



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

#### **Diary Dates**

**Wed 18 Dec** - Christmas Disco (6.30pm start).

**Fri 20 Dec** - Dress Down for charity, Staff X Factor in the Hall, half day close ... Merry Christmas!

**Mon 6 Jan 2014** - Pupils return to school. Yeargroup Assemblies on "Resolutions".

**Friday 10 Jan** - S3 "On track" letter posted home.

**Mon 13 Jan** - House Assemblies with Holocaust Memorial theme—led by S6 pupils Colin Fisher and Amy Farmer, who recently visited Auschwitz.

**Tues 14 Jan** - Scottish Government Ministerial Visit re KHS Sexual Health Clinic. KHS Parent Council meeting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Wed 15 Jan** - Primary Transition Parents Evenings in Torbain and Capshard Primaries.

**Thurs 16 Jan** - Friends of Kirkcaldy High School Meeting at 7pm.

**Tues 21 Jan** - S4 Parents Info Evening re Highers and Course Choice for S5/6.

**Wed 22 Jan** - Primary Transition Parents Evenings in Valley and Fair Isle Primaries.

**Fri 24 Jan** - S4 prelim exams (National 5) start.

**Mon 27 Jan** - KHS Burns' Supper (after school).

**Tues 28 Jan** - S3 Parents/carers evening.

**Mon 3 Feb** - S5/6 Prelim exams start.

***M**ay I take this opportunity to wish all pupils, parents/carers and supporters a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2013 has been a very good year for Kirkcaldy High School, with many highlights reported in our regular newsletters. It has also been marked by several advances in our school/home communications networks. Keeping you informed is fundamental to the partnership working which underpins an effective school experience for all. Please allow me to remind all parents and carers of the different communication channels we use.*

As well as the Newsletter, there is our monthly diary in the Fife Free Press. We also email messages home (including S1/2 homework details) - if you do not receive these, please contact the school and we'll add you to our mailing list. We now use "Parentcall" too—this is a text message alert and it will be used to notify you of any school closure. We regularly ask for updates, but if we do not have your current mobile number, please do advise us. Our website is an up to date resource with lots of "live" information and we are also the leading Fife school in the use of "Twitter" - you can follow us @KirkcaldyHigh.

You will be aware that, since the implementation of "Curriculum for Excellence", there is a change in school qualifications. The biggest change is with the

introduction of the SQA "Nationals" and it was great to see such a good turnout for our S3/4 information evening in November.

For your information the main changes are; **National 3** replaces Standard Grade "Foundation". There is no exam and assessment is throughout the course. N3 is not graded but assessed as a "pass" or "fail".

**National 4** replaces "General" and is assessed in the same way as National 3.

**National 5** replaces "Credit". It is graded A-D, with A-C being regarded as a pass and there is an exam in May.

**Higher** remains the same standard as ever, although the content is being revised for 2015.

**Advanced Higher** is usually taken in S6 and remains the same standard with revised content.

Standard Grade now no longer exists and this session is the last of "Intermediates" for our school.

The current S4 take 6 "Nationals" and it will be the same when the current S3 enter S4. However, taking on board the comments/feedback received from parents/carers, we are looking at ways of delivering a slightly broader range in future.

I will contact all parents/carers early in the New Year to seek your opinion of any proposals and your support for any changes. It could be that we will require to adjust period lengths and the structure of the day to be able to offer greater flexibility. Initial discussion with staff and pupils has taken place and we are looking at good practice in other schools and Local Authorities.

As always, if there is any matter you would want to raise, do be in touch at any time.

All the very best,

## **Get Involved!** **Kirkcaldy High School is YOUR SCHOOL**

All pupils are welcome and strongly encouraged to join in the widespread extra-curricular clubs, activities and support services we offer:

**Monday** Lunchtime; Badminton, Table Tennis, Girls' Netball, Comic Life Club, Radiowaves, IT Committee. After School; Football, Badminton, Girls' Fitness, Homework Club.

**Tuesday** Lunchtime; Charities Committee, Athletics Club, Badminton, Film Club, Chess Club. After School; Football, Zumba, Basketball.

**Wednesday** Lunchtime; Basketball, Build/Fly a Spitfire, Craft Club, Astronomy Club, Shakespeare Festival Players. After School; Football, Netball, Rugby.

**Thursday** Lunchtime; Learning Council, Manga (Comic) Club, Making Rock Music, Rotary Club Interact, Spanish Club. After School; Football, Basketball.

**Friday** Lunchtime; Build/Fly a Spitfire, Science Club, Wind Band, Sexual Health Drop In Clinic with School Nurse. After School; Hockey.

## Jade's Visit to the Scottish Government HQ in Edinburgh

Jade Hood, S2, recently won a national writing competition run by the Scottish Government. She submitted a poem entitled 'Safe' in which she examined the theme of childhood neglect. She was selected, along with 11 other pupils from across Scotland, to attend a meeting at Victoria Quay to discuss how awareness of GIRFEC (Getting it Right For Every Child) should be raised amongst Scottish school children. Here is her account of the day:

'When I arrived we were greeted and put into groups. Firstly, we looked at the 8 main areas of GIRFEC and made mind-maps about them. After that, we looked at the runner-up entries and judged which ones were the best and explained why. We then had a video conference with Eileen Campbell (the head of GIRFEC). Our parents rejoined us and we had lunch before they took us home. It was a fun day and I enjoyed meeting pupils from all over the country. I'm looking forward to the next meeting!'



## First Year Learning Plus Photography Competition

Congratulations to Danny Downie 1C04 for winning the 'Nature in Autumn' photograph competition (below right) and also to Kieran Harmes 1A06 and Reece Horsburgh 1A11, who were runners up.



Danny's atmospheric photograph captured leafless trees in the woods in the school grounds.



## Biology - STEM Update

In November, S3 and Advanced Higher Biology pupils were treated to a visit from a Dr Laura Bailey, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassador from the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Edinburgh.

Dr Bailey talked to pupils about developments in stem cell medicine and the wide range of uses of stem cells.

She also gave a very interesting insight into her role as part of the NHS in developing synthetic blood derived from stem cells as an alternative to relying on blood donations.



Team KHS pictured at the Faraday Science and Engineering Competition held in October.

## Official Launch of the Kirkcaldy Food Bank

KHS was represented recently at the launch of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank in Dysart, when Mrs Davidson (Depute), Ms Montador (Librarian) and Megan Craig (President of the KHS Interact Club) went along to find out more.

Our school is asking all pupils to provide one item - each class has its own collection box. Parents/Carers are urged to support this cause.



### Kirkcaldy Foodbank - Aims and Objectives

- Work towards relieving poverty and hardship in the Kirkcaldy area.
- Support local people and their families to find longer-term solutions, through advice and guidance.
- Work towards a more equitable society by promoting sharing in the local area.
- Promote dignity and respect within the local community.
- Work in partnership with other organisations to alleviate poverty and social exclusion within the Kirkcaldy area.

## Kwik Fit Work Experience

KHS developed a link with Kwik Fit last year and some senior pupils have had the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the Apprenticeship Programme as well and some "hands on" experience in the workshop at Broxburn.

This is truly a unique opportunity as no other Fife school has access to this input from a prospective employer. While we were there the pupils were told that Kwik Fit are looking to Fife in particular for new apprentices this year!

## Actively Learning Scots Language

Mrs Hume's S2 English pupils have recently studied Burns' famous narrative poem 'Tam o' Shanter'. They have spent time working together in groups to produce posters for their peers about the poem. Through collaborative learning, they have shown themselves to be effective contributors and responsible citizens.

The pupils have used the drama studio to practise presenting the information on their posters. They will shortly read sections of the poem to another S2 class, explain what is happening in each section and share their analysis of character, theme and language. If they are successful, they will have taught their audience all about the key aspects of the poem.

## KHS Swimmers—Rich Pool of Talent



Our swimmers had a very successful day recently at the Fife Schools Swimming Championships, winning 10 medals and achieving 8 personal best times.

The winners were;  
Gold - Stephanie Campbell S6, Callum MacGregor S5, Rachel Smith S5, Andrew Campbell S2.  
Silver - Lauren Kerr S3, Andrew Campbell S2.  
Bronze - Callum MacGregor S5, Rachel Smith S5, Andrew Campbell S2.

Other swimmers who represented the school were : Megan Jones S4, Rebekah Robertson S2 and Caitlin Kerr S1.

Andrew, Megan, Rachel, Caitlin, Lauren, Stephanie and Callum are pictured left.

## Christmas Music Cheer

KHS pupils Leah Cooper S2, Lucie Jones S2, Melissa Murphy S5 and Sophie Simpson S5 helped the local ASDA store in Carberry Road kick off its Christmas, playing carols in the foyer recently.

The string quartet, supported by music instructor Mrs Anthony, was well received by shoppers as they played a selection of popular festive tunes.



## Rotary Interact Hi Five Event

Earlier this month, we hosted a "Hi5" games evening in conjunction with the Rotary Club Interact group from Viewforth High School and the Rotary Clubs of Kirkcaldy and Kirkcaldy Raith. Playing giant Jenga, giant Connect 4, snakes and ladders, dominoes and mini golf, the participating teams enjoyed some friendly banter along with nibbles. The winning team comprises KHS Interactors; Louise Wallace, Charlene Burza and Kirsty Scott.



Our Interact group have been very busy this year, raising hundreds of pounds for good causes including the Cottage Family Centre in Templehall, Children In Need, Meningitis Now, the Kirkcaldy Foodbank and Kirkcaldy Community Radio — see photo below, bag packing and fundraising at ASDA, Carberry Road.



## Prelim Exams 2014

These are scheduled to run as follows:

**S4** (National 5) from Friday 24 January 2014.

**S5/6** (Intermediates, Higher and Advanced Higher) from Monday 3 February.

## S1 Hockey Club 2013



## Children in Need 2013

Thank you to everyone who wore their onesies or pyjamas to school last month. Our Charities Committee and Rotary Interact Club got together to coordinate other fund raising. Our total was just over £900.



## Our School Uniform - Our Expectations



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.

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.

## Science Club Trip to "Our Dynamic Earth"

At the end of September, fourteen S1 pupils attended a science club trip to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Pupils had a tour around the exhibition in the morning, looking at how the Earth was made and how it has changed over the millennia. They got up close and personal with an iceberg, took in a 3D simulation looking at the Earth's biomes and got stuck in a downpour in a rainforest.

After lunch, pupils attended a session called 'Meet the Expert' where they got the chance to meet some scientists who shared their research on the solar system with them.

Before going home, they joined in with a workshop looking at the structure of the atom and the electromagnetic spectrum. Here, they got to make their hair stand on end with a van der Graaf generator, find out about some strange things that glow in the dark and use infra red cameras to see themselves in a different light!



## ***Glenrothes Crowds Fall in Love with Romeo and Juliet***

Mr Parkinson of the RE Department offers an account of the Shakespeare Schools Festival held at the Rothes Halls last month:

I've seen versions of Shakespearean tragedy that were unintentionally funny, versions of Shakespearean comedy where no one came even close to laughing and attempts at tragicomedy that combined both mistakes in the one play. That's not the KHS way however and once again we can be seriously proud of our Drama Dept and their travelling players who performed at the Shakespeare Schools Festival in Rothes Halls last week.

Yet again our guys were praised for their discipline and 'better than many professionals' ensemble playing, which says a lot about them, of course, and says a huge amount about the skill of their directors Cheryll Garrie and Elaine Bruce.

As usual the cast were a pretty stellar bunch and due to lack of space and time, only highlighting a few performances may seem invidious. For safety's sake just assume that if they were in it they were brilliant.

The play was Romeo and Juliet and, of course, with Scott Binnie and Rose Henderson in role, there were never going to be any problems. They delivered the lines marvellously, demonstrated the quality of the language perfectly and proved their own ability to bring these sometimes too well known characters to us as real people having real conversations about real stuff. Wonderfully done.

Christopher Duffy was a convincingly nasty Tybalt and, together with Ben Ramsay, Talia Toruntay and Mark Dunsire and others, stirred up exactly the right mix of comedy, menace and emotional involvement. The Capulet/Montague loathing was well done throughout the play, from the very striking opening scene right through to its dissipation at the tragic end, but the hostile interactions, 'thumb biting' comic tension and then the death of Ben's Mercutio were particularly outstanding, the latter being praised in particular by the actor/director giving notes after the performance.

One final comment before you see the play for yourselves, as you must, when it's performed in school. Towards the closing scene as Rachel McIntosh, Romeo's dealer, was about to sell him the poison, the lights failed unexpectedly. Many of us would have lost our nerve but Rachel carried on and was praised afterwards as 'a very brave apothecary'. If you can pronounce it, call her that. Well done everyone!

Full cast; Romeo- Scott Binnie, Juliet – Rose Henderson, Nurse – Megan Greer, Benvolio – Mark Dunsire, Tybalt – Christopher Duffy, Lady Capulet – Taylor Springthorpe, Lady Montague – Rhiannon Watson, Mercutio – Ben Ramsay, Friar Lawrence – Adam Campbell, Paris – Sarah Connell, Princes – Hannah Simpson, Rebecca Gray, Rachel Dunlay, Sampson – Grace Pierce, Abraham/Balthazar – Talia Toruntay, Gregory/Servant – Kimberley O'Callaghan, Friar John – Alisha O'Callaghan, Apothecary – Rachel McIntosh, Citizens – Rachel McIntosh, Alisha O'Callaghan, Romy Sinclair.



## ***Primary 7 Open Evening Success***

Our recent showcase evening was a real success with over 200 families visiting the school to see classes in action and meet staff and young people.

After introductory talks from the Rector and Miss Diamond (Depute Rector and S1 Yearhead) parents and carers of next session's new First Year intake toured the school, commenting on the quality of the school's facilities, the commitment of the staff and the interesting lessons being delivered as part of "Curriculum for Excellence". For most, the explosive Science experiments were a highlight!

Mrs Aitken (Senior Depute Rector) thanks the Prefects who were excellent hosts and guides, once again giving great service to the school. Very many of our seniors are well on track to achieve a Gold, Silver or Bronze Saltire Volunteering Award.

## Staff v Pupils Basketball Challenge *by Karly Robertson S6*



On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, staff and senior pupils participated in a basketball match in order to win house points. Points were also given for spectator numbers — and the large crowd was very appreciative of a competitive match. The staff members were Miss Ho, Miss Mitchell, Mr Stewart, Mr Fulton, Mr Young, and Mr Kerr, with Mr Marshall being the referee.

The Senior Pupils were Stephanie Campbell, Karly Robertson, Jamie Blyth, Martin Glass, Ronan Ritchie, Jack Moffat, Isabella Wilson and Raheem Fevriere.

Unfortunately for the senior pupils the staff won 12-7 in a thrilling match. House points were awarded to Carlyle 55 points, Beveridge 42 points, Adam Smith 41 points and Oswald with 36 points. A big thank you to everyone who took part in the game, and to all the spectators. Also, a big well done to the staff team.

## Our Premiership Trip to Manchester *by Declan Gibson S5*

On Sunday 10 November, around 60 pupils and 5 teachers headed down to Manchester for the day to watch Manchester United play Arsenal at Old Trafford, one of the biggest games of the season. We also took a tour of Manchester City's stadium, The Etihad, and took part in a 5-a-side football tournament.

Despite the 5.30am start, everyone was looking forward to the day ahead. When we got on the bus we had a chance to meet with our Rep from Trans-World Soccer, who was called Scott. After we passed Ecclefechan (birthplace of Thomas Carlyle of "Carlyle" House fame) and had a breakfast stop, we finally arrived in Manchester. Once inside The Etihad, we met with our tour guide, Alex, who was extremely helpful and was able to answer any questions that we asked him.

In the stadium, we saw the trophy room, the gym and also the players' changing rooms and everyone got a few photos with players' shirts. After the tour, some people had a look in the club shop and then we went for a 5-a-side football tournament which was a good way to loosen up after the bus trip.

We then headed to Old Trafford and some people had a look in the Manchester United club shop then on to the 'Big Game', where there was a minute's silence for Remembrance Day. Robin Van Persie scored the only goal of the game for Manchester United in a 1-0 victory. On the way home we stopped for pizza at Gretna.

I have no doubts that everyone had a fantastic time—thanks to all the teachers for the time commitment to these trips—especially Mr I'Anson. We're looking forward to the next one.



## Safe Drive Stay Alive

S5 pupils were strongly affected by their Personal and Social Education experiences this term, when, led by Miss Torp-Petersen (PT Guidance), and accompanied by staff and "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School", they went to the Rothes Halls to be part of the hard-hitting 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' presentation.

The purpose was to raise awareness of the dangers on roads and to make pupils think carefully about road safety as well as their responsibility towards others when driving in future, or as a passenger.

The 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' Roadshow is a thought provoking event designed to shock the pupils into thinking about their actions when driving. We would like to thank the organisers for giving our pupils an invaluable experience, and the chance to meet people whose lives have been shattered by careless driving.

## Remembrance—Lest We Forget

On Monday 11 November we held a two minute silence and a special ceremony at our War Memorial as a mark of respect for those who have fallen in war. With well over 200 names, our memorial is thought to be one of the largest school memorials in Scotland.

We were honoured to be joined by Sergeant Ian Watters and Corporal Kevin Reid of the RAF. After a few words from the Rector and a poetry reading by Mark Moseley (Head Boy), wreaths were laid by Corporal Reid and our pupils. First Year pupil had made special wreaths which incorporated the names of the KHS fallen.

The day before, KHS was represented as Mark and Amy Farmer (Head Girl) joined pupils from the other High Schools in the town to take part in the parade and lay a wreath at the Kirkcaldy War Memorial as part of the official service organised by the British Legion.



## Dr Bike Drops In

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November we had a visit from "Dr Bike", a qualified cycle mechanic, and pupils were asked to bring their bike to school for a free MOT check by the good doctor and his team.

This is the first event in what we hope is the start of KHS pupils learning to love their bikes and get more involved with cycling.

During the winter months we will continue our work on setting up a bike club, the 'KHS Bike Crew' with the support from I Bike and CTC, The National Cycling Charity. We hope to not only get our pupils healthier but also to get them involved in running the club themselves.

There will be opportunities for those pupils who are part of the club to gain qualifications offered by our supporters.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Ms Goudie, PT Guidance, in school.

## KHS Sexual Health Clinic Recognised with National Award

Kirkcaldy High School's own "in-house" sexual health drop in clinic has been granted a "Bronze" Excellence Award by COSLA—The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. School Nurse Val Reid and her team, alongside our Guidance staff, support 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.

We will learn soon whether the service, which is unique in Fife schools, will make it through to the Awards finals held in Glasgow in the spring.

In January, KHS will host Michael Matheson, the Scottish Government's Minister for Public Health, who is on a fact finding mission to highlight good practice in tackling teenage pregnancy around Scotland.

## Inter House Table Tennis



## Leg Waxing Event in Support of Meningitis Now

Photo and Story by Karly Robertson S6



On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December the S3 enterprise class, supported by Miss Nessel, organised a charity event which raised £120 for Meningitis Now. Male senior pupils and male members of staff participated in a leg waxing session.

One member of the audience was picked to wax one victim of their choice. Unfortunately for him, Saad Majeed was chosen. He said that it was 'very painful' which was made apparent when he jumped off the table!

A big thank you to Dr Murray (Chemistry) for announcing and of course the victims Mr Allan (Rector), Mr Turnbull (Computing), Mr Ritchie (English), Martin Glass, Jamie Blyth, Raheem Fevriere, Blair Stenhouse, Liam Brown, Saad Majeed, Mark Moseley and Matthew Lafferty. I am sure they all agree that it was a painful but worthwhile experience.

# Literacy in Action

S1 Pupils helped the English Department to create resources for the Primary 7 Parents' Evening recently. In so doing, they revised nouns, verbs and adjectives and developed their skills in working with others.

Primary 7s and their parents enjoyed participating in the game which tested their ability to make up sentences containing each of these key components. Jai Valery, Reece Watson and Mackenzie Girdwood are pictured playing the learning game.



# Developing St Andrews University Links



Senior pupils in the Higher Classical Studies and Latin classes recently enjoyed a visit from Bryony Green, who is currently studying these subjects at St Andrews University. She brought with her a wide range of Classics books to help support our pupils with their studies, and these books are now on long-term loan to us.

Bryony also spoke about university life in general and answered a wide range of questions on entry requirements, courses, assessment, accommodation, money management and clubs. Proving that university has something for everyone, she told us there is even a "My Little Pony" society and a "Quidditch" sports club!

Afterwards, Bryony commented how much she enjoyed meeting our "impressive" pupils and how welcoming our school was. Bryony is pictured with some Higher Latin pupils poring over the new on loan library.



## KHS Football Squads 2013-2014



Photographed top left is the S2 Squad. S3 are shown above and the U18 team is pictured left.

