of our students collaborated with Forth Valley Creative Veterans theatre group to take part in the play "Archie's Issues". The pupils showed great commitment to the rehearsals, expertly directed by the FVCV, and their hard work resulted in four memorable and moving performances in March. We would like to thank the FVCV for giving our pupils the chance to express themselves creatively through drama. All the pupils involved found it a tremendously rewarding and enjoyable experience.

We take great pride in the creative talents of our students, and this year, several of their written works were selected for publication in Young Writers anthologies. Their poetry and short stories showcased their unique perspectives, creativity, and their writing abilities. Well done to Alistair Bowles, Robi Burns-Fairhurst, Ashley Stevenson, Pau Qalobulawasaikabara, Izzy Collie and Liam Melville.

Rachel Moulding and Ashley Stevenson (S3) took part in the Forth Valley final of the Procurator Fiscal's annual public speaking competition. Both girls delivered excellent speeches via Teams on the topic: "society thinks everyone should be thin and beautiful." They were Forth Valley Champions, beating Larbert High School and Bo'ness Academy, and progressed on to the next heat.

Unfortunately, Ashley was unable to speak at the next round and Eve Malcolm stepped up to be second speaker, along with Trina Gurung who supported the girls in research and speech writing. The Sheriffdom final for Forth Valley, Fife, Perth and Tayside was against Perth Academy and Auchmuty High School at Perth Sheriff Court, delivering speeches on the topic: "there can be no climate justice without climate reparations". Rachel and Eve delivered truly outstanding performances and were disappointed to miss out on a spot in the semi-final to Perth Academy. The English Department are extremely proud of Ashley, Rachel, Eve and Trina for their dedication and for representing QVS to such a high standard, as well as for retaining the school's title of Forth Valley Champions in this prestigious competition.

The S1s had an exciting educational trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park to tie-in with a unit of work on the topic of animals in captivity. They had great fun as well as learning lots of interesting information about sea-lions, meerkats, monkeys and many more animals. A particular highlight was the birds of prey exhibition with our pupils getting a close-up experience of yellow-billed kites and a hooded vulture.

The Literacy Ambassadors have again had a busy year promoting reading and writing across the school. Highlights include the Halloween writing competition with many of our pupils displaying the darker side of their imaginations to produce some terrifyingly good stories. The Ambassadors also organised a number of activities for World Book Day in March including a fun literary-themed scavenger hunt.

It is fantastic to see the achievements of our talented students. Well done and thank you to everyone who has helped to make this such a rewarding and successful year for the English department!

Mr McHugh, Principal Teacher of English



"There can be no climate justice without climate reparations" - Public Speaking Topic

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is Rachel and tonight we're here to discuss climate justice and climate reparations.

I can't lie to you, when we received the topic "there can be no climate justice without climate reparations", we panicked. This topic is HEAVY, and it's so complex. I'm not sure I truly understood the significance of these ideas until we started researching.

First of all, I'd like to take you on my journey of coming to understand what climate justice actually is, as well as the idea of reparations. I'll then speak to you about the current state of climate injustice in which we exist. My partner, Eve, will discuss the impact that the extremely wealthy have on climate injustice and also climate anxiety.

Climate justice - where to begin? I've come to think it's actually just wishful thinking - the idea that we could globally share, equitably, the burden of climate change? Let's be honest, it's not going to happen. Which is why we have this idea of climate reparations.

When I heard reparations, I immediately thought of Germany in the aftermath of WW1 - paying a huge amount of compensation for the devastation that they brought upon other nations. And I thought, to be honest, that reparations only applied to situations like this - war, where a country is so clearly to blame.

However, once I researched climate reparations, I realised that this is kind of the same principle. It is a war in some sense - we are battling against time, and some of us are clearly more to blame than others.

Climate reparations are overdue, to nations more than entitled to them, from those nations that produce greenhouse gases at a disgustingly high level. If appropriate reparations were in place, then yes - perhaps climate justice could be achieved. However, currently, we live in an alarming state of climate injustice.

Countries such as Pakistan and Mozambique, contribute so little to CO2 emissions and yet they are amongst nations that see monumental effects of climate change. In 2019, Mozambique, for example, was devastated by cyclones which tore through the area causing catastrophic damages and deaths. An average person in Mozambique contributes 73.5 times fewer carbon emissions than the typical American citizen. How is it fair then, that these are the people that suffer? How is it fair that this country was forced to take a loan for 118 million dollars to allow recovery? Why is it at their expense?

This isn't the only upsetting and grossly unjust example. Last August, floods in Pakistan caused immense damage and death. The cause of the floods? Severe heat waves, monsoon rains and melting glaciers - all extreme weather conditions caused by climate change.

It's just South Asian weather, right? Plus, don't they have tons of factories? And aren't they ridiculously overpopulated? Well, it might be home to millions, but it only contributes less than 1% of the total global carbon emissions.

Let's compare that to the US - they are responsible for 14% of the world's emissions. And China? They make up 29% of emissions. It's sad, to be honest, that we are even at a stage where reparations are required. But unfortunately, many nations, us in particular, have not avoided and reduced enough, in order to prevent injustice. We are liable because of our failure to prevent it.

Ladies and gentlemen, there can be no climate justice without climate reparations - and we are well overdue them. As Eve will now discuss, many countries, and factions of people, are irresponsibly neglecting to respect the impact of climate change - which, unfortunately, future generations will have to pay the bill for.

We can't continue to live in a privileged nation, creating an immoral amount of greenhouse emissions, allowing other, less privileged countries to pay for our sins.

Rachel Moulding

English Department

Just Keep Swimming



Swimming is a life skill that everyone should be able to do. Without this ability you may become part of the masses of people who have lost their lives to the water. On average 235,000 people drown each year. This figure is alarmingly high. The World Health Organisation called drowning a "silent epidemic", highlighting that not enough attention is being brought to the danger that is all around us: water.

In Thailand drowning is the number one cause of child death. In Bangladesh 50 children die everyday from the large floods in the rainy season. In many Asian countries, drowning is the main killer of children. In the UK 400 people drown per year. For such a small percentage of the worldwide population living on this island, that number is huge. The effects of people not being able to swim is massive, and I strongly believe it is an essential skill - everyone should learn to swim.

Not only does swimming reduce chances of drowning and limits water related injury, it is also a great source of fitness. Swimming any of the 4 strokes uses 10 of the main muscle groups and increases your heart rate without stressing your body. Experts recommend that adults get 150 minutes of easy activity or 75 minutes of more gruelling exercise each week, and swimming is a low impact sport that you can easily spend this time doing.

Swimming also lowers the chances of getting arthritis and can help people who already have this condition without making the symptoms worse. Not only does it decrease the rate of injury and joint or muscle pain, but swimming also improves the mood of both men and women alike. Research has been done to show that swimming in warm water reduces depression and calms anxiety. Parents to children with disabilities related to developmental needs have found that swimming together boosts family connections and develops trust between parent and child, as well as relaxing any mental stress the child may be under.

The social aspect of swimming draws many people away, though. The sport is seen as a solo and unfriendly way to exercise due to the fact it is difficult to talk while swimming with the target of going fast. However, swimmers all over the world know that talking and socialising while swimming is very much doable. Different stroke techniques such as granny breaststroke (breaststroke without getting your head wet), sculling, and any kick with a board make it very easy to socialise while doing.

Furthermore, surveys taken in 2018 found that 4,861,900 children were in registered swimming clubs in England. This isn't even half of the population of children in the country. The children not in the clubs will be missing out on seeing their friends for, on average, 3 sessions of 1.5 hours per week. This time swimmers spend in

the pool is beneficial for developing relationships as well as the kids developing their muscle endurance and lung strength from a very young age. These developments with relationships between peers will teach the children about different speeds of learning and teach them to encourage their friends while they may be struggling. This is a life skill that will be pulled into many aspects of life in their future. Children who don't develop these strengths will see this impacting in their future life when they don't have such capabilities to connect with people while developing skills in the workplace.

Swimming isn't only beneficial for competitive swimmers, but it is also a necessary skill for social trips to beaches or fun water parks on holidays. Not having the ability to swim takes away opportunities for children and adults to socialise with their friends or new people. Bullying isn't uncommon for people who can't swim when they get to an older age in life. Being asked to go swimming and having to say you can't go may be an embarrassing situation to be in. So, by stopping your children from getting the advantage of learning to swim at a young age, you are increasing their chances of issues later in life.

Being able to swim opens doors to new pathways for career options. Obviously the first option would be the possibility of being a professional swimmer. Although, if this is a bit out of reach, there are options for being a pool/ beach lifeguard, becoming a swim teacher, and becoming a dietitian specified for swimmers. These pathways work as long term or short term career options.

As well as jobs, swimming also brings positive personality traits, such as commitment and determination, into a person's life. These traits will show through a person and will help them in many aspects of life. Determination will help a person strive to do their best in any situation, and commitments help when everyone else in a group is slacking off; a swimmer (or ex-swimmer) will pursue what they have been told to complete.

Currently, rural swimming is very popular. In Scotland open water swimming is very accessible during the summer, but the extremely cold water and uneven base of lochs leads to dangerous conditions for low level or incapable swimmers. This means that it is imperative for people to be able to swim so that this is safe for them, as well as for the people around them. Small water pools all around Scotland start off shallow, but the bottom is unseen. Children playing in these pools outdoors with no lifeguards are in severe danger if they do not know how to swim.

To conclude, swimming is a vital ability to have. One in five adults in the UK can't swim. Are you one of these? Are you reducing your children's chances of survival in the case of a water panic? Learn to swim, and teach your children.

Keziah McCappin, S4

New Era for Rugby

The Rugby World Cup 2023 is the 10th men's Rugby World Cup. It is going to be held in France with the opening game at Stade de France in Paris on Friday, 8th of September and will finish on the 28th of October.

Kickoff will start at 20:00 with France going up against 3 time World Cup winners "New Zealand", also known as the All Blacks. The world cup will last 50 days with 48 matches, 4 pools from A to D consisting of 5 teams. 4 quarter finals, 2 semi finals, 1 bronze final and the final between the last 2 teams. The matches will be spread around the country in nine different venues with the final being held in Stade de France. This is the 3rd time France has held a World Cup with the last 2 being in 1991 and 2007.

2019 Rugby World Cup

The 2019 Rugby World Cup was a great success as it had grown the sport. It was held in Japan and the Japanese team had made an impact in the tournament as they were seen as underdogs. Japan progressed to the quarter finals, the first ever Asian country to make it to a quarter final. The 2019 World Cup had influenced 2.25 million new rugby players in Asia, involving 1.18 million from Japan only. In the final South Africa had beaten England 32 - 12. They were led by Siya Kolisi, the first black player to ever captain South Africa and to win a World Cup. He has influenced many people from South Africa to play rugby and to show that anything can be done and to not give up. He even had a documentary about his life story and how he became the person he is today.

Portugal

In 2022, Portugal had the opportunity to qualify for a Rugby World Cup for the first time since 2007. The Rugby World Cup 2023 Final Qualification Tournament was their only opportunity at qualifying, they were in a group with 3 other teams such as Kenya, Hong Kong and USA. Portugal had secured decisive wins over Hong Kong (42 - 14) and Kenya (85 - 0) but then their real challenge had come: Portugal had to only draw against the USA, due to the point differences, to qualify and if they did not their dreams of a World Cup would be gone. This game started in the favour of Portugal as they were leading at half time. 10 - 9. USA would get a try and slot the conversion but Portugal would kick a penalty to draw the game and secure their place in France - final score 16 - 16.

Tomás Appleton (Captain): "For the rugby community this is amazing, we've been missing for quite some time and we need a new generation to inspire the kids"

Chile

Back in July 2022, Chile were in the Rugby World Cup South American Qualification tournament. Their first game was against Colombia but the match was cancelled due to 3 cases of COVID-19 in the Colombian squad. They were still awarded the victory though. Chile were alongside Brazil and Uruguay in a competition where if they placed in the top 2, they still had a chance at qualifying for the World Cup. They beat Brazil 23 - 13

and lost to Uruguay 15 - 10. This meant Chile would play against Canada, losers of the Americas 1 play off. Canada won the first match with the score ending at 22 - 21 but then Chile won the next game 34 - 15. Chile would then play the USA twice. Chile played their first test match against the US and lost 22 - 21. With only 1 point in between the 2 sides Chile had not given up on their dream just yet. They proved it by winning their 2nd test match 31 - 29, sending them to their first ever Rugby World Cup.

Martin Sigren (Captain): "It really means so much...the sacrifices that this team has done, there were times when it seemed like it was uphill"

France's Unbeaten Run in 2022

Being the country to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup, France wanted to prove that they were worth the position and they did. France had won every single game in 2022 - it was the first time they had ever done this. France started the year with a 37 - 10 win against Italy and then to follow was a 30 - 24 win against Ireland. France went on to beat Scotland 36 - 17 in a clear victory but in their next fixture it was a lot closer: they just beat Wales 13 - 9. The last game of their Six Nations campaign was against England - it was an important match since it would decide if they would win the Six Nations overall. France performed well and they won the game 25 - 13, also winning the Six Nations.

In July France had 2 tests against Japan, both games were victories and to follow that was their Autumn Nation Series. France would play Australia first - they had a very close match but would beat them 30 - 29. Next was world champions South Africa and France played very well - the final score was 30 - 26. The final match of 2022 for France was against Japan and, after beating them twice, France were looking confident in the run up to this game. They would be victorious as they beat Japan 35 - 17 and finished the year with 10 wins and 0 losses. France has a very good chance at this year's World Cup.

Conclusion

The Rugby World Cup 2023 is one of the biggest sporting events in the world, and with changes in the world rankings throughout the year there are certainly new favourites and teams to look out for. With the impact of the 2019 Rugby World Cup made, this year's World Cup is looking to go beyond that. Having countries qualify for a World Cup for the first time is good for the sport, it helps the sport grow and become more prominent. When the World Cup was announced to be in France, it was an opportunity for the French team to show what they can do - which they undeniably accomplished in 2022. Rugby is growing in France in particular and having the World Cup there will further progress the sport. This year's World Cup is an event to look forward to.

Regam Bura, S4



English Department

Was Elizabeth II a Great Queen?

The recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II was a sad and momentous occasion for Great Britain, the Commonwealth and the rest of Britain's allies as a long-standing hero of the world has passed. Or so we thought.

There have been conflicting opinions about the Queen's legacy. As the Queen has been reigning for over 70 years, she has gained many achievements which may be why she is seen as the epitome of a ruler and a great monarch. Nevertheless, not everyone was mourning the Queen's death. During the Queen's governance over the British Empire, and its rebranding as the Commonwealth, many issues occurred that raised the eyebrows of many people across the globe. Many of these problems have been hidden from, or under-reported by, the media of the world. This essay shall uncover the many atrocities the Queen has ignored or denied but we shall also reflect on her incredible achievements to determine if Queen Elizabeth II was a great ruler.

One of the most significant achievements of Queen Elizabeth's reign generally has been her ability to adapt to changing times and maintain the popularity and relevance of the monarchy in a rapidly modernising world. When she came to the throne, many people believed that the institution of the monarchy was on its very last legs, but she, almost single-handedly revitalised the creaking institution. She has embraced new technology, such as television and the internet, and used them to communicate effectively with the public in ways that were unimaginable in the past. She essentially has also worked hard to modernise the royal family and made it much more accessible to the public, while still maintaining its dignity and charisma.

Although the Queen has managed to retain the royal family's relevancy, a failure of hers has been her inability to address the issue of royal finances fully to provide greater transparency and accountability in the way that the royal family is funded. This has been a source of controversy for many years, and despite some efforts to reform the system, there are still many questions about how the royal family is financed and how they use their money. The British monarchy is said to be funded by the public through a tax which is then given to them as a sovereign grant. This grant reportedly cost the British taxpayers over £100m in

the financial year 2021-22. The grant over the decade prior to this rarely went above £40m and this huge increase outraged the taxpaying public. This rise led to the government having to make sure that the subsidy did not reach £100 million again, so they enforced a new law stating the sovereign grant paid by taxpayers is capped at £86.3 million each year. Despite this cap, the citizens of Britain still question what possibly could the monarchy be spending tens of millions of their citizens' money on? This lack of transparency has led to public scepticism and has undermined the popularity of the monarchy in some quarters.

This public scepticism is nothing new and perhaps rose most notably after the death of Princess Diana, mother of Prince Harry and William. There was a lot of news speculation about the strenuous relationship between the Queen and the Princess as well as the infidelity of Prince Charles. Furthermore, when scandalous affairs such as these arise they are not discussed openly or adequately explained. For example, Prince Andrew being involved with Epstein and allegedly sleeping with an underage girl. Despite the fact that Prince Andrew paid the girl millions of pounds to not go to court, which enraged the public as he is using the taxpayers' finances as hush money, the Queen did not address the public about this or even apologise. Have there been too many scandals for the Queen to be seen as a Great ruler?

Despite these scandals, an impressive feat of the Queen is that even though she is of royal blood and wealthy background, she has not once shown that she thinks of herself above anyone in an unsightly manner and she has even done things that most would think a Queen or Princess shouldn't possibly be doing. As a Princess, Queen Elizabeth II joined the military during World War 2 not only to show her commitment to the people of Britain but to also do her part in the war and help as much as possible. The Queen served as part of The Auxiliary Territorial Service which was the women's branch of the British Army during the Second World War. She drove trucks full of machinery and artillery whilst also being a mechanic for the armed forces too. Being a trailblazer naturally, the Queen became the first ever woman in the royal family to join the Armed Forces. Also as the symbolic head of state, Queen Elizabeth II performed countless engagements with the public; including state visits, ceremonial occasions, and charitable events. Examples of this are how she



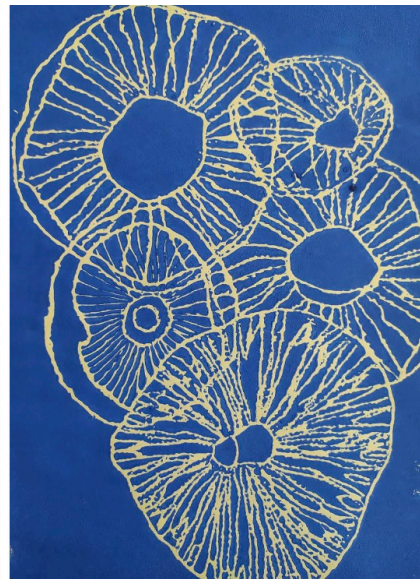
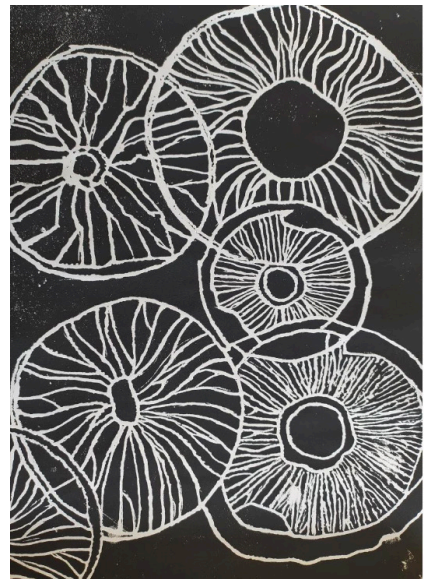
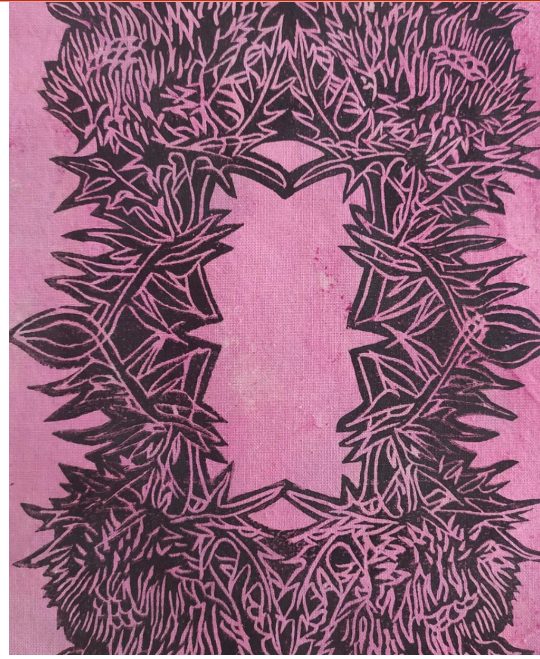
has helped to raise over £2 billion for charities in her lifetime, visiting countries of all backgrounds in the Commonwealth such as Ghana, Fiji and Brunei (Brunei Darussalam). She has also carried out a wide range of official duties, such as signing legislation into law, granting royal assent, and representing the UK at important international events. Throughout it all, Queen Elizabeth II has shown a tireless work ethic and a dedication to serving her people. Thankfully these efforts did not go unnoticed and has helped her earn the respect and admiration of many countries and also those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Although I've mentioned many great achievements of the Queen, not everyone wants to thank Queen Elizabeth II and think greatly of her. This is mostly seen in the continent of Africa where many of these countries were colonised and enslaved and brought into the British Empire which is now hidden as the commonwealth. Most if not all countries in the commonwealth are countries that were colonised by the British where all their countries were being exploited for their resources such as gold, silver and cocoa beans. But it was not just resources being controlled, it also their people. For example, the Windrush generation (who are people that came to the UK from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1971) came to the UK due to the British gov calling out for workers because there was a shortage of labour. Instead of getting treated with respect and kindness, the Windrush generation was disrespected, lied to, racially profiled and abused. They answered a plea from the British government in which they were promised housing and citizenship in the

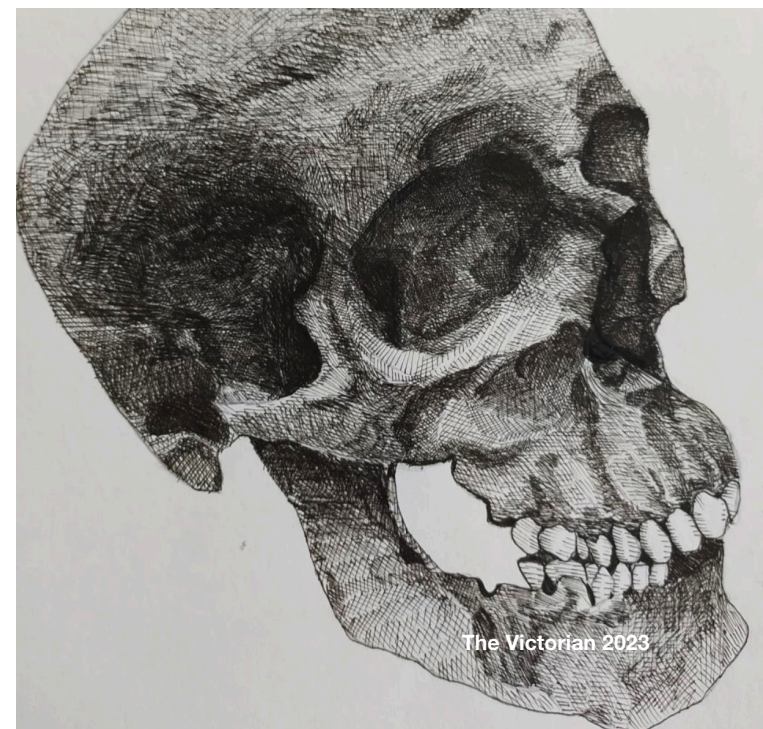
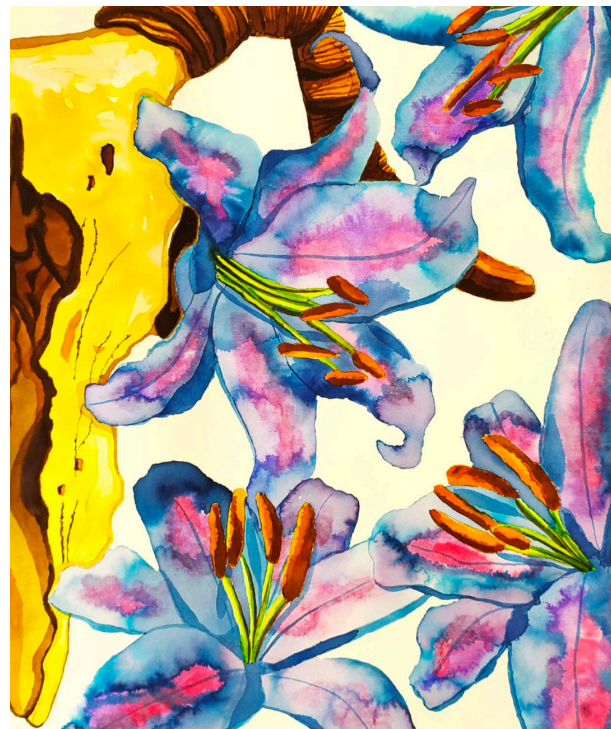
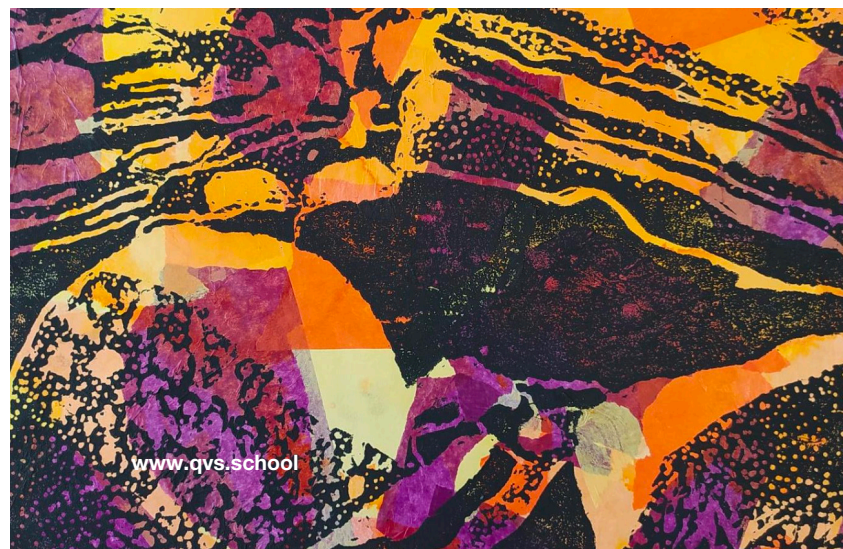
UK and yet they came to a country that hated them because of their skin and in turn they were completely forgotten about. Even after over 50 years people of the Windrush generation are still being pushed over and avoided by the government trying to hide the fact that they completely miss guided a whole generation, leaving them to fight for themselves without an ounce of compensation. The fact that all this happened throughout the Queen's reign and not once did she not apologise for the empire's exploits towards the colonised countries in Africa or the stolen crown jewels from India or the complete lie they told Caribbeans is a complete dishonour and act of ignorance towards other ethnic groups.

Clearly, the Queen's rule has been exceptional and engraved in history as one of the greatest and longest periods for a monarch to sit on a throne. Yet the issues that have risen concerning her family during her reign, as well as the complicated and at times burdening empire have been very problematic. In order for the Queen's legacy and the royal family to continue its rule and relevancy, I think they would need to be more open and engage more with the public and to apologise for problems that have arisen in that past to fully involve themselves with the diverse and constantly adapting Great Britain.





Art Department





Modern Languages Department

When I think of this year's small but mighty S5/6 French class, I think of a quote from Allen Klein; "There are no language barriers when you are smiling." This tri-level class studying from National 4 to Advanced Higher level have been a very cheery bunch, who even managed to crack a smile after their Speaking exams (the Advanced Higher Visiting Assessor was very impressed with them) and who have been really supportive of each other - it's been a pleasure to teach them and I hope that they continue to build their language skills in the future as they all leave QVS this summer for pastures new.

Our Senior Spanish linguists have also been a pleasure to work with. Adyn will still be a regular in the department as he studies Advanced Higher Spanish, and I hope that Ceara will also pop in often to keep her language skills up.

Another wave of S3s have been working hard, and have already received their Level 4 French for Life and Work certificates from the SQA, giving them some SCQF points before they even hit S4 - well done to all!

Excitingly, James Douglas sat his Higher German exam this year. This involved a trip to Stirling High accompanied by Eroni (another star linguist). I was so impressed with both of them during the visit - from James undertaking his Speaking exam minutes after meeting the German teacher, to Eroni chatting in Spanish and French to the Head of Languages. They were both dragged into an S1 Mandarin class too for a quick visit and enjoyed exploring the department. I am very appreciative of Stirling High for helping to facilitate this award for James, as well as our polyglot Mrs Taylor-Meinz and James' supportive, bilingual, family.

Languages Day was celebrated in September, and a great team of linguists were happy to help with the planning of this on the Saturday morning before the celebration itself. A special thanks to Lexi McIlwraith for cutting and laminating about 60 different posters for the 'Language Treasure Hunt' which took place on the day. Angel and Shreya were the winners and enjoyed some goodies from 'First Shop' as their prize. Ali from 'First Shop' taught the pupils of QVS some Urdu via a pre-recorded video, and I hope everyone remembers to say 'Shukryia' when they are in stocking up on tuck! Mrs Taylor-Meinz worked on 'Ojos de Dios' with her classes, and they look wonderful on display in her classroom. S2 Spanish classes also made 'Ofrendas' which

were absolutely spectacular - staff voted for their favourites and the winners were Kelsey and Sophie (Gold), Shreya, Angel, Sumer and Seren (Silver). All year, I have enjoyed lovely artwork on my classroom windows to accompany the vocabulary - Madi, merci beaucoup for this! It was so kind of you to take the time to do this and I loved coming in after a weekend to new displays!

One of the great things about travelling abroad is the food! S2 French ended their year and 'Café' topic with a food tasting, and as was the case last year, the blue cheese was the surprise hit. The crème caramels were not as popular as I thought they might have been, and a few of the pupils have discovered a love of tapenade. Senior pupils from the Modern Languages Department were invited to an 'Apéro/Aperitivo' evening this year and enjoyed snacks, music, quizzes and chat. Sra. Taylor-Meinz made my day by bringing me some Schweppes Agrum and Thé caramel from France - merci beaucoup! The Catering team have worked hard to put on several themed food days, and are hoping to do more of this in the future. Helpful linguists have helped to decorate the dining hall for these days, allowing everyone to expand their cultural knowledge.

Mrs Bairner, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages

Music Department

**'Where words fail music speaks'.
Another year another Victorian
another music report.**

In brief headlines

- QVS pupils star at Randolph Hill Christmas Fayre.
- QVS 'Christmas Concert' cancelled all sent home!
- P7 Minstrels back performing Spring term.
- Three SQA music examiners in two days.
- LG Examiner visit.
- Summer Concert.
- Exam results.

Our local nursing home, Randolph Hill asked us to supply music performers for their first Christmas Fayre since lockdown. We bused and walked a diverse group of P7's and seniors, down Perth Road, to sing, play, and dance to entertain the residents of the home and their families. The residents and the families loved our youngsters and I had multiple offers to adopt our wonderful talented and well-behaved pupils. With lots of preparation completed, we were ready for our own Christmas extravaganza, disaster strikes, and heating failure and we all go home early!

Our new primary class travelled to Sauchie to perform for a combined church fellowship group. Their singing, dancing, playing and behaviour charmed the audience and we all travelled back to QVS having enjoyed lots of refreshments and a packet or two of sweets.

Our cohort of certificate music students this year included a large number of S6 returning to the department for the first time since their second year. We had twenty-three students sitting on a wide range of instruments and voice. Many of our performers used xylophone for their second instrument and our visiting examiner had the doubtful pleasure of sitting through thirteen versions of a tango for xylophone and piano. I will always remember his total professionalism as he greeted our pupils announcing that they would now play Tango with a smile and the words 'Oh good another Tango'. We had some excellent results at Nat5, Higher and Advanced Higher with some exceptionally high marks in the performances. Maeghan, at Nat 5 level,

Lexine, Ellie, Arran and Euan at Higher and Lilly-Grace at Advanced High all scored 29 or 30 out of a possible 30 on one of their instruments. We had visiting examiners for Bagpipe, Snare Drum and all other instruments visiting QVS during a very busy two-day period of non-stop playing. My thanks to the students who helped keep me relatively sane through those two days.

After the crazy rush for the practical and then the written papers only the summer concert left to survive.

Our summer concert is all about the leavers. We had a fantastic performance by our Fijian pupils, lots of fun with the xylophone tango race, pipers, singers, piano solos including our multi-talented piper Arran Scott, saxophone solos and duets with Ellie and Lexine, wind band, and a number of songs with Miss Lilly-Grace Methven. LG has been a star all through her time at QVS and having charmed the visiting SQA examiner with her performing ability did the same for all of us as her farewell to QVS.

Tolstoy described music as 'the shorthand of emotion', and I certainly found the end of this year and seeing so many of our young adults performing at QV for the last time an emotional event.

We have all had another difficult and challenging year, but, through it all the fun and hard work of our students makes QVS a very special place.

**Music gives a soul to the universe,
wings to the mind, flight to the
imagination, and life to everything.
Plato 427-347BCE**

**Mr Breingan, Principal Teacher
of Music**





Social Subjects Department

Geography

On Tuesday 13th September, the Higher Geography class visited Balmaha in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. This is one of only two national parks in Scotland. The reason for our trip was to see conflicts stemming from the land-use, e.g littering and footpath erosion.

The first task we did was to climb halfway up Conic Hill and research the width, depth and detail of the path. We used tools such as measuring tape and quadrats to find this information. Whilst we were doing this task, there were many highland cows surrounding us. As a result, the area had a horrible stench and many droppings which caused us to watch every step we took. Once we finished that task, we continued up the hill and ascended to the top, which made for a tough walk. The journey down however was even harder. The path was already muddy due to rain prior to the day which caused problems for us, especially for Akuila (Junior) and I. I ended up falling right into mud 3 times and Junior only once. Fortunately, the worst injury was only bruises and cuts.

After having lunch at the bottom of the hill, we were tasked with using a questionnaire to survey the people in the area. This went mostly well for the relatively shy class with a few people being ignored by some tourists. Afterwards, we then had to observe the area and note the use of each building we saw, e.g Cafes and houses. Furthermore, we also had to give our own opinions and mark a score for factors which are used in assessing the area. For example, air quality and safety. Our final and last task was to tally every vehicle or pedestrian which crossed our line of sight in either the main road or car park.

Once we finished all our tasks in a booklet, we packed our items and headed back home after a very tiring but enjoyable day out.

Suyen Thebe Limbu, S5

Modern Studies

Interdisciplinary Learning - War and Remembrance Project with Dunblane High School

An exciting new opportunity arose for S2 pupils in Social Subjects this year. Dunblane High School invited us to join them in a joint project on War and Remembrance. Within the department, pupils spent time learning about QV's link with WW1 and learning about the fallen 17, the 17 QVS pupils who went off to fight in WW1 but sadly never returned, and making a trench in a shoe box. We also worked collaboratively with the English department on war poetry, with music learning songs from the war and the community's wider achievement group made an excellent 3D model of the trench system.

We hosted S1 pupils from Dunblane High School. Our pupils gave informative tours of the school and also spoke confidently while delivering their presentations on the QVS 17. DHS pupils also took part in a workshop on battle scenarios, rescuing a wounded soldier from the battlefield, leading a comrade over a minefield and learning flag signals.

On remembrance day, it was our turn to visit DHS. This gave the pupils a chance to work alongside the DHS pupils on a variety of workshops. A summary of their day from the pupils' perspective follows:

One of the workshops was a code workshop, where we had to use a shift cypher to break a code. We had to shift the wheel around clockwise a certain amount of times, in order to get the message to make sense. When we broke the code, it told us to get a code-cracking booklet. My group decided to split up so we could crack more codes. We managed to crack almost all the codes before it was time for a break.

I enjoyed the drama workshop. This was in the drama studio where we played a warm-up game called '1,2,3' with a partner.



How it worked was your partner would say "1" and then you would say "2" and so on, after a couple of rounds we replaced each number with an action. Then we acted and mimed out what the soldiers would be doing as they trudged through mud and rushed to get their gas masks on during a gas attack, each move being inspired by the poem 'Dulce et Decorum Est'.

One of my favourites was the History Workshop. In one of the classrooms were cases from a museum spread out on different tables. There were also three ladies from the museum to help us understand what we were looking at. In the first case, there was a helmet, a bandage of some sort and an information card. We also took it in turns to try on the helmet and read the information card. Next, we looked at a gas mask, including its bag, and a kilt apron. One of the ladies who worked at the museum told us about the gas mask and why they wore the kilt apron in the trenches. Thirdly we looked at a number of different items including, a death penny, a handmade bead bag, a tobacco gift set for Christmas, a medal and hand-stitched postcards. This one was definitely my favourite case of them all. Lastly, we looked at the ration portion and some other tools they would have used in the trenches.

One of the workshops was drill - we can never escape it!! As well as marching we also learnt why and when they marched in World War. As you know QVS students were already pros at drill however we weren't doing Army-style marching, we were doing Navy-style marching, which was a bit strange at first. Afterwards, we formed up and then marched around the outside of the school and up near the playing fields.

There was also a craft workshop, where we had to make something to do with a poppy. There were many materials to use, including fuzzy wire, coloured tissues, black buttons, wool, or you could draw or paint. This was messy but good fun.

When it was 11am, we were escorted to their atrium to hold the 2-minute silence. A lone piper played the bagpipes and a member of staff read out a poem from WW1 to remember those who fought in war and sadly died.

At break and lunchtime, we got to socialise with the DHS pupils. Some went to their Astro to watch a football match, others went for a tour of the school. It was great meeting other people and mixing with others in the Dunblane community.

At the end of the day, the Dunblane High students showed us multiple presentations that they had worked on. One of them was on poppy wreaths around the world. In France, their wreath is blue. We also saw a video on refugees, how many there are, what they eat, where they stay, etc. There were also bloopers at the end as well which were funny. At the end, we got to see the act of Flander's field, the drama project that a class worked and practised on for a while.

I enjoyed working with another school on a project, the students were super helpful finding our way around. The staff at Dunblane High were also very nice, being patient while we looked around or even just talking to us, for example asking us how we liked the workshops. The trip to Dunblane High School was fun and interesting. I definitely learned a lot. With the project being such a success this year, we have decided to do it all again next year. New S2s get ready for working with DHS!

By Mrs Rodger, Scarlett, Alistair, Shreya, William and Sumer

www.qvs.school



Religious Education

An Tuesday 21st March Primary 7 pupils headed to Glasgow to visit the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikh Gurdwara in Albert Drive. It was an adventure for the two classes, with both having studied aspects of the religion and 7B certainly expressing an interest in the delights of the Langar!

Our guide, Shindo, was as entertaining as in previous years, instantly putting the pupils at their ease. They were introduced to the Darbar, where they were able to witness Sikhs at prayer, before having the opportunity to explore the key features of the hall.

One of the key aspects of Sikhism, is the message of parity for all people regardless of their status in society. One way in which Guru Nanak ensured such equity was through the Langar, a central part of each Gurdwara where food is served for all who enter, and being vegetarian can be eaten by all. The pupils loved having the opportunity to experience the lentil dhal and naan bread along with the most delicious Chai tea.

The pictures tell an amazing story, of pupils willing to help in the kitchens, where they were praised for being so polite and helpful. It is always a pleasure to take the pupils out on a school trip and I hope that the incoming P7's will keep up the tradition of a true Glaswegian adventure.

Mr Boyd, Teacher of Religious Education



Primary Department



The Victorian 2023



Primary Department

I always find it hard to believe that another year has passed and I'm writing the annual Primary Department article for The Victorian.

It's very satisfying to look back over the year and reflect on what the P7s have achieved, and how far they have come during their first year at QVS. I am always impressed with how they settle into boarding school life and take on new challenges and opportunities with their heads held high and a smile on their faces. Well done P7. You have upheld our department value - 'be the best version of yourself' - with enthusiasm and determination, and you should all be very proud of your achievements. Being a Victorian is a core principle for all pupils at QVS. It is an important concept defined through the school values, and I know that over the course of the year, P7 have developed their understanding of and passion for each value.

POSITIVITY: P7 arrived in August feeling nervous and excited about their new venture, living away from home often for the first time, making new friends and getting to grips with new ways to learn. Stars of the Week are celebrated in Literacy, Spelling and Numeracy. Well done to you all for achieving this award through the year - I know it is a Friday highlight for each and every one of you.

PRIDE: Throughout the year, P7 represent the school on educational trips and at sporting events. You wear the school badge with pride and always receive many compliments from the general public about how you conduct yourselves. The Rookie's Parade is one of the key moments of the year where P7 get the chance to put on a performance for the QVS Community, friends and families and guests from Newton Primary School in Dunblane. You have worked very hard with Mr Stacey, Robert and Arran this year, and produced an outstanding Rookie's Parade - one of the highlights of the year and a very special occasion.

Congratulations to our excellent Parade Commander, Robbie, and to the Guard Commanders, Kaela and Nathan, for their performances on parade. Well done also to Hannah (Best Rookie), Amelia (School Sergeant Major's Award) and Isabelle (Best at Drill) for winning these special prizes.

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EXCELLENCE: Every day you have shown determination and excellence within the classroom. You are enthusiastic to try new subjects, willing to take on new opportunities and challenges and keen to learn new topics. Pupil voice is very important and it has been fantastic to see the variety of topics that you selected to learn more about this year, such as Space, WWII, Countries and Sport.

TRUST: It's hard to start a new school and make new friends. At a boarding school, you also need to learn how to live with others in a brand new environment. The activity days at the start of the year are a big part of your transition into QVS and I think they helped you settle into new school routines and allow you to start building trusting friendships for life. It was great getting to know you during these days, whether it was listening to your personal stories during walks in the local area or getting sprayed with water in the kayaks on Loch Venachar.

RESPONSIBILITY: There are some favourite activities that I always look forward to every year. The Christmas Play means weeks filled with rehearsals in the theatre, with Mr Breingan going over the songs time and again, and making props for all the different characters. The hours put in are always worth it in the end and I know that everyone looks forward to the performance. It certainly helps us get into the Christmas Spirit. Well done to Lily, Hannah and Xander for being such enthusiastic and lively hosts, and we mustn't forget Jessica, our "star" and dancer of the show.

Another favourite event is the P7's participation in Election Week. I am always delighted with the different ideas they come up with that would have a positive impact on our QVS community. Poor Mr Shaw is put under such pressure when he has to decide what rules he is going to change! A big shout-out is due to Mia from the Uniform Union group for giving a fantastic speech and convincing Mr Shaw that P7 don't need to wear a tie to breakfast anymore. Congratulations to the winning group, Free Provided Products (FPP), who won the 2023 vote. Well done Evie, Phoebe, Cameron and Hannah. It is very impressive to see the P7s take on the responsibility of these projects with passion and flair.



NURTURE: As the year progresses I love to watch strong friendships develop amongst the P7s. It is clear to see all the values important to us at QVS develop through the QVS journey. Whether it is supporting a roommate who is feeling homesick or helping your friend with their prep, it is clear that you all care for one another in the community.

INTEGRITY: I often hear myself telling P7s "It's about doing the right thing". In a close-knit community like a boarding school, it's crucial to quickly learn the importance of integrity. Honesty, truthfulness and reliability are key life skills and it is fantastic that the P7s developed these qualities over the year.

EQUALITY: QVS strives to offer all its pupils the chance to develop through access to a broad spectrum of learning opportunities. It's been great to see the P7s making the most of the chance to try something different, such as learning to play a musical instrument or trying a new hobby like mountain biking. I admire the enthusiasm shown by the P7s in trying something new and also that they appreciate and value these opportunities.

INDEPENDENCE: Trenchard becomes your home away from home and you all take a part in caring for one another and looking after the house day to day. Through the daily routine at Trenchard, you become responsible citizens, effective contributors, confident individuals and successful learners. Whether it is completing your daily job of laundry, making supper, hoovering, handing in your shirt to matron, helping the duty member of staff or checking in on your friend, you make the Trenchard community homely and welcoming to all. Life skills developed at Trenchard are fundamental and will help to strengthen your independence. They are skills that will prepare you for life beyond QVS.

RESPECT: This is a particularly important quality to learn in a boarding school environment. Over the course of the year, it's great to see friendships in P7 develop and the clear respect and regard with which they hold towards one another. I always like to remind P7 that they are a team and no matter what they are doing, whether it is sport or a problem-solving challenge, they should always work together.

I must say a MASSIVE thank you to Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas for holding the fort whilst I was off with my knee operation. You gave fantastic support both to myself and to the P7 pupils, for which I am very grateful. The year would not have been a success without your commitment and hard work - thank you very much.

As we reach the end of the academic year, I wish the P7s well as they continue their journey through QVS and move into S1 after the summer holidays. 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



The Victorian 2023



Primary Department

Life in Primary Seven

Life in Queen Victoria School is always exciting and enjoyable.

In Trenchard House, we go on fun parade trips every parade weekend; like ice skating, swimming, bowling and shopping.

Friends for life, throughout our QVS journey.

Election Week went well, as a rule changed and now we don't wear ties to breakfast!

In Primary seven we go on exciting trips to the Science Centre and Safari Park.

Newton Primary School visited us for our Rookie's Parade and we got to show them Trenchard House and tell them our school history.

Pen pal letters we have sent throughout the year to our friends at Newton primary School.

Rugby, Hockey, Football and Athletics fixtures at the weekend.

Interesting and fun learning with our Primary teachers throughout the year.

Map Adventures always have lots of new and exciting activities for us to try on our adventure days; archery, rifle shooting, bushcraft skills but our favourite has to be the inflatable assault course!

Adventures in Wavell Woods for Outdoor Learning.

Robert and Arran were Mr Stacey's assistants for Drill. What an amazing job they did!

You always have something to keep you busy here; hobbies, sport, music and trips with our tutors.

Secret Santa at the Trenchard Christmas Party.

Everyone is proud to be part of the QVS community.

Victorians we are, after our Rookie's Parade.

Exploring the famous sights around Dunblane when we first arrive.

Never going to get a better opportunity than we do here at QVS!

P7H,

Jack, Ryan, Josh, Scott, Xander, Ronnie, Mia, Georgia, Jessica, Iris and India.

Living in Trenchard is an amazing experience.

It definitely makes you more independent.

Field and track is one of the things we do in the summer term during athletics.

Enjoying making pancakes on Pancake Day!

Inflatable assault course was lots of fun during our Activities Week.

Never giving up with lots of practice for our Christmas Play.

Paris was a trip indeed, we even went to Disneyland!

Rookies Parade was on the 19th of May, we felt so proud.

Ice Skating with our friends on a tutor trip.

Mrs Adams, Miss Hastie and Miss Christmas are the best!

Athletic events are very fun and nerve wracking.



RE trip to Glasgow's Gurdwara Guru Granth Sahib was amazing.

Your birthday is fun here at Queen Victoria School.

Science Centre in Glasgow was a hit all round because of the IMax and the Planetarium.

Elections and debates were great fun.

Victorians are what we all are now, marching on Parade.

Everyone has created everlasting memories and friendships that will last forever.

Never will we forget the birds of prey at Blair Drummond Safari Park.

P7H,

Archie, Lily, Isabelle, Paul, Arpan, Rohiv, Ewan, Evie, Jacob, Phoebe, Hannah, Elinore, Robbie, Amelia, Bethan and Kaela.

Living in Trenchard is an amazing experience.

In school we have three teachers in the Primary Department, Miss Christmas, Miss Hastie and Mrs Adams.

Friends you make here are forever.

Everyday we learn something new.

In Primary 7 we have a topic on Dunblane.

Newton Primary School are our Pen Pals, we send letters back and forth.

Parades are a big part of QVS, without them it wouldn't be the same.

Rookies Parade is when we become Victorians.

In Trenchard House we have an amazing Housemaster called Mr MacKay.

MAP Adventures teach us new skills like air rifles, bushcraft, archery, sumo wrestling, obstacle course and kayaking.

Athletics is our Summer Term sport.

Rugby is our Winter Term sport for boys and hockey is for girls.

You can go to town on weekends with friends and siblings.

Supper is our last meal of the day and when we begin doing our jobs.

Election week to share our ideas for changing the school.

Victorian Values are important to us.

Every term educational trips such as Science Centre, Gurdwara, Safari Park and Dunblane Cathedral.

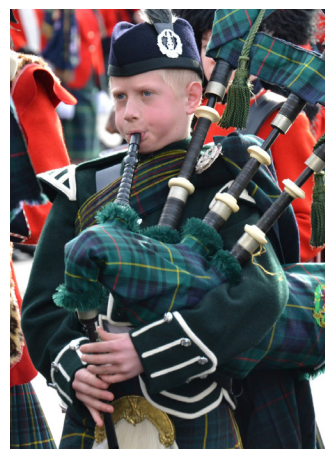
Nothing but fun and memories at QVS.

P7H,

Cameron, Charlie, Kai, Kaison, Nathan and Sidney.



PDD





Reflecting on a Year of Achievements: Piping, Drumming, and Highland Dancing Department. As the school year comes to a close, it's a perfect time to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our talented pupils in the piping, drumming, and highland dancing departments. Throughout the year, we have participated in numerous events, showcased our skills, and made a positive impact in our community.

One of the highlights of our journey was the CCF beating retreat. The department came together with enthusiasm, marching in sync and delivering breathtaking performances that left the audience in awe. It was an exhilarating experience for all involved, demonstrating our dedication and passion for our craft.

Another event that stood out was the Ideal Home Show. Despite the unconventional setting, our pipeband and highland dancers took centre stage and captivated the crowd with their music, elegant movements and skilful choreography. It was a testament to their talent and the versatility of our department.

In addition to these memorable events, we had the privilege of playing for the Aspire Awards in Stirling. The prestigious nature of this occasion allowed us to showcase our musical prowess and dancing skills and create a truly magical atmosphere. We were honoured to be a part of such an important event and to contribute to its success.

We were delighted to be asked to perform in the Dunblane Christmas extravaganza again this year. The joyous atmosphere of the festivities combined with the magic of Santa and his sleigh created a special evening for all in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity for the department to contribute to the spirit of the holiday season and help to bring the community together.

Beyond performances, our department has remained committed to supporting Erskine Charities in their fundraising efforts. By lending our talents to these events, we have not only raised funds but also spread joy and entertainment to those in attendance. It is heartwarming to know that our performances have made a positive impact on the lives of others.

We must also recognize the exceptional dedication and hard work of our pupils. This year, they strived to achieve their national qualifications, dedicating their work towards perfecting their skills and expanding their knowledge. Their commitment to excellence is commendable, and we are immensely proud of their achievements.

Furthermore, our pipe band has had success in various competitions. Through disciplined practice and a strong sense of unity, they have garnered well-deserved recognition. Their accomplishments serve as a testament to the exceptional talent within our department and to the high standards that they are driven to achieve.

As we bid farewell to our S6 leavers, we acknowledge the bittersweet moment of seeing them embark on the next chapter of their lives. We express our gratitude for their contributions to the department and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavours. They will always be a cherished part of our piping, drumming, and highland dancing family.

In conclusion, we have had an extraordinary year filled with memorable performances, community involvement, and outstanding achievements. We are immensely proud of each pupil's dedication, the accomplishments of our pipe band and dancers, and our collective impact on the community. As we look ahead, we are excited about the future and the continued growth and success of our department.

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



2 022/23 has proved to be another exciting and successful year for careers guidance at QVS. Once more with the assistance and support of a range of partners, both internal and external, we delivered a wide variety of activities across all year groups, in line with the national Career Education Standards.

Now thoroughly established the programme of careers lessons within the Primary Department continued to introduce the world of work to our pupils. For the first time this year S1 pupils had careers lessons within their timetable, which encouraged them to think about why people work and ways in which people can overcome the barriers to working. They also interviewed and researched the work of someone they knew and learned about the range of careers within the NHS. S2 pupils, though not timetabled, were introduced to a variety of Science occupations by Mr Davey and his team, who ran a STEM careers day, involving external partners.

All S3 to S6 pupils were once 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. The wider achievement initiative continued this year with S3 and S4 pupils managing their own learning by choosing and completing online badges in a range of subjects, while S6 pupils were encouraged to study online courses either related to their chosen destination or simply for personal development.

S4 pupils were given the opportunity of a one week work placement, leading to successfully attaining the SQA National Progression award in Work Placement. In early December, pupils were able to complete an online Morrisby profiling assessment which was supplemented by one to one meetings with Margaret Graham a careers consultant, to help them understand and interpret their profile. In addition, all S4 pupils were provided with an in person meeting with Mrs Ciccu a careers advisor with Skills Development Scotland.

Classroom activities for S5 centred around writing a CV, preparing for and practising their interview technique. The return to in person support allowed us to have presentations from the RAF, JP Morgan and Strathclyde University, while external events were provided on Business and Aquaculture.

Ahead of leaving school all S6 pupils were fully supported in choosing a positive careers destination, with guidance and support on the UCAS and College application system. Advice on state funding for students was provided to both pupils and parents through an online presentation from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

Once more the Enterprise and Employability course continued to prove very successful this year, with S5 pupils Sam Long, Aaliyah McCloud and Mica McCloud all achieving the National Progression Award at Level 5. For the first time the Customer Care unit of this course was provided as a standalone wider achievement award and was successfully completed by S4 pupils Tina Thapa and Abigail Valemel.

Again our thanks this year go to our external business partners for their help and support. Skills Development Scotland, Margaret Graham - The Career Place, DYW Forth Valley, Gateway Shared Services, Young Enterprise Scotland, Strathclyde University, JP Morgan, Stirling University, RAF - Ally Park, and the Army Outreach Team.

Mr Leitch, Developing the Young Workforce



Life @ QVS



An Enchanting Night





Winter Formal

Spring Fling





Queen Victoria School pupils enjoyed a most wonderful trip to Paris in May 2023 - memories that are sure to last a lifetime.

The Dream Team consisted of Mr Gilhooly, Mr Renwick, Mrs Macleod, Mrs Taylor-Meinz and a family volunteer, Scott. The ferry journey was accomplished with some good strong sea legs and no bouts of sea sickness and it was a pleasant drive from Calais to Lésigny to our accommodation: Château de Grande Romaine on the outskirts of Paris. Wow! Pupils quickly settled into their rooms and enjoyed golden hour sunshine with an evening dip in the pool after dinner.

Our first day started with a quick visit to Les Égouts (Parisian Sewer Museum) which was really just as ghastly as you can imagine. However, all was quickly forgotten about as soon as we reached the one and only Tour Eiffel. Some pupils and staff were brave enough to go right to the top of the tower (using l'ascenseur - the lift), others battled the multitude of stairs to the second level and some enjoyed an ice cream in the sunshine with Mr Gilhooly instead (hindsight is a beautiful thing!).

It was wonderful to see and hear pupils ordering candy floss or ice cream in French. After this adventure, it was time to take a stroll up some more stairs to visit the incredible Sacre Cœur. Just around the corner, we

found ourselves walking the cobbled streets of Montmartre full of artists, musicians, cafés and restaurants filled with bohemian nostalgia. We ate at a quaint little restaurant 'Au Cadet de Gascogne' where pupils tucked into Poulet Frites as they listened to live piano music - some pupils were even brave enough to try 'les escargots' which were 'on the house' thanks to Mrs Taylor-Meinz French negotiation skills.

On our second day, we started out with a fairly lengthy journey stuck in a few classic traffic jams (well it would not be Paris otherwise!). We then embarked upon our spectacular sail down the River Seine. We sailed past Notre Dame, and made wishes as we passed the Wishing Bridge. Some of the pupils 'waved in French' - but probably the best trend was Mr Renwick singing 'Daaaaay Oh' at the top of his lungs under the bridge. Next stop: L'orangerie. It was here that we saw Claude Monet's famous water lilies painting which is housed in two separate rooms. Just wow!

Musée D'Orsay was up next on the itinerary- sculptures, sculptures, sculptures galore! There was not nearly enough time to uncover all of the incredible pieces of art residing in this gallery....Paris Trip 2.0 anyone?! Mrs Macleod had a right good giggle impersonating some of the more serious sculptures - you can take the girl out of Glasgow!

Our third and final day was spent at Disneyland Paris with all 44 Sleeping Beauties ready to take on the world! Our visit coincided with the 30th Anniversary of Disneyland Paris and pupils were welcomed with a happy and upbeat floating parade with all the traditional characters. Some memorable moments included Mr Gilhooly being dragged onto the Tower of Terror to see how high he would scream, and meeting a few of our brave girls who had just come off their seventh time on the Avengers ride. The day was beautifully topped off by the most wonderful evening finale and farewell; an enchanting lights and fireworks show at the Castle. The photographs will not ever capture how mesmerising this was to experience. The whole time spent in Paris was just wonderful and I am absolutely sure that those memories will last a lifetime.

A huge and heartfelt thank you to Mr Gilhooly for making it all happen - you are a QVS icon!

"Si tu peux le rêver, tu peux le faire" - Walt Disney



The Queen Victoria School ski enthusiasts embarked on an unforgettable journey on Friday, the 16th of December 2022, to explore the pristine slopes of Aosta, Italy. Although they encountered an unexpected delay due to heavy snowfall, their spirits remained undeterred. The journey to the ski resort proved to be an adventure in itself, with the bus ride lasting approximately 32 hours. The resourceful individuals at the back of bus 1 ingeniously transformed their seating into a game of Tetris while catching some much-needed rest. Although they missed their intended 10:30 pm ferry to France, they embraced the midnight ferry as an unexpected part of their adventure.

Once they arrived at the ski center in Aosta, Italy, the group wasted no time and eagerly got their skis and boots fitted. Excitement hung in the crisp mountain air as they prepared to dive into a week filled with thrilling adventures. After settling into their accommodations, the tired travelers finally had a chance to relax in their rooms. Soon after, they descended for a delightful dinner, and there, they met the friendly Interski staff who had planned their week ahead.

One memorable incident occurred during an exhilarating descent from a chairlift. Darren, one of the students, encountered a mishap as he tumbled over a fence while attempting to avoid colliding with his group. His fall landed him in a deep cushion of snow, with his instructor rushing to his aid, nearly joining him in the snowdrift. Fortunately, both emerged unscathed, and their adventure became

a source of laughter and camaraderie for the rest of the week. Another comical incident involved the Gilhooly family, who had to make an impromptu leap from a chairlift after realizing they had forgotten to disembark. Despite these minor hiccups, the group continued to revel in their skiing escapades, captivated by the breathtaking beauty of the Italian mountains.

One evening, the group ventured out for a sweet treat, indulging in ice cream (because that's what you do in sub-freezing snowy weather). While awaiting their orders, a spontaneous snowball fight erupted among the kids, which, unfortunately, had to be quelled by a vigilant staff member. After satisfying their sweet cravings, the group embarked on a leisurely walk, delving into the rich history of Aosta.

In pursuit of off-slope entertainment, the group enjoyed a night of bowling. Initially, some were skeptical about their enjoyment, but as the evening progressed, competitiveness took over, resulting in an intense showdown. The suspense culminated in a nail-biting finale, with just a two-point difference between the first and second-place teams.

In retrospect, the Queen Victoria School's 2022 ski trip was undoubtedly a success. Both students and chaperones reveled in the excitement, whether on the slopes or during their diverse range of activities. Despite a few humorous accidents along the way, the group returned safely with a trove of unforgettable memories. Many students are already eagerly anticipating next year's trip, eager to create new adventures and stories in the snow.



Victorian Awards

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, showcasing the impressive range of wider achievements that Victorians achieve across their time here at QVS.

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 respectively, as part of the Silver and Gold Awards and S6 students who complete all of the challenges are eligible to apply for the Victorian Award which recognises excellence across all nine of the designated areas.

This year, we were delighted to present the prestigious Victorian Award to an unprecedented six S6 students: Katie Wilson, Lily O'Neill, Arran Scott, Lauren McCulloch, Katie Meikle and Lilly-Grace Methven. All six of these outstanding candidates have taken an active role in the wider life of the school in an astonishing range of areas and ably represent the QVS Values in action: we could not be prouder of all they have achieved in their time with us. Lily O'Neill was also presented with the Catherine Rodger Award and Katie Meikle with the Iain Smith memorial plaque for their service to the community this year.

The six worthy winners were awarded their Quaichs at the S6 Leavers' ceremony in the final week of our Summer term, where the school heard all about their impressive achievements.

These ranged from supporting the younger students as Literacy Ambassadors, helping our SSM with drill, leading assemblies and school events and achieving their Gold 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 six very deserving winners were presented with their Quaich from the OVA and congratulated on the many skills they have developed outwith the classroom as well as being such wonderful role models. These awards 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.

We are extremely proud of this year's candidates who presented the HMIE Inspectors with a clear vision of why they think that everything they achieve outside the classroom is one of the most important aspects of being a Victorian. They blew the Inspection team away with a powerful presentation that looked at the impact of their volunteering, the ways that they have evolved both individually and as a team through completing this award and the impact that they have been able to have on the life of the school as a result of tackling this challenge.

We look forward to following their successes after QVS with pride as they all have very bright futures ahead of them. Not only are they wonderful ambassadors for the school, they have been inspirational: younger students who are already keen to follow in their footsteps and aim for a Quaich of their own! We are very grateful to the OVA for continuing to sponsor these prestigious awards and inspire Victorians to aim high in every aspect of boarding life.

CONGRATULATIONS



ARRAN SCOTT

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

RECOGNISING AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF WIDER ACHIEVEMENT AT QVS

CONGRATULATIONS



KATIE MEIKLE

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

RECOGNISING AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF WIDER ACHIEVEMENT AT QVS

CONGRATULATIONS



KATIE WILSON

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

RECOGNISING AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF WIDER ACHIEVEMENT AT QVS

CONGRATULATIONS



LAUREN MCCULLOCH

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

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CONGRATULATIONS



LILLY-GRACE METHVEN

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

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CONGRATULATIONS



LILY O'NEILL

VICTORIAN AWARD 2023

RECOGNISING AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL OF WIDER ACHIEVEMENT AT QVS



"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong"

Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022



Her Majesty the Queen Remembered



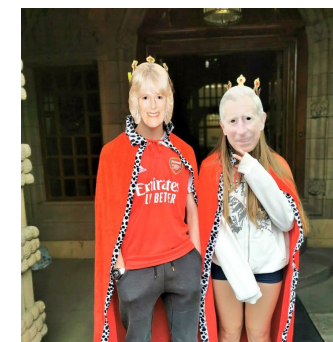
The entire QVS community was deeply saddened at the nation's loss of HM the Queen and joined the country in mourning the loss of our long serving and hard working monarch.

To commemorate the Coronation of her son Charles as he changed title from Prince of Wales to King Charles, we celebrated during QVS Activity Week with a range of fun events to commemorate this momentous occasion in history.

We held another successful QVS Street Party to celebrate the Coronation - with delicious Royal-themed treats such as Coronation chicken and Meringue crowns. This allowed the whole community to come together, get their red white and blue on and make this a day to remember. We'd like to thank Theresa and the Kitchen staff as well as our fantastic team of QVS Volunteers for bringing it all together and making sure that all of our QVS students will have enduring memories of this important occasion for many years to come.

We were inspired by the success of our Jubilee Sponsored Walk where we raised funds for Erskine Hospital, and the MAD Group helped organise the 'Coronation Convoy' to raise funds for Scotty's Little Soldiers. This very deserving charity supports young people from military families who have experienced bereavement and is a charity very close to our hearts. We'd like to thank the entire QVS community for getting behind us and throwing themselves into the event. We are very grateful to parents, families and friends for their generosity and support. It was incredible to be able to hand over more than £600 to this very deserving cause - well done to every single person who made this happen.

Although we were much saddened at the loss of HM the Queen, we would like to take this opportunity to wish HM King Charles a long and successful reign and extend a warm invitation to come and visit his subjects at Queen Victoria School any time!





Brave the Shave - Movember

November marked Men's Mental Health Awareness month and at QVS, and the students and staff joined forces to support the Movember movement. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's mental health.

In a highly anticipated event, Mr Pitman and Mr Mackay, two staff members, pledged to 'brave the shave' as a demonstration of their unwavering support for the Movember cause by declaring that if the students could raise over £3,000 that they would have their heads shaved in chapel. When the school reached the £3,000 mark, the students' wish was finally granted. Euan, QVS's very own barber and senior monitor, took on the role of shaving their heads to much excitement and the cheers of the entire school. The entire school community had put in tremendous effort, and their hard work paid off in spectacular fashion. The staff also held their own 'growing a mostache' challenge in which Mr McHugh was the champion. It is a truly outstanding accomplishment that the students not only achieved but surpassed its fundraising goal, raising a total of £3,180—an achievement worth celebrating.

The school also celebrated Movember in other ways including a Fayre organised by the S6s. This event featured a wide range of engaging activities that took place throughout the school premises. Students eagerly participated in challenges such as the Post-It Note Challenge, Longest Bar Hold, Beat the Goalie, Soak the Senior, Longest Hula Hoop, Limbo, and the painting on of mostaches and beards. These activities not only provided enjoyment but also served as powerful tools for spreading awareness about Movember and men's mental health. Fun was certainly had by all.



QVS MO TEAM
QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL



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JOIN THIS TEAM →

£3,180

The commitment to Movember also extended to the football field on November 28th, as students and staff faced off in an exciting match. Despite the students' valiant efforts, the staff emerged victorious in both matches.

The teams were as follows:

Staff Team:

Mr Johnstone, Mr Leitch, Mr Adams, Mr McHugh, Mr McLay, Mrs Elliott, Mr Mackay, Mr McConnell.

S6 Team A:

Lagi, Alex, Jay, Hendry, Theo, Lewis, Sam.

S6 Team B:

Ruari, Charlie, Ben, Darran, Rays, Euan.

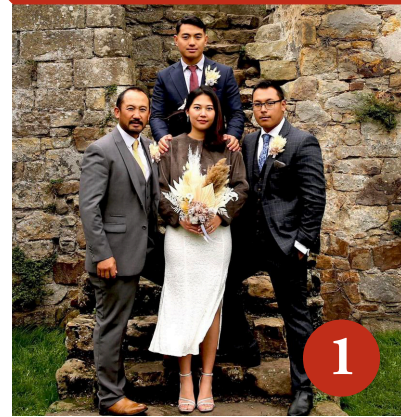
In conclusion, the Movember efforts of QVS students and staff in support of the Movember movement were truly remarkable. This achievement demonstrated the true power of unity and determination within our QVS community. Movember 2023 will undoubtedly go down in our Movember history books.





Class of 2023





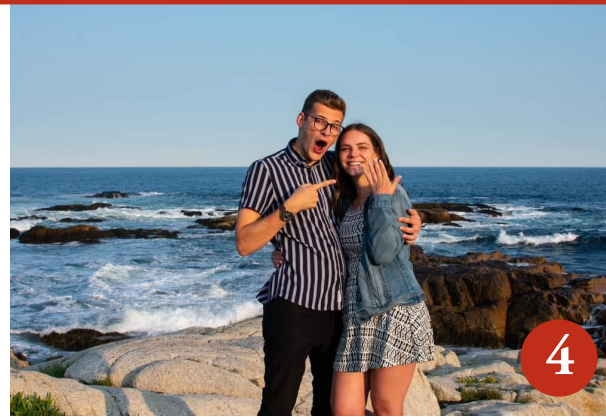
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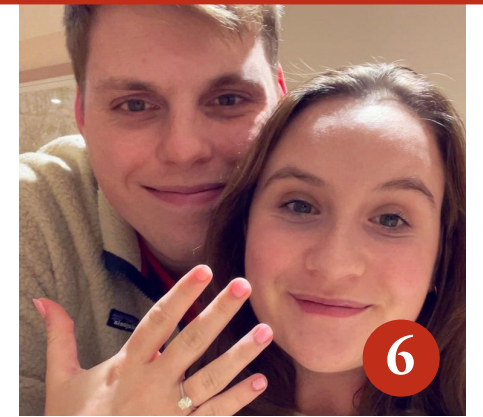
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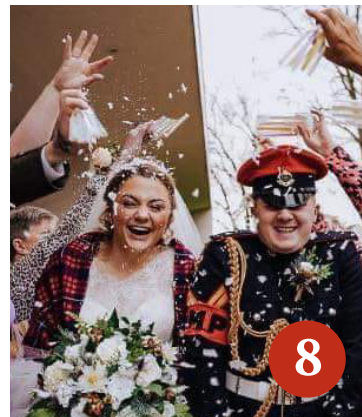
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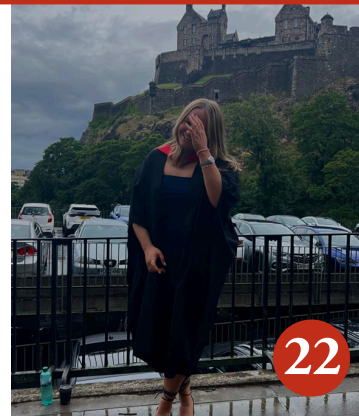
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OVA

1. Many congratulations to OV Bishnu Dura on her marriage to Hitson, wee brother Shafal looking very smart at your side on your big day, Bishnu.
2. Couldn't be more delighted to congratulate OV Jack Halliday on his wedding to Charlotte. Loved the photos of big sister Zoe Paterson piping in the happy couple and seeing a fine crew of very smart OVs there to enjoy the big day.
3. Congratulations to OV Erin Sim who graduated from her RAF Phase 1 Training earlier this year. Her brother, S6 Ethan, looks suitably proud of his big sister's achievements.
4. Congratulations to OV Rhys Clark on his engagement to McKinley in his newly adopted country of Canada. Love that the engagement ring is engraved with a thistle and a maple leaf!
5. We are absolutely delighted to celebrate the Graduation of Dr Nisha Gurung MD MBChB. Nisha Gurung is an old Victorian who left in 2016, we are so proud of her achievements.
6. Congratulations to OVs Matt and Lucy on their engagement this year. We look forward to celebrating another 'double' OV wedding once they tie the knot.
7. Beautiful photos of OV Scott Graham on his autumn wedding to Sarah in Glen Etive.
8. Many Congratulations to OV Ryan Macpherson on his recent marriage to Christiana.
9. OV Jay Maloney tied the knot at Hogmanay this year. We loved seeing the photos of Jay with his merry band of OVs- long may you all still be celebrating together.
10. It's great to see OV Kirsty Whiteford graduating this year, a fair few years after leaving QVS. Kirsty has graduated as a Home Economics teacher as a mature student and we are all delighted to hear how much she is enjoying life in the staffroom!
11. Congratulations to OV Tom Wilson on being selected for the World XV Rugby team, playing against Hong Kong.
12. Well done to OV Sophie Murphy, Senior Monitor 2020 for being such a fantastic ambassador and role model for our girls. Sophie Murphy and her team Stirling County were delighted to win the Women's Premiership final 2023.
13. Congratulations to OV Eddy Hodgson on his marriage to Alison this Easter. Many thanks to his brother Andrew for sharing the photos of the big day.
14. This year OV Chris Pill has been running #ThirtyForThirty marathons in aid of the Samaritans Charity. We are very proud of his amazing efforts for this wonderful cause and hope to hear all about it from him once he is finished!
15. OV Kenna Berry was honoured to play her part in the King's Coronation through performing in the Gun Salute at the castle.
16. It was great to host OV Ciaran Flynn with daughter Daphne back to QVS for a visit. Great to see Bubba back at his old haunts and our current students loved hearing about his maritime career.
17. Many congratulations to OV Callum Small on his wedding to Sheena this summer Sending best wishes from everyone at QVS for many happy years together.
18. It was fantastic to see OVs involved in the King's Coronation this summer. Congratulations to OV James Wootton for playing his part in making everything run smoothly on the day.
19. So many Congratulations to OV Matt Lovell on his graduation from Stirling University this summer - its a great achievement doing this whilst working as a Paramedic at the same time.
20. A busy summer for OV Evie Clarke who graduated with a BSc in Pharmacology in Glasgow as well as completing the Edinburgh marathon in aid of Leukaemia UK.



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21. Congratulations to OV Hannah Sloan who ran the Edinburgh Half Marathon this year in aid of SAMH - a very worthy cause indeed. Hannah was an amazing President of the MAD Group at QVS and has raised hundreds of pounds for many a good cause over the years.

22. Many congratulations to OV Joelle Campbell who has just graduated with a BA in Business Management from Edinburgh Napier Well done from all at QVS Jo.

23. Many congratulations to OV Lauren Fretwell on her wedding to Aidan earlier this year at the Signet Library in Edinburgh. It is fabulous to see Taysie, Jamie, Ellis, Vicky, Dale, Leona & Alison celebrating the big day together - Friendships made to last.

24. Congratulations to OV Cameron Crawford, graduating from Strathclyde University with a BEng in Chemical Engineering - Well done to you from all at QVS, excited to see where you're headed.

25. Many many congratulations to OV Rebecca McQuater, graduating this week in Digital Marketing from RGU. Thanks so much to Shannon Hutchinson for letting me know.

26. Many congratulations to OV and Senior Monitor Amie Oman on her wedding to Colin. Fantastic photos of OVs Claire Riddock & Hannah as well as twin brother Robbie Williams - It looks like you all had an amazing day.

27. We are very grateful to OV Evelyn Henney for coming in to QVS to provide a pamper day for QVS Staff to promote wellbeing. Staff were invited to nominate their colleagues for some rest and relaxation. Many thanks Evelyn, it was greatly appreciated.

28. Many congratulations to OV Ben Scott Johnstone and Daniel on their surprise wedding this summer. Such fantastic photos and amazing to see so many OVs there to mark their special day.

29. Many congratulations to OV Laura Donald - one of the first 50 girls to join QVS - on the occasion of her marriage this summer. Congratulations Mrs Fields.

30. A special day for OV Bill Ford on Grand Day weeked, when he married Katie in the QVS Chapel. He had the help of current S6 Victorians Lilly-Grace and Daniel who wore their Ceremonial Uniforms for the last time, performing their duties as Ushers.

31. Many congratulations to OV Ethan Rowe who graduated from the University of Dundee with a BSc in Applied Computing.

32. Well done to OV Jon Kydd who was invited to the Royal Garden party this summer to acknowledge all his charitable work in Letham, through Covid and beyond. It was good to meet the Princess Royal again, after first being introduced at QVS in 1995.

33. Many congratulations to OV Kyle Rowe on receiving his first International Scotland cap earlier this year.

34. Many congratulations to OV Rachel Spence who has just graduated from Glasgow University with a first class BSc Honours in Medical Science (Clinical Medicine) and best wishes as she moves onwards now to the MBChB.

35. Congratulations to OV Shafal Dura on passing out from RAF Halton this summer - and thank you to his sister Bishnu for sharing the photos of his big day.

36. A hat trick of Watsons at the recent wedding of Connor to the beautiful Finlay earlier this year. Great to see all three OV brothers looking so dapper at the celebrations.

37. Fantastic to welcome both Evendens, Iona & Jamie, back for a Sunday tour of QVS. Apparently it 'smells just the same' as it did when they left nearly 20 years ago.

38. Congratulations to OV Iona BB on her marriage to Josh earlier this year. Loved the photos with the London Transport Double Decker bus.

39. OV Lewis Cox married Iona earlier this year. Lewis is a forward for Dundee Devils in his spare time - let's hope that's the only skating on thin ice that he's doing after the wedding!

40. Many congratulations to OV Karl Moles on his marriage to Hilary all those miles away in Australia.

Staff farewells



Ally McPhail, Dawn Walsh & Louise Crow

Our boarding houses only run smoothly due to the hard work and efforts of our support staff - the matrons, housekeepers and cleaning staff. These ladies don't just run the house in a logistical way, they are the 'beating heart' of the house and spend a great deal of time supporting students' wellbeing as well as ensuring that they live in a 'home from home' environment. We would like to thank Ally, Dawn and Louise for all of the hard work and support for the students in Haig, Wavell and Trenchard respectively. We wish you all the very best in the future and we know that the students will miss you very much. Getting things right in the boarding houses is maybe the most important part of running a successful boarding school and we'd like to acknowledge the impact you have had on our young people. We hope you have fond memories of boarding life and wish you every success in your new posts.

Alison Ketteringham

Alison joined QVS as one of our three 'Sisters' of QVS School Hospital before our current Health and Wellbeing provision was in place. Alison 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 the fabulous Strawberry Teas provided at Sports Days across the years by Alison, Vivien and the HWBC Team. Alison provided care, support and a friendly ear for hundreds of Victorians and we wish her all the best for her next position at Belhaven.

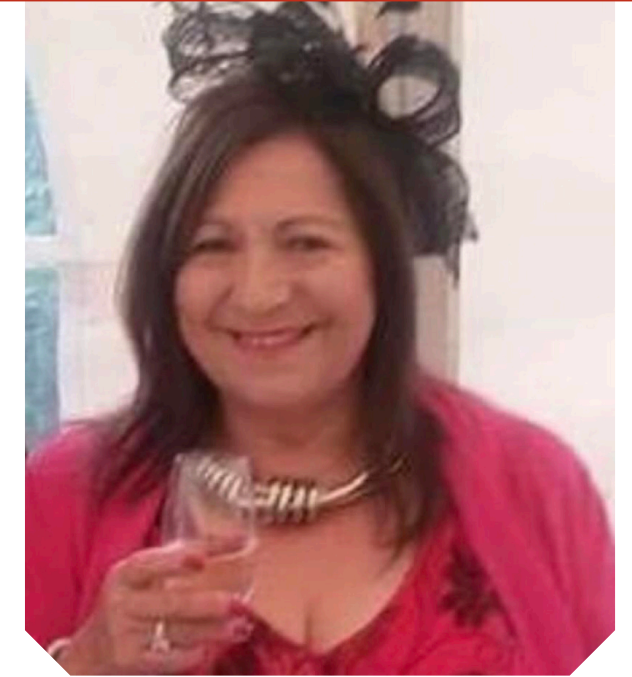
Iain Mair

Iain Mair joined us to work in the Business Support Team. He was a 'details man' who took pride in ensuring that all the i's were dotted and t's crossed. Although Iain started in Business Support, he spent many years as a boarding tutor in Haig House and enjoyed pastorally supporting the boys there before moving to Cunningham House for his final two years. He ran a very successful 'Chai Club' and very much enjoyed the tea. Iain ran the department almost single-handedly at several points over the last few years and we are very grateful for all his hard work. We all wish him the best of luck in his new post and, who knows, he might come back to visit us at QVS one day!

Sarah O'Neill

Sarah O'Neill was an enthusiastic tutor, a keen member of the CCF and member of Wavell House Team, as well as teaching Modern Studies. Sarah will probably be most fondly remembered for her lively assemblies, where she once performed as a dancing Donald Trump to enthuse the students about democracy and pupil voice. Sarah cared deeply for her students, and was able to make them smile, even in the most challenging of circumstances. We have fond memories of her bandaging up students in her First Aid challenge and supporting Miss Duncan with S6 events such as Taskmaster. Sarah was a keen cyclist and could often be spotted zooming into QVS in the mornings from her home in Clackmannanshire. Sarah has moved to England in order to support students with additional needs and we can't think of anyone better for this post. We wish Sarah all the best with her new adventures, and we look forward to hearing from her in the future.

Obituaries



Carmen O'Neill

We are very sad to hear the news of Carmen O'Neill's passing. Carmen was a beloved member of Haig House staff across the years and put her heart and soul into looking after her boys.

She also completed a stint in Wavell House where she was a caring and hardworking tutor with a great sense of humour who supported house events and always had a kind word for the girls if they were having a difficult time. Mrs Sheerin, our retired school librarian, was in touch with the sad news of Carmen's passing, describing her as 'One of the feistiest, strongest women I have ever known, and such a loyal friend' We were contacted by lots of Victorians who were keen to pass on their condolences:

Steve Laing

So sorry to hear this sad news. Carmen was a kind and lovely lady. She was very positive and supportive to all in Haig House. You always felt much better after having a chat with her. Condolences to her family.

Callum Pearson

So sad to hear this! She was always one of my biggest supporters and a ray of sunshine in Haig house! Loved her lots, she will be missed.

Helen Kettles

Heartbroken to hear this news, loved her loads, always brought sunshine with her into work, will miss her chats Sending condolences to her family.

Craig Harrison

Very sad news to hear - She was such a kind, understanding and patient lady, who always had the pupils' wellbeing (and some staff!) as her priority! She will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by the Harrison family and I'm sure by the countless number of boys from Haig house she has cared for.

Clare P Rankin

Had many giggles in our time together at QV. Rest in peace, Carmen.

Karen Mcvey

Rest in peace my dear friend Carmen.

Stephen Gale

Very sad to hear this. Carmen O'Neill was a very lovely woman, full of life and laughter. I had rather wild hair at school, Carmen walked into my room once whilst I was styling (more stretching my long hair outward so it wouldn't cross the line Dougie Douthie had told me it couldn't cross) and Carmen said "Well, I have to see how this is done!" She even helped me with the gel. She was a wonderful woman. Please pass on my love to her family.

Madison Robb

Very sad news. RIP Carmen - you always made me and my friends have a giggle in the common room.

Jill Adams

Such sad news. Absolutely one of the kindest people ever. So loved by all the Haig boys particularly as she bustled about looking after them. RIP Carmen O'Neill.

Vivien Hiddleston

So sorry to hear this we've had some laughs over the years RIP Carmen.



Robert 'Bob' Hamilton

Was a well loved 'Porter' at QVS and supported hundreds of Victorians and staff with his kind, approachable and supportive manner. Bob was cared for for the last 14 weeks of his life at Strathcarron Hospice. His daughter Angela would like to thank the Victorians who got in touch for their kind words and for sharing memories of her 'wonderful father'.

Alan Riddel

Sad Condolences, your Dad was such a wonderful man. Always cheerful and happy to help us lads.

Ian Porter

I'm sorry to read this Angela. He made time for everyone and was an absolute gentleman. It was also clear how close he was to you. An example to us all.

David Mortimer

Condolences to you and your family Angela. He was an absolute gentleman.

Stuart John Rae

Condolences to your family. In my last year of school I was on an extended period of being grounded to the school and had to report to the lodge every 15 minutes, 30, 45 and then hour. Over the next few weeks Let's just say I may have missed a few but nothing was ever said. Just a look and a smile. Was very much appreciated by a young Stuart and not forgotten.

Steve Laing

I'm so sorry to hear this. Bob was very welcoming when a group of us young teachers arrived at QVS in the mid 80's, both in his job at the front desk and around the school, and as a neighbour 'up the Green'. He was a pillar of the QV community and well respected by all.

Baz Veitch

Very sad news Angela. I remember your father well as a very kind gentleman. My condolences to all of his family & friends.

Helen Duthie

Such sad news he was a lovely man. So many memories of our time at Q V. Condolences to his family Helen and Dougie Duthie.

Paul Porter

Bob was in his perfect job. Smiles and chats for everyone anytime. Sorry to hear this news. Thoughts with you all at this difficult time. RIP Bob.

Jill Adams

Looked after me so well when I moved into QVS as a young teacher. A total gentleman and such a well loved and respected member of the QVS community. Such sad news. Sending love and best wishes to the family.



On behalf of the QVS Community, we would like to express our warmest thanks and gratitude for the amazing day we shared with the QVS Fijian Community this summer term.

We cannot put into words how special an experience it was.

It was not only an outstanding celebration and commemoration of our S6 Fijian boys' departure - but a truly unique occasion. Thank you so much to the families of William, Sam, Lagi, Theo and Hendry for allowing the entire QVS Community to experience Fijian Culture and togetherness, as one big extended family.

It was a real honour to be able to share such an emotional day, filled with song, dance, thanksgiving and togetherness.

The Ceremony, the Meke & food from the Lovo gave a true insight into the warmth, generosity and strong cultural traditions of our Fijian community. It was very special to see Mr Shaw and our two Housemasters, Mr Pitman and Mr Boyd honoured in this way, and something we will never forget.

Thank you from the heart for coming together to create a truly amazing experience. We are so grateful to each and every one of you who made today possible.

Having this connection with our Fijian families is now woven into the fabric of our life at QVS and makes the tapestry of our two cultures something absolutely unique and unforgettable - and something that we are truly thankful for.

From us all - Vinaka Vaka Levu!

With gratitude, warmth and appreciation from the QVS Community.



Staff

Senior Leadership Team:

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

Housemasters & Housemistresses:

Cunningham	D J Pitman BEd (Hons)
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 Gilhooly BA (Hons) SQH PGDSLIM 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:

S J Adams BSc (Hons) PGCE
 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 PGDip PGDE
 S L O'Neill BA (Hons) PE
 D J Pitman BEd (Hons)
 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

Ceremonial:

School Sergeant Major	D D H Stacey MBE (late Black Watch)
Drum Major	G Peters BA
Pipe Major	I Lowther (late Scots Guards)
Highland Dancing Instructor	S S Landsburgh Associate BATD

Visiting Music Teachers:

T Barrett	F Henderson
R Digney	S McLellan
M MacSporran	
G Spowart	

Visiting Sports Coach:

R Donaldson	J McCulloch
J Allan	

House Matrons:

Cunningham	C Pitman BEd
Haig	M Lewis
Trenchard	H A Devlin
Wavell	E Hoodcamp

Housekeepers:

D McIntosh	A McPhail
K McVey	J Russell

Medical Centre:

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

Business Management:

Library & Information Manager	T Thomson
Facilities Manager	L Reilly BSc (Hons)
Resources 1	I M Mair MAAT
Resources 2	G McConnell
Deputy Facilities Manager & Dep SSYO	C P Rankin
Information Systems Engineer	S Nevill MBCS MCSE

Business Support:

B McCluskie	N Veitch
A B Gauld BA (Hons)	A Paddon

Academic Support:

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

Facilities Support:

P A Warner	R G MacDougall
L Henderson	R Russell





The Victorian 2023

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