



Performing Arts



Newsletter

Save the date!

9th Jun - S6 Graduation

21st – 25th Jun - Austria Trip

17th Aug - Edinburgh Festival Trip

20th Dec - Mamma Mia Trip

All updates are on the school website and our Twitter feed @SNHSmusicdrama



Royal Bank of Scotland Re-opening in Giffnock

Mr Bett rehearsed with and accompanied pupils performing at the re-opening of the Royal Bank of Scotland in Giffnock on Friday 29th January. The pupils involved were Laura Docherty (S4, violin), Paul Docherty (S3, violin), Fintan Reid (S3, violin) and Caterina Lue (S2, oboe). They provided background music for the general public and all performed beautifully.

Education Sunday

A number of our pupils enhanced the liturgy at Masses during Catholic Education Week. Pupils played and sang at St. Joseph's, St. Cadoc's and St. Vincent's on Education Sunday, 31st January 2016.

Picture: Shannon O'Donnell, Andrew O'Donnell, Father Hill, Clodagh O'Donnell



Faculty Events

The Music and Drama Departments have been busy rehearsing and putting on various concerts and events over the past few months. Here are the highlights!

Christmas Service

Staff and pupils put on a wonderful, festive evening celebrating the birth of Christ with Christmas carols and readings, followed by a concert from different bands and groups from the department. Highlights included the Acoustic Group giving their debut performance and the Symphony Orchestra performed a lovely rendition of 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas'.

Burns' Night

The annual Burns' Night was another great success with performances by pupils from both Music and Drama. Mr McDonald started off the night by giving the Address to the Haggis. The evening continued with a folk group accompanying the singing of Burns' songs and Higher Drama pupils performing some humorous Scottish sketches.

Stars in their Eyes

Another successful night was had for the annual Stars In Their Eyes event. There were performances from throughout the decades, from Cyndi Lauper to Alicia Keys and Lady Antebellum to Ellie Goulding, including many more!

The Bangles were crowned winners after an audience vote and gave another impressive rendition of 'Manic Monday' to finish the night.

Spring Concert

The final concert of the year was another night filled with outstanding performances! Some of the highlights included beautiful singing from the Chamber Choir and S1 Singers after a brilliant weekend of fun and rehearsals at Choir Camp. There were also two fantastic solos from sixth year Juliette Murphy who played the 2nd movement of Haydn Trumpet Concerto and Laura Docherty (S4) who played Thais' Meditation on the violin.

The night came to a very successful end with the Symphony Orchestra giving an energetic rendition of The Pirates of the Caribbean Medley conducted by Tony Swainson. The audience gave a roaring applause and standing ovation!



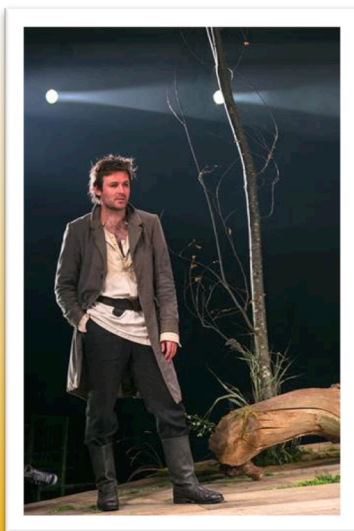
Drama Alumni News

Many congratulations to former pupil Daniel Cameron who recently won the prestigious and much coveted BAFTA Scotland New Talent award for his acting performance in the film I AM ME - a touching and compelling account of living with a disability. Daniel is also a talented playwright and is currently working on his first professional commission.



Former pupil Liam King has also won a place to study acting at the Royal Welsh college of Music and Drama which boasts alumni such as Sir Anthony Hopkins and Ruth Jones.

Former music and drama pupil Karen Fishwick continues to experience great success in her career. Karen is currently preparing to tour Britain in *Our Ladies Of Perpetual Succour* with the National Theatre of Scotland. The production will tour to Liverpool and Brighton amongst many other locations as well as stopping off at the SECC, Glasgow in late May.



Former pupil and RADA graduate James McArdle is also set to take to the stage at the National Theatre in London once more, playing the role of Platonov as part of the Young Chekhov season. This trilogy of plays, and in particular his performance, opened to great critical acclaim at Chichester Festival Theatre last year and has quite rightly earned its West - end transfer to the National Theatre. Having played title roles at both the RSC and now the National Theatre, as well as fitting in a quick appearance in the new Star Wars movie, James continues to carve out a very impressive career.



Choir Camp

18th – 20th March 2016

In March the Chamber Choir and S1 Singers travelled to Aberfoyle for this year's Choir Camp. The theme for the weekend was James Bond. It was a fantastic trip filled with singing, games, a quiz, a treasure hunt and various other team-building activities. The focus of the weekend was to prepare a programme of songs for the Spring Concert. Plenty of rehearsal time was built into the weekend; however the main event was a competition on the Saturday evening for which the teams prepared a James Bond song. The pupils and staff worked very hard all weekend and had a lovely time in the sunshine. Preparations have already begun for next session's trip!

"Choir camp was one of the best trips I have been on in school. The atmosphere was lively and welcoming. I thoroughly enjoyed Choir Camp and I won't forget my experience for a long time. It made you work with your team to try and win prizes, but it also included games and activities to let us work together. You have to try your hardest to gain points, so you can eventually win the game, but you must also be careful, as these can also get deducted. I think that this was a really good way to include all of the songs and music into socialising and meeting new people.

Choir camp is generally a laugh. There are the times when we work on our songs (it's actually really fun doing that as well, so you don't notice it's work) and then of course the performing to everyone else in the choirs. I really loved Choir Camp and I can't wait to do it again."

Josh Parker S1

"Choir Camp is not your average St. Ninian's trip. For one thing there are people there from every year group mixed together into teams. It is also structured a bit differently. Each year there is a camp theme - this year's theme was James Bond - and each group is given a song related to that theme, such as 'Writing on the Wall' or 'Gold-finger.' The teams then have time to learn and prepare a routine for the song. On the Saturday night we all came together in costume ready to perform our song to the rest of the camp. This is always a fun experience to see what other teams have come up with. On Sunday we played some more games and the teachers announced the winning team. There are individual prizes to be won as well. There are your conventional awards: best costume, best team leader, tidiest dorm etc., and then there are some more unusual awards: best eye-brows, most competitive, biggest diva and so on. Everyone received an award and medal.

Choir Camp was brilliant. I've made new friends, tried new activities and had fun. I can't wait for next year!"

Holly Edgar S3

In other news...

Exams

The music and drama departments were very busy preparing and supporting pupils as they prepared for their practical exams in March and written exams in May offering Supported Study and Easter school prior to the exams. The pupils worked hard to give confident performances and we wish them well in August!



S1 Choices Evenings

Several pupils from the current S2 classes willingly gave up their time on Thurs 10th March to demonstrate their group performing skills to the current S1 pupils and their parents as they considered which subjects to choose going in to S2. The pupils involved did a fantastic job performing a mixture of songs by Oasis, Coldplay and Bruno Mars!



Music Liturgy

Pupils and staff from the Music Department have been heavily involved in the school Masses and services over the past term. During Lent pupils provided beautiful accompaniments to the hymns sung and thanks to Mr Bett for organising pupils to play.

The Life Mass was a poignant evening where pupils and staff supplied a sensitive support of the Music Liturgy.



P7 Information Evening

On Thurs 5th May a fantastic evening was organised to give parents of the new Primary 7 pupils an informative overview of the different subjects and extra-curricular activities offered in the school. The Wind Band, S1 Singers, Acoustic Group and Ceilidh Band provided some very enjoyable music to visitors passing by.

In other news...

String Quartet

Those involved in the String Quartet have been busy playing at various events this year including The Convenor's award on the 28th April and at The Walton Community Care Centre for Jewish Care Scotland on 25th Feb.

It was a privilege for the quartet to be asked to play and they did a fantastic job!

The pupils involved were Laura Docherty (1st Violin, S4), Paul Docherty (2nd Violin, S3) and Aidan Lau (Cello, S2).

With thanks to Mrs McTaggart who rehearses with the pupils



Audition Success

Congratulations to Juliette Murphy who was successful in achieving a place playing trumpet in the West of Scotland Concert Band and the NYOS Senior Orchestra!

Euan Murphy was also successful in his audition to play percussion in the West of Scotland Concert Band. Well done!

Andrew Ward and Cara McIsaac have gained a place in the The West of Scotland String Orchestra. Well done to them both!

We also congratulate Louisa Buchan for gaining a place at the Junior Conservatoire to study clarinet and piano – a great achievement!

More Drama News

The Higher Drama students went on a trip to see 'The Crucible' at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh. 'The Crucible' was the Central Text studied for the Higher Drama exam. All pupils wrote an essay about it and a number of candidates performed acting scenes from it for their Practical Examinations.

This was a thrilling and conceptually innovative production that the students were both engaged and entertained by.

The department hopes to take all Higher and Advanced Higher pupils to the Edinburgh Festival on 17th August this year.



S6 Leavers

"In my sixth year of being a pupil at St. Ninian's High School I participated in various extra-curricular activities within the Music Department. I played piano, drum kit and xylophone in the Advanced Higher Music concert where each class performed their own set of pieces. It was a great experience as everyone in the class was brought closer together and it felt like a huge accomplishment to put on such an entertaining concert!

I also played accordion at the Music from the Movies concert where I joined six other bellow instrument players performed the Amelie Medley which really developed my skill on the accordion.

The final event I participated in was the Talent Show where I played a piano solo in front of a full audience. I enjoyed showcasing my skill. All of these events have helped me develop my confidence in performing and has brought my closer to my peers."

Cyruss Amini



"The Music department is one of the most popular departments in St Ninian's. Its very broad range of instruments gives every pupil a variety of choices including the option to sing as well.



As you progress through music you will choose two main instruments to learn. As well as this you will learn about various pieces of music throughout different musical periods. As a 6th year student, I have done music throughout school, which has inspired me to keep practising my instruments and learn many more pieces to play. The Advanced Higher Music course was a true highlight to my last year in this school as it gave a deeper insight to what you had learned in the previous years of studying and introduced more difficult pieces to learn and perfect for my SQA exam. The Advanced Music course also has the much acclaimed, "Advanced Higher Music Concert" which really sums up the course as every pupil is on stage showing off their talents, giving it their all and feeling amazing while doing it. I loved the Music course this year because it is not like many subjects. It is more about feeling and listening to the music rather than just working out what to play. The Music teachers are always there to help you when you are struggling and slowly you will become better and better giving you a sense of pride and confidence when playing another piece. Music is a highlight to anyone who chooses to study it and as a 6th year who has been involved in music since 1st year; I would have done it all again."

John McAndrew

Music Exam Success

Rachel Callan Flute Grade 1

Ruth Harty Clarinet Grade 3

Nicola Martin Flute Grade 3

Shona McGibbon Flute Grade 3

Cara Parker Flute Grade 3

Paul Hayes Piano Grade 3

Francesca Heath Piano Grade 3

David Hayes Piano Grade 4

Clodagh O'Donnell Violin Grade 5

Anna McLaughlin Oboe Grade 5

Juliette Murphy Theory Grade 5

Calum Murphy Theory Grade 5

Rhona McTeague Theory Grade 6



Well done!

