

### Diary Dates

**Mon 24 Oct** School returns, Yeargroup Assemblies this week

**Thurs 27 Oct** Primary 7 Open Evening—all welcome

**Fri 28 Oct** School Photos for S1, 3 and 6

**Mon 31 Oct** Halloween Disco organised by our Charities Committee

**Tues 1 Nov** Safe Drive Stay Alive Road Safety Roadshow for S5

**Wed 2 Nov** S6 Rotary Club Quiz (at KHS this year)

**Thurs 3 Nov** "Changing Faces" assemblies on facial disfigurement, "Party Plan" fund raising evening in support of our S6 Leavers' Prom (June 2017)

**Tues 8 Nov** Adam Smith Assembly with Remembrance theme all week, Senior UK Maths Challenge

**Wed 9 Nov** Carlyle Assembly

**Thurs 10 Nov** Oswald Assembly

**Fri 11 Nov** Remembrance at the KHS War Memorial at 11am

**Sun 13 Nov** Wreath laying at Kirkcaldy War Memorial (Head Boy and Girl)

**Tues 15 Nov** S1 Parent/Carer Evening

**Wed 16 Nov** Rotary Young Musician Competition (at Balwearie)

**Thurs 17 Nov** Children in Need fund raising

**Mon 21 Nov** Yeargroup Assemblies this week (Book Week Scotland)

**Tues 22 Nov** Parent Council Meeting with Employability theme

**Tues 29 Nov** Adam Smith Assembly with "Refuge Fife", fund raising for refugees

**Wed 30 Nov** Carlyle Assembly with "Refuge Fife"

**Thurs 1 Dec** Oswald Assembly with "Refuge Fife"

**Wed 7 Dec** S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening

**Mon 12 Dec** Yeargroup Assemblies this week (with music performance)

**Wed 14 Dec** Christmas Concert (evening)

**Thurs 15 Dec** Rotary Interact Hi 5 games night at KHS

**Fri 16 Dec** S1 trip to panto at Adam Smith Theatre

**Tues 20 Dec** Adam Smith Assembly (with Chaplain)

**Wed 21 Dec** Carlyle Assembly (with Chaplain), Christmas Disco (evening)

**Thurs 22 Dec** Oswald Assembly (with Chaplain)

**Fri 23 Dec** Dress Down for Refuge Fife, Staff X Factor and early close for holiday (school returns on Mon 9 Jan 2017).

### The Rector Writes ...

**W**elcome to our autumn Newsletter. As always, it has been a lively term just past with much to report. I know that many of you welcome the weekly updates which we email home and the ability to follow our doings on "Twitter". Please send in email contact details if you are not receiving our update. At this time, we have decided to revamp our Newsletter, making it a bit more concise and including more photographs. I hope you approve and always welcome your views.

### In- Service Staff Training

The teachers started back on Monday 15 August with various training events including an input from a company called "Show My Homework", based in England. Following comments from the Parent Council and in response to questionnaire responses from parents and carers, we decided to explore ways to issue homework electronically and track its completion (see item on page 3).

### SQA Exam Success

Also on the training days, we had the chance to look at the SQA exam results in a some detail. Our detailed analysis highlights some outstanding individual performances and some very strong improvement trends at all levels. Special mentions go to Chloe Newton, Ashley Davidson, Jay Elder, Emma Fenton, Jade Hood and Rebecca Meekison - all gained straight "A" Grades and could not have done any better in the exams.

Maybe you heard Chloe on the radio, talking about her success in the Highers on Kingdom FM News? Jade, Rebecca, Emma and Jay are photographed with their new "Achiever's Ties".



SQA Exams - Top Performers 2016

In S4, we saw a 7% rise in the number of pupils achieving 5 or more passes in the National 5 exam. In S5, we had a strong 15% rise in the number of pupils succeeding at Higher level and in S6, the proportion of students gaining 5 or more Highers rose from 14% to 24% (expressed as a percentage of the total intake). This means that of all the pupils coming in to KHS, nearly a third manage 5 or more National 5 passes by Fourth Year, more than half succeed at Higher level by Fifth Year and almost a quarter pass 5 or more Highers by the time they leave. Bear in mind that about three quarters of young people stay on at school these days. I am very satisfied with these trends, but we are already working on ways to do better still.

### New Staff

We also gave a warm welcome to all the new staff who joined us at the start of term; Mr Reekie - Business Manager, Mrs Morris - PT Modern Languages, Mr Gallagher and Mr Hamilton - Craft and Design Technology, Mrs High - Modern Languages, Miss Beattie - Chemistry, Miss Fotheringham and Miss Stalker - Biology, Miss Brown and Mr Huggins - Maths, Miss Chen - English, Mrs Reid - Home Economics, Mr Redford - Geography and Ms Mahr - RME. Also, we welcomed back Miss Keeble (English), who returns from maternity leave and congratulated Mrs Dempsey (Biology), who has recently given birth to a new baby daughter.

### Weeks 1 and 2 Roundup

After the short week at the start of term in which we involved young people in activities to settle back in to learning, we held three House Assemblies in week beginning 22 Aug; Adam Smith on Tuesday, Carlyle on Wednesday and Oswald on Thursday. It was a chance to welcome the First Years and introduce the new House Captains - the S6 leaders who were elected by their peers to help organise events and competitions.



KHS Sports Ambassadors

Also that week our Advanced Higher Geography students attended a residential fieldwork centre at Kindrogan in Perthshire.

Our Sports Ambassadors took part in a training event at St Andrews University on Wednesday.

Also, one of our Higher English classes attended the Edinburgh International Book Festival whilst another class was at the Kirkcaldy Township Festival to see "The Invisible Hand"; a play about the life of Adam Smith, probably our most influential former pupil.

Earlier in that week our "Wizard of Oz" costumes, made from recycled materials, were exhibited in the big marquee in the Town Square which hosted various civic events during August.

### Week 3 Headlines

During week beginning 29 August we had Yeargroup Assemblies, going over a few of the school rules as well as instructing pupils about the "Show My Homework" app.

On the Tuesday evening it was a pleasure for the Rector to join Lachlan Duncan and Leah Bidgood at the Rotary Club meeting at the Dean Park Hotel. Lachlan and Leah gave a presentation about their experiences at the Rotary Leadership Camp (RYLA) in the Cairngorms during the summer holidays. It was an inspiring and very memorable experience for



#### RYLA Leadership

them both, and they have made new friends from all over Scotland. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy.

It was also a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting on the Tuesday evening. If you would like to join this excellent support group, please contact Mrs Davidson in the school.



#### Phoebe McDonald with Author Louise Welsh

#### Robert Louis Stevenson Competition

Phoebe MacDonald (S5) has received a Highly Commended Award (2<sup>nd</sup> place) in a national writing competition run by The Robert Louis Stevenson Club and Napier University. Phoebe won a place in a creative writing masterclass run by renowned author, Louise Welsh.

The workshop was at Napier's Merchiston Campus, where Phoebe worked with a group of pupils from all over Scotland to discuss ideas and techniques to improve their creative writing.

After the workshop, there was a prize-giving ceremony which was attended by parents. This is a prestigious award and Phoebe should be very proud of herself!

#### Free School Meals

We would wish to remind you of the entitlement which low income families have to free school meals (at £9.75 per week) and a Fife Council clothing grant (at £55 per year). Please check out our website for details. These are on the side bar on our home page.

#### Twitter Update

Also, staying with digital matters, please do bear in mind that all our doings are detailed and recorded (often with photographic evidence!) on Twitter on a daily basis. We have the most extensive following of any Fife school (with well over 1800 followers) and you can join up @KirkcaldyHigh ... it really is a simple, instant and very useful news service. For example, achievements, school trips, reminders, study support opportunities, the canteen menu and details of school clubs and events are posted daily.

#### Consulting About What We Teach

We are very grateful to parents/carers who took part in the consultation on our curriculum. We are reviewing what we teach, why we do things in certain ways and even the very principles upon which we operate. As vital partners, all parents/carers were invited to complete the short questionnaire which went out along with log in details for "Show My Homework". Pupils, teachers, support staff and partners (including local employers) have also been asked for their views.

#### Week 4 Report

Many congratulations to Rebecca McGowan (S4), who was selected for the Scotland U16 Women's football squad to travel to Finland. Bexi is a star of our school team and also plays for Raith Rovers.



#### Bexi McGowan

In Week 4 we held House Assemblies at which we started to involve learners in the consultation on our curriculum plans.

On the Wednesday, we held a Parent/Carer Evening about the "First Chances" programme we have with St Andrews University. This is a very effective "wider access" project which helps to increase the number of young people from a working class background moving on to higher education. Thanks to Mrs Hunter (PT Guidance) for her support and commitment and it was

great to welcome back Pamela Forbes, a former pupil who is now one of the leaders of "First Chances".

As well as our Classics pupils enjoying the visit of a re-enactment group of Roman soldiers, Higher Drama students also attended a performance of "The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil" by John McGrath at Dundee Repertory Theatre.

#### Week 5 News

On Monday 12 Sept all of our S6 attended a convention in Glenrothes with a focus on Universities, Colleges and Modern Apprenticeships, and this has received good reviews.



#### Matthew Fitt, Scots Language Scriever

On the Tuesday, we welcomed renowned Scots language author Matthew Fitt, who worked with groups of bairns to build their confidence in the use of Scots. It was appropriate that it was also "Roald Dahl Day", as Matthew has translated several of his works into Scots. Pupils particularly enjoyed "The Eejits", his version of "The Twits".

Our Parent Council Annual General Meeting was also on the Tuesday. The Rector explained some of the details behind our SQA exam results and Miss Diamond entered into consultation about our anti-bullying policy to reflect new Fife Council guidelines. Head Boy Lachlan Duncan and Head Girl Bethany Cunningham also gave a brief presentation about "Show My Homework".

That same week we held a parent/carers information evening for all students in S6. The evening provided information regarding next steps for S6 students - including applications, deadlines and support for UCAS, college, apprenticeship and employment.

After school on the Wednesday, our Pupil Support Officer Miss Easson organised a parent/carers evening to explain the innovative work on relaxation and meditation she has been undertaking with a target group of young people. This was a great success and the evaluations were very positive.

On the same evening we held a highly successful parent/carers evening with a focus on "Growth Mindset" in Maths. Over 100 parents and carers had fun with the groupwork exercises and at the same time picked up useful advice about supporting their kids with numeracy. It was so good that many are asking for a repeat session! Many thanks to Mrs Hamilton and the Maths team. Thanks also to Mr Davidson for his support with this work.

On the Thursday, our Drama students attended a performance of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" in Glasgow.

#### Jupiter Artland Trip

On Thursday 15th September a group of S3 pupils enjoyed a day trip to Jupiter Artland Sculpture Park in West Lothian.

The day consisted of a guided tour of the park in the morning, exploring all the marvellous works of art there and in the afternoon everyone took part in an Ekphrastic Poetry writing workshop, a form of writing, mostly poetry, wherein the author describes another work of art - so we used the sculptures we had looked at in the morning as writing prompts.

Jupiter Artland aims to challenge young people to think about the relationship between art and nature and the conceptual content of the artwork.



#### Growth Mindset in Maths Parent/ Carer Evening in the Assembly Hall



**"Show My Homework"**

By way of reminder, "SMHW" is an online resource to assist pupils and parents/carers to track, remember and even return their homework. You will have received a letter giving a note of PIN numbers and you can download the app for your phone or tablet to receive notifications re homework due.

For anyone who is unable to do this, remember you can still access SMHW and see the whole school homework calendar. There is a link on the KHS website. Please reassure your son/daughter that homework does not necessarily need to be returned electronically. Pupils can complete homework in jotters to hand back.

Youth Club to help keep young people off the streets.

**Keeping Safe**

May we ask that parents/carers avoid using any car park other than the astro-turf for dropping off or picking up. It is not safe to have pupils in the car parks at any time. However, there tends to be more space at the astro-turf which makes it a reasonable drop-off or pick-up point.

Also, you should never park on Dunnikier Way. There are official restrictions which are signposted. This restriction includes the verges and the Police will take all infringements seriously.



**Sheree Samson and Liam Lindsay Rotary Club Awards**

son and Liam Lindsay gave excellent presentations at the Beveridge Park Hotel, explaining their leadership camp held in the Cairngorms. They were kindly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Raith and are pictured with President Heather Stuart.

On the Friday, in St Andrews, a very important "inter-faith" event took place.

and Moslem community at the town's university, calling for all faiths to unite against radicalisation and extreme viewpoints.

It was described as an affirmation of our shared humanity and there are 11 points contained within the declaration.

Our Head Girl and Boy, Bethany Cunningham and Lachlan Duncan



**Our New Prefect Leadership Team 2016/17**

**Youth Disorder in Templehall**

On the evening of Wednesday 21 Sept Mr Allan was asked to attend and address a public meeting to look at the problem of youths congregating in parts of Templehall.

There has been a recent increase in anti-social behaviour displayed by young people in and around the area of Birnam Road, Torbain Primary and the new children's playpark nearby. This has resulted in disruption, noise and damage to school and other property.

Due to this the Police have been called on several occasions. As well as the mobile CCTV unit, mounted police were also deployed in Birnam Road. As you would expect, the vast majority of the young people present are not looking for trouble at all, but the sheer numbers are a problem. Sometimes, alcohol or drugs are being passed around. If you are aware that your son or daughter frequents this area in the evenings, please discourage or prevent them from doing so.

The news that the problem appears to be coming under control is very welcome ... as reported on the front page of the Fife Free Press on 29 Sept. The YMCA has also started up a Saturday Night

**Week 6 Headlines**

This was a particularly busy week in school with Assemblies for each yeargroup and our outdoor education camps at Fordell Firs, near Crossgates, for all our First Year pupils. The camps were great fun as well as being an opportunity to build leadership and teamworking skills. Quite a few young people addressed some personal fears too, maybe confined spaces, heights and such.

On Thursday 22 Sept Sheree Sam-



**Saturday Nite "Y"**



**Fordell Firs Camp for First Year**

The "Declaration of St Andrews" saw representatives of the Pope and the Dalai Lama joining senior members of the other Christian churches, Hindu communities in the UK and India, and the Jewish

witnessed the signing then put their names to the declaration themselves as representatives of the youth of Fife. Bethany and Lachlan said that they found the ceremony very moving.



**Signing the Declaration of St Andrews**

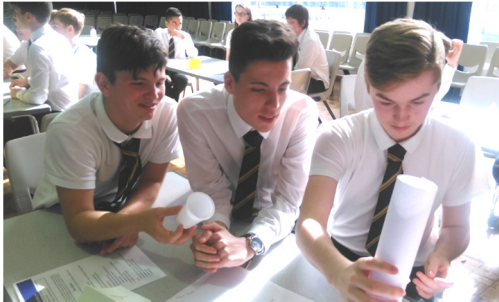


**Employability Week**

Week beginning 26 Sept was our "Employability Week" with a particular focus for S3 learners. Pupils had various workshops from Bright Green Hydrogen (based at the Hydrogen Office in Methil) and Barratt Homes, working on interview skills, teamwork and creativity tasks.

All took part in sessions on the "My World of Work" website operated by "Skills Development Scotland". We also had several workplace visits and a session from "Character Scotland".

Building the skills for life required to get a job, keep a job and thrive in a job is a big part of our mission. It is clear from the returns you made about our "curriculum rationale" that you approve of this.



**KHS Employability Week 2016**

**Local MP's Visit**

On the Monday, we also had a visit from Roger Mullin, MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath. Mr Mullin has a particular interest in "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and he spent the best part of the day finding out about our work in this field.

We were finalists in this category in the Scottish Education Awards in June.

Mr Mullin also joined our S4 Maths students working with the training team of Babcock Rosyth on a team problem



**Roger Mullin MP Visits the School**

solving challenge. They had to design and make a zip-wire transport system to carry goods across our assembly hall. It was great fun as well as an important learning experience. Many thanks to the Babcock engineers.

**Week 7 in Brief**

On Tuesday 27 Sept we hosted the "Baldy Bane" travelling theatre group which delivered a powerful road safety message to the First Years. Their show is called "The

Nine Lives of Roddy Hogg". On Wednesday afternoon we had a session for S6 about university applications. After school, our St Andrews University "First Chances" graduates took part in one to one tutoring sessions with undergraduates from the university. We were joined by other young people from other Fife schools for this session.

On Thursday, our "Personal Development" class organised a fund-raising coffee morning for the staff in support of MacMillan Cancer Care and the magnificent total of £207.20 was raised for this excellent cause. It was great to



**MacMillan Charity Coffee Morning**

be joined by pensioners from the Torbain Church lunch club for the occasion.

Also, our young maths students took part in an "Enterprising Maths" event at Glenrothes High School. Of the 18 teams participating, KHS were runner-up and now progress to the Scottish finals. Well done to them!

**Week 8 Roundup**

During the final week we held House Assemblies (Tuesday to Thursday) and it was a pleasure to welcome our school chaplain Ken Froude to lead our time for reflection at each of these.

Our Hospitality students laid on a

staff lunch on Tuesday and on Thursday, there was a Modern Studies trip to Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court as well as a team of Science pupils taking part in a renewables challenge at Methil Energy Park. In the evening we held a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting. Our Dress Down Day on Friday is in support of Meningitis Now, and in memory of Gregor Smith. Another donation of £1000 was made earlier in the term (see photo above). It is also the culmination of our S1 CSI Court Case run by the Maths Department, and this is always great fun.

Looking ahead, on Thursday 27 October, we hold our Open Evening for parents/carers of Primary 7 intake pupils. This includes a tour of the school and the chance to see some learning in action.

Letters have been sent to our associated primaries: Cap-



**£1000 Donation to Meningitis Now**

and responsible for the day to day running of the school for the past 8 years.

Mr Allan (Rector) said he could not have asked for a better partner in leading the school ... albeit that Anita's role has usually been behind the scenes. He also thanked her for her wonderful friendship and sense of fun. Our school is going to feel different after the holidays. Very best wishes Anita.



**Anita Lindsay**

shard, Fair Isle, Torbain and Valley. Parents/carers with children at any other primary school are also welcome to attend, please spread the word.

**Best Wishes to Anita Lindsay**

Friday 7 Oct will be a day of very mixed emotions for many staff and even some young people here, because it marks the retirement of Anita Lindsay, our Business Manager.

Anita has been an outstandingly popular, hard-working and successful part of our school community for over 25 years.

Rising through the ranks at KHS, she has been Business Manager



**Enterprising Maths - KHS are Scottish Finalists**