



### Diary Dates

**Fri 10 Oct** Dress Down for "Kingdom Kids" Charity and end of term. Friday sexual health clinic as usual

**Sun 19 Oct** Classics Dept trip to Italy—Naples and Pompeii

**Mon 27 Oct** Return to school—Yeargroup assemblies

**Wed 29 Oct** KHS presents "As You Like It" at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes—Shakespeare Schools Festival

**Thurs 30 Oct** KHS staff and pupils give a talk at NHS Grampian Conference in Aberdeen re Teenage Sexual Health and Pregnancy Prevention. P7 Open Evening - parents will receive a letter soon. Friends of Kirkcaldy High School Meeting at 7pm

**Fri 31 Oct** Hospitality students do Halloween themed lunch for staff. S3 Tracking letter issued

**Sat 1 and Sun 2 Nov** Premier League football trip, Birmingham and Newcastle

**Mon 3 Nov** Employability focus week for S3 pupils, supported by Skills Development Scotland and Fife "Culture of Enterprise"

**Thurs 6 Nov** Oswald assembly

**Mon 10 Nov** Carlyle, Adam Smith and Beveridge assemblies this week

**Tues 11 Nov** Armistice Commemoration at KHS War Memorial

**Thurs 13 and Fri 14 Nov** Teacher Training Days—staff will be working on Curriculum for Excellence and the new qualifications

**Fri 14 Nov** S5/6 Tracking letter issued

**Thurs 20 Nov** S1 Parent/Carer Evening

**Mon 24 Nov** Yeargroup assemblies this week

**Wed 26 Nov** S2 "Boozebusters" sessions

**Wed 3 Dec** S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening

**Thurs 11 Dec** Christmas Concert

**Mon 15 Dec** S1 panto trip to Adam Smith Theatre

**Wed 17 Dec** Christmas Disco

**Fri 19 Dec** Dress Down for Charity and end of term—return to school on **Mon 5 Jan 2015**.

### The Rector writes ...

**H**ere is our latest termly newsletter, in which we record and relay recent successes and school business. I have to say that we've had a very good start to the session with many highlights. I remain so immensely proud of all of our pupils and I am hugely appreciative of the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff. I believe that this is a terrific school and it was great to have this view endorsed in August, when KHS was selected as Kingdom FM's "Local Hero" Award Winner—we were judged to be Fife's "best school".

To the SQA exam results, and I am delighted to report that, although we saw the introduction of a whole new set of qualifications, there is a rising trend over almost all of the reported indicators—especially in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. Hundreds of young people have seen their hard work and effort rewarded as they matched or bettered their targets.

Special congratulations go to those young people who could not have done better in the exams; Catherine Forsyth, Chris Duffy and Jamie-Luke Garrett (5 "A" pass Highers) and Lauren Ferriday (straight "A" passes at National 5). Also leavers Saad Majeed and Jack Cargill (straight "A" Grades at Advanced Higher and Higher).

We welcomed new staff Mr Young and Miss McIntosh in PE, Miss Malcolm in Music, Mrs Pirie in Physics and Guidance (Beveridge House) and Mrs Sim in Maths and Guidance (Carlyle House). Mrs Kerek in English stays with us on a permanent basis and is joined by Mrs McCormick as a trainee. Other probationers are Miss Band in PE and Miss Grubb in Maths. Well done to Miss Keeble, who becomes a Guidance Teacher in Adam Smith House on a permanent basis. We also welcomed Mrs Rae in the Office and Mrs Kelly as part of the Pupil Support team.

Perhaps you saw the recent piece in the Fife Free Press about "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School"? FoKHS continues to support our pupils in so many ways (see p8). If you would like to become a "friend" please contact Jennifer Davidson (Depute Rector), in school.



Never hesitate to be in touch with us if you require assistance or advice.

All the very best

## Get Involved at Kirkcaldy High School!

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

**Monday** Lunchtime; Science Club, Badminton, Table Tennis, Girls' Netball. After School; Football, Girls' Fitness, Homework Club.

**Tuesday** Lunchtime; Friendship Group, Charities Committee, Games Club, Badminton. After School; Football, Zumba, Basketball.

**Wednesday** Lunchtime; Folk Music Club, After School; Basketball, Football, Dance, Rugby.

**Thursday** Lunchtime; Astronomy Club. After School; Basketball.

**Friday** Lunchtime; Chess Club, Movie Club. After School; Hockey.

## "Pop Up" Art Exhibition at the Mercat

Kirkcaldy shoppers were given a free art show in September when KHS took over an empty retail unit in the Mercat Shopping Centre to stage a temporary exhibition of work by our Advanced Higher pupils.

It was an outstanding success and our photo shows artists Ricki Connor and Hollie Moghimian at the exhibition.



## RYLA Camp is a Real Challenge by Adam Campbell S6



Over the summer holidays Mark Dunsire, Abigail James, and Adam Campbell (all S6) attended Rotary International's annual RYLA Camp. The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) is based in Abernethy, and aims to provide potential young leaders with knowledge and experience in leadership and teamwork. This is done through the demanding physical activities on offer throughout the week, and by lectures and talks given by business professionals and mentors at the camp. Some of the activities included rock climbing, kayaking, gorge walking, mountain hiking and raft building.

Kirkcaldy High School managed to obtain all three places sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy, showing maturity and professionalism during the interview process. The camp ran from 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> July for the girls, and 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> for the boys. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, Mark, Abigail, and Adam gave presentations to the Rotary club of Kirkcaldy about their experiences and lessons gained through the camp. "I feel that I learnt a lot about leadership whilst at the camp" said Adam "Above all though, the camp was fun and engaging, providing new experiences and opportunities that I otherwise wouldn't have been able to gain". Mark, Adam and Abigail are pic-

ured with Kirkcaldy Rotary President Brian Munro at the Rotary Club weekly meeting at Dean Park Hotel.

## Basketball News

We are currently involved in an initiative with the other Kirkcaldy schools, Active Schools, Fife College and Dunfermline Steel Basketball Club to raise the profile of basketball in this area through a schools programme. The aim of the initiative is to feed into a youth division of Dunfermline Steel which will be affiliated to the Scottish Basketball Association. Basketball Scotland already have similar initiatives across the country which provide young people with opportunities to access a fantastic development programme and take part in competitions both locally and Scotland wide.

At school level, there is already a training and competition schedule in place for the current year and in club terms, Active Schools and Dunfermline Steel are in the process of confirming arrangements for the youth division, which will operate in the evening. Details of this will be issued to interested pupils in due course through our school basketball co-ordinators. The KHS junior team, coached by Mrs McCormick, has taken part in its first S1-S2 basketball festival which was a 'slam dunking' success, with our boys claiming victory in 10 from 12 games! So watch this space to keep up with our quest to put Fife firmly on the youth basketball map!

Meanwhile, Mr Marshall's senior team kicked off the season with a morale boosting 34 - 32 win over Glenrothes High. The team has a lot of new faces this year with a number of the team playing just their first ever competitive fixture. They played well as a team and didn't get flustered when they fell behind. Trailing 24 - 18 at half time, they tightened up their defence through a sterling effort from captain Dylan Dick. Still trailing by two points with a minute to go, Ryan Wallace proved calm under pressure to score a 3 - pointer and again our defence held up to stop the opposition scoring. Callum McClung then hit one of two free throws with 30 seconds left to make the score 34 - 32 which it stayed. A real team effort from everyone and hopefully they can continue to improve as the season continues. Well done!



## Focus on Employability - My "WOW" Careers Help

My World of Work is Scotland's careers information and advice web service. At school and right through to retirement, My WOW helps you with up-to-date information, advice and tools when you need it most:

**Subject Choice**—understand your strengths and make better choices about your subject choices and future career

**Leaving School**—find a career that interests you and understand the skills you need to get the job you want

**Exams**—straight into a job or onto further learning? Whatever your grades, find help in planning your next steps

**Preparing for a Job**—discover Scotland's industries, search for jobs, build your CV and practice for interviews

**Modern Apprenticeships**—why not earn as you learn? Find out what apprenticeships are available in Scotland and how they work

NEW to My World of Work: My World of Work for parents:

<http://parents.myworldofwork.co.uk>

The school careers advisers, Aileen Stevenson and Carol Chalmers, are available in school every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2pm in the careers room (opposite B17) on a drop-in basis. You can also request an appointment.

The careers advisers also attend school parents' evenings where they are on hand to provide advice and guidance if required.



## Paired Reading Programme at KHS

Several S1 and S2 pupils have now been paired with senior pupils and are taking part in a Paired Reading scheme on Friday lunchtimes in the library. The S1/2 pupils choose their own books and read aloud for half an hour each week with their partners. If they stumble over a word, or get tired, then their supporters step in to help them. This project is designed to improve pupils' reading ability and it also helps to develop their confidence.

The senior pupils, who have all taken part in a training session, are doing a fantastic job of supporting and encouraging their partners. Any S1/2 pupil who is interested in joining this project should see Mrs Hume in English or Dr Jones in Learning Support for more details. Rachel Smith is photographed with an S1 pupil, Brodie Green.



## School Uniform and "Eco" Blazers

We are very satisfied at the level of support for our new blazer initiative, and can report that about 700 young people are currently choosing this garment. We are pleased to promote an eco-friendly blazer supplied by Academy Uniforms. Its outer fabric is made from 16 recycled plastic bottles and the manufacturing process prevents plastic waste being buried in the earth. The blazer cuts CO2 emissions and requires 84% less energy to produce.

This is a better environmental solution and, at only £28 including badge, costs less than most other blazers. It is also durable and machine washable. After a request from Donibristle Primary in Dalgety Bay, KHS prefects have paid a visit to explain the "eco" blazers to pupils there.

To order direct, parents/carers can use [www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk](http://www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk) using the code "KIRKCALDYFREE" to ensure free delivery to school. A blazer purchased from any other outlet is also perfectly acceptable. Please remember that low income families can qualify for free meals and a clothing grant worth £55—please enquire at your Fife Council Local Office or find an application form on our website.

Parents/carers are thanked for their support and asked to note that the following items should be worn at all times; white shirt, preferably with a "formal" stiff collar, or blouse, school tie knotted near the throat, plain black trousers or skirt – please note that leggings are not acceptable schoolwear for girls. A 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, or hooded clothing are allowed, and footwear must be black. Our picture shows a group of S2 pupils showing off their new blazers.



## S1 — "Nine Lives" Road Safety Play

Tuesday the 9th of September saw the return of the popular and thought provoking "Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg" play.

Our new S1 pupils packed out the assembly hall and really enjoyed the performance whilst understanding the very serious message of road safety that was portrayed in the play.

Many thanks go to the theatre company who put on a well rehearsed show. The behaviour and attitude of the pupils was a credit to the school.

We are sure that the pupils take road safety seriously and will take care whilst out and about as the nights get darker and the dangers become more heightened.

## Engineering & Construction Industry Roadshow at KHS

It was a pleasure to welcome the ECI Training Board Roadshow in September.

There are significant opportunities in this job sector and S3 pupils learnt about Modern Apprenticeships and other



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## Primary Rugby Festival is a Big Hit

Well done to our sports leaders, who organised, arranged and officiated a mini festival of rugby for pupils from Capshard, Fair Isle, Valley and Torbain Primary Schools at the end of September.

The event was a great success with over 200 primary pupils involved—a lot of fun was had and the event helped the pupils feel more comfortable about moving to High School in the future.

It also boosted our S5/6 sports leaders skills in leadership, organisation and coaching.



## House Quiz Results

The House System goes from strength to strength and the recent tutor quiz was well received. The results are;

1st equal - Beveridge and Oswald (Score - 50) = 9pts each (10 for 1st and 8 for 2nd)  
3rd - Adam Smith (Score - 45) = 6pts  
4th - Carlyle (Score - 34) = 4pts.

Inter-House Sports take place in early October with football, netball, basketball and Tug o War.

## Well Known Author's Visit to English Classes



Award-winning author, Cathy MacPhail, visited KHS recently to talk to S2 English pupils about her work. MacPhail, who comes from Greenock, is known for writing gritty, urban stories for teenagers. Her own childhood experiences, as well as those of her children, are the inspiration for many of her novels. She talked to pupils about one of her greatest fears as a child – coming face to face with her own double – and how it inspired her to write a thriller based on this idea. The novel 'Another Me' has now been made into a film which will be released in Scotland in September.

Pupils enjoyed watching the trailer for her film, and also her latest book 'Mosi's War', a novel in which the central characters are faced with great fear and danger. The pupils were given the opportunity to ask Cathy questions at the end of her talk, and she encouraged them to take part in a writing exercise of their own by providing them with an opening sentence for a creative piece. We encourage pupils to have a look at one of MacPhail's books; they are full of cliff-hangers and, once started, they are difficult to put down!

## Employability— Visit to Coca Cola Enterprises

On Tuesday 16 September Miss Nessel's S4 Business class had a trip to the Education Centre of Coca-Cola Enterprises in East Kilbride. The trip was both interesting and informative and brought to life some of the topics they had been studying in their course such as product design, marketing and production methods. They were also astounded by some of the facts and figures they found out. An amazing 700 bottles of Coke are produced and bottled at the plant every minute! They were given a free drink at the end of the tour but of course it was a choice of one of Coca-Cola's healthier drinks!

# BAFTA Award TV Director's Visit



Recently, director Stewart Svaasand visited KHS to talk to senior English students about careers in television and film. Svaasand, who directed BAFTA winning children's drama 'The Dumping Ground' and has recently worked on the 'Shetland' series, started by describing his own career to pupils. After serving an apprenticeship at Rosyth Dockyard, he decided to return to education, and completed college and university courses in Film Studies.

His first jobs in the film industry involved making cups of coffee, some camera work and he eventually moved into directing. As well as detailing his own career, Stewart described several more 'behind the scenes' roles which are required to bring a production together, such as set design and sound engineering. Finally, pupils were given the opportunity to question Stewart about his own work and, more generally, jobs in film and television. Photo opportunities with his BAFTA brought the afternoon to a close!

## Crime and Punishment

This seems to have been a recent theme in learning. In September, Mike Duffy, former Director of Prisons, visited KHS to talk to S6 Communication and Modern Studies pupils. He answered questions on various topics including conditions in Scotland's prisons, rehabilitation and re-offending. Pupils found the talk interesting and gained useful information for their projects.

We also had former KHS pupil, Kate Donegan, OBE, come into school to talk to Miss Young's Advanced Higher Modern Studies class about the prison system. Mrs Donegan is Project Executive for the Scottish Prison Service Women's Offenders Projects and has previously been Governor in charge of Glenochil and Polmont young offenders institutes, and Cornton Vale Women's Prison. She talked to pupils about women in prison and what the conditions are like. She also showed the pupils plans for the new Inverclyde Prison being built to replace Cornton Vale. She spoke about how it is important to boost the morale of the female prisoners so that their mental state did not deteriorate. The opportunity was also given for the Advanced Highers to ask her questions relating to their dissertations, which enabled them to gain more knowledge about the Prison Service. Mrs Donegan is also arranging a visit to Cornton Vale prison so that the pupils are able to carry out some primary research.

In September, Modern Studies pupils were also given the opportunity to take part in a trip to the Sheriff Court in Kirkcaldy to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the course they are completing on Crime & the Law. They were also able to get first-hand experience of the procedures carried out in the Sheriff Court. During the trip, pupils were able to question the Sheriff, the Justice of the Peace and the Procurator Fiscal in regards to their roles and career progression in the Law. They witnessed both Solemn and Summary cases and were able to sit in on a trial and listen to evidence being provided by Defence lawyers.



The trip was very enjoyable and interesting for all who attended.



Finally, S4 Modern Studies pupils benefitted from a talk by Lisa McLean from Cherish Life, Ditch the Knife. Lisa's brother was killed in a knife attack and she spoke about the dangers of knife carrying and the impact that knife crime can have on families. Pupils have been studying Crime and the Law as part of their National courses and this visit helped to develop their understanding of this very important issue. Police Scotland were also involved in this presentation and were able to answer questions on a range of issues relating to the topic studied in class.

## Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014 by Ben Ramsay S6

Our trip to the Edinburgh Fringe was a great day. The atmosphere and various cultures present made walking through the Royal Mile an extraordinary experience.

Alongside the street artists, we also went to see a play called 'Frozen' based on the murder of a young girl. The play was very exciting and thought-provoking.

As well as this, we went to see a stand-up comedy show featuring several hilarious acts.



# KHS is the Kingdom FM "Best School" 2014!

Kirkcaldy High School has been recognised as Fife's "Best School" at the Kingdom FM Local Hero Awards.

The glamorous bash, held at the Roths Halls, Glenrothes in August was a celebration of the inspirational work and achievements across Fife and focused on the contributions which individuals, voluntary groups and schools make towards their communities. Around 300 guests and sponsors attended the red carpet event.

Senior pupils at Kirkcaldy High had nominated their school and highlighted many of its strengths; an award winning approach to health and wellbeing, Fairtrade status, a recent Co-op Eco Schools award, a strong track record in helping disadvantaged young people, teachers who are prepared to go to great lengths for their pupils, a focus on pupil leadership opportunities (including working with Kirkcaldy Rotary Club) and a very strong tradition in the arts (especially in drama).

The school is also actively involved in many community initiatives such as the Dunnikier Country Park Project, Disability Sport Fife, Kirkcaldy Foodbank and support for the Cottage Centre, Templehall.

Rector, Mr Allan, said that it was a "genuine honour" for the school to be recognised in this way and thanked Kingdom FM and the awards sponsors. "This accolade is owned by the entire school community – the pupils, the teachers, the support staff and office team, the janitors and cleaners, the kitchen staff, the parents/carers and all our valued local partners ... it's all about teamwork", he added.



Also at the event, KHS First Year pupil, Leah Meldrum was declared the winner of the Carer of the Year Award. Leah, age 11, helps her mother to look after disabled brother Adam and little sister Lily, who also requires support. Leah was described as a big hearted girl who would always put others first.

Our picture above shows the KHS pupil leadership team (L-R) Mark Dunsire, Kerry Steedman, Abi James, Kirstin Gourlay and Scott Binnie with Leah Meldrum and the award trophies. Left are pictured, Mrs Aitken (Snr Depute) and Mr Allan (Rector) being presented with the crystal trophy by a representative from Maggie's Centre at the ceremony in Glenrothes.



## Prince's Trust Club XL Wilderness Experience

On the 15th of September, three intrepid young men from the S4 XL club in the school, Liam Lindsay, Grant Napier and Aaron Bruce, took part in a week-long trek into the wilderness of the Southern Uplands. This was courtesy of the Wilderness Foundation, Scottish Land & Estates and Imbewu Scotland which is an intergenerational project which shares the knowledge and wisdom of stalkers, ghillies and other experienced country men and women who live and work on rural estates, with young people from urban backgrounds who have demonstrated an interest in nature, learning rural skills and enjoyment of the outdoors.

The boys were collected from school on the Monday morning and, after picking up five more young people, went down to Douglas from where they walked to the very basic cottage in the hills which would be their base. After a night there they experienced two nights wild camping high in the hills before returning to the cottage. There they experienced some country skills including making nesting boxes for a wide variety of birds before returning to Kirkcaldy on the Sunday afternoon. All three of the boys found the experience truly rewarding and thoroughly enjoyed it.

They also gained the John Muir Discovery Award and Leave No Trace Accreditation in recognition of their achievements. Fiona Hanlin, the group leader had this to say about them: 'All three boys were a credit to the school and to their parents - you should be very proud of them.'



# KHS' Active Schools Ambassadors

Robert Greenhorn (Active Schools Co-ordinator), Mrs Aitken (Snr Depute) and Mr Stewart (Head of Health and Wellbeing) recently interviewed and appointed Kirkcaldy High Schools new Active Schools Ambassadors. Megan Jones, Nicole Carter, Reece Young, Talia Toruntay, Lauren Ferriday and Ryan Millar have joined both Mark Dunsire and Scott Binnie to form the new KHS Ambassador team. The Ambassadors will continue to support the secondary school in maintaining the positive image of sport and physical activity. Inter-house competition will play an important part of this, alongside dedicated focus areas such as S5/S6 participation, Girls and Future Stars.

Our new KHS Ambassadors also attended the Active Schools Training Day at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes; where they got to learn the role of an Ambassador through several workshops. Mark Dunsire and Scott Binnie (S6 Ambassadors) played a key role at the Training Day by delivering two workshops on volunteering and S5/S6 participation to over 150 new Ambassadors from schools all over Fife (photo below, Scott at the whiteboard).



## New Forth Bridge Trips

The Forth Replacement Crossing is the largest engineering project in Scotland and KHS Engineering Science pupils are visiting the site with teachers Mr Hamilton and Mr I'Anson.

Both classes will be finding out more at the project's education centre near South Queensferry. As a school, we try to help young people learn by using real and relevant examples.

This project may well inspire engineers of the future, and fits in well with our emphasis on "STEM" and employability.

## Maasai Warriors Make a Big Impression



KHS S1 and S2 pupils had a real treat in September when the Osiligi Maasai Warrior song and dance troupe visited the school.

The troupe, which comprises genuine Kenyan Maasai farmers had been touring Scotland and played the Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline and Rothes Halls, Glenrothes.

The school is committed to promoting global citizenship and thought it would be good to welcome the group to Kirkcaldy.

Signing traditional songs about hunting or cattle herding, and showing off amazing skills in jumping, the Maasai visitors greatly impressed the packed audience of over 400 young people.

## KHS Reporting Calendar 2014-2015

As well as our regular "on-track" letters for S4-6, please note that more detailed reports are issued at these times;

**S1 Settling In Report**

**Fri 10 Oct 14**

**S3 Report (with Profile)**

**Fri 29 May 15**

**S1 Report**

**Thurs Apr 2 15**

**S4 Report**

**Fri 9 Jan 15**

**S2 Report**

**Fri 30 Jan 15**

**S5/6 Report**

**Mon 16 Feb 15**

**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). You can also follow the school on "Twitter" @KirkcaldyHigh**

## **KHS Trip to the Edinburgh International Book Festival** by Phoebe MacDonald (S3)

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, Mrs Hume and a group of S3 pupils set off in the minibus to the Edinburgh Book Festival. We had lunch at the festival in Charlotte Square before attending a talk by Sophie McKenzie, author of dystopian thriller "Every Second Counts".

It was really interesting and gave us an insight into the life of an author. It was fascinating to learn about the creative process that goes into writing a book; we all left feeling very inspired.



## **S1 Fordell Team Building Trips 2014**

In September, all S1 pupils had a great time when they focused 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 Inverkeithing.

For the second year in a row, each S1 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 potholing, 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. The £2000 contribution is greatly appreciated.



## **MacMillan Coffee Morning at KHS**

Mrs Nelson's S4 Personal Development class members decided that they would like to support "The World's Biggest Coffee Morning" and donate to Macmillan Cancer Support. They planned the event over several weeks until the big day arrived on Friday 26 September. The class was very grateful for the support of staff who baked, bought cakes and donated prizes for the raffle.

The event went well and a grand total of £235 was raised. The class was very proud of what they had achieved and that they could contribute to the charity which supports the work of the Macmillan nurses.



### Please Park With Consideration

Following a number of "near misses" at the school entrance before and after school, parents/carers are asked to drop off and pick up at a reasonable distance from the gates.

Dunnikier Way is a very busy road and careless parking (eg on the grass verge on the south side) is a serious danger. We also have parents/carers who think it is safe to make a U turn into oncoming traffic.

Fife Council is in the process of reinstating the yellow "Keep Clear" lines as these have become faded. Please be sensible and put road safety first. Thank you for your cooperation.

- **P7 Tour of School** **Thurs 30 Oct 2014**
- **S3 Parents' Evening** **Mon 2 Feb 2015**
- **S1 Parents' Evening** **Thurs 20 Nov 2014**
- **S4 Parents' Evening** **Tues 10 Mar 2015**
- **S2 Learning Fair** **Wed 18 Feb 2015**
- **S5/6 Parents' Evening** **Wed 3 Dec 2014**

## World War One Commemoration Events by Mark Dunsire (S6)

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August, Mark Dunsire (Head Boy) and Abigail James (Head Girl) attended the Abbey Church of Dunfermline who hosted a special service to commemorate the First World War.

The service was very moving and included prayer, music, readings, stories of soldiers, including Robert Dunsire and Ross Robertson, poems and the act of remembrance. The service concluded with the Head Boy and Head Girl from every school in Fife lighting candles of remembrance and walking from the Abbey to the War Memorial.

Meanwhile, planning is in place to mark Armistice Day at the KHS War Memorial in November. We will have representatives from the armed forces as well as music, poetry and tributes.

Also, news soon of a new book being published in London by "Friend of Kirkcaldy High School" John Beck. John has spent 2 years researching the KHS war dead from 1914-18 and has put together a moving collection of pen portraits of those named on our impressive brass memorial which is positioned at the heart of the school.



## Independence Referendum 2014—Citizenship in Action



in the "Courier" newspaper on 12 September. Kerry Steedman and Kirsten Gourlay are pictured reflecting on the issues ... in the right spirit.

The school's aims entail encouraging young people to be effective social contributors and responsible citizens. The referendum gave us good means to promote these aims further.

There is no doubt that we have seen an upturn in interest in politics over the past year or so, and this must surely be a good thing.

The Independence Referendum on 18 September saw 16 and 17 year olds vote for the first time, and going by the level of debate in KHS, the local turnout of young people will have been very high. The school took a group to the BBC Hydro Debate in Glasgow on 11 September and two pupils with opposing views featured



## Strengthening our Values

We wish to take this opportunity to explain to parents/carers how we are continuing to raise standards in the classroom and around our school.

Having had teacher teams give their input, we have consulted with pupils through the House Forums, and staff and pupils agree that our school's core "Respect" values are relevant, simple and worth upholding.

In order to help all learners make the most of school, we want to be ever more specific about the impact our values can have on learning and we are in the process of producing a poster for every classroom. This should help us be clear and more consistent in our expectations and responses.

Those pupils who keep high standards will be rewarded with a special sticker this term, progressing to a badge before Christmas, then a letter home at Easter, access to "Gold" (ie most popular) activities choice for Activities Day in May, and a ticket for the grand prize draw at the Big Event in June. There are also consequences for pupils who do not support our values— and this can be a lunchtime detention, where a reflective exercise is completed. If this does not improve the situation, it can lead to after school detention. Parents/carers will be informed of this action and may be asked to school to discuss a solution to the problem.

Please see our draft poster (right). We value your views and would appreciate any feedback — for example at parent/carer evenings this session. Alternatively, please contact Mr Allan or Mrs Aitken with your comments.



## SQA Qualifications— "Top Marks"



In August we were delighted to note a very strong improvement in exam performance of KHS pupils, with several indicators now standing at "best ever" levels – especially the number of pupils achieving "Highers" by the end of S6. The proportion of S4 doing well in literacy and numeracy has also increased, as measured by the success rate at the new National 5 qualification in English and Mathematics.

A continuing trend is the "value added", which measures actual results against those expected or "predicted" by tests set by Durham University when the exam candidates were in Primary.

Special congratulations go to those young people who could not have done better in the exams (L- R); Catherine Forsyth, Chris Duffy and Jamie-Luke Garrett (5 "A" pass Highers) and Lauren Ferriday (straight "A" passes at National 5). Not pictured are leavers Saad Majeed and Jack Cargill (straight "A" Grades at Advanced Higher and Higher).

## Personal Development at Kinghorn Ecology Centre

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September, a group of 20 pupils from S4-6 Personal Development classes attended an active outdoor session at the Ecology Centre in Kinghorn.

We spent the day exploring the local environment and learning about Bio-Diversity and Team Work. In one activity, we worked with a partner and one person was to be blindfolded. The other person then had to guide them safely to a tree.

Once there, the blindfolded partner had to find out what the tree was like just by touching it. Once the blindfold was removed, they had to guess which tree was the one they had been investigating. We spent some time pond-dipping and looking at the animals in their natural environment.



# "Dress a Girl Around the World"



"Dress A Girl Around the World" is a charity that believes every little girl should own at least one pretty dress. The charity has now collected over 10,000 hand made dresses from all over the UK and Ireland and have distributed dresses to 21 different countries including Malawi, Uganda, Ghana, India, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Haiti, Cameroon and Zimbabwe.

For the first time, S1 pupils at Kirkcaldy High School have been able get involved in this amazing project. Pupils chose to come to the Art and Design Department once a week for a short block as part of their S1 elective. Pupils learned how to place and cut pattern pieces, how to pin and cut fabric and of course the sewing of the dress. Pupils were also taught hand sewing techniques such as appliqué and some pupils even produced hand made dolls to fit in the pocket of their dress. Most pupils came to the elective with little or no sewing skills and left with a proud sense of achievement, learning new skills themselves but also happy in the knowing that they have made a dress for a girl living in poverty in developing countries.



Pupils were introduced to the project with a slide show and discussed the health and well being of children in under-developed countries. Throughout the elective, pupils were enthusiastic and very much enjoyed being involved in such a worthwhile cause. For the pupils concerned it was important that children in a faraway country know that they are being thought of and cared about enough for us to sew for them.

The project made an impact on both the teachers and the pupils involved and we are now looking forward to sending our dresses to the UK coordinator who will arrange for them to be delivered across the world. We will continue to make more dresses with the School Art Club and even shorts for the boys, while waiting eagerly to receive the photos of our dresses been worn for the very first time!

## Science BaccaLaureate Programme at KHS

Kirkcaldy High School is now one of the few schools in Fife offering pupils the opportunity to study for a Scottish BaccaLaureate qualification in Science.

The BaccaLaureate involves pupils successfully passing Highers and Advanced Highers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, along with the completion of an interdisciplinary project.

This not only gives the pupils the chance to enhance their university applications but also to demonstrate the "soft" and vocational skills which are currently in high demand.



## Working with ASDA to Support "Tickled Pink"

Our Rotary Interact Club pupils played a big part in a charity bag pack last month and helped raise a good sum for one of the UK's main breast cancer research supporters. Jean Ritchie, ASDA's Community Champion wrote to thank our pupils;

*"Just to say a massive thank you all at KHS and to the Interact group for helping with the Tickled Pink bag pack event. We raised an amazing £199.74. Can you please pass on a big thank you from me. Once a gain, KHS has been a great help and support—it's v e r y m u c h appreciated."*

The group is pictured with Mrs Davidson (Depute Rector) and Jean Ritchie.



# Romans Rule at Kirkcaldy High ... OK!



What did the Romans do for us?... They invaded Kirkcaldy High School, that's what!

One Tuesday morning in September, the S3 Latin class got more than they bargained for, when two "real" Roman soldiers, Quintus and Rufus, burst unannounced into their lesson.

The soldiers told the class they were on a recruiting drive and were coming to size up, and sign up, any willing (or unwilling!) recruits for the "Eagles" legion.

Pupils were shown exact replicas of Roman swords, helmets, shields and daggers, and they got to handle them in earnest! They also enjoyed trying out various other Roman artefacts including writing tablets, dice, money and..... a nit comb!

Roman army discipline also featured, with some would-be "recruits" being given a taste of the harsh punishments to be dished out to them, if they did step out of line! As the weather was good, the Roman soldiers marched the class outside for some drill practice, with all the orders issued, of course, in Latin. Finally, the pupils got the chance to take some "selfies" with the men in uniform!

Mrs Shearer (Head of Latin, Classics and RE) thanks Douglas Eckhart and David Severn of "Real Roman Tours" for providing us with a fun way to learn about the Roman army. The pupils' verdict? "Fantastic!"

## All the World's a Stage—Shakespeare Festival

Currently, the KHS Players are busily rehearsing one of Shakespeare's comedies 'As You Like It', for a performance in October. Along with three other Fife Schools, the cast will once again take part in the annual Shakespeare Schools' Festival at the Rothes Halls. It should be a great night's entertainment with the other schools presenting their 30 minute versions of Julius Caesar, Macbeth and Twelfth Night.

Please come along and support the cast on the evening of Wednesday 29th October. For many of our S6, this will be the last time to see them perform as part of the KHS Players. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Rothes Halls Box Office directly on 01592 611101. Mrs Bruce in school can also advise.



## Foundation Apprenticeships in Engineering



KHS is right behind the principles of the recent Wood Report, which aims to boost employability skills for Scotland's young people by making learning more vocationally relevant and increasing links to training where appropriate.

We are pleased to report that we are part of a pilot scheme with Fife College which will see a group of KHS pupils take part in a Foundation Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering whilst still at school.

We had a big attendance at a recent parents evening in school, when representatives from the oil and gas sector, including FMC Technologies, Dunfermline, along with staff from Fife College, outlined the scheme, which will start next term. The Rector, Mr Allan, welcomed those present and explained how important it was for schools to react to the current recruitment crisis in engineering. Janet McCauslin MBE is the lead for Fife College, and this

"Pathfinder" project is an important part of Fife's "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Science) Strategy.

A total of 22 pupils in Fourth Year, all of whom are currently studying Engineering Science in school, have applied for the programme. The selection process (an interview and the Bennett mechanical aptitude test) begins soon. Janet McCauslin is pictured (centre) talking to parents along with engineers and apprentices, including Kirk Mayes from GE Oil and Gas and Kevin Ireland from FMC.