



# PERFORMING ARTS

## Music and Drama get 2012 off to a flying start!

Since our last newsletter the department has been a hive of activity with information evenings, concerts, rehearsals, drama performances, theatre trips, carol singing, ceilidhs, auditions, exams, advent services, busking and prelims to keep us on our toes! Thanks to all staff and pupils who have worked hard and given their time and support in the performing arts faculty.



## S1 Information Evening

Back in November 2011 the S1 information evening took place giving parents the chance to visit the department and watch and listen to some of our S1 music pupils perform together. It was great to see such a good turnout of enthusiastic and willing pupils! Thanks to all those who attended!

Photos from S1 information evening



## Memorable Christmas Concert and Service 2011

The end of 2011 was marked with an outstanding school concert and service. It was the debut performance of the clarinet ensemble who were led by Mr Bett. The ensemble did a fantastic job of providing the music for the service and leading the hymns. The evening also showcased performances from the school choir and the staff choir. The string group led by Mrs McTaggart performed the beautiful piece Andante Festivo by Sibelius and followed it with an excellent arrangement of Coldplay's Viva La Vida. S6 pupil Laura O'Donnell led the Soul Band with the classic hit All I Want for Christmas is You, whilst St Ninian's Winds, led by Stephen West, performed music from the popular suite Carnival for the Animals by Saint-Saens. Mr Hallam's guitar ensemble performed Berceuse by Albeniz followed by a

medley of Christmas classics from the Brass Group. Finally Ms Rose's percussion ensemble followed with a rousing performance of Oye Como Va by Tito Puente. To conclude, the evening saw the ensembles join forces to perform a spectacular rendition of the theme tune from the classic Christmas movie Home Alone. The music was arranged and conducted by Tony Swainson and was a brilliant end to an evening showcasing such talent. Thank you to all those who took part and helped to make it such a successful evening.

## S6 Music Class perform at Fashion Show

The S6 Advanced Higher Music class made their debut performance at the charity Fashion Show. Their performance went down a storm and included the popular hits Fairytale of New York, 5 Years Time and Fix You. Well done to all those who performed and were

## ST ANDREWS CEILIDH

Thank you to all those who attended the St Andrews Family Ceilidh at the end of November. Also a big thank you to all ceilidh band members who played for all the dancing, its much appreciated!

involved in helping and organising the event.

## Hansel and Gretel at the Citz

96 S1 - S6 pupils braved the cold and ventured out to the Citizen's Theatre on Wednesday the 21st December to see a performance of "Hansel and Gretel". It was a fantastic performance and really got us all into the Christmas spirit! Thanks to all the pupils for their impeccable behaviour during the performance. Thanks also to the staff who accompanied us.

## THE BURNS SUPPER!

The annual Burns Supper took place on Friday 3rd February and was a great night of entertainment and dancing. Thank you to Ms Cairns's S2 Drama class for giving an excellent performance of Tam o Shanter. Musical entertainment was provided by S5 pupil Luke Gaughan who performed a set of scottish fiddles tunes, a beautiful slow air followed by the lively and popular tunes Crossing the Minch and The Soldiers Joy. S2 Pupil Sam McElearn sang the well known burns song Ye banks and Braes O Bonnie Doon and St Ninians School Choir performed a beautiful arrangement of the scottish traditional song The Turtle Dove. We were also treated to a vocal duet from S6 pupils Melissa Gartshore and Laura O'Donnell. The night finished in true scottish style with a ceilidh hosted by the St Ninians Ceilidh Band. Thank you to all those who helped support this event.



## CHOIR WEEKEND IN ABERFOYLE!

The school choir are looking forward to their first school choir camp which will be held at the Dounan Centre in Aberfoyle between 9th-11th March. The weekend will of course consist of plenty singing, competitions and games.

The pupils have been working hard to raise funds to put towards their trip through raffles, coffee mornings and carol singing. Thanks to all those who have given generously, attended the coffee morning and donated gifts for the raffle. A meeting for parents regarding the weekend will take place on Friday 2nd March at 7pm in the Music Department.



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**REMINDER  
THAT  
MUSIC  
PRACTICAL  
EXAMS  
WILL  
BEGIN  
22ND  
FEBRUARY  
AND  
FINISH  
20TH  
MARCH**

**DRAMA  
CLUB  
PERFORM  
TO  
PACKED  
AUDIENCE**

The S1 drama club presented their Christmas Theatre presentations to a packed house during a Tuesday lunchtime. Thanks to the 60 pupils and teachers in the audience who came along to support the club! Congratulations to the S1 pupils involved and a special note of thanks to S6 pupils Megan Carle, Stephanie Scott and Katherine Hislop for running the club.

## **Music Pupils go stargazing!**



The Stargazing team joined forces with Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire and BBC Radios 1Xtra and 6Music to offer an exciting musical opportunity. The Lovell Radio Telescope is used to listen to and record radio waves from space, including the rhythmic sounds of pulsars – some of the most distant objects in the universe.

The challenge was to work with musicians from the BBC Orchestras and an electronic music producer to create a music track inspired by these sounds from space.

S5/6 music pupils visited Jodrell Bank on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec to see the telescope first hand and record some sounds from deep space to use in their track.

They then took part in a one day workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> December at the BBC Lab in Glasgow working with musicians from the BBC Orchestra and up and coming electronic music producer Alan Parley aka *Hostage* to help create their space music! Watch this space for more photos and reviews from some of the pupils in our next newsletter.

**Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank**



# St Ninians meets River City!



The Drama department were recently approached by BBC Scotland to take part in an exciting project entitled the River City LAB project. This project invited pupils to create their own “Webisode” of River City that will later appear on the BBC River City website. A group of third year pupils have written a short episode of the drama series for a cast of higher drama pupils to appear in. A second group of third year pupils have been learning how to operate camera equipment and film the actors on location at the River City set. This project involved the LAB team visiting the school as well as on-location visits to the set of River City in Dumbarton. The final “webisode”, as well as a Behind The Scenes documentary, will be ‘premiered’ to the pupils involved at BBC Scotland and thereafter will be available to the general public on the BBC River City Website from 24th February. Thank you to Ms Cairns in Drama for supporting the pupils during this project and to all staff for their patience. It has been a fantastically rewarding experience for all pupils involved.





## Success for pupils sitting music exams!

Congratulations to Jessica McTeague who recently passed her grade 4 violin exam with merit. To Jennifer Cuffe who recently passed her grade 5 violin exam with distinction. Also to flautists Felicity Daly and Emma Harkins with both passed their Grade 3 Flute exam. Well done girls!

## It's Show Time!

The department are very excited about this years school show which is **"Thoroughly Modern Millie"**. Thank you to all those who auditioned for parts. There was an excellent turn out and high standard of auditions. Congratulations to JohnJoe Jackson, Laura O'Donnell, Joseph Coyle, Aileen Booth, Melissa Gartshore, Liam King, Pawel Kyorga, Amy Hanssen and Katy Mallon on landing parts.

Initial rehearsals will take place on Mondays in the Music department at 3.30p.m. If you are interested in helping out at this years show please see Mr McKinnon or Mrs Swainson in music.



## Music Exam Preparation

Supported Study (Performing Component) for all S4 – S6 pupils who will be sitting Intermediate, Higher or Advanced Music this session is available every day after school. Please see Mrs Swainson to be allocated a practice area. Higher students in particular are encouraged to attend given the close proximity of Practical Prelims.



**Friday 29th February**

**S6 ADVANCED HIGHER  
MUSIC CONCERT**

**Friday 16th March**

**SOUL BAND DANCE  
NIGHT**

**Tuesday 24th April**

**CHARITY SCHOOL  
CONCERT**

**22, 23, 25, 26 June**

**SCHOOL SHOW**

**THOROUGHLY  
MODERN  
MILLIE**

**NOT TO  
BE  
MISSED!**

## **Reminder of Music Rehearsals**

**Choir - Tuesday 8am Music Room 2**

**Brass ensemble rehearsals to be confirmed by Mrs Nicholson**

**String Ensemble - Wednesdays 2.45pm-3.45pm**

**Woodwind Ensemble - Wednesdays 2.45pm-3.45pm**

**Percussion Ensemble rehearsals to be confirmed by Miss Rose**

**Ceilidh Band - Monday 3.30pm-4.45pm Music Room 1**

**Soul Band - Friday 2.45pm - 3.45pm Music Room 4**

**Guitar Ensemble rehearsals to be confirmed with Mr Hallam**