



Diary Dates

Mon 8 Jan 2018 Return to school after winter break
Wed 10 Jan S5/6 Prelim exams start: SQA N5, Higher and Advanced Higher
Fri 12 Jan S2 Reports issued
Mon 15 Jan Employability Partners meeting after school, "FoKHS" Meeting at 7pm
Tues 16 Jan Primary "Roadshow" at Capshard 5pm, Fair Isle at 6.30pm
Wed 17 Jan Disability Sport Fife (DSF) football at KHS
Thurs 18 Jan S4 Parents' Evening
Mon 22 Jan Scottish Themed Learning Week, House Assemblies re our proposed link with Scholaire Bumbogo, a school in Rwanda
Tues 23 Jan Primary "Roadshow" at Torbain 5pm, Valley at 6.30pm
Thurs 25 Jan STEM event for S1 boys in the Hall, Burns Supper
Fri 26 Jan Talk on the Sutton Trust Summer School with Lizzie Jenkins (University of St Andrews) - wider access to Higher Education
Mon 29 Jan S4 Course Choice process, S3 vaccinations in Hall
Tues 30 Jan House Assemblies this week on "Diversity", led by our LGBT+ student group, Parent Council at 6pm
Thurs 1 Feb S5/6 PSE on the "I Can" statements (Career management Skills), Intermediate UK Maths Challenge
Mon 5 Feb S4 Prelim exams begin (SQA National 5)
Mon 12 Feb Modern Languages trip to Vannes, Brittany
Tues 13 Feb CDT trip to Paris
Wed 14 Feb Staff Training Day (school closed for pupils). Staff will be learning about "Adverse Childhood Experiences" with the former Governor of Polmont Young Offenders Institution
Thurs and Fri 15/16 Feb Mid term holiday
Mon 19 Feb Yeargroup Assemblies, with a special open water safety input from RNLI for S1
Wed 21 Feb DSF football
Fri 23 Feb S5/6 Reports issued
Mon 26 Feb S5/6 course choice process, S3 vaccinations (also Wed), STEM "Speed Dating" event in the Hall
Tues and Wed 27/28 Feb KHS performs "Ceasefire Babies" at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh as part of the National Theatre "Connections" Festival
Thurs 1 Mar World Book Day
Tues 6 Mar House Assemblies this week (British Science Week), S1 "Energiser" event with SCDI, S2 Parents' Evening
Fri 9 Mar "FoKHS" Ceilidh
Tues 13 Mar S1/2 Vaccinations, Parent Council at 6pm
Wed 14 Mar "Pi Day" (Maths), Student Finance talk for S5/6
Fri 16 Mar S4 Reports issued
Mon 19 Mar Yeargroup Assemblies (Learner Journeys)
Wed 21 Mar DSF football
Thurs 22 Mar Higher Geography Conference at St Andrews University
Mon 26 Mar S1/2 Vaccinations
Tues 27 Mar House Assemblies this week—"Time for Reflection" with Ken Froude (Chaplain)
Thurs 29 Mar Dress Down Day and end of term (30 Mar is Good Friday).

The Rector Writes ...

As I put together this brief introduction to our December Newsletter, I find it hard to believe that we have reached the mid-point of the session already. They say that time flies when you are having fun, and, as usual, we've had some of that here in KHS this term.

We've also continued to work hard and clock up some notable individual and collective achievements. You will see that from our Newsletter

For me, one of the highlights was Miss Diamond's recognition at the SQA Star Awards. I've known Audrey for over 25 years and always knew she was a star ... now it's official. I also know that some of you reading this will have been taught by her, and been enriched by that experience. You will have shared in our delight.

Many thanks to those who completed the "Parentwise" Survey for Fife Council. In the Spring, we'll share the results and look at what we need to do next.

But before then, there's another Scottish Winter to thole. Very best wishes for the Season ... have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and all the family.

Alan.

The First Week Back

Right after the break we had Year Assemblies with our special guest, Mansoor Mahmood, the Imam of Kirkcaldy Mosque. Mansoor, who was accompanied by his wife Afeefa, gave a fascinating insight into what goes on in the mosque and explained some of the details of the new building on Hendry Road. This is expected to be completed some time during the course of 2018.

During that week we worked with professional actors at the Byre Theatre in St Andrews on the "workshop" for

our "Shakespeare Schools Festival" production of "Much Ado About Nothing", which took place in November.

Also on Tuesday we had a Modern Languages trip to the cinema at Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) to see "Ma Vie de Courgette" (My Life as a Courgette). Our young people loved it. It was very funny and poignant. In the evening there was a committee meeting of "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" (FoKHS).

On the Wednesday afternoon, our Drama Department took a group to the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline for "Blood Brothers" by Willie Russell and thoroughly enjoyed an emotional and sometimes shocking experience.

The Thursday was our Primary 7 Open Evening. All P7 parents and pupils in our associated schools were invited as well as those considering making a "placing request" for next August.

It was great to see such a big turnout and the feedback suggests that the chance to see young people in classrooms and chat to teachers was greatly appreciated.

Week 2 Highlights

On the Monday, we held a special S1 Assembly with Hank John, representing Gideons International, the Christian organisation. Later in the day, Mr John set up a stall in school at which young people were invited to take up the offer of the gift of a new testament.



KHS Primary 7 Open Evening: October 2017

Also, the S1 were out of class for a visiting theatre production of "School's Out". This was a hard hitting drama which focused on road safety.

I do hope that S1 parents and carers will follow up on this message at home; you'll know that Durnikier Way and the route to KHS can be

quite risky.

On Tuesday afternoon and evening we welcomed a wide range of local employers as well as colleges and universities for our "Employability Fair". All young people in S4 -6 visited the various stalls laid out in the Hall in the afternoon and parents/carers were welcome to join us in the evening.

I do hope that those who attended found out more about different learning or career pathways, including information on Modern Apprenticeships. As you are aware, ensuring that all of our young people secure a positive "destination" after school is a big part of our work.

On the Wednesday we hosted a visiting delegation of teachers from Bulgaria, Germany, Italy and Latvia and they were greatly impressed by their experience. Many thanks to the Prefects who looked after our guests for the day.

Wednesday was also our S2 "Learning Fair", with a focus on learning pathways and course choice.

After an introduction and explanation from me, young people studying in the Senior Phase were on hand to explain what to expect from different subject choices in S3 and beyond, including studying for the "Nationals" in S4.

This will help the S2 be better prepared for the opportunity to personalise their curriculum in S3 and at later stages. This process takes place in the New Year.

We held the "Learning Fair" earlier than usual in response to parent/carer feedback. Many thanks to the staff and young people who made this such a successful event. Also, thanks to all of you who came along on the Tuesday and/or the Wednesday.

Many thanks to those who came along for our fund raising Race Night in the school hall on Friday 3 November. This was a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" (FoKHS) event to which Mrs Davidson (Depute Rector) contributed greatly. It was a big success and raised around £2000 to support future school projects.

Look out for a flyer soon advertising the FoKHS Ceilidh, which takes place on Friday 9 March 2018. This is always a brilliant night out with dancing to the Bert Pozzi Band and a fish supper! Save the date.

The other big deal that night was the SQA Star Awards finals which took place at the Assembly Rooms in George Street, Edinburgh, hosted by Kaye Adams, the well-known TV presenter. Please see the insert story.

Third Week Headlines

On the Monday we had a special Assembly for S2 with guests from NHS Fife who gave a careers talk about opportunities in healthcare, especially allied professions such as radiography, physiotherapy etc.

Also that day, the people from Barclays Lifeskills delivered excellent sessions on personal financial management to our Maths students. This was part of the Scottish Government's "Money Week" Initiative. It went down especially well.



On Tuesday through to Thursday we had House Assemblies with a focus on remembering the sacrifice of KHS pupils and staff 100 years ago, during the Great War. We lost well over 100 of our community in that terrible conflict, and they are commemorated on the beautiful bronze memorial which graces the very heart of our school to this day.

On the Friday, we held a two minute silence across the school and Mrs Aitken led a poppy wreath laying ceremony at the memorial.

As well as our young people laying wreaths, we invited Mike Gordon, the school lollipop man to lay a wreath to represent a different generation and the wider Kirkcaldy community.

On Tuesday we took part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge in the morning and hosted Nathan Spurling, Campaigns Director of HIV Scotland, who was in KHS to find out more about our approach to sexual health education and our plans for World Aids Day on 1 December. Nathan is also an equalities activist and met with our LGBT+ Support Group to discuss their role in promoting an inclusive school culture.

In the afternoon, all of our S5 attended the Safe Drive, Stay Alive Roadshow at the Rothies Halls in Glenrothes and our S6 had sessions in school called "New to the Road". These were supported by Kwik-Fit. Both events have been part of our curriculum in recent sessions and have been well evaluated as a suitable focus on safe driving. "Safe Drive" was, as ever, a harrowing event for some. It certainly delivered an important message in a hard hitting way.

On the Wednesday, we held a "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event in the Hall, and it was exclusively for S1 girls. Many thanks to Fife College and "Bright Green Hydrogen" (based at Methil) for their support.

Thanks to those who came along to our Christmas Fayre Fundraiser on the Thursday night. It was organised by S6 with funds raised going towards the cost of their yearbook and prom. The Fayre featured stalls selling Body Shop, PartyLite Candles, various

jewellery, gifts, crafts etc. I'm pleased to report that around £750 was raised.

Also that night, an S6 team took part in the Kirkcaldy Rotary Schools Quiz at St Andrews High School. We were up against the hosts, Balwearie and Viewforth. It was a very tight contest with three of the schools, including KHS, running neck and neck throughout the evening. Congratulations to Balwearie, who won by

a narrow margin in the end.

Parents/carers of S5/6 had a tracking report posted home on the Friday. This should be seen as a bit of a "reality check" for the Higher exams in particular. It will flag up cases where work needs to be done to get "on-track" for success. Remember that we run an extensive study support programme at lunchtimes and after school (please check out "Twitter").

On Sunday 12 November, Jay Elder and Isla Wright, our Head Boy and Girl, laid a wreath at the Town War Memorial after taking part in the traditional Remembrance Parade.

Following that, at the Adam Smith Theatre, I delivered a brief talk about the sacrifice made by KHS pupils in the Great War.

We then had three short but highly emotional monologues given Cameron Pilmer, David Moir and Dylan Scott which were very well received, as was Dr Murray's very moving rendition of "Willie McBride".

Many of the audience were brought to tears and we were thanked by Colonel Jim Kinloch, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Fife, for our contribution.

You are perhaps aware that KHS lost 105 former pupils and 3 serving teachers during World War 1. It is only right that we honour their falling.

This week was also national anti-bullying week and most of our young people were involved in surveys or lessons with a "respect" focus. Our LGBT support group gave a presentation at the "Respectme" national conference in Glasgow on Monday.

Week Beginning 13 November

The group is recognised as leading the way in promoting tolerance and fairness. All week, "Kingdom FM" highlighted school bullying and played recorded interviews with KHS young people and staff as part of each news bulletin.

Once again, our young people were such excellent ambassadors for the school. Also, on the Wednesday, during a special debate, we were commended by

members of the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee for our work in tackling prejudice based bullying.



#RespectMeans ... Scottish Anti-Bullying Week

On the Monday, Mrs Rae (Pupil Support Officer) accompanied a group of S2 pupils to the Victoria Hospital to do some work shadowing in health related professions; physiotherapy, radiography etc.

We also hosted a St Andrews University "First Chances" debating session after school. Then, also after school, Miss Mahr of the RME took a group of S2 to Discovery Point in Dundee to collect the prize they won in the Scottish School Interfaith competition.

After school on Tuesday, we were part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, performing "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews. Well done to all the cast and many thanks to Miss Bruce and Mr McPherson, who have shown such commitment to this project. The KHS production was brilliant. We will be performing it again in school before Christmas.

On Wednesday we held a "Speedy STEM" event for all S2 in the Hall. This had a focus on problem solving science, maths and engineering problems. Our Biology pupils visited the labs at the Vic as part of National Pathology Week and this was repeated over the next week or so.

After school on 15 November it was our S1 Parent/Carer Evening and this went very well. Thanks to those parents/carers who completed the "Parentwise" questionnaire on the night and thanks also to the Prefects for assisting with the event.



David, Dylan and Cameron: Moving Remembrance Monologues

The Prefect Team is led by Heads Jay Elder and Isla Wright and are not only important role models for younger pupils, they help keep things running smoothly during the day and at events such as parents' nights.

That Tuesday was also the Mock Court Project Awards Night at the Signet Library, Edinburgh. This has been an excellent competition supported by the Law Society of Scotland.

Thanks to Miss Ashby of the Modern Studies Department for all her



"Mock Trial" at the Signet Library

work with it. Very well done to Sorcha Cross and Osama Aslam, who were named as the best defence solicitors in the East of Scotland.

Sam was also given a "Rising Star" Award and selected to represent the UK in the European Mock Trial Competition which takes place in the Hague in January. Well done Sam, this is a terrific achievement. (see photo of all our participants at the Signet Library)

On the Thursday morning we had a special assembly with colleagues from Kirkcaldy Police, who gave a talk to all S5/6 on the "One Punch" Campaign, a violence reduction project ... the title explains all. It was a very powerful and emotional message.

The week ended with a training day for staff. The school was closed to pupils and the staff focused on Learning and Teaching (especially Co-operative Learning), Language of Learning and Growth Mindset.

This session was particularly beneficial and very well evaluated. Our staff are highly professional and value the opportunity to enhance that professionalism.



Team KHS: "Quadcopter" Drone Design and Construction Squad

Week 5 Report

The next week (beginning 20 November) was another highly productive one here in KHS, with yeargroup assemblies on the theme of the "Rights Respecting Schools" programme. This is a UNICEF initiative and we are committed to making the world standard for promoting fairness, equality and the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We also had an appeal from the S5/6 Personal Development class, who have organised a collection for Kirkcaldy Foodbank. Thanks to all our young people, they were excellent at the assemblies.

On Monday, we had an English trip to Stirling Castle to take part in a creative writing project which is based on the experiences of soldiers in World War 1. This was a great success and the staff at the Castle commented on how well our pupils had done. After school, there was another "First Chances" trip to St Andrews University. As you probably know, this is a wider access project and we are proud to be a partner of St Andrews.

On Tuesday, parents/carers of all young people who are expected to take the National 5 Qualification in English and/or Maths in May 2018 were invited to come along to a special event. This was undoubtedly a welcome opportunity to find out more about how parents can support young people to do well in the coursework and the exam. As well as the presentations given by Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Hume, there was a question session and the opportunity to purchase packs of past question papers.

On the Wednesday, our senior Science students were involved in a "STEM" session with Fife College and the RAF. This concentrated on learning and job opportunities in engineering. It also happened to be great fun!

Our Higher Photography class spent some time along at the Charter Photography studio at



Mitchelston Industrial Estate and got a lot from the experience. We also held the first auditions for "Ceasefire Babies", which is a production being staged by our Drama Department at The Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh in the spring. This is part of the National Theatre of Scotland "Connections" Festival.

On the Thursday, our S1 Modern Languages classes took part in a special "roadshow" laid on by Jet2, the airline and holiday company. This had a focus on the importance of modern languages in the workplace. We also had another opportunity to further strengthen our "Employability" agenda when Mrs Davidson (Depute) and Mr Hamilton (CDT) met with Karen Jackson, the Head of Strategic Talent Acquisition for National Oilwell Varco in school. The company has a plant in Glenrothes and we are establishing a work experience and learning link. Many thanks to Mr Hamilton for his initiative in respect of this.

The week closed with a Business Education trip to the Investment



KHS at the Scottish Parliament for World Aids Day

work ... and this continues to be a big theme. We are committed to getting our young people into a "positive destination" on leaving school. Another example of this was our three separate visits to the Victoria Hospital labs that week as part of national "Pathology Week".

Week from 27 November

Week beginning 27 November was "Book Week Scotland". We marked this at House Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with staff and young people talking about their favourite reads.



The Higher Photography Class at the Charter Studio

Another notable event was World Aids Day which took place on Friday 1 December. Earlier that week, we had a group of young people explaining HIV/AIDS at the assemblies, dispelling some myths and trying to reduce the stigma of AIDS. Also, Mrs Aitken, Dr Murray and a group of young people from

2020 Conference at Standard Life HQ in Edinburgh and our Personal Development group on a team building day which included tenpin bowling in Glenrothes.

We also had a School Nurse Service stall set up in the War Memorial area and a group of Science Club pupils up at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes competing in the "Quadcopter" Competition sponsored by Raytheon. This involved building and flying a drone aircraft and taking part in various challenges. Well done to Glenrothes high School, overall winners of the competition.

It was a week with a particularly strong emphasis on the world of

S4 and S5 attended a reception at the Scottish Parliament on the Tuesday evening to mark World Aids Day.

All young people were offered a red ribbon to wear on the Friday. There was an education stall set up in the War Memorial area and pupils had the chance to learn more about blood borne viruses and keeping safe. We were also on Kingdom FM News, with our young people talking about the importance of tackling HIV stigma.

On the Tuesday, our Advanced Higher Modern Studies class enjoyed a research themed visit to the National Library of Scotland and the High Court, in Edinburgh.

Then, in the evening, we held our special parent/carer evening sponsored by the KHS Parent Council.

It was all about internet safety, online grooming, sharing inappropriate images, "sexting" and online scams. We had our own staff explaining how we deliver lessons which help young people stay safe, we had a very well received input from Scott McGready, "ethical hacker" and cyber security expert. Scott is a very skilled communicator and internet consultant on TV and radio. He delivered excellent safety talks in school to all our pupils during the day and was the main event at the parents' evening too.

Please be sure you know that your children are safe online. Please check out the weblink we shared at the parent/carer night: www.thinkuknow.co.uk. This is the education website of CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.



Working Together on the Book Week Scotland Quiz

Then, on the Wednesday, we had a group of Geography students attending a lecture sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society along at Dunfermline High School. The theme was glaciation and it was delivered by Professor Colin Ballantyne of St Andrews University.

Thanks also to crime writer Doug Johnstone, who gave a special talk to English classes on Thursday afternoon, supported by "Bloody Scotland". This was part of "Book Week Scotland" and it was very informative with some excellent advice about creative writing. Doug is also an accomplished songwriter and performer,



Interact Club with their Donation to The Teenage Cancer Trust

and demonstrated these skills too. As well as our marking of World Aids Day, we also had our School woodwind and brass players performing seasonal music along at ASDA on Friday 1 December.

The First Week of December

This week we had a special assembly for S2 on Monday afternoon, with a talk from the Teenage Cancer Trust. In the evening we hosted the annual Rotary "Hi 5" games night when our Interact Club took on the other Kirkcaldy schools. As always, it was a great fun event.

On Tuesday, Mrs Davidson attended an event at Fife College with S4 pupils. It was all about Foundation Modern Apprenticeships, a qualification which we support. We currently deliver the Software Development FMA and have senior students attending other schools to be part of the scheme in Engineering and Children and Young People.

Next session this range is likely to be extended. Also that afternoon, we hosted the "Big Brain Box" outreach team from St Andrews University in school working with science classes.

In the evening it was our S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening, and we also had "Bright Red Publishing" on hand offering SQA revision guides and past exam papers at Higher for sale.

On the Wednesday, we had staff from the Dundee Science Centre in school all day working with science classes on various themes and interactive experiments.

The Thursday was our first ever S5/6 Christmas Ceilidh in school, and it included a live ceilidh band. Many thanks to Miss Malcolm, who was our chief organiser. It was set up as a formal "do" and it was great to see a big turnout.

This week ended with our Fourth Year Tracking Report being prepared and then on the Saturday and Sunday, we had a large group of pupils away at Huddersfield Town and Manchester United for a Premier League football experience weekend. Many thanks to Mr I'Anson and the other staff who were involved in this very successful excursion.

Penultimate Week of Term

We held yeargroup assemblies with Christmas themed musical entertainments laid on by Music Department pupils.

Audrey Diamond: SQA Star

On 3 November, at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, at a glitzy ceremony hosted by Kaye Adams and attended by the Deputy First Minister, our own Miss Audrey Diamond was awarded the title of SQA "Star" as the exam agency's "Appointee of the Year". The SQA has over 15,000 appointees: markers, exam setters, invigilators etc.

After 20 years of excellent service, presently as Team Leader for National 5 English, this award is richly deserved. Most of the work is undertaken by Miss Diamond at weekends.

Speaking after the event, Miss Diamond said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been recognised. "But it's always a team effort...in Kirkcaldy, which is a brilliant school, or as part of the English examination team at SQA. I am lucky to work with such fantastic people. I've always believed that we are all in it for the young people and I hope that this recognises that too."

Mr Allan, Rector, added: "I have known Audrey for 25 years and we are all absolutely delighted for her. We have been flooded with messages of congratulations from staff, pupils and former pupils. Audrey has been an outstanding contributor to both the SQA and to KHS for two decades and I am very proud to work alongside her.

Her dedication, especially to pupils who sometimes find school difficult, is an inspiration.

For any young person considering teaching as a career, I would cite Audrey Diamond as a shining example of excellence".



On the Tuesday afternoon, a group of Senior Chemistry students attended the annual Christmas lecture at St Andrews University.

On the Wednesday, Miss Young took the Advanced Higher Modern Studies class on a visit to Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling.

Also, our Health and Food Technology students laid on a lunch for staff. It was very well appreciated. The class is taken by Miss Mitchell, who is currently our Principal Teacher of Health and Wellbeing.

Unfortunately, from a school point of view, we are about to lose Miss Mitchell as she is heading west to take up a post as Head of Department at Marr College in Troon. Many thanks and best wishes to her ... she has been a great asset to KHS and will be missed by her pupils and her many friends here.

After school on Wednesday, the Drama Department presented a special performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" in school. This was the production which was such a big hit at the recent Shakespeare School Festival at the Byre Theatre in St Andrews.

Thursday's main event is our annual Christmas Variety Concert, which took place at 7pm, with mulled wine and mince pies from 6.30pm. This year, as well as music, we had drama and dance performances.

On the Friday, all S1 attended the panto at the Adam Smith. This year it's "Aladdin" ... oh yes it is! Many thanks to the English teachers involved.

It was also a fund raising occasion that day. We asked for donations for "Save the Children" and gave the opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper or any type of Christmas themed clothing. Many thanks to all those who took part.

The Final Week of Term

The last week of term sees an input from Rev Ken Froude at our House assemblies.

On the Monday afternoon we have a small group of Fifth Year students being interviewed for a place on the RYLA Leadership programme which takes place in the Cairngorms in the summer.

The available places are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy and best wishes to Blain Aitken, Kiara Montgomery and Taylor-Jayne Simpson, who are being interviewed.

Our Christmas Disco takes place in the Hall on Wednesday evening and on Friday we close at Lunchtime (buses expected at 12.15pm) for the holidays.

It's a dress down day as usual and we'll also be having the traditional staff "talent" show as the closing event. Thanks, and good luck to all taking part.