



Kirkcaldy High School

Issue 108
March
2013

Community Newsletter

*Respect for Self, for
Others, for Learning*

Diary Dates

Thurs 29 Mar – Dress Down Day. Lunchtime gig in aid of Meningitis UK. School closes for Easter Break
Tues 2 Apr – Easter Study School (see page 6 for details of all days)
Mon 8 Apr – Easter Study School
Tues 9 Apr – Easter Study School
Wed 10 Apr – Easter Study School
Mon 15 Apr – Pupils return to school
Tues 16 Apr – House Assemblies all week—led by S6 leavers. Carlyle on Tuesday
Wed 24 Apr – Parent/Carer Evening—focus on Sexual Health
Thurs 25 Apr – Junior Maths Challenge
Fri 26 Apr – Standard Grade Classical Studies—the first of the SQA exams
Mon 29 Apr – Standard Grade English, S4 pupils are on Study Leave until June
Fri 3 May – Last day before study leave for S5/6. S6 leavers' ceremony
Mon 6 May – May Day Holiday.

The Rector writes ...

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter. As ever, you will gather that this has been a very busy time for KHS. Of course, the term has been completely overshadowed by the death of Gregor Smith (S2), who contracted meningitis and passed away on 24 February. The loss of Gregor has been keenly felt. He was a super laddie—a great sportsman and universally popular with his classmates and all his teachers. Our entire school community shares the grief which so heavily lies with his family—especially Gregor's parents, Jenny and George and sister Rachel (S4). I am proud of our young people and the way they have conducted themselves with such quiet dignity and respect in the aftermath of this terrible tragedy. They have been very active in planning fund raising and memorial events. We will share details of these on our website and on "Twitter".



Gregor Smith
1999–2013

Among several other events memorable for a more positive reason, I would personally select our recent performances of Shakespeare's Macbeth and The Tempest as highlights. There is something magical about hearing the finest prose in the English language being delivered with such conviction and skill by our own bairns. Thank you Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Bruce and Mrs Garrie for all the excellent work you do to promote our young people's dramatic talents, and

very well done to all our performers.

We have some staffing news to impart. First off, best wishes to Mr McEwan who retired from his post as Pupil Support Officer in January. Mr McEwan's replacement will be Jim McPherson, who is currently an assistant janitor at the school. I am sure he will excel. Also, good luck to Miss Bell of the English Department, who has moved to Buckhaven to a temporary promoted post. We welcome Miss Keeble, of Lochgelly High School as Miss Bell's replacement. Mr Farquharson has been permanently appointed as Miss Diamond's replacement as lead Guidance Teacher for Oswald House. Well done Mr F. At the February break, Miss Young returned to the Modern Studies Department after maternity leave—welcome back. Many thanks to Miss Barrowman, who was an excellent stand in for Miss Young and has now moved to Kirkland High. Also, Mr English has returned to work after his unfortunate leg injury. It is good to have such a valued member of staff back at KHS.

As you will be aware, KHS is pioneering several new approaches to sex and relationships education and ways of avoiding unwanted pregnancy. This has to be a priority for us as Kirkcaldy was identified in 2010 as having one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Scotland—perhaps even in Europe. Many thanks to Val Reid and our NHS Fife school nurse team, who have supported Guidance staff to deliver small setting sex and relationship education sessions to S3 pupils to promote delaying the onset of sexual activity. Val and her team have also operated a special Friday clinic in school. This has been a real success in giving practical support to young people—providing advice, and in some cases, providing access to contraception and pregnancy testing. The school was asked to give evidence to a Scottish Parliamentary enquiry on this issue in February and I am satisfied that our progressive and proactive approach is beginning to have a positive impact. I am very hopeful of an improvement in the figures for Kirkcaldy when they are next published.

To keep parents and carers informed of developments we are holding a sexual health information event on 24 April. Details will be given soon.

As ever, if we can assist any parent/carer in any way, please be in touch. The Guidance Teacher is the first point of contact, and your son/daughter's Yearhead or myself will also be available should you wish.

Warm regards,

Allan.

Building a Bridge - Respecting the Memory of the Holocaust

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day at the end of January was commemorated by Kirkcaldy High School and Queensferry High School in a gesture that was designed to promote the message of "Communities Together: Build a Bridge".

Mrs Porterfield, Principal Teacher of Rights Respecting Schools, took representatives from the school's Citizenship Group and exchanged a "diversity canvas", which representatives from S2 had produced, whilst Queensferry High School provided their own memorials as drawn by their History pupils, as well as a commemorative glass plaque. Kirkcaldy pupils braved the weather and crossed the Forth Bridge to build a link with a new educational community. We hope to extend this link in future



KHS is committed to celebrating and promoting diversity and this commemoration is just one of many exciting projects designed to promote a deeper sense of understanding and celebrating the differences between cultures. Mrs Porterfield said, "The Holocaust sadly shows what can happen when people refuse to accept other cultures and their beliefs. It shows what can happen when ignorance and fear take hold. We felt that it is important to show that we will never forget the atrocities of those bleak days; but we also felt that Holocaust Memorial Day would serve as a fitting tribute to the future without allowing us to forget the past. Building Bridges is about bringing people from different communities and meeting them half way".

Also, all pupils attended a series of thought provoking assemblies led by the Citizenship Group on the theme of the Holocaust and respecting human rights. Moving photographs and words delivered by pupils were used to remind us all of the need to respect each other and work together for peace and tolerance.

Double Bill Shakespeare



Kirkcaldy High School has staged a unique Shakespeare "Double Bill" recently, putting on abridged performances of *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* in the school. The KHS Drama Department has entered the National Shakespeare Schools Festival for the past three years, gaining accolades from the adjudicators at the events in St Andrews and Falkirk.

Drama Teacher Mrs Bruce was keen to put on Shakespeare for the home audience and in total 4 performances of the bard's works were staged. Rector Mr Allan said that he was immensely proud of the Kirkcaldy High School players. "The impact on teamwork and confidence building is terrific" he said, and added that the audiences at all the performances had

been spellbound by the talent on show. He thanked Mrs Bruce and all the Drama staff for their excellent work. The school plans to enter the Shakespeare Festival again this year and will do a production of "*Romeo and Juliet*".

French Leave Adds Up



Last month, S3 pupils, led by Mrs Lawson of the Maths Department, returned from the annual Maths trip to Euro Disney in Paris. The focus of the seminars was to stress the importance of Maths in design, safety and production. Various workshops allowed pupils to explore this theme fully.

Time was made for some fun as well with the chance to try out the rides in the park, a cruise on the Seine to see Paris by night and a very well received Wild West Show.

As we have come to expect the conduct of our pupils was exemplary and favourably commented on by the French hosts.

Murrayfield Trips

Many thanks to Mr MacDonald (Maths) and the other staff involved in running our trips to the Six Nations rugby matches at Murrayfield this season. The very vocal KHS support has obviously spurred on Scotland to some better performances this season—although we still have room for improvement!

Kwik Fit Work Placements at Broxburn

After we developed a new link with Kwik Fit, the motor maintenance company, several pupils visited their Training Academy, Broxburn in December and another group visited in March.

Firstly pupils had an informative session re the Motor Vehicle business and were briefed about the Kwik Fit Apprenticeship Programme. They then had the chance for some "hands on" experience working on cars and learned how to use diagnostic testing equipment and other technology used in the workshop. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and we hope to continue to develop this new link in the future.

S4 boys Dylan, Kieran, Craig, and James are pictured studying an engine block with one of the Academy instructors.



Scotland Calling

Well done to Ryan McGowan (S2), who has been selected for the Scotland U14 football squad. Defender Ryan is signed with Raith Rovers.

Fair Trade at KHS



On 15th January, Kirkcaldy High School's Fair-Trade Committee members visited Capshard Primary School to contribute to their Fair-Trade assembly. Because they were striving to achieve Fair-Trade Status, the group told the pupils how Fair-Trade works within our school. The main themes of the presentation were what Fair-Trade is, where we buy our products from, how the school contributes to its cause and how it relates to global citizenship. We spoke about the visitors that we have had in to our school from all over the world throughout the years - such as Mr Amu and Mrs Joyce, to tell us about their involvement in Fair-Trade and how they think of themselves as global citizens. The presentation also included our school's aims for the future regarding Fair-trade and how we can use it to contribute to becoming a Rights Respecting School. The primary school is now inspired by the ideas of Kirkcaldy High School to work towards gaining Fair-Trade status.

Kieran Anderson, Elizabeth Jenkins and John Evans of the Fair Trade Committee are pictured. Elizabeth wrote this article.

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S2 Learning Fair 2013

Last month we welcomed over 250 parents and carers of S2 pupils to find out more about "Curriculum for Excellence" and the new qualifications. After an initial talk by the Rector, parents and carers got some hands on experience of the courses on offer in S3 as teachers and pupils gave demonstrations and explanations. Mr Allan explained how Standard Grades will be replaced by National 4 and National 5 Qualifications, with National 5 being seen

as the entry standard for Higher courses. National 4 will be internally assessed by teachers and the first SQA National 5 exams will be taken in May 2014. Many parents/carers commented that they had found the session very helpful. Photos—Mr Morrice and Mr Fulton do their double act whilst Dr Murray demonstrates static electricity and chemical reactions.



STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

S2 science club have been busy this term participating in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) project run by Go4Set who organise sustainability projects for a range of year groups. They have worked in partnership with Craig Hemmings from the local business Smith Anderson who produce paper bags and are working to improve the sustainability and energy efficiency of their company. Pupils have also visited the Hydrogen Office Methil (below) to gain a better understanding of renewable energy sources.



More Science News

The Kirkcaldy High School Go4Set team has recently started a project on improving energy saving in the school and are very excited to be working with local paper company Smith Anderson. The pupils from S2 are Ewan Rae, Siobhan Robb, Kieran Wyse, Liam Mitchell, Ashley Davidson and Islay Connelly. The team have just come back from a trip to Adam Smith College where they found out about the task expected for this year's Go4Set Event and did some team building exercises.



Club XL Sponsored Walk

Pupil Support staff: Mrs Brewster and Miss Downie, along with pupils: Sarah Houston, John Clark, Gemma Gillies, Chloe Anderson and Danielle Scott, recently completed a sponsored walk over the Forth Road Bridge on a school in-service day. They were joined by Carol Polson, one of the volunteers from Second Chance Kennels Fife. The group had raised £110 in school and Carol raised another £65.

World Book Day—March 2013

Every year Kirkcaldy High School welcomes a primary 3 class from one of our cluster schools, to celebrate World Book Day with us. This year it was the turn of Valley Primary School and with a theme of super heroes the young pupils arrived suitable attired and ready for some fun. Although some were a little bit nervous about their visit to the 'big school' the pupils leadership team of Lee, Jade, Imogen and Sean (or Mr Intelligent, Wonder Jade, Bat Girl and Green Lightning as they were that day) soon put them at their ease. This event was organised by Miss Montador, Librarian.

Celebrations started on Monday 4th March with award-winning writer Stuart Reid visiting to talk to 100 S1 English pupils, organised by Mrs Hume, Principal Teacher. His reading was wild and wacky and involved flying false teeth! The purpose of the talk was to generate an interest in reading and writing amongst pupils, and encourage them to read for enjoyment. Pupils enjoyed Stuart's lively presentation and its interactive nature.

Additionally, the audience listened intently as he read a chapter from each of his published books; Stuart's energy brought the characters to life for pupils and they were keen to hear more.

Stuart Reid is pictured, right.

Top Music Award for Wesley

Congratulations to Wesley Wood S6, who is the recipient of a £300 grant from the Mary Leishman Foundation. These grants are awarded to outstanding talent in music, art or drama and the Foundation was set up as a charity by Jim Leishman in memory of his wife Mary. Wesley was presented with his award at East End



Wesley Wood

Park Dunfermline and will go on to study music (piano and guitar) at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow.

The Foundation exists to encourage potential—a commodity which Wesley so clearly possesses in abundance.



Fife Festival of Music 2013

Kirkcaldy High School Wind band competed in Class 941 at the Fife Festival of Music last month in the Adam Smith Theatre. The band performed three pieces: J.W.B March, Flute Sundae (featuring Grace Pierce and Gael Hopton) and I Gotta Feelin by Black Eyed Peas.

The band were awarded a Silver Award and special mention was made by the adjudicator of the two flute players Grace and Gael who stood front stage to play the flute feature. Abigail James on cornet was also favourably mentioned for her solo part in I Gotta Feelin. The whole band played really well and all the pupils were smartly turned out and impeccably behaved.

A special thanks must also go to music instructors Angus Cuthbertson, Erik Knussen and Ryan McBride who supervised on the trip as well as Stephen Britain who helped organise prior to the event.

Keeping up on "Twitter" and on our Website

Kirkcaldy High School has developed one of the best and most useful websites of any Fife secondary school. Parents/carers can find all sorts of useful up to date information, including the latest on "Curriculum for Excellence". We have also begun to make available a bank of revision and study resources for a range of subjects in the run up to the Standard Grade and Higher exams. Please catch up with KHS at www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs.

We are also making good use of "Twitter" to keep in touch with followers; pupils, parents/carers and community partners.

Find us @KirkcaldyHigh



Respect for Others ~ Meningitis UK

In the wake of the tragic death of Gregor Smith (S2) we have decided to focus our charity fund raising on meningitis awareness and research for the coming sessions. Pupils have been full of ideas and have already been involved in organising a tea party for staff and other events. We intend to have a major sponsored walk in May and other events will follow. We were recently joined in school by Gregor's parents and Steve Dayman from Bristol, founder and organiser of Meningitis UK and Jo Stevenson, local coordinator to discuss ideas.



Easter Revision Classes for SQA Exams

Many thanks to all the staff who will be offering extra study support sessions for S4-6 Exam pupils during the Easter Break as follows;

Tuesday 2nd April

History (all levels) F Smart
English (S. Grade) K Hume
Graph Com (all levels) R Domin (am only)
Administration (all levels) Y Nelson
Business Management (all levels) Y Nelson

Monday 8th April

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Chemistry (all levels) J Melville and A Dick
English (Higher) H Pitts
Craft and Design (S Grade) K Simpson-Wands
Product Design (Int 2/Higher) K Simpson Wands
Graph Com (all levels) P I'Anson

Tuesday 9th April

Biology (all levels) L Kinghorn, H Higham and N Dempsey
Maths (all levels) R Lawson

Wednesday 10th April

Tech Studies (all levels) A Hamilton (am only)

First Degree Burns

Staff and pupils pooled their talents in January at the Kirkcaldy High School Burns' Supper. The KHS singers performed a range of Scottish songs and the string ensemble gave a lively performance. Wesley Wood played a moving Celtic recital on the piano and Louise Wallace sang a beautiful solo.

The Immortal Memory was shared amongst a range of speakers who told us all about Burns' life and work. The evening was ably chaired by Head Boy, Lee Pirie and the Toasts to the Lasses and the Lads were humorously delivered by Lee Cummings and Jade McQuillan. Dr Paul Murray gave a vigorous "Address to the Haggis" as well as entertaining the audience with an interactive North East fishing song. Seven year old Cara Pielow, from North Carolina, was Poosie Nansie, and brought in the haggis. Cara's father, Jim, is currently teaching Maths in the school on an exchange programme. Organiser, Miss Diamond (Depute Rector) said that once again the school's young people showed themselves to be excellent ambassadors for their school. The lead participants are pictured.



Enterprise Event at the Auld Kirk

When businessmen and women from Fife held a showcase event in Kirkcaldy at the end of February to introduce themselves and their wares to other members of the business community and the public, the KHS Club XL group was there, explaining how enterprise and employability are a big part of the KHS curriculum.

Around 20 firms took part in the event at Kirkcaldy's Old Kirk, hosted by Youth Business Scotland and the Prince's Trust which helps young entrepreneurs embark on their business careers.

A number of local firms participated, including the Fun Food Company, Lindsay Kilpatrick Jewellery, CIA Kirkcaldy Ltd and Minmax Games from Kirkcaldy, which were all keen to speak to visitors to let them know about the goods and services they have to offer. A wide range of business sectors were included, from traditional trades and creatives to security and marketing. It was a terrific experience for our young people and Pupil Support Assistant, Leanne Downie, who works with the XL group said that she had been proud of the way the team engaged with the event.

The event was opened by Councillor Jim Leishman, Provost of Fife, who said he was delighted to see the wealth of skills and talent on display. The Provost is pictured with the KHS young entrepreneurs.



Funny Business— Red Nose Day 2013

We all had great fun raising over £650 for projects in the UK and Africa recently.

The maths staff led the way raising money for Comic Relief. To celebrate International Pi Day (March 14th, otherwise written as 3.14) pupils were allowed to vote for the teacher of their choice to have a cream pie in their face, and the teacher with most money would be "pie-ed".

If a total of at least £314 was raised, all the maths teachers would be "pie-ed". This was too good an opportunity for the pupils - a total of £338 meant that the

whole team got the pie treatment.



Pictured are; Linzi Morgan and Nicole Sinclair (S6 Charities Committee Members) with Max, Matt and Harry of up and coming Manchester boy band "Reconnected" (Britain's Got Talent etc) - who played a gig at the school recently (see page 12). Ivana Figala and Ricki Connor (S5) along with Mrs Hardie (Pupil Support Officer) and their crazy hairdos. Mr Allan of the Maths Dept ... newly "pie-ed".

We also raised just under £250 from sales of red noses and home baking. On Friday 15th March we had a Crazy Hair Do day which raised another £100.



Respect Yourself—School Dress Code

There is no doubt that the positive ethos of the school, our culture of equality and pupils' attitude to work and respect for themselves are all reflected in the wearing of school dress. The uniform also enhances the feeling of "belonging" to KHS and negates any tendency to vaunt designer-wear or particular labels.

We are proud of our school dress code, and are sure that the wearing of it adds a sense of pride and of responsibility to the wearer. Our dress code is quite simple. Our school colours are black and white and all pupils should wear a white shirt or blouse with a visible school tie, black v-neck jumper, cardigan or school fleece, black trousers or skirt and black shoes. Some pupils have taken to wearing brightly coloured 'hoodies' or sweatshirts with logos. These are not acceptable school wear and all 'hoodies' must be removed in class. Neither are leggings acceptable schoolwear, especially those which are 'see-through'. Brown boots and coloured training shoes also contravene the code.



FoKHS Ceilidh is a Great Hit

Following the terrific success of last year's fund raising ceilidh, we once again hosted another fantastic community event on Friday 8 March. Many thanks to Bert Pozzi and his Band for their excellent dance set. The Valente fish suppers also went down a treat and the raffle alone raised over £350. All in all, we expect to exceed last year's fund raising total of over £1600.

All funds raised will go towards upgrading the lighting in the assembly hall. After last year's do we were able to install a new projector and screen which has been of huge benefit.

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School Chairman, Harry Kerr, said that the event had been a huge success and was now an annual fixture. "It was more or less a sell out and was enjoyed immensely by all those who attended, he added.

Special thanks went to ASDA Kirkcaldy, for their donation of a £100 community grant. ASDA's Community Life Champion had arranged for a large group of ASDA staff to come along and Dot Paterson, Debbie Mclean and Nicola Ramsay are pictured along with Mr Allan (Rector) and Mrs Davidson (Depute).



Get Involved in Wider Learning

Lunchtimes

- Monday**—S3-6 Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess
Tuesday—S1-2 Badminton, "Spitfire" Club, Radiowaves Internet Radio Station, String Orchestra
Wednesday— S4 Fitness Club, Arts and Crafts, Jazz Band, String Orchestra
Thursday— S1-3 Basketball, Rotary Club Interact, Film and Animation
Friday—Wind Band, Science Club, Chess.

After school

- Monday**—S3-6 Badminton, U14 Football, S1 Homework Club
Tuesday— Dance Club, S1 Football, S4-6 Basketball
Wednesday— Zumba, S6 First Aid Training, S2 Football, Senior Football.

Young Quality Scots



Congratulations to Chloe Sloan (S4) and Rebecca Gray (S5) of Kirkcaldy Young Volunteer Group who have won the Young Quality Scot Award—a highly prized award and recognition of their efforts in the community.

The presentations took place as part of a 2 day national even in Greenock and Kirkcaldy Community Work team leader, Julie Dickson said she was immensely proud of both Chloe (top left) and Rebecca (right).



Friends of Kirkcaldy High School News

The Friends of Kirkcaldy High School Committee was very pleased to have their 2012 Christmas card designed and produced by the Enterprise Class and thanks go to the pupils involved.

It was agreed at our recent meeting that FoKHS would keep up the maintenance of the shrubberies at the front of the school, which greatly improves the look of the school from the road.

A FoKHS Noticeboard has now been placed opposite the Rector's office – this will allow us to keep pupils, staff, parents and visitors up to date on what we are doing and planning. You will also be able to see what the committee looks like!



The Ceilidh night, held on 8 March was a terrific success, with a significant sum raised to support the continued upgrade of the Hall. New curtains have been hung and new lighting is on order.

FoKHS Committee are photographed from left; Colin Johnston, John Beck, Sheena Scobie, Ron Moodie, Janet Bishop and Harry Kerr.

KHS Pipe Band Wows the Crowds in Germany

As part of an official delegation from Kirkcaldy visiting twin town Ingolstadt for the "MIBA" International trade and culture fair—the largest in Bavaria, the Kirkcaldy High School Pipe Band visited the city in March.

Playing to large and appreciative crowds wherever they went, the band had a terrific experience, and goes from strength to strength. Having competed in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in Edinburgh earlier this month, the band is looking forward to more competitions this summer.



James Farmer (S4) described the

Ingolstadt experience as fantastic and Secretary Heather Nicoll said that the band were always looking for new recruits. Please contact the school in the first instance, ask for Mr Allan (Rector). Pipe and drum practice take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the school.

Meanwhile, Mrs Docherty, of the Modern Languages Department is planning an exchange visit with the Appian Gymnasium, Ingolstadt for October or November this year. All current S2 pupils are invited to express an interest—details from Mrs Docherty.

Respect Learning—Study Support 2013

Please see our website; www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs, which gives full details of all the lunchtime and after school revision/study classes available this term. We will also be having additional sessions on Saturdays and during the Easter break. The first of these was "History Saturday School" which took place on the weekend of 2 March.

The weekday programme comprises;

Mondays – Art, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Drama, Geography, Latin, Maths, Modern Studies, Music, Physics, Product Design, Technological Studies.

Tuesdays – Administration, Art, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Computing, Drama, English, Graphic Communication, Latin, Maths, Modern Studies, Music, PE, Physics

Wednesdays – Art, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Classical Studies, Drama, History, Latin, Maths, Modern Studies, Music, PE, Product Design.

Thursdays – Art, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Drama, English, Latin, Maths, Modern Studies, Music.

Fridays – Administration, Art, Classical Studies, Drama, Latin, Maths, Music, PE.

Climate Week Challenge at KHS

Pupils from Kirkcaldy High School, competed with tens of thousands of other people from schools, colleges and workplaces across the UK, in the country's biggest environmental competition.

The Climate Week Challenge ran from 4th-10th March as part of Climate Week, the UK's biggest climate change campaign. 16 pupils from S1 took part in the Challenge which aims to encourage as many people as possible to come up with creative ideas to help the environment.

The Climate Week Challenge was open to everyone and teams of 4 to 6 people competed within age categories, although they all worked on the same core challenge. The Challenge was only revealed to the teams on the morning they were due to take part and they were given until the end of the day to complete the task.

The school's winning team, whose entry was put forward for the national competition, comprised of Erin Smith, Phoebe MacDonald and Andrew Campbell. Their idea was to create an eco-home which was made from environmentally friendly materials such as solar panels and glass bottles.



Not only did this team consider the materials but also how they would raise the money required to build this unique building.

Miss Reid of the Geography Department said: "The Climate Week Challenge was a great chance for pupils to put their classroom learning about climate change into practice. The challenge was an engaging and useful way for our pupils to continue learning about the effects climate change is having on our planet and also an excellent opportunity to develop strategic thinking about the potential solutions. We were very excited to be part of the country's biggest environmental competition."

Dunnikier Park Improvement Project

An exciting new project will create a haven for wildlife in Kirkcaldy's Dunnikier Park. Fife Council's Parks & Countryside staff have worked hard over the last few months developing plans, which will ensure the area becomes an oasis for nature, which can be enjoyed by all.

One of the highlights of the project will be a series of linked ponds, which will attract frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies and all manner of creatures! In addition, there will be wildflower meadows bursting with colour, which will provide a vital food source for butterflies and bees. There will be plenty of benches where people can sit and watch the world go by and should they get hungry, there will be native fruit trees and an edible hedgerow to 'graze' upon. This innovative project represents a significant investment from Fife Council and will help to address long-standing issues with Dunnikier Park such as the poor drainage.

The development has been welcomed by Cllr Neil Crooks Chair for Kirkcaldy Area Committee "I am delighted that these local plans will bring life to Dunnikier Park which has always been a lovely green space and woodland".

This exciting project will involve pupils from Kirkcaldy High School and staff from Greener Kirkcaldy, an environmental community group. Derek Allan, Rector, said: "In the first phase, pupils from Kirkcaldy High School will be working with Greener Kirkcaldy to create woodland shelterbelts and habitats. We also want to conduct a survey of biodiversity as it is at the moment to track the project development over time. We see this as a brilliant opportunity for outdoor learning and the delivery of relevant, real life experiences. It is very much in line with Curriculum for Excellence and Miss Higham's Science Club, Biology pupils and our Princes Trust group will all be part of the project".

KHS pupils are pictured taking part in an initial survey of biodiversity in the Park.



Reconnected at KHS



Many thanks to Matt, Max and Harry of up and coming Manchester boy band "Reconnected", who played a gig at KHS last week as part of their UK Schools' Tour.

The band, who appeared on "Britain's Got Talent" and is promoted by entrepreneur Duncan Bannantyne, gave a great show and included their forthcoming single "One in a Million", which they dedicated to the memory of Gregor Smith (S2). Gregor tragically died of meningitis on Sunday 24 Feb. The boys left the school having gained many new fans and we wish them well.