



# Kirkcaldy High School

Issue 109  
July 2013

## Community Newsletter

*Respect for Self, for Others,  
for Learning*

### Diary Dates

**Tues 6 Aug:** SQA exam results published

**Wed 14 Aug:** Pupils return to school (teachers resume 12 August). S6 Drama trip to Edinburgh Festival

**Fri 16 Aug:** Yeargroup Assemblies (S2-6)

**Mon 19 Aug:** S2 trip to Edinburgh International Book Festival. House Assemblies all week.

Carlyle Mon, Adam Smith Tues, Beveridge Wed, Oswald Thurs.

**Mon 26 Aug:** Year Assemblies - S1 Mon, S2 Tues, S3 Wed, S4 Thurs, S5/6 Fri

**Tues 27 Aug:** Parent Council meeting at 7pm (all welcome)

**Fri 30 Aug:** Roman Army re-enactment soldiers visit Classics

**Thurs 5 Sept:** Visit from author Kathryn Erskine from the USA.

Product Design plastics lecture at Napier University

**Mon 9 Sept:** House Assemblies

**Fri 13 Sept:** Kwik Fit work experience at Broxburn

**Mon 16 Sept:** Year Assemblies. Theme Week on Teamwork

**Fri 27 Sept:** new S1 Settling In reports posted. School photos (S1/3/6)

**Mon 30 Sept:** House Assemblies. S1 Maths CSI themed learning

**Tues 1 Oct:** Engineering and Construction Industry Roadshow. Shakespeare Schools' festival workshops. Dress Up Disco

**Wed 2 Oct:** S1 Road safety play "Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg"

**Fri 4 Oct:** Dress Down Day and close for holidays.

### *The Rector writes ...*

**W**elcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter. As usual, it has been a very busy term, with a great many "set piece" activities recently – prizegiving, prom, the SQA exams, activities day, inductions and welcome days for the primary intake. As the new session approaches, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and cooperation. Our success as a school relies upon the strong backing of parents/carers and the wider Kirkcaldy community – this is greatly appreciated.

In May we enjoyed our annual Activities Day which included trips to Alton Towers, Bowling, Cinema, Edinburgh Zoo, Karting, M and D's Theme Park, Paintballing, Glasgow Transport Museum, White Water Rafting and the Xscape Snow Centre in Glasgow. I would encourage all parents/carers (S1-3) to respond early in the new session—we are planning an early start for Activities Day '14 and want all signed up to take part in affordable, active and fun events or trips.

Many thanks to Mark Wheelwright and the staff of the Adam Smith for the use of the theatre for our S6 Induction last month. All our new S6 pupils were treated to talks, workshops and activity sessions led by Royal Bank of Scotland, Sainsburys, The Army Outreach Team, NHS Fife and our own staff – including a special focus on Saltire Volunteer Awards and health and wellbeing awareness. We also had personal self defence demonstration sessions from Jim McPherson, our new Pupil Support Officer. The sessions were very well evaluated by our young people and it is clear that the new role models for KHS have made a positive start.

It was a genuine privilege to be involved in the public screening of "The Happy Lands" last month. The movie was made by ordinary Fifers with Theatre Workshop Scotland - and is an emotional drama with

a strong message, based on the hardships faced by mining families in the 1926 strike. Many thanks to the Kirkcaldy High School Association for making the showing possible.

As always, we have a staffing update. First off, best wishes to Mr Domin who retired from his CDT post in June. We also bade farewell to trainee teachers; Miss Duncan, off to Aberdeen, Miss Reid and Miss Roberts, both off to Glenrothes, Mr Sneddon, to Madras College, St Andrews and to Mr MacMillan, off to Falkirk. Well done to Mr Kowbel, who moves on secondment to a promotion at Lochgelly High School.

Also, congratulations to Dr Murray, who will remain with us in Chemistry having been made a permanent appointment. We will be joined in August by Miss Tennant in Physics, Ms McLean in Modern Studies, Mr Davidson in RME, Mrs Hunter and Mr Penman in Maths, Miss Forster and Ms Kerek in English and Mr Kerr and Miss Ho in PE—a warm welcome to all our new staff.

After reorganisation, I can also advise that the Depute team have the following yeargroup responsibilities for the Year ahead; Miss Diamond (S1), Mrs Davidson (S2), Mr Young (S3/4) and Mrs Aitken (S5/6).

In common with all schools, KHS has produced a traffic management plan, details of which are available on our website. The plan demands vehicular and pedestrian access is controlled within the school grounds, and includes consideration of known high risk areas near the school gates. May I take this opportunity to remind you that parents/carers must not park or pick up on Dunnikier Way, the golf course access road or any staff car park. Please use the astroturf car park or arrange a suitable pick up at a reasonable distance from the gates. We have had a few "near misses" lately.

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.

With warm regards,

*Allan.*



**Congratulations!**

**Our Prize  
Winners  
2013**

## Well Done the Fife Shield Winners!

KHS are Fife Schools U16 Fife Shield Winners after beating Dunfermline High 3 2 at Ore Park Lochore. In very windy conditions both teams served up an exciting match. KHS lost a lead twice to Dunfermline High, who are current Scottish Champions. To come out on top was a terrific achievement.

Coach Mr Kowbel said "I'm delighted for the boys, they're an extremely talented bunch of lads but their success this year has been down to their willingness to work hard and do the less glamorous aspects of the game well".



Scorers; Calum Geddes solo effort and Liam Brown with 2 magnificent curling free kicks.

## "First Chances" at St Andrews University

On the basis of economic and social background data, selected secondary schools from Fife participate in the First Chances project. The rationale is for the school to select ten pupils at the start of S3 who they feel can be aided in raising their aspirations and attainment. Pupils attend a residential summer school at the University and then over the period of the year, with the help of St Andrews student mentors, complete a project report and deliver a PowerPoint presentation. At the start of S4 the pupils return for phase two of their residential experience to take part in feedback sessions, academic workshops as well as a graduation ceremony.

Very well done to the new Kirkcaldy High School S4 graduates, who are pictured right with teacher organisers Mr Parkinson and Miss Kelly; Emma Robinson, Ryan Millar, Alex Gibson, Joe Costello, Heather Hopton, Chelsea Connolly, Lauren Dunnett, William Rae and Zak Morris. They are also photographed below in St Salvator's Quad, joined by Mr Allan, Rector.



Each pupil who takes part in the project is given a student mentor, whom they can contact for advice and support throughout the length of the project. Mentors visit high schools on approximately four Wednesday afternoons within the academic year

to meet with pupils. Each student ambassador will have either one or two pupils who they will be expected to keep in contact with via our StAN (St Andrews Access Network) messaging system. This is an important aspect of the position as pupils are also graded on how well they communicate with their mentor.

This year's cohort from all over Fife were mentored by 2 former KHS students; Pamela Forbes, currently studying Classics and spending the next session on a funded secondment to Georgia, USA, and Erin McGalloway, who has just completed her degree in International Relations and will move to London after the summer to take her Masters.

We also have a new crop of S3 pupils who are now working towards graduating in 2014. Best wishes to them, and many thanks to Mr Parkinson and Miss Kelly for their excellent support.





# Congratulations to the Class of 2013

Best wishes to all our leavers, whatever yeargroup. For S6, two very important end of term events took place; prize giving on June 11 and the senior prom on Friday 14 June. This year's prom was a great success, organised so well by Ashley Norcross (S6) and her committee—it was held at the Keavil House Hotel, Dunfermline (see below). The S6 leavers, or "Class of 2013" are pictured, with retiring Prefect leadership team Kirsty Wilson, Sean Plumridge, Jade McQuillan, Lee Pirie, Imogen Logan and Sandy Wallace seated in front. As is traditional, the Prizegiving concluded with the class of 2013 bidding an emotional farewell as they marched down the centre of the Assembly Hall.



# KHS Rocks for Meningitis Research!

Kirkcaldy High School was rocking in April as two pupil bands "Blind Lights" (right) and "The Horizon" (left) put on a lunchtime gig for their classmates, raising funds for a worthwhile and poignant cause at the same time. In February, S2 pupil Gregor Smith died of meningitis and the school is committed to creating a fund raising legacy in Gregor's name. The bands raised

£340 in total for Meningitis UK and the gig was the first of a series of events planned over the coming months. In May, pupils took part in a sponsored walk from Kirkcaldy to Kinghorn raising thousands for the cause.



Mr Stewart Turnbull, teacher of computing, said that his "Enterprise and Employability" class had done a great job promoting the gig and that the bands had been terrific.

A further sum for this charity was raised by our traditional end of term "Dress Up or Dress Down" Day.

# Senior Prom—June 2013

Our annual Senior Prom—the official send-off to the "Class of 2013", took place this year at Keavil House Hotel, Dunfermline and was a great success—a real tribute to the many pupils who contributed to its organisation.

Special congratulations go to Prom King and Queen, John Cairns and Becky Clark, pictured right.



## Latin Specialist Visits KHS



The pupils of the Higher Latin class welcomed Dr Roger Rees from the Latin Department of the University of St Andrews in April, when he came to talk about the literature the class has been studying for the final exam.

The visit was a tremendous success and all the pupils gave positive feedback: "It was so useful to see how a university lecturer teaches..." (Shannon Connelly) "Dr Rees gave me a wider insight into what I need to know for the exam..." (Ryan Don) "The talk was delivered brilliantly..."(Kieran Farmer) "I enjoyed learning about the bigger picture around Virgil's *Aeneid*..." (Liam Napier) "Well-structured and enjoyable to listen to..." (Mark Bremner) "Very interesting and he widened my knowledge of

Virgil..." (Lee Pirie) "It gave me a taste of what a university lecture would be like..." (Amna Sajad) "He helped me to understand the text more..." (Jade McQuillan) "I found it very interesting and I learned a lot more as a result..." (Greig Anderson) "The information he gave us was useful and helpful..." (Emma Duncan) "I liked the way he was so enthusiastic about the topic!..." (Niall Lister) "It was a good experience to listen to a presentation at a uni level and standard..." (Stewart Coole) "He gave us all something to think about..." (Erin Parsons) "It was a great chance to hear about Latin literature, which is what I hope to study at St Andrews University..." (Kimberley Fyfe)

## Sustainability Theme Week – May 2013



Our Sustainability Week, running from the 20th - 24th May, proved a great success for S1-3 pupils across the school working alongside p6 pupils from local primaries, who joined in the fun. Pupils got involved with a variety of challenges to appreciate the problems associated with a growing population, climate change and limited resources such as water, food and energy. A number of activities were run across the school, including the Science department who designed and built wind turbines and hydrogen air ships, along with C.D.T and Art who looked at recycling and producing jewellery and artwork. The Maths department ran a fun food tasting challenge to investigate where our food comes from, whilst pupils in English lessons examined media coverage of sustainability. Social Subjects investigated the problem of climate change whilst Home Economics produced some tasty meals using seasonal produce. Across the school, there was a tutor sustainability quiz which was eventually won by A8, along with a fun competition to raise money to adopt a turtle which resulted in Mrs Dempsey suffering 'jellification' at the hands of the charities committee. Many thanks to Miss Higham, Principal Teacher of "STEM" (Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering), who oversaw the arrangements.

## S4 Peer Education—Alcohol Awareness

Staff from NHS Fife, Clued Up, and Barnardos were in school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June and spent all day training a group of 24, S4 pupils to be peer educators. Next term these peer educators will deliver "Boozebusters" training to S2 pupils, with the support of the staff who trained them. Boozebusters is an alcohol education programme. It aims to help young people have a better understanding of the social, legal, and health consequences of underage drinking. It provides them with the opportunity to make informed and appropriate choices in their future lives. The programme has been developed to support the relevant health and wellbeing outcomes within Curriculum for Excellence.

The trainers' description of the day spent with our young people is as follows;

- "Wow! it is safe to say, we all had a ball working with some fantastic young people from KHS on Friday. They are so enthusiastic".
- "They were on task from the moment they walked in at 9 am, it is quite a lot to ask of them to dedicate a whole day to training but their enthusiasm did not wane"
- "They approached the group work with gusto and came up with some fantastic insights to values and attitudes".
- "The group self formed in to 5 working groups who will facilitate together, they formed roles within these smaller groups and I believe they will tackle the delivery day in a professional manner".

All of the young people involved felt that when Boozebusters is delivered in this peer educator model it will be effective in getting the message across. The young people had detailed knowledge of local alcohol use, felt confident in the subject, and were supportive of each other. They are looking forward to educating the S2 pupils next term.





# Recognition Prize Bike Draws and the "Big Event" Fun Afternoon



Effort and a good attitude in school were recognised last month when we made a special prize draw for 4 mountain bikes - one for each of the school's House groups; Adam Smith, Beveridge, Carlyle and Oswald. The lucky winners are pictured with Depute Rector, Mr Sandy Young ; (l to r) Jordan Bell, Ross Allan, Amy Taylor and Callum McIlravie.

The draws were made as part of the school's annual "Big Event" which featured fun activities and games afternoon with inflatables, sports, crazy golf, a travelling zoo, health and community learning stalls and input on teamwork from the Army. The event was coordinated by Depute Rector Mrs Davidson and the Recognition Committee.

Mr Young said the afternoon had been a great success, and was helped by the weather. "It's right that we recognise those pupil who follow our school motto and try their best", he added. He also thanked the draw sponsors; Friends of Kirkcaldy High School, The KHS Parent Association and Spokes Cycles, High Street, Kirkcaldy.





## ***KHS Represented at the Adam Smith Global Foundation Lecture***

KHS was represented at the Adam Smith Lecture in June, delivered by Professor Tom Devine at the St Bryce Kirk. The new prefect leadership team enjoyed the talk on the "Mysteries of the Scottish Enlightenment" and afterwards met Rt Hon Gordon Brown at the reception at the Auld Kirk. Pictured (l to r) are Ronan Ritchie, Mark Moseley, Amy Farmer and Hannah McGowan.



## ***Please "Brake" Along Dunnikier Way***



Kirkcaldy High School pupils gave drivers something to think about when they lined a section of Dunnikier Way recently to urge drivers to slow down near schools. KHS was taking part in the national "BRAKE" campaign which highlights this important issue. Over a thousand youngsters including visiting pupils from local primary schools took part in a brisk walk around Dunnikier Park before returning to school along the busy Dunnikier Way. Mrs Aitken (Senior Depute Rector) said that the event had served its purpose and that many drivers clearly got the message. Pictured are a group of senior students with their banners along part of the route.

## ***Babcock Engineers—Testing to Destruction***

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, a group of engineers from Babcock International Rosyth came to the school to work with our Higher and Advanced Higher Mathematics pupils. The pupils were given the challenge of designing, building and testing (to the point of collapse!) a model crossbeam. The pupils had to buy the required resources and work within a given budget.

This was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to see how their mathematical skills could be applied in a real life context. Mr S Allan, of the Maths Dept, who organised the event, said that the engineers from Babcock were very impressed by the way in which our pupils worked together and were able to build creative structures which met the given criteria.



## ***Friends of Kirkcaldy High School ... Thanks!***

Many thanks to the "Friends" for the recent donation of £2500 towards the ongoing upgrade of the Assembly Hall. We have now improved the projection facilities to cinema standard, renewed the stage lighting and replaced the curtains. Please call 01592 583405 if you would like to become a member of FoKHS. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## "Crest" Awards for Science & Technology

Over the past term, 6 S2 pupils - Ewan Rae, Siobhan Robb, Kieran Wyse, Islay Connelly, Ashley Davidson and Liam Mitchell - have participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Maths) Go4Set project based around sustainability and renewable energy. They have been working in partnership with Craig Anderson from local business Smith Anderson and also the Hydrogen Office in Methil, both of which they visited and got a better understanding of how to reduce a building's impact on the environment. The group presented their design to judges at a celebration event at Adam Smith College in Kirkcaldy where they achieved a well deserved CREST silver award.



## Prefect Leadership Team 2013-2014 Announced

Congratulations to all our new prefects, who were honoured at our special ceremony last month. Todd Dutiaume, coach of Fife Flyers, presented Sports Colours and Saltire Volunteer Awards and the new prefect team was announced in front of an audience of parents, carers and staff.



Mrs Aitken (Senior Depute)

presented the prefect badges and Mr Allan (Rector) announced the leadership team of; Mark Moseley (Head Boy), Amy Farmer (Head Girl), Stephanie Campbell, Daniel Garvie, Hannah McGowan and Ronan Ritchie (Deputes). Mark and Amy are pictured above with Todd Dutiaume.

## Big Hearted Jack Goes the Extra Mile



Jack Rae (S3) recently completed the 5K race at the Edinburgh Marathon in personal best time raising £615 for Meningitis Research Foundation after the tragic death of his close pal, Gregor Smith.

Mr Allan (Rector) was full of praise for Jack, saying: "He's a big-hearted kid and a real credit to the school and to his mum, Leanne".

## Inter House Games Results

Well done to all those who took part in the S2 and S3 Competition at the end of term;

S2: 1st Beveridge & Carlyle; 3rd Adam Smith & Oswald.

S3: 1st Adam Smith; 2nd Carlyle; 3rd Oswald and 4th Beveridge.

## Life After KHS—Former Pupil Scott Harper

Scott left KHS in 2011, having been Dux, Silberline Scholarship winner and one of our most outstanding students in recent times. He now studies Mathematics at St Andrews University and was recently invited to share his experiences of and ideas about Science Education at a conversation day run by Education Scotland and School Inspectors. His contributions were very highly valued.

Scott was also one of the 10 UK finalists for the "First Year of the Year Award" sponsored by Ernst and Young. To get this far he took online psychometric tests, gave extended answers to three questions, attended an assessment day at the central London office of Ernst and Young, and gave a presentation to the head of graduate recruitment and the partner for graduate recruitment. He also met Sir Trevor McDonald at the Presentation Lunch at Canary Wharf where he was the guest speaker!

Overall for his first two years Scott had a credit-weighted average of 19.5 (out of 20) and was on the "Deans' List". In first year he won the class medal for physics, in second year he topped the statistics class (winning The Duncan Prize) and the prize for best overall performance. He also won the class medal for the second year pure maths module (Tullis Prize), the award for best overall performance and the Carstairs Book Prize for best performance in second year mathematics. Scott actually 8 won out of the 10 prizes for which he was eligible and is an outstanding ambassador for Kirkcaldy High School.





## KHS Pipe Band Success

Following the highly successful trip to Ingolstadt in March, the KHS novice juvenile Pipe Band continues to go from strength to strength.

The band competed at Bathgate for the British Championships, gaining a respectable 12th placing out of 21 bands, then recently at Markinch Highland Games the band lifted 1st prize in their section bringing home a lovely piece of silverware again. This is on display in the school.



## P7 Languages Fair



Primary 7 pupils from Capshard are pictured involved in active learning, designing t-shirts as part of our French language welcome experience held in May.

## Premiership Football Trip to Newcastle Utd



Last month a KHS football daft group joined pupils from Glenrothes High School on a trip to Newcastle United. After a long bus journey south and countless Lucozades later the boys and girls were challenged to a friendly football game against local football team, Swalwell Juniors. With two games played and the weather not on our side, Swalwell came out on top but only after a good fight from the Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes pupils - so much so that our very own Greg Johnston was named 'Man of the Match' - receiving a trophy at the presentations.

The group later had a brilliant tour around St James' Park where they got to see what it was like to be Alan Pardew in the Geordies' dug-out. The group then had the experience of training at the NUFC Training camp where their skills were put to the test.

They then made their way back to watch the big match where they soaked up the terrific atmosphere, and a little sunshine. The match itself, Newcastle vs. Arsenal, proved to be very eventful with a few near misses and an unfortunate ending for the Magpies, proving it was just not meant to be = losing 1-0 to Arsenal, who now qualify for the Champions League. Well done to them. The weekend was fun filled and an experience not to be missed, so watch out for the next one!

## Important Dates for 2013-2014

### Parents'/Carers' Evenings 2013-2014

These take place as detailed below, from 5.00pm - 7.30pm. Please expect your son/daughter to make appointments on the schedule which is issued about 2 weeks before each event. You will receive a letter with full details in advance;

<b>P7 Tour of School</b>	<b>Tues 29 Oct 13</b>	<b>S3 Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Tues 28 Jan 14</b>
<b>S1 Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Wed 20 Nov 13</b>	<b>S4 Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Tues 10 Dec 13</b>
<b>S2 Learning Fair</b>	<b>Tues 18 Feb 14</b>	<b>S4 into S5 Info. Evening</b>	<b>Tues 21 Jan 13</b>
<b>S2 Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Wed 26 Feb 14</b>	<b>S5/6 Parents' Evening</b>	<b>Thurs 13 Mar 14</b>

### Reporting Dates 2013-2014

As well as our regular "on-track" letters for S4-6, please expect more detailed reports to be posted home at these times;

<b>S1 Settling In Report</b>	<b>Fri 27 Sept 13</b>	<b>S3 Report (with Profile)</b>	<b>Fri 23 May 14</b>
<b>S1 Report</b>	<b>Fri 13 June 14</b>	<b>S4 Report</b>	<b>Fri 21 Mar 14</b>
<b>S2 Report</b>	<b>Fri 7 Feb 14</b>	<b>S5/6 Report</b>	<b>Fri 13 Dec 13</b>

Term times, other important dates and lots of information about the school, including revision materials for exam courses, can be found on our website; [www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs)



## ***Sloping Off! - Ski Trips to USA and Europe***

During the first week of the Easter holidays 34 pupils and 4 members of staff spent a week in Winter Park, Colorado skiing and snowboarding. The snow conditions were exceptional and were complemented with the breathtaking scenery of the Rocky Mountains. It was truly the trip of a lifetime and all those present had an excellent time. In the Easter break 2014, 25 pupils will be taking to the slopes in Andorra as the school makes its first trip to Europe to ski.



## ***"Well Done to All Involved" - Sponsored Walk Raises £4500 for MeningitisUK***

The sponsored walk we held in May, organised by Mrs Goudie (Guidance) in memory of Gregor Smith, who tragically died of meningitis in February, has been even more successful than we had hoped.



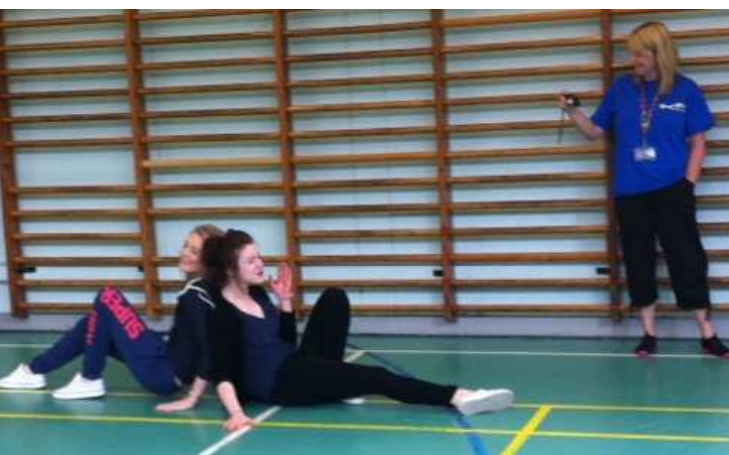
Over 75 young people walked from Kirkcaldy to Kinghorn and back, raising over £4500 in the process. This is a wonderful tribute to Gregor's memory.

MeningitisUK will benefit and we plan for the organisation to be our main fund raising/charity partner for the next few years to come.

We will remember Gregor and fight meningitis.

## ***Shakespeare Schools' Festival 2013 KHS Supported by Professional Dancers***

For several years, KHS has participated in the national Shakespeare Schools' Drama Festival – a fantastic festival which showcases the bard's work and provides a great opportunity to perform. KHS is the leading Fife school in this initiative which builds confidence and teamwork as well as being entertaining and fun. We have recently performed at The Byre Theatre in St Andrews and at Falkirk Town Hall. Having staged Macbeth, A Mid-Summer Night's Dream and The Tempest in previous years, this year Kirkcaldy High School presents Romeo and Juliet—a complex and much loved work. To assist with the tricky choreography of the play, Directors Mrs Bruce and Mrs Garrie of the Drama Department hired in a professional dance company to coach the cast (see photos below). Romeo and Juliet will be staged at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes on Thursday 7 November. Ticket details soon.



# Creative Bakers Pass the Test

Our creative bakers have wowed teachers and exam judges with their skills at an end of year assessment. The S5 and S6 pupils all had to bake and decorate a cake for a special occasion for the finale of their SQA Creative Cakes class, which carries an Intermediate 2 qualification.

HE teacher, Mrs Roberts, who has been running the course this year, said she had been very impressed with the results. "They all baked the cakes and put marzipan on them before the Easter holidays, then, since they came back this term they have been working on decorating them, with some stunning results," she said. Cree Johnston, 4th right, said: "It has been an amazing course. I have studied hospitality since S2 and this was a good addition to it." Shannon Napier, 4th left, won the prize as top cake decorator and produced a special KHS badge cake which was raffled off at Prizегiving.



## Our New "Active Schools" Sports Ambassadors

Our new Active Schools Coordinator, Robert Greenhorn, thanks all those who applied for these prestigious positions.

The standard of applications was extremely high and choosing only four proved very difficult.

The interviews, conducted by Robert and Senior Depute Mrs Aitken resulted in the appointments of Scott Binnie, Nicolle Arnold, Claire Penman, and Mark Dunsire as our new ambassadors. They will promote Health and Wellbeing across the school in the session ahead and are pictured with Robert. Well done and best wishes to our Sports Ambassadors.



## Kirkcaldy High School Fairtrade School

Very well done to Ms Montador (Librarian) and her team of pupils led by Kieran Anderson, John Evans and Elizabeth Jenkins, whose commitment to ethical trading ensures that KHS has again secured "Fairtrade" status—one of the few Fife secondaries to do this.



## Raising Sexual Health Awareness

You will be aware that KHS is pioneering a proactive and progressive approach to try to reduce unwanted pregnancy among teenagers. Kirkcaldy has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in Scotland and our school is addressing this through enhanced sex and relationships education programmes and an in-house contraception and advice clinic run by our school nurse.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April a Sexual Health awareness evening was held in the school's library, encouraging parents and carers with young people attending Kirkcaldy High School, to come and meet some of the agencies the school regularly liaise with when supporting our pupils in a variety of areas. A number of parents and carers attended and were happy to engage in the evening's activities.



From the school, Principal teachers of Guidance: Mrs Houston and Mrs Ritchie had their own stall, raising awareness to parents and carers about the role PSE has within the curriculum and in particular Health and Wellbeing. The evening was a great success with guest speakers and a range of displays for everyone to engage with and ask questions. Providing valuable insight was: Yvonne Kerr: Senior blood borne virus and sexual health improvement officer (pictured above with a group of parents). Emma Little: Parent and Carer development worker. Kirsty Durham: nurse practitioner - sexual health fife. Joleen McCool: Hub Coordinator Kev Scott from Clued-up. Debbie Wilson: School Nurse Team Leader. Valerie Reid: School Nurse and Lesley McKay: Health Promotion Officer and of course our own Mrs Houston and Mrs Ritchie.



## Nicole is KHS' "Chef of the Year"

Very well done to all our S3 finalists for KHS CHEF OF THE YEAR 2013 and especially to our top 3 - 1st - Nicole Ligman, 2nd Kirsten Dobbie, 3rd Courtney Hunter.

Nicole's winning dish (which she designed herself) was a mouth watering gorgonzola stuffed chicken breast, wrapped in pancetta and served with a raspberry sauce. The judges, former DHT Judith Kerr and former HE teacher Pauline Forrester, were extremely impressed.



## Literacy Across Learning – Update

### S2 Journalism Project

S2 pupils were able to get hints and tips on their journalistic writing skills when Tanya Scoon visited from the Fife Free Press in May. Tanya explained about her life as a local journalist and answered a multitude of questions that the S2 classes put to her. This fantastic opportunity allowed our budding journalists to have an insight into what the role involves and they were encouraged by her enthusiasm and experiences. It also helped to make our unit on Newspapers and Journalism relevant which is invaluable for our pupils as it allows them to understand how they can make wider use of the skills they are developing.

### Primary Visits

Teachers from the English Department were able to meet and work with our future S1 when they attended the cluster primary schools last month. Staff each attended one of the schools and taught a lesson in connection with the school badge. Pupils were able to ask questions about what it would be like to move up to 'the big school', whilst producing their own badges which we are now proudly displaying in our English corridors. Staff were received well by the P7s and the pupils seemed genuinely excited about working with us in the future.

### Author Visit

Earlier this term, writer Celia Bryce came to visit some of the second year pupils. We were given a preview of her new book 'Anthem for Jackson Dawes'. She was also running a workshop showing us different writing techniques such as taking our senses into account and writing about our feelings. Everybody came up with expressive stories and poems about nature. Overall the session was informative and helped us with our creative writing in English.

*By Sheree Samson, Rachael Stoddart, Kirstin Moore (S3)*

## Big Bang = Big Success for KHS ... Birmingham Here We Come!

On the 14th June, S1 and S3 science club pupils attended the Big Bang at the SECC in Glasgow, an event which attracted 5000 pupils from across the country to compete in various categories across science, technology, engineering and maths. Massive congratulations are due to the S3 pupils who won their category and have qualified for the national finals in Birmingham next March. The group, consisting of; Charlotte Macmillan, Lauren Ferriday, Usamah Majeed, Talia Toruntay, and Grace Pierce carried out a fantastic project on how listening to music affects memory and learning. See picture below right (Sophie Murray was also part of the team but is not pictured).

Congratulations are also due to the S1 science pupils, who all achieved their CREST bronze award with their wind turbine design project.



## Best Wishes to our "Arkwright" Scholarship Engineers

## "Summer" Photo Shoot Winners



The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK—awarded through a rigorous selection process to high-calibre students in year S4 (Scotland), the Scholarship supports students through their Highers and encourages students to pursue engineering or related areas of design at university or through a high-quality apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field.

Well done to the S1 "Learning Plus" photo competition winners for the summer term;

Winner —Kiera O'Hagan, Runners-Up; Claire McDonald and Luke McQueen. Kiera's photo is shown below and features on our "Twitter" Homepage

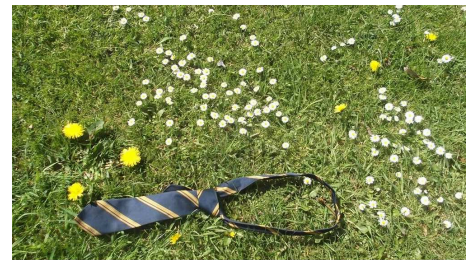
Follow us @KirkcaldyHigh. As well as Twitter, please see our website at [www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs).

Also, parents/carers who are not registered for our email list can ask to be added. Please email [Kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk) or use the "Contact" section on our website.

The Engineering Scholarships are sponsored by industrial companies, universities, charitable trusts, trade associations, professional engineering institutions, the Armed Services and personal donors.

This year we were in the unique position as 6 pupils at Kirkcaldy High School, out of the 600 high-potential UK candidates, were called for interview. The application costs associated for the candidates' was kindly sponsored by FMC Technologies, Pitreavie, Dunfermline.

Pupils are from left to right, Farhaan Saeed, Ryan Hope, Cameron Stone, David Sellars, Jamie-Luke Garrett and Cameron Fleming.



## Reading Project Success for First Years



The 29th of May saw the culmination of another highly successful Reading Project for 18 S1 pupils with a presentation for families and friends. Over the previous six months the pupils had taken part in a wide range of different activities based around improving their reading skills including a Scottish version of 'Call My Bluff', and investigating the grisly behaviour of Burke and Hare in Edinburgh. Through the completion of a range of different challenges they earned the right to go on trips to the Scottish Deer Centre in Cupar (see photo left); the Dundee Science Centre, and Edinburgh Castle and Dungeon, where they saw at first hand some of the artefacts that they had been reading about.

Not only did they enjoy the learning experiences, they also made significant strides forward with their reading; some pupils improved their reading ages by almost three years over the six months that the project ran. This was down to hard work and commitment from the pupils and Mrs Harper and Dr Jones were delighted to showcase their efforts at the recent presentation. Mr Allan presented the pupils with their certificates and highlighted the tremendous improvements that they had achieved

with the support of their families. We hope that they continue to make such wonderful progress with their learning, and that reading becomes a lifetime's pleasure for them.

**KHS TRAFFIC PLAN—Parents/Carers are asked not use the staff car park at the Crematorium side of the school at any time – including before school.**