



### **The Rector writes ...**

#### **Diary Dates**

**Tues 1 Oct:** Engineering and Construction Industry Training Board Workshops, Dress Up Disco in the evening  
**Wed 2 Oct:** Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg, Road Safety Theatre  
**Thurs 3 Oct:** Who's Shoes? Fundraiser for the Eve Appeal, Bag packing at ASDA for Meningitis UK after school  
**Fri 4 Oct:** Dress down day, in aid of "DEBRA". School closes for holiday  
**Mon 21 Oct:** Pupils return to school, Yeargroup Assemblies this week  
**Thurs 24 Oct :** Club XL Trip to Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" at 7pm  
**Tues 29 Oct:** Personal Finance Class trip to the Bank of Scotland Museum, Edinburgh. P7 Open Evening. Non catchment families welcome, please call 01592 583405 for details  
**Thurs 31 Oct:** Career Planning Day for all S4 at Ingliston, Edinburgh  
**Mon 4 Nov:** House Assemblies this week  
**Thurs 7 Nov:** Senior UK Maths Challenge, Shakespeare Schools Festival - KHS presents "Romeo and Juliet" at Rothes Halls.  
**Mon 11 Nov:** Remembrance Event at 11am. Wreath laying at our own war memorial  
**Tues 12 Nov:** "Safe Drive Stay Alive" Young Driver event at Rothes Halls. All S5 attend. Parent Council Meeting at 7pm  
**Fri 15 Nov:** In-Service Training Day. All teachers are involved in subject based conferences across Fife discussing the new qualifications known as the "Nationals".

**O**ur termly newsletters allow us to record and reflect upon recent developments and successes, and to keep parents, carers and the wider community informed about Kirkcaldy High School. As ever, this has been a hectic term with many highlights. At times, I find it astonishing to consider the breadth of opportunities and the extent of support we offer our young people. I am immensely proud of all of our pupils and hugely appreciative of the hard work and dedication of our staff. Reading over the latest pages in our story, I'm sure you'll realise why.

Annually, in August, we see the publication of the SQA exam results and I am delighted to report that once again we have seen a rising trend over almost all of the reported indicators. Hundreds of young people have seen their hard work and effort rewarded as they matched or bettered the ambitious targets they set themselves at the start of last session. I would like to offer special congratulations to those young people who could not have done better; Chris Duffy and Abigail James (8 top level Standard Grades) and Stef Campbell, Saad Majeed and Humza Saleem (5 "A" grades at Higher). Well done!

However, our exam achievement goes further than that. When baseline testing at age 11 is taken into account, KHS pupils do exceptionally well. In terms of "value added" based on the tests conducted in all Fife schools by Durham University, this year's exam results show that KHS pupils do relatively better than those in any other secondary school in Fife. In other words, Kirkcaldy High School is top of the table for "added value".

As always, we have seen a significant turnover in staff, with several new teaching appointments from August. At the start of session we welcomed new teachers; Miss Tennant in Physics, Mr Penman in Maths, Mrs Hunter in Maths, Mrs McLean in Modern Studies, Mr Kerr in PE and Mrs Holmes in English. We also formally welcomed Dr Murray to the permanent staff in Chemistry after his probation period

in KHS. We were joined by probationer teachers Miss Ho in PE and Ms Kerek in English. Also, we welcomed Mr Davidson in RME, who started just prior to the summer break. Miss Bell was welcomed back after a spell at Buckhaven High School, as was Mr Cromb, back from his international exchange year in North Carolina.

We also welcomed Robert Greenhorn, as our new Active Schools Coordinator. Robert is doing a terrific job of boosting participation in sport and physical exercise alongside our active schools ambassadors from S5 and S6. Finally, we welcomed two new members of the Technician team; Mr Murphy and Mrs Borland.

Other staff are on the move. Best wishes to Mrs Bruce, Biology, who moves to Forrester High School in Edinburgh to take up a position closer to home. The same goes for Mrs McNeill, English, who is moving to Falkirk High School. After the October break, we will be joined by new staff in Biology and English; Mrs Gannon and Mr Ritchie.

Congratulations to Miss Keeble, who has been appointed as guidance teacher for Adam Smith whilst Mr Kowbel is on secondment to Lochgelly High School. Also, very well done to Mrs Hardie, who becomes our Pupil Support Coordinator, and to Miss Easson, now Pupil Support Officer.

It is with very great sadness that I must report the death of Joan Muir, who took early retirement in 2008 after many years service to KHS as a music teacher and guidance teacher. Joan was a terrific friend to many here - much loved and highly regarded. I know that many people across Kirkcaldy will mourn the passing of such a great character and supporter. Joan's uncommon compassion and kindness made her a true favourite of very many of her pupils. She will be very sorely missed by us all.

The "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" continue to support our pupils in so many meaningful ways; through fundraising, mentoring senior pupils, driving the bus on trips and in a host of other ways. The recent mentors' meeting was a remarkable collection of talent from the world of engineering, medicine, education and business. I am confident that our young people will be inspired and motivated by the regular contact offered by the FoKHS.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us if you require assistance or advice.

With warmest regards

***We have an ancient Latin motto in KHS.  
It is 'Usque Conabor' or 'I strive to the utmost'.  
This is what we are about.***

## Building Teamwork at Fordell Firs



In September, all S1 pupils had a great time when they focussed on team working, leadership skills and personal growth through a series of problem solving tasks as part of an outdoor learning experience at Fordell Firs near Dunfermline. Each House group - Adam Smith, Beveridge, Carlyle and Oswald, had a day away at the camp which is the Scouts National Activity Centre. The pupils had the chance to try out a range of activities including pot holing, climbing and archery. Many thanks to "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" for their financial support. Fund raising from last year's ceilidh subsidised the price of the trips.

## Cheering On Scotland!

Many thanks to the staff who are helping KHS pupils contribute to the national football team's recent revival by running buses to Hampden. They were there for the Belgium match and will cheer on the Scots against Croatia shortly. Well done Mr English and Mr I'Anson.

We'll also be running trips to the autumn rugby internationals at Murrayfield in November. Many thanks to Mr MacDonald.

## "STEM" - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Update



Miss Higham reports that our S1 Science Club has again proved popular this term, with ever increasing numbers each week. So far, pupils have had the opportunity to make some alien goo, have a go at fire writing and to make lava lamps. There is also a trip to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh being planned by the group.

S2 Science "Enrichment" classes have taken over some of the work carried out by S3 last year at the Dunnikier Park Biodiversity Development Project. They have taken samples to measure water pollution

and used microscopes to detect and identify which micro organisms are living in the water. Most recently, they have helped the Council to spread wild flower seed and a variety of grass seeds to cultivate the meadow area and bring in new species to the park. You will no doubt have seen the changing face of Dunnikier Park. It is soon to become a "country park" and is now characterised by wild planting and wetlands. KHS is pleased to be part of this major green project.



## KHS at the Last Ever Airshow

A group of KHS pupils had a great time at the last ever RAF Leuchars Airshow in September. The pupils experienced first hand the work of the RAF and got to know more about aircraft, flying and aviation. There were opportunities to better understand the varied work of the Royal Air Force and gain insight into career opportunities too.



The group was led by teachers Mr Turnbull and Mr Melville, pictured with some of the group. Our young people were encouraged to explore some of the RAF support roles eg search and rescue, operations support etc. All agreed they had an excellent experience.

## Our Dress Code - Dress to Impress

Thanks for your continued support with uniform. We work better together when pupils identify with the school and our shared values through a common dress code. **PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD BE WORN TO SCHOOL;** white shirt (preferably with a "formal" stiff collar) or blouse, school tie knotted near the throat, plain black trousers or skirt. A school branded fleece or plain black jumper or cardigan is also appropriate but it must be a v-neck so that the tie is visible. No jeans, track suits, white or coloured shoes/trainers, leggings or hooded clothing are allowed. Footwear must be plain black.

In S5/6, all seniors are expected to wear a black blazer with the badge on the breast pocket. S5 have been issued with braid for the pocket and S6 should have the blazer fully braided in their House colour. Coloured braid is available free of charge from the school office. To encourage the wearing of a blazer, we permit S5/6 suitably attired to gain early entry for lunch. All other pupils join the general queue.



# Middleden Woods Looking Good!

As part of ASDA's "Community Life" programme, over 60 KHS pupils were recently involved in a litter pick and clean up of the Middleden Woods, opposite the school. We were well supported by Chic MacPhee of the Fife Council Cleaning Team, Community Wardens, led by Ian Wilson and several staff from ASDA's Carberry Way store. Special thanks go to Jean Ritchie, ASDA Community Champion and teachers Mrs Davidson, Mrs Goudie and Mrs Dempsey.



# Rotary Interact Club News



Well done to our Interact Club members, who recently received a special citation for their fundraising efforts at a special lunch at the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy regular meeting in the Dean Park Hotel. The group was also very pleased to be able to present a cheque for £216 to The Cottage Family Centre, Templehall, to support its ongoing work with families experiencing hardship. The sum was raised from a "Biathlon" (running and swimming) and the Tombola stall which they held at a special showing of The Happy Lands movie in school in June. All the members who took part in the fundraising events went along to meet the staff and present the cheque. The Interact Club has also recently participated in other activities including visiting Chapel Level Care Home and selling merchandise for Children In Need.

# Celebrating Roald Dahl

This term, all S1 pupils met together in the school library, to partake in some 'whizzbang-poppingly-great-nonsense.' This fun learning opportunity was the final event to celebrate Roald Dahl Week. In the afternoon, pupils enjoyed completing puzzles, designing bookmarks, and colouring character drawings, before watching some scenes from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' on the Library big screen.

In English classes, all pupils participated in a Writing Competition, listened to a documentary about Roald Dahl, reviewed some key areas of Dahl's writing and also enjoyed some movie clips featuring his most famous characters.



# Arkwright Engineers' Success

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers the most prestigious technical scholarship scheme in the UK.

Every year Arkwright Engineering Scholarships

are awarded after a rigorous selection process to high-calibre students in year S4 (in 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.



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 with 3 pupils from Kirkcaldy High School being successful in gaining scholarship. This is a remarkable achievement—the highest success rate of any Scottish state school.

The initial application cost to the candidates was kindly sponsored by FMC Technologies, Pitreavie, Dunfermline. Pupils, from left to right are David Sellars, Farhaan Saeed and Ryan Hope. Representing Arkwright are Mr D Spofforth and Mr I Bell. The formal ceremony is in Glasgow in a few weeks.

## Sports Leaders at KHS

After completion of a very successful SFA run Coaching Course, our S5/6 Sports Leaders have been out in our 4 cluster primary schools; Capshard, Fair Isle, Torbain and Valley, developing the ball skills of the pupils. Our Sports Leaders intend to organise a football festival shortly.



## Follow KHS on Twitter

The Kirkcaldy High School "Twitter" news service is proving to be very popular with almost 450 "followers" – a figure which is growing every week. Please follow @KirkcaldyHigh to keep up with all the latest news. Pupils can get access to the daily announcements and parents/carers can be kept informed of all news and developments. With email, Twitter and our excellent website, KHS is using modern media to communicate effectively.

We also have our fortnightly S1/2 homework notification service by email. If you do not receive regular emails and would like to be added to the list, please contact us at [kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kirkcaldyhs.enquiries@fife.gov.uk).

Our website has also received recognition for its content and clarity, being used by Fife Council trainers as an example of best practice. Please visit our website for all the latest news, including "Twitter" feeds. The website also offers good study support resources, past papers etc for those studying Higher and Intermediate courses: [www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/kirkcaldyhs)

## Fife Schools Football— KHS Lads Called Up

Congratulations to Kieran Johnston and Danny Corstorphine, who have been selected for the Fife U18 squad. Josh Binnington and Owen Dickson have also received the call up, for the Fife U15 squad. Well done all!

Kieran and Danny also took part in a recent Scottish Cup tie in which the U18s staged an astonishing comeback to beat Perth Academy on penalties after being 4-2 down with 5 minutes to play. We are looking forward to the next round against Montrose Academy later in October.

## Italy Expedition— October 2014

Thanks to Mr Parkinson, who now confirms that we have enough pupils interested in next year's trip. Pupils will stay on the Amalfi coast and visit Pompeii, Herculaneum, Naples and Vesuvius, as well as enjoying the odd gelato no doubt!

## "Respect Us" Anti- Bullying Group at KHS

We always hope that bullying is not an issue and that it will not affect you. At Kirkcaldy High School a group of S5 and S6 pupils have taken it upon themselves to create a new initiative to tackle the issue head on. The group of students are on hand to help tackle any friendship issues or bullying and is targeted towards S1 and S2 pupils, though any pupil who needs someone to speak to can see them. Every lunchtime, from 1:15pm there are always four members of the group available to deal with and resolve any issue brought to them. No problem is ever too small!

S6- Ricki Connor, Jetta Aitchison, Hannah McGowan, Ciaran Haddow, Jack Moffat, Saad Majeed, Rebecca Gray, Stephanie Campbell, Erin Parsons, Liam Napier, Iona Brady S5 - Sarah Connell, Sophie Simpson, Kirsten Gourlay, Olivia Dickson, Heather Tait, Lauren Reid, Claire Wallace, Samantha Hoggan, Kerry Steedman, Taylor Springthorpe, Ben Ramsey, Abigail James, Chloe Harper, Mark Dunsire, Scott Binnie, James Farmer, Cameron Fleming, Rachael Robertson, Megan Scott.

## Community Partners' "Marketplace"

Many thanks to the many partner agencies and local organisations who laid out their stalls in our Assembly Hall and engaged so well with our young people recently. The theme was "Awareness, Engagement and Volunteering" and we had input from Young Scot, LGBT Scotland, Clued Up Drugs Awareness, Fife Young Carers, YMCA, St Andrews Ambulance, the Lee O'Brien Solvent Trust, Fife Trading Standards, Sexual Health Fife and several other relevant agencies.



Pupils who had their visitor cards fully stamped up were entered for a special prize draw and the winners were: Rebecca Meekison 2A04 - £20 ASDA gift card, and Kenzie Muir 1A11 and Nathan Walters 3C12 – a mixed bag of goodies and gifts to each.





## **International Teacher Delegation Impressed**

It was a pleasure for us to once again host two groups of 12 European teachers of English in August. The groups, comprising teachers from Spain, Poland, Cyprus, Sweden, Latvia, Romania, Sweden, Germany and Belgium, were looked after by Prefects and visited classes to see KHS learners in action. They were very impressed by what they saw and Mr Young (Depute Rector) said that they will carry fond memories of their day in the school. "All of our visitors commented on the positive attitude of our staff and pupils and on the happy atmosphere around the school", he added. For several years now we have contributed to this programme and found it a great opportunity for our young people to get the chance to meet people from all over Europe.



## **Senior Book Group at St Andrews University**

On Wed 11th Sept, a group of selected Senior pupils attended a School Book Group Event at St Andrews University. They were accompanied by Miss Bell, PT English and Dr Jones, from the Learning and Behaviour Development Department.

On the day, pupils took part in a Quick-fire Quiz, led by Lisa Ballantyne, author of 'The Guilty One.' Jordan Sinclair, S5, was one of 4 students to win a prize. Jordan was very happy with his mug and pen-drive - two prizes donated by Ms Ballantyne herself.

Ms Ballantyne discussed her time as a student at the University, before pupils later split into tutorial groups to discuss aspects of her highly successful novel. In the afternoon, pupils learned about various aspects of University life at St Andrews and took the chance to ask questions about their own personal ambitions for further study.

The 4th year University Students leading this session congratulated our pupils on how well they had discussed the novel and contributed in tutorials and said they had been great ambassadors for Kirkcaldy High School.

We had an enjoyable, interesting day out. Miss Bell and Dr Jones intend now to continue this work and establish a Senior Book Group in KHS, meeting once per term to discuss various good quality texts.

## **New Prefects are Great Ambassadors**

Our new Pupil Team Leaders were announced at last term's Prefect Presentation Ceremony; Head Boy – Mark Moseley, Deputes – Danny Garvie and Ronan Ritchie. Head Girl – Amy Farmer, Deputes – Steph Campbell and Hannah McGowan.

The full team comprises; Jetta Aitchison, Graeme Allan, Greig Anderson, Kirsty Annan, Nicole Arnold, Jordan Bell, Jamie Blyth, Iona Brady, Frankie Bremner, Rebecca Callaghan, Amy Cairns, Stephanie Campbell, Jack Cargill, Robert Carlyle, Caitlin Carr, Max Coleman, Jonathan Collins, Rikki Conner, Stewart Coole, Ryan Don, Emma Duncan, Alexander Duncan, Amy Farmer, Ivana Figala, Gavin Finlayson, Kimberley Fyfe, Daniel Garvie, David Gilchrist, Emma Gilmour, Shaun Gilmour, Martin Glass, Ciaran Haddow, Sophie Harrower, Lara Johnston, Niall Lister, Rachel Livingstone, Natasha MacDonald, Saad Majeed, Hannah Martin, Eilidh McDaniel, Hannah McGowan, Craig McMahon, Kayla McPhee, Jack Mofat, Holly Moghimian, Stephanie Montgomery, Mark Moseley, Liam Napier, Erin Parsons, Claire Penman, Megan Rhodes, Ronan Ritchie, Caitlyn Robb, Karly Robertson, Rachel Robertson, Louise Russell, Alex Snaddon, Blair Stenhouse, Ross Stevenson, Scott Thomson, Caitlin Welsh, Jennifer Westland and Isabella Wilson.

## **Olympic Badminton Star Drops In**



We recently got a taste of the Olympics when we were visited by TeamGB badminton player, Imogen Bankier from Glasgow. Imogen is also likely to represent Team Scotland at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games next year.

Imogen talked about what it takes to succeed as an athlete, before answering questions. The visit was designed to help educate students on the importance of healthy eating and exercise, and inspire them to never give up.

Mr Stewart, Head of Health and Wellbeing, said: "It is a great honour for our school to host one of Britain's top athletes. Imogen is a fantastic role model and our pupils loved having her here".

Imogen is pictured with KHS badminton club members in the gym.

## Health & Wellbeing – Chief Medical Officer Visit



It was a real pleasure to welcome the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland to the school in August when Sir Harry Burns addressed all the teachers from KHS and its associated primaries on the theme of Health and Wellbeing. Sir Harry was born and raised in Kirkcaldy and attended St Marie's Primary School before his family moved to Glasgow. He graduated in medicine in 1974, before becoming a surgeon in Glasgow and later Director of Public Health for that city. He was later appointed Professor of Public Health Medicine at the University of Glasgow and then Chief Medical Officer for Scotland in 2005.

Widely respected and regarded as a visionary - a man with a genuine passion for his country and its people, Sir Harry sees the health and wellbeing of Scots as our greatest asset ... or perhaps our greatest liability. For Kirkcaldy, and for other communities, social and economic advancement depends on a happy, healthy and educated population - and we know that these are core issues for all schools serving this community. Sir Harry gave an inspirational talk, and challenged all the teachers present to consider the health and wellbeing implications of all their contacts with young people.

## Drama and Theatre News *by Hannah McGowan S6*

On Wednesday 14th August the Advanced Higher Drama class went to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Throughout the course of the day we managed to see many thought provoking, unique and highly inspiring pieces of drama. These performances are influencing us now as we write and direct our own pieces of drama for Unit 1 of the course. We really enjoyed watching the street performers and we were really inspired by the physical theatre we watched. A fabulous day of learning - many thanks to Mrs Turnbull and the team.

Kirkcaldy High School proudly presents "Romeo and Juliet" at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, on Thursday November 7. Bell Baxter High School are presenting 'The Comedy of Errors' and Kirkland High School will stage 'King Lear' at this year's Festival, which showcases Shakespeare's works in an abridged format. Drama teachers Mrs Bruce and Mrs Garrie are co-directors and have enlisted the help of a professional dance company to assist with the complex choreography which characterises the opening scene of the Bard's poignant tragedy. For ticket enquiries please call 01592 583405.



We have also been working with an outreach team from the National Theatre of Scotland to develop a street theatre interpretation of Joe Corrie's "I am the Common Man" (pic right). Corrie was a world renowned miner/poet from Cardenden who died in 1968. "I am the common man, I am the brute and the slave, I am the fool, the despised, from the cradle to the grave, I am the hewer of coal, I am the tiller of the soil ...." The street event is planned to be part of the "Time o' Strife" event. The drama created will be performed in Room 2 on Kirkcaldy High Street on Saturday 5th October 2013 from 11am.

## "Learning Council" Has a Strong Voice

The "Learning Council" has now successfully replaced the "Pupil Council" and meets every week with Senior Depute Mrs Aitken in the Boardroom. The Council is a team of 26 S6 pupils, whose purpose is to discuss the direction of Learning and Teaching in the school and other whole school issues from a pupil perspective. Feedback from the group is passed on to The Senior Leadership Team and will be shared with all staff to inform their practice. Already the group has met four times and had very productive discussions on the School Improvement Plan, completed a group questionnaire on Teaching, had an input from Mrs Hardie (Pupil Support Coordinator) on Rights Respecting Schools and discussed the school approach to "nurture". Further meetings will focus on student approaches to Learning, study skills and study habits and our Managing Relationships Policy as well as restorative ways to resolve conflicts. There is also an "open floor" at the end of the meeting where students are welcome to raise any other pertinent issues.

This group is a natural development of the former "Pupil Council" and takes its lead from good practice in our cluster primaries - especially Torbain Primary School.

## Visit to Edinburgh Book Festival *by Phoebe McDonald S2*

On Monday the 19th of August Mrs Hume and Mrs Kerr took 15 S2 and S3 pupils to the Edinburgh Book Festival to watch author Sharon Jones in her "Whodunnit?" talk. She talked about her new book "Dead Jealous" and also gave us some great tips for writing good detective/murder mystery stories. We got to hear an excerpt from her book and she talked to us about how she developed her characters. At the end, we met the author and got signed copies of her book. It was really interesting and the tips she gave us will definitely help when we're writing imaginative stories in English!





# House News

by Amy Farmer (Head Girl)

The House Forums are now up and running with representatives from each tutor group. These are led by the house captains and vice captains who were elected in August. Pupils awarded house captain of Carlyle were Emma Gilmour and Liam Napier, with vice captains Iona Brady and Saad Majeed. Kimberley Fyfe and Adam Campbell are the new house captains for Adam Smith, with Kayla McPhee and Jamie Blyth as vice captains. For Oswald, house captains are Kerry Steedman and James Farmer with Santoshi Kaur and Jack Cargill as vice captains. Finally Beveridge house captains are Niall Lister and Rebecca Callaghan with Erin Parsons and Sandy Duncan as vice captains. The purpose of house forums is to ensure that each pupil is represented and has the opportunity to have issues/ideas addressed through their tutor representative, and we congratulate and thank everyone involved for contributing towards this.

The house committee has also been started up, and will plan house events for the year. So far the house committee has planned a house quiz for each term, to be completed in tutor. A tug of war has also been organised, where houses will compete for house points. At the end of the year house points will be counted and the house with the most points will be rewarded. Any pupil who wishes to join the house committee to contribute towards ideas for house events and the planning of these is welcome to do so.

## KHS "In-House" Sexual Health Drop-In

Kirkcaldy High School's own "in-house" sexual health drop in clinic continues to provide an excellent service with School Nurse Val Reid and her team supporting our young people every Friday lunchtime. The service provides advice, practical support with contraception and pregnancy testing and "signposting" to Whytemans Brae Hospital as required. Fife Council has recognised the value of the service offered by nominating the initiative for a national "COSLA" Excellence Award.

## Club XL Cairngorms Trip



Recently, pupils from the Prince's Trust XL class visited the Landmark Outdoor Forest Centre near Aviemore. The S3 pupils organised this trip both for themselves and for some older pupils who had just finished their XL course, and were accompanied by a sixth year pupil who had achieved great success in XL two years previously.

Pupils enjoyed taking part in all the activities on offer which included a rollercoaster, a maze, a climbing wall, water slides, skydiving and two aerial assault courses. Everybody overcame their fears and challenged themselves to have a go at activities that they were a bit apprehensive about trying. It was wonderful to see how well the pupils coped with these challenges and how proud the pupils were of themselves when they had successfully completed their chosen activities.

## Continuing Support for Meningitis UK



Well done to Ewan Rae B012, who recently completed a 50 mile sponsored bike ride in support of Meningitis UK, finishing at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh and raising an amazing £564!

The school supports Meningitis UK in memory of Gregor Smith, one of our pupils who died of the killer disease earlier this year. Further fund raising is planned for later this session.

Thanks also to Jean Ritchie from ASDA's community team. Our charities team will be bag packing in aid of Meningitis UK later this month.



## Higher Chemistry – Site Visit to Mossmorran

## Friends of Kirkcaldy High School – Mentoring Scheme

Many thanks to the many "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" who are giving up time to support senior pupils keep on top of their studies in the year ahead. FoKHS has supported senior pupils for several sessions now with monthly mentoring meetings to discuss progress with courses and provide practical help with studying etc. Many of the FoKHS have direct specialist experience which is of benefit to our young people in fields as diverse as engineering, medicine, education, accountancy, recruitment and business. This year, for the first time, we have also teamed up S6 pupils with recent "Highers" experience to assist S5 undertaking a similar course. FoKHS mentoring has clearly had an impact in the past and we are sure that peer mentoring will have a similarly positive effect.

## Templehall's Got Talent!

Well done to freestyle dancer, Kirstin Graham (S1), who was winner of the prestigious talent contest at Templehall Gala. The judges, including KHS Rector Mr Allan and Cllr Crooks, Chair of the Kirkcaldy Area Committee, had a difficult task to choose between several diverse and high quality acts in August. However, Kirstin greatly impressed with her energy, imagination and skill.



## Clean Sweep!

Our cleaners were officially recognised as the best secondary school team at the recent Fife Council Catering & Cleaning Awards, which celebrate the best cooks and cleaners in the Kingdom. Nominated in the "Best Large Cleaning Unit" category, the team, led by Jane McCowat, beat 16 other secondary schools to the coveted title.

Rector, Mr Allan, pictured left with Jane and the rest of the team, said that many visitors were very complimentary about the internal condition of the school, which is 55 years old this year. He thanked the cleaners, saying that they were a vital part of the Kirkcaldy High School community. "Our cleaners take a real pride in the school and feel part of it. Learning in a bright, clean and tidy environment is a very important element of every young person's education", he added.

## US Author Pays a Visit by Jade Hood S2

Kathryn Erskine, well known children's author from Virginia, USA visited the school earlier this term and talked to pupils about writing – catching the reader's attention, the art of story telling etc .



Not only did our young people gain so much from Ms Erskine's fascinating illustrated talk, they have also been putting her advice into practice. The author was extremely impressed with the pupils in S1, S2 and S6, whom she met and chatted with, commenting on the politeness, interest and positive attitude on show.

She told us about her books, particularly "Mockingbird" which has won several awards. She gave us great tips for writing different types of stories. One of the most interesting things she showed us was the acronym "SASSY" to help us remember the key elements of a good story. Overall, she was fascinating to listen to and gave us a lot of great new writing advice.

## "Diversifire" is a Terrific Experience



Many thanks to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff (formerly Fife Fire and Rescue) at Kirkcaldy Fire Station, who worked with 6 KHS pupils on the

"Diversifire" programme recently. This excellent experience aims to develop confidence and involves training in the use of fire fighting equipment, physical activity, first aid, teamwork, fire awareness and drill.

The parade at the end of the week was a real highlight and Miss Diamond (Depute Rector) said that she was very proud of the achievements of the young people involved. It was great to see parents and carers at the parade and Miss Diamond also thanked Mrs Cairns (Teacher of Learning and Behaviour Development) for her support of the programme.

## Sinister, Dexter!

Recently, two "authentic" Roman legionaries, Quintus and Rufus, (Douglas Eckhart and David Severn of "Real Roman Tours"), put pupils studying Latin and Classical Studies at KHS, through their paces, with marching practice and the chance to try out Roman army uniforms and weaponry.

Grammatica, Mrs Shearer, notes that although there is much interest among pupils at the school in all aspects of ancient Rome, signing up to the rigours of Roman army life might just be one step too far!



Many thanks to Real Roman Tours, who "tweeted" so favourably about the qualities of their latest Caledonian recruits.

Our picture shows legionnaire Scott Blyth (S3) being put through his paces.

**S1 Parent/Carer Evening—Wednesday 20 Nov 2013**  
**S4 Parent/Carer Evening—Tuesday 10 Dec 2013**