



Diary Dates

Mon 17 April School returns, Yeargroup Assembly this week

Wed 19 April Launch of new Myfife top-up arrangements with internet transactions

Thurs 20 April FoKHS Meeting at 7pm

Tues 25 April Adam Smith Assembly: led by S6 leavers

Wed 26 April Carlyle Assembly (leavers). Google Virtual Reality Tours (Science)

Thurs 27 April Oswald Assembly (leavers). Junior Maths Challenge

Fri 28 April S6 "Last Day", 1pm finish

Mon 1 May May Day Holiday

Tues 2 May SQA Study Leave starts for S4-6. First exam is Design & Manufacture

Thurs 4 May In-Service Training Day timed to coincide with Council elections

Mon 8 May "Get Energised" event (S1 girls)

Tues 9 May Step Up Entrance for P7 (also Wed)

Fri 12 May P7 Sports

Fri 19 May Activities Day: trips for S1-3

Tues 23 May P6 Themed Learning Day

Wed 24 May Stonewall Education Conference: KHS LGBT+ Group as guest speakers

Fri 26 May S1 Reports issued

Tues 30 May S3 Parent/Carer Evening

Thurs 1 June S2 "Rapid Response" Challenge. End of SQA exams (PE)

Fri 2 June S4-6 induction. Study leave ends

Mon 5 June Holiday

Tues 6 June New timetable

Mon 12 June FoKHS Annual General Meeting

Tues 13 June Prizegiving; Minister for Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP is guest speaker

Wed 14/Thurs 15 June Primary 7 Induction Days, with Parent/Carer Evening and Disco/BBQ on Thurs

Fri 16 June S6 Leavers' Prom at Forrester Park, Dunfermline

Tues 20 June Parent Council AGM

Wed 28 June Big Event summer fair

Thurs 29 June Talent Show, half day and end of term. Return Wed 16 August.

The Rector Writes ...

Our spring term has fair flown by and as well as the routine business of learning, which is the basis of future success for our young people, it has been a term marked by some unusual recognition for KHS. In the last newsletter, I highlighted the emphasis we have placed on creating a tolerant and inclusive school which respects difference and diversity, and I praised the work of our LGBT+ Group. The group supports young people who identify as gay and works to deter homophobic bullying and name calling.



Sir Ian McKellen

Stonewall, the equality and diversity charity and campaigning group, has recognised our commitment to these values and arranged for us to have a visit and talk from Sir Ian McKellen ... Gandalf himself! Those who were there are unlikely to forget the occasion. Sir Ian's decision to wear his KHS tie on a TV chat show and to give the school a mention was also pretty memorable.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of our latest efforts. You'll appreciate that we are a school which tries to do the very best for all our young people, not just the most academic or those best placed to engage with school. We see it being just as important to develop the "whole child" and we greatly value character building as part of that deal. As our next crop of leavers, or the "Class of 2017" (see photo), prepare to take on the world, I'm happy that we be judged by that standard.

Allan.

Week 1 (from 9 January)

As a starter to the new term, we delivered a whole school presentation on the theme of "Respect for Self", with all pupils being encouraged to think big, work hard and persevere when things get tough. These are appropriate messages for life, not just school. They fit well with our values, and even our proud Latin motto; "Usque Conabor" or "I strive to the utmost".

The other major events at the start of the month were the S5/6 prelim exams and the issuing of the S4 reports. In tutor, we also issued our "Course Choice" form for the Senior Phase next session.

That week, we wrote to thank the local businesses who have taken up the offer of an advertising board at our astro turf pitch. All support is very welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact the school if you have a business and would like more details of sponsorship opportunities.

The second weekend in January was our trip to England for Premier League football; Burnley versus Southampton at Turf Moor and Manchester United at home to Liverpool on the Sunday. I'm pleased to say that this was a terrific success. Well done to all of the 48 young people who travelled - they were excellent ambassadors for the school and Mr I'Anson, who organised the trip, says he was very proud of their "perfect" attitude and behaviour at all times.

Week 2 Highlights

On Tuesday 17 January, Mrs Aitken, Miss Diamond and Mr Allan were joined by S1 and S6 pupils as we delivered our primary transition "Roadshow" in Capshard, Fair Isle, Valley and Torbain Primary Schools. These went very well, with lots of questions and a good turnout. We also distributed print copies of our latest Prospectus or School Handbook, which is also available on the KHS website.

On the Wednesday we held the Disability Sport Fife Football League once again.

In the afternoon we had a special talk for S5 students interested in a Modern Apprenticeship in the financial services industry. We hosted guests from the Ernst and Young "Smart Futures" programme.

The Thursday was a real fun day, when hundreds of primary pupils from Fair Isle, North, Pathhead and Valley came to KHS for a science roadshow organised by Heriot-Watt University. Our own S6 STEM advisors did the "teaching" and it was a brilliant day of active learning.

In the afternoon we had an English Department trip to the King's Theatre in Glasgow to see a production of "The Woman in Black" and a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting in our boardroom. As ever, many thanks to all "Friends" for ongoing support, both financial and in terms of time given to mentoring, driving the minibus etc.



KHS Class of 2017

Week 3 Headlines

Our assemblies during the week beginning 23 January were on the theme of Holocaust Remembrance and were very well led by Ashley Davidson and Josh Binnington, who visited Auschwitz as part of an international education programme at the end of last year. Thanks to both, who delivered an informative and moving account of their experience.

Their message was a simple one; when hatred and division are the basis of our actions, especially from those who have political power, everybody loses. Tolerant and fair societies are the only ones which can thrive in the long run.

We also had additional inputs from the Teenage Cancer Trust, with S2 on the Tuesday, and the Sutton Trust on Friday. The Trust assists working class kids to gain university entry and organises special "summer schools" to help widen access through building confidence amongst those for whom university is not a usual "destination". The talk was aimed at S5 and around 25 young people have signed up. Thanks to Shauni and Alisha (S6) who gave a short talk about their experiences on the programme last year. We have a particularly strong link with St Andrews University, our partner institution, as part of this.

Tuesday 24 January was a particularly busy day, with Matthew Fitt, the well-known author in Scots, visiting the school. Matthew has been a brilliant supporter of KHS and we are proud to promote the "mither tongue" whenever we can. We often find that when bairns get the chance to speak or write naturally, it sparks a new interest in words and literature. It's especially apt given it was the week we remember Burns.

We also had a jobs talk about occupational therapy, in the Boardroom, at lunchtime and in the afternoon, we welcomed "Bright Green Hydrogen", who led practical sessions on renewable energy with all S1 girls. This was an excellent event, with robots, problem solving and group tasks. Thanks to "Bright Green", based at Methil.

In the afternoon and evening, our Guidance team was heavily involved in course choice interviews. Thanks to the staff for their commitment to get it right for all, and it really helps to have parent/carer involvement too. Well done to Mrs Houston and all the team. After school, we hosted CPR life saving training for a group of staff

Our annual Burns Supper was held on Wednesday, 25 January - the meal was prepared and served by pupils and, as you would expect, we had poetry and song. Thanks to Dr Murray, our organiser. It was fair braw.



Remembering the Lessons from Auschwitz

In the afternoon, our U13 football team took on Our Lady's High School of Cumberland in the last 16 of the Scottish Shield and won through to the quarter finals after a fine 4-2 victory.

On the Friday, Mrs Davidson and Miss McIntosh attended a meeting at Levenmouth Academy to discuss work placements and business/industry mentoring.

This is becoming one of the strongest themes of our school. In the past year, we have established new links with several local businesses. If any readers have a business or are part of any organisation which can help our young people become more "job ready", please do ask for Mr Allan or Mrs Davidson.

Week from 30 January

The following week was particularly busy with SQA Hospitality prelim exams on every day. On Monday 30 January we had another special talk about engineering career opportunities. It was delivered by "OGTAP" with a special focus on the oil and gas industry, particularly offshore. Presenter Kitti Kelemen, from OPITO, was a very good ambassador for the sector and sparked a high level of interest from our engineering science students.

The Assemblies were House based (Tuesday to Thursday) and the theme was Diversity and Equality with a special spotlight on LGBT issues, led by our in-school support group. This was to mark February as Gay and Lesbian History Month. We've also asked all pupils to stand up against bullying of any kind by signing a "charter" to say that they will not be a "bystander".

On the Tuesday, we were joined by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Further and Higher Education and Science, who met with a group of KHS girls to talk about "STEM" careers and attitudes to science. The Government is keen to tackle the "gender gap" in STEM. Our girls and young women were exceptional ... they made some excellent points and the Minister left KHS quite enlightened.

In the evening, we had a Parent Council meeting, discussing school governance and "direct funding" from the Scottish Government in order to support the attainment and achievement of young people most affected by poverty.

The Council then joined our S1 Literacy focus evening which was laid on by the English Department. This was a very well attended evening which received great reviews. The key message was to keep a positive mindset and also to try to develop the home environment as a place where reading and the discussion of ideas happen naturally. The parents really enjoyed the groupwork sessions

On Wednesday 1 February, we held aptitude tests for the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. This is a fantastic programme which offers mentoring and financial support to young people across the UK. We are pleased that, over the last 10 years, KHS has won more of these engineering scholarships than any other state school in Scotland. Good luck to this year's applicants and thanks to Mr Fulton for taking the lead this year.

Well done to our Rotary Club Leadership Camp candidates. This is a fantastic one week outdoor adventure experience in the Cairngorms, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy, which takes place each July. There are 3 fully funded places available for all of the Kirkcaldy schools. After a tough selection process and interviews, KHS pupils have secured 2



Bulb Planting in Beveridge Park

of the places. Well done to Chloe McGlashan and Kyle Dick (S5). Well done also to Danny Graves (S5) who is first reserve. Also, many thanks to organisers Ken Johnston, Kath Johnston and Mark Rossiter of Kirkcaldy Rotary Club.

Thursday saw our FoKHS supporters offering further advice to the S5 pupils undertaking a programme of 5 Highers.

It was also the day of the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge - well done to all those involved and thanks to Miss Grubb for her work with this.

To close the week, we hosted the Fife College "Roadshow" in the Hall. All those considering a college pathway were invited and we thank our FE partners for their continued close engagement with the school.

Week 5 News

This week was our SQA Prelim exams for National 5 candidates (S4) and again, thanks to the "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" who helped with invigilation.



KHS Strings: "Gold" at Fife Festival of Music

We had a Science trip to visit the new Forth Bridge on the Monday. On Wednesday morning, our string ensemble played very well at Fife Festival of Music at the Adam Smith Theatre, where our string players and our woodwind band took part and played exceptionally well, being awarded a Gold and a Silver Certificate, which is an excellent achievement.

In the afternoon we had our Rotary Interact Club members planting snowdrops in Beveridge Park as part of Kirkcaldy's "Britain in Bloom" entry. Being a part of community initiatives is a big part of the school.

On Thursday, we were pleased to host a group of 12 teachers, headteachers and school inspectors from France, Germany and Poland as part of an international educational study programme. Mr Young (Depute Head) put together a varied experience for our European friends and they were greatly impressed by seeing our young people and our teachers in action. They were struck by the "family feel" of the school and the excellent relationships between staff and pupils.

They commented on the care we take to support young people in the broadest sense. In mainland Europe, it seems, there is far less emphasis on values and character development. These things are central to Scotland's "Curriculum for Excellence".

Week from 13 February

The week started with our Employability Fair on Monday afternoon and evening. All parents/carers of young people in S4-S6 were invited to join us. Many thanks to Miss McIntosh and Miss Nessel who organised the event. A great range of education partners attended, including the Universities of Edinburgh, Dundee, Stirling and St Andrews as well as Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. We also have many local and nationally significant employers, including BAE Systems, Babcock, Kwik Fit, Leonardo (which used to be known as Selex or even Ferranti before that), Network Rail, EDF Energy, BAM, Bank of Scotland, Ernst and Young, the Law Society of Scotland, Byron Hairdressing, the Cottage Family Centre, Fife Voluntary Action, the Fire Service, the RAF, the Army and Fife Council. As you will be aware, helping our pupils become "job ready" is a big part of our work.

Finally, well done to Ashley Davidson (S6), who visited Strasbourg, taking part in a debate in French at the European Parliament. Ashley was selected to represent Fife in the "Euroscola" event, organised by the Rotary Club of Great Britain. With only 20 young people from Scotland involved, it was a very special event and we are very proud of Ashley's achievements



Ashley Davidson (left) at the European Parliament

Week 7 Report

Week beginning 20 February was a bit hectic. We welcomed new teacher, Mr McPherson, to the Drama Department and held two yeargroup assemblies for S1 (Monday) and S2 (Tuesday), with a special input on teenage mental health issues and guest speakers from the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH). Many thanks to Miss Torp-Petersen, who has organised various events on this important aspect of wellbeing. We also had vaccinations for S3 (against Meningitis C, Diphtheria

and Polio) on the Monday. After school, our girls' football team beat Levenmouth 12-0 in their final league match of the season.

Tuesday saw a training session for our S4 "peer mentors". They then delivered "Boozebusters" alcohol awareness sessions for S2 later in the week. Very well done to them. In the evening, Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes (both S2), competed in the first round of the Scottish Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition against Auchmuty and Inverkeithing High Schools, and won through to the Fife Final.

Morgan and Cara were in sparkling form, delivering excellent speeches on the impact which social media can have on equality.

On Wednesday morning, the Rector, accompanied by Chloe Newton (Depute Head Girl), attended the Kirkcaldy Area Committee of Fife Council to discuss the school's recent successes and future plans in respect of young people's exam attainment and wider achievement. This went well. Local councillors are very supportive of KHS and all the other schools in the town. We also hosted Disability Fife football on our astroturf once again. DSF is such a worthy cause.

However, the highlight of a busy week was undoubtedly the visit of Sir Ian McKellen on Wednesday afternoon. To mark LGBT+ History Month, he spoke to S5/6 for over an hour, holding them in his spell for the entire time. Sir Ian, widely regarded as one of the finest actors of his generation, helped found Stonewall, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights charity, in 1989, and visits schools to help promote equality and fairness in respect of LGBT+ issues.

Our school, which has a highly proactive approach to equality issues and a very active LGBT+ group led by young people, is part of the Stonewall Champions programme. Sir Ian told of his personal and professional life as well

KHS Employability Fair 2017

as his campaigning work. For many, it was an emotional experience. Also, given this was a school visit, Sir Ian chose to reiterate the words of Gandalf from "Lord of the Rings" - one of his most notable film roles. He urged our students to work hard in school and study for exams, otherwise "you shall not pass"!



Performance of "Three" with NT Scotland

Over lunch with the school's LGBT+ group, which is made up of about 30 young people who identify as gay or lesbian and others who are "allies", Sir Ian urged everyone to stand up for their right to fair treatment and to challenge homophobia in all its forms. He also signed the school's "No Bystanders" pledge. Over the past few weeks, this anti-bullying pledge has been signed by hun-



Sir Ian McKellen in KHS Boardroom

dreds of young people and staff. Accepting the gift of a KHS tie, Sir Ian said he would wear it with pride on the Graham Norton Show that weekend ... and duly did! He also stole the show with his anecdotes and patter.

KHS thanks the people at Stonewall Scotland for arranging such a brilliant occasion. Also, thanks to our LGBT+ group and teacher facilitators, Mrs Pirie and Dr Murray. Sir Ian was a fantastic guest,

very down to earth and with an exceptionally engaging personality ... "sound" is how Cameron described him on Radio Kingdom FM! Sir Ian said that he had found all those he met to be warm, intelligent and very accepting. These are the kinds of values this school is built upon.

The other big event that Wednesday was our "Learning Fair", which took place in the Hall before lunch and then in the evening, when parents/carers were invited. It was a good chance to get a clearer picture of curriculum options and the course choice process. Special thanks go to Skills Development Scotland and the STEM ambassadors who attended and advised.

On Thursday 23 February, our Drama Department trip to see "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time" at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre was a great success—very popular and stimulated.

Week 8 In Brief

On the following Monday we had a special S1 Assembly with a focus on internet safety and "grooming" and also our Modern Studies trip to Edinburgh to take part in a debate organised by the European Parliament - it was held at the Eric Little Centre.

Then on Tuesday we had a "Speedy Stem" event in our hall when S3 got the chance to meet engineers and scientists to find out more about their work. Many thanks to the "STEM Ambassadors" from industries across the East of Scotland who supported this.

Wednesday saw our participation in the Fife Schools basketball tournament. We also put on a Science trip to Heriot-Watt University for the "Dragonfly Headstart" event. Then, at lunchtime there was a talk for S6 on student finance, which had a great turnout. We had representatives from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and in the evening it was our S2 Parent/Carer event.

Mrs Meek and Miss Young took a group of Modern Studies pupils to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh that week and our Drama students put on their debut performance of "Three" in the school. This was a great success and was well received by the audience. It's a challenging play about relationships and is supported by the National Theatre of Scotland.

Week from 6 March

Highlights included our concert at Chapel Level Care home on Monday afternoon - this was very well received. We also had House Assemblies (Tues - Thurs) to celebrate British Science Week.

As well as all the fun and noise of the interactive demonstrations, Ms Mahr, of the RME Department, told young people about the humanitarian work she would be undertaking in Africa over the Easter holidays. Before her visit to Rwanda, she asked for contributions of stationery items to help a street kids education project in Kigali, the capital city. On the Tuesday, we also had a trip to Glenrothes for those interested in a Modern Apprenticeship in the Army, as well as a careers talk from Scottish Water for our Engineering Science students.

On Tuesday evening, we hosted the AGM of Kirkcaldy Foodbank and Mr Allan was honoured to have been asked to be the guest speaker. His talk focussed on the negative impact which living in poverty tends to have on learning and he explained some of the things which KHS does to lessen that impact. He also spoke of the "Pupil Equity Fund" - the Scottish Government's direct grant which will support our efforts to "close the gap" over the next few sessions. Some of our pupils were part of it too, which is only right as they have been very active supporters of the Foodbank. Liam Lindsay (S6) talked about our fund raising and the collections we have made and Mrs Nelson and her Personal Development pupils laid on refreshments.

On the Wednesday and also on the Friday we welcomed a group of 50 young people and staff from Vannes School in Brittany. Mrs Morris (Head of Modern Languages) had set up a varied and interesting programme for our French visitors, who were very complimentary about KHS and the welcome they received.

We also had "Go4SET" visit to Brand-Rex in Glenrothes as part of the national STEM competition on Wednesday. On Friday 10 March, our U13 football team played Dumfries High School in the quarter final of the Scottish Shield, and ran out 6-3 winners. The week ended with our annual fund raising Ceilidh. It was organised by "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" and our own Mrs Davidson (Depute Head). Thanks to all who bought tickets or donated raffle prizes. It was another great night with the Bert Pozzi Band and

we have once again raised around £2700 to support our work. Many thanks again to FoKHS ... we are lucky to have such a proactive group of supporters.

Week 10 in Brief

During the week we had a Biology trip to Dundee Science Centre on the Monday as well as a Friends of KHS mentoring session for our S5 pupils who are sitting 5 Highers. We also held SQA Music performance exams and in the evening it was our Fourth Year Parent/Carer Evening. This was a good opportunity to get any issues resolved in time for course completion or exams in May.

On Tuesday we marked "Pi Day" by having themed activities across the school. The focus was on circles and triangles in recognition of the achievements of Pythagoras. The 14th of March was chosen as it translates (US style) as 3.14 ... get it?



Parent Council: Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Event

On Tuesday evening, we had a special emphasis on Teenage Drugs and Alcohol Issues. Representatives from the school, support agencies such as DAPL and "Clued Up", and the Police shared

information on drugs, alcohol and new psycho-active substances - or so-called "legal highs". It was a good opportunity for the parents/carers who attended to learn more about these issues and develop a better understanding.

On Wednesday, Ms Wight and our Higher Geography students attended a special conference at St Andrews University and on Thursday, the University's "Geobus" held earthquake "workshops" in school. Both of these engagements were excellent ... we enjoy a very good partnership with the University. With "First Chances" and the Sutton Trust, we have excellent wider access schemes which help working class young people with no family history of a university education to get a flavour of the experience.



KHS Under 13: Scottish Shield Finalists

We also had several groups of young people involved in the Adam Smith Festival of Ideas, organised by the Adam Smith Global Foundation, with seminars, lectures and various events.

Lachlan Duncan and Lauren McArthur attended the reception prior to the Friday evening lecture delivered by Ed Balls, and got to meet the former Chancellor of the Exchequer ... and recent star of "Strictly Come Dancing"!

Week from 20 March

The penultimate week was another productive week in school. We had assemblies with a focus on "Learner Journeys", including recent leavers and staff telling their career stories, with relevant advice and insights into university, college and apprenticeship programmes.

On the Monday we had a Chemistry Trip to Dundee Science Centre which was great fun and very interactive. As well as our SQA Hospitality exams, our National 4 Maths students undertook their Added Value assessments in the Assembly Hall. In the afternoon we had a special careers talk for potential hairdressers, in the Library with Dom Panetta of Migele Experience.

Tuesday saw further Hospitality exams and after school, Mrs Davidson and Mr Allan accompanied our Rotary Club Interact Group on a visit to Chapel Level Care Home.

On the Wednesday we held an SQA Art Practical Day as well as Higher PE Assessments. We also hosted the Disability Sport Fife Football in the afternoon. We recently received a lovely message from Richard Brickley MBE, President of Disability Sport Fife, thanking our Sports Leaders for all their hard work supporting DSF swimming, badminton and athletics. Our young people have been brilliant marshals, umpires and time-keepers at these events. It's a terrific partnership and our young people gain as much as they give when working with disabled athletes.

That evening, the Drama Department put on another excellent performance of "Three", this time at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, sponsored by the National

Theatre of Scotland. Many thanks to Ms Bruce and Mr McPherson for their work with this ... and well done to our young actors. We are now looking forward to the Shakespeare Schools' Festival later in the year - it's another fantastic experience.

On the Thursday evening, at the Fife Final of the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Competition. Team KHS, Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes, took on teams from Auchmuty, Inverkeithing and Queen Anne High Schools and won! KHS has retained the title of Fife Public Speaking Champions and we now progress to the East of Scotland Final in Perth Sheriff Court on April 20.



Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking Champions 2017

After school on Friday 24 March, at Keltly Hearts football ground, we contested the semi-final of the U13 Scottish Shield, against Portobello High School, Edinburgh. KHS were worthy 2-1 winners. It's the first time we've made it to a national final since 1981!

Many thanks to Mr English and Mr I'Anson for their dedication to this particular team. We'll take on Lourdes Secondary School of Glasgow in the final ... watch out for details.

The Final Week of Term

The last week saw further SQA exams, in Hospitality and Drama. We also had House Assemblies (Tuesday to Thursday) with an input from Ken Froude, our school chaplain, who delivered an important message about forgiveness.

There was also a "First Chances" tutoring session after school on Wednesday, with support from under-graduates from St Andrews University.

The week ended with our usual "Dress Down Day", this time in support of the Cottage Family Centre in Templehall, which does such great work to support families facing hardship.