



Kirkcaldy High School Newsletter

Issue 129
July
2018

*Respect for Self, for Others,
for Learning*

Diary Dates

Mon 13 Aug Staff training Day 1, S5/6 Coursing pm
Tue 14 In- Service Day 2
Wed 15 Extended Tutor (S1 in Hall at first)
Fri 17 S2-6 Year Assemblies
Tues 21 Adam Smith Assembly re School Values, House Captains, and "Boozebusters" Presentations
Wed 22 Carlyle Assembly
Thu 23 Oswald Assembly, English trip to Edinburgh Book Festival, FoKHS Meeting at 7pm
Fri 24 S5/6 PSE Session "I Can" Statements (Careers)
Mon 27 S1 Assembly re School Rules, Circulation, Expectations etc
Tue 28 S2 Assembly
Wed 29 S3 Assembly, Geobus Trip to St Andrews (Geography)
Thu 30 S4 Assembly, Senior Health Day (S5/6 timetable suspended)
Fri 31 S5/6 Assembly with Polar Academy input (Lochgelly High School)
Tue 4 Sept Vaccinations Catch Up Session (Hall)
Wed 5 S1 Numeracy Growth Mindset Evening for Parents/Carers
Fri 7 S4 Tracking Parental letter, overview to pupils, Fife Education Conference
Mon 10 Maths Week Scotland, UCAS Convention pm
Tue 11 Adam Smith Assembly (Rights Respecting School presentation, extended to 9.25am all week), Maasai Warriors Dance Troup pm
Wed 12 Carlyle Assembly, S4 N5 Maths Parents Evening
Thu 13 Oswald Assembly
Fri 14 S5/6 Tracking Parental letter issued, overview to pupils
Mon 17 S1 Assembly re Fordell Trip Arrangements
Tue 18 S2 Assembly with Teenage Cancer Trust tbc, Equalities Conference in Edinburgh (D Allan and pupils)
Wed 19 S3 Assembly (Courses), S5/6 UCAS sign up
Thu 20 S4 Assembly
Fri 21 S5/6 Assembly
Mon 24 S3 Employability Week with workplace visits etc
Tue 25 S3 "Course Transfer" Meeting at Lunchtime
Wed 26 S1 Fordell Trip for Adam Smith, AH Geography to Kindrogan (Perthshire) for 3 days, KHS at National Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Conference in Glasgow
Thu 27 Fordell Trip Carlyle
Fri 28 S1 Settling in Report issued, Fordell Trip for Oswald
Tue 2 Oct Adam Smith Assembly (with Kirkcaldy Mosque, tbc), S3 Parents' and Carers Evening (1)
Wed 3 Carlyle Assembly, School Photos (S1, 3 and 6), Open Doors Afternoon/Evening (Tours for FPs etc)
Thu 4 Oswald Assembly
Fri 5 Charity Dress Down, Maths CSI Court Case, Close with return on Mon 22 Oct.

The Rector Writes ...

With another session over, it is satisfying to reflect that for KHS, it has been a very happy and successful one in so many ways. I am probably most proud of our gaining the UNICEF "Rights Respecting School" Silver Award a couple of months back. This was recognition of many strands of our work but I think that, above all, it says that we are a listening school. Our young people are the school, and are central to all we do ... and this fits very well with our core value of "Respect".

Further very positive news came a couple of weeks ago with the publication of the "Parentwise" and "Pupilwise" surveys. These were conducted online by Fife Council. The full report is on our website, with a tab on our homepage.

Remarkably, in all of the 57 questions asked, the KHS "satisfaction" rate was above the Fife average, often significantly so. Overall, the Pupilwise level was 7% more positive with "Parentwise" 15% above.

Some of the important trends are that 11% more of our young people say that they feel safe and cared for in school, 12% more enjoy their learning and 10% more report that they are happy in school. The "Parentwise" report indicates that 95% of our parents/carers are "happy with the school". The Fife figure is 79%.

I must thank you for this very powerful vote of confidence, it means a lot for us here to have our collective efforts recognised by you ... and to have your backing. In some ways this is reflected in the sharp rise in our school roll for the session ahead, much of this due to "placing requests". However, as I shared at the Prizegiving last month, we will strive to do better still. Usque Conabor, as it says on the badge!

Finally, you are likely aware that Mrs Aitken will be Acting Headteacher of Lochgelly High School, from August. We have moved quickly to "backfill", and I'm delighted that Mrs Sharon Hamilton, currently Head of Maths, will be an Acting Depute Rector on return. She will be Year-head for S3, with Mr Young taking on that role for S1/2. Miss Diamond stays with S4 and Mrs Davidson oversees S5/6.

Yours

Allan.

The Easter Break

For some of our young people, the Easter holiday was a very productive and busy time. Our "Platinum" Sports Ambassadors had an excellent experience coaching and teaching at school sports camps in Sweden. Well done to Cameron Pilmer and Sean Saunders, who were an absolute credit to the school. Thanks to the staff who led our trip to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester during the holidays for the Champions League Quarter Final between Manchester City and Liverpool. This was also quite an experience for those involved.

Thanks also to all the staff who came in during the Easter break to deliver study support sessions for our SQA exam candidates. It was great to see such a big turnout for these revision sessions.

Week Beginning 16 April

During first week back we had yeargroup assemblies on the theme of teenage mental health (for S1-3) and the SQA exams (for S4-6). The S2 also had a special input from our link Police Officer, Stevie Black, about online safety and "sexting". Thanks go to Christine Paterson, of DAPL, for her input to our assemblies. Christine is our school based wellbeing counsellor.



KHS Prizewinners 2018

We also welcomed young people from Valley, Fair Isle, Torbain and Capshard as part of our "enhanced transition" programme. You will be aware that we always try to do whatever is best to make the move from primary to secondary successful. On the Thursday evening, Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes (S3) were up at Dundee Sheriff Court on Public Speaking business. It

was the national semi-final of the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal's Championship ... the Scottish Schools Public Speaking Competition. KHS won through to the national final. In that semi we were against Glen Urquhart High School, near Inverness and Morgan and Cara spoke passionately about child poverty, the impact of hunger and poor nutrition.

On the Friday, we welcomed the St Andrews University Geobus to school. The University staff worked with Geography classes all day. The activities were a lot of fun and had a focus on earthquakes and tectonic activity. There were some terrific designs for 'quake proof buildings. Finally, we held an excellent employability session on the Friday in conjunction with Costa Coffee. We had a large group of young people from several different secondaries engaging with the Costa training team to set up a series of work placements, mainly at the coffee shop in the Fife Retail Park. Two of our Senior Phase pupils subsequently started work placements with Costa.

Second Week of Term

Week 2 was another busy week, culminating in what was effectively the last day of school for our S6. After school on the Tuesday, our Active Schools Ambassadors hosted a transition event which they had organised for our new P7 intake, laying on taster sessions in dance and netball.

Also on the Tuesday evening, Mrs Davidson and Mr Allan attended the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy meeting at the Dean Park Hotel. This had a strong focus on youth activities with our Interact Club members speaking about their fund raising activities. The Rotarians were also introduced to Kiara Montgomery and Blain Aitken (S5), our successful RYLA Leadership Camp applicants. Kiara and Blain are being sponsored to take part in a week long adventure and leadership camp in the Highlands this summer. They will also be joined by Stephanie Blyth (S5) after an additional place became available. Many thanks to Kirkcaldy Rotary for all their support.

On the Wednesday, KHS was invited to be part of a prestigious event at Kirkcaldy West Primary School. It was the launch of the Scottish Government's School Improvement Our young people spoke about different aspects of their being involved in designing learning and contributing to school improvement. Gayle Gorman, the new Chief Inspector of Schools attended the event. It is right that our success in involving young people in the life of the school continues to be recognised. It certainly fits in well with our "Rights Respecting School" Award.



Activities Day at M & Ds Theme Park, Motherwell

It was also the Junior UK Maths Challenge on the Thursday. Many thanks to Miss Brown for taking the lead in organising this, it is always a very worthwhile activity for those involved. We had 35 young mathematicians taking part. Also, we had a large group of S1 girls taking part in the Fife Schools' Netball competition at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes, where they competed very well.

The Friday was the last day before the exams, and S4-6 had study leave, or in some cases, work placements. It was quite an emotional day, as the "Class of 2018" said their final farewells. They collected their yearbooks and had these signed by friends and staff with goodwill messages swapped.

The S6 also had the chance to add their names to the traditional Leavers' Mural. This time it's in the Science corridor.

The final event of that week involved our U14 footballers, who contested the Fife Shield Final against Beath High School at Bayview Stadium after school. KHS won 3-0. It was a thoroughly deserved victory and the boys put on an outstanding show of slick, fast passing football. Very well done to the whole squad and many thanks to Mr English and his assistant Mr I'Anson, who have coached this group so well.

Week from 30 April

As well as the start of the SQA exams on Monday 30 April, we also had the visit of Paul Johnston, Scottish Government's Director-General for Education, Communities and Justice.

He was keen to meet staff and young people in the "front line". We hosted Steve Grimmond, the Chief Executive of Fife Council, who was part of the visit too. The event went very well and our visitors were left with an excellent impression of our school and some very useful feedback from those "front line" learners.

Also on Monday morning, Mrs Davidson went along to ASDA Carberry Road to collect a cheque as part of the "Green Token" scheme. Many thanks to the store for their support. Then, on Monday afternoon, we had the first session of the Migele Experience work shadowing programme. Many thanks to Dom Panetta of Dom Migele for his support. As you know, helping young people

Tuesday saw a visit by our Go4SET technology team to Leviton (Brand-Rex) in Glenrothes. This is the national "STEM" competition and we are grateful to Brand-Rex for their support in preparing our team of S2 engineers. After school, our Rotary Interact Club held a sponsored walk which will help us buy a "shelter box" for use in a disaster zone. They had a special guest to start off the walk ... Denis Spiller is the top Rotarian in the British Isles. He is President of Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland.

On Wednesday we had a group of Science pupils up at Glenrothes High School, taking part in the Faraday Challenge.

The Thursday evening was a Friends of KHS meeting in our Boardroom. As always, many thanks to FokHS who continue to be a great support to the school. Also, "Active Schools Fife" did some filming in school after we were shortlisted for "Secondary School of the Year".

Week 4 Report

Monday was the May Day holiday and we were closed. Tuesday was the first day of our "Step Up" Enterprise sessions for our new S1 intake. Pupils from our four associated Primary Schools and those who have made a placing request joined us on the Tuesday or the Wednesday to take part in a business competition organised by "Entrepreneurme". Many thanks to Matt Stewart, who, as always, was a very enthusiastic host. The other transition event in the week was our P7 Sports Day on the Friday.

Also, on Tuesday evening, we contested the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Public Speaking National Final at the High Court, Edinburgh. The Principal Judge was James Wolffe QC, the Lord Advocate. Very well done to Castle Douglas High School, Dumfries and Galloway, who were declared the Scottish Champions. We are exceptionally proud of Morgan Faulds of Cara Hayes, who came very close and were outstanding ambassadors for KHS throughout the whole competition.

Week Beginning 14 May

On the Tuesday, our Go4SET Technology Team (supported by Brand-Rex, Glenrothes) took part in the regional heat of this national technology competition at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline.

In the afternoon, our U14 football team contested the semi-final of the Scottish Schools' FA Plate against St Modan's High School of Stirling. The match took place at New Central Park, home of Kelty Hearts and KHS won a keenly fought match 2-1.



On Wednesday, we had a group of over 50 S1 pupils attending a special event at Edinburgh University. They enjoyed taster sessions which gave them an idea of student life with mini lectures (including social anthropology) and the chance to see some of the University facilities. We are the first school in Fife to be involved with Edinburgh like this ... it's about widening access and giving young people an insight into different possibilities. Hopefully, by starting early, we can help young people be clearer about which "pathway" best suits them. It could be employment, further training, college or university. This trip was targeted mainly at young people with no tradition of Higher Education in the family.

For S1-3, the Friday was our "Activities Day", with young people out and about at: M and D's Theme Park (Motherwell), Xtreme Trampolining (Glenrothes), Bowling/Cinema (Dunfermline) or Blair Drummond Safari Park (Stirling). They all had a great day out, and even the weather was kind.

S1 Teams at the Dave Garland Tournament, Glenrothes

The system is called the "Parents Evening Booking System" (or PEBS), and the feedback forms are very positive. On the Friday, we had large group of young people took part in the Dave Garland Memorial Sports Tournament at Glenrothes High School. Dave was a former colleague of Mr Allan, who died of Motor Neurone Disease in 1995. There were football and netball competitions for First Year and we are delighted to report that KHS won the football. Very well done to Matthew Johnston, Harry Turner, David Cummings, Louis Patrick, Jay Copeland, Barry Joe Spears, Connor Auchterlonie and Callum Husband. The boys beat Viewforth, Madras, Levenmouth, Bell Baxter, Woodmill, Beath and Balwearie to lift the trophy. Well done also to coach Mr Harrower of the PE Department. We also had another group of S3 pupils helping out at the Primary Fun Athletics Competition being held today at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes.

The Week of 28 May

This was the final week of SQA exams. The results are posted out on August 7.

On the Wednesday evening after school, the staff got together to share their professional learning over the past session. Thanks to those who shared their experiences of improving classroom practice. There was a particular focus on how we are using the Pupil Equity Fund (or PEF) to support learners from disadvantaged background to do a bit better, primarily in literacy (especially reading) and numeracy. Health and wellbeing, including mental health and self esteem are also very important. There was also a talk by Christine Paterson, our "DAPL" mental health counsellor".

Later on Wednesday evening, we attended the Fife Active Schools Awards, held at the Rothes Halls. The Rector was joined at the awards evening by Miss McIntosh and Miss Malcolm of the PE Department.



Salters Chemistry Festival at Heriot-Watt University



Cara and Morgan at the High Court, Edinburgh

Week 6 Update

We had our Primary 6 Theme Day on the Tuesday, welcoming well over 200 young people from Capshard, Fair Isle, Torbain and Valley for special subject based lessons all on the theme of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It's a great way to get to know the school, make new friends and

meet the teachers. Our primary visitors had brilliant day in school. The feedback forms are among the most positive ever seen! Many thanks to the staff and S3 Prefects who made the primary kids so welcome on the day.

On Wednesday, we interviewed candidates for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl as well as the Deputies who make up the Student Leadership Team. After a selection process and initial interview, a group of 13 young people were shortlisted for a second interview, which included delivering a presentation on the school values. Very well done to: Blain Aitken, Fraser Anderson, Cameron Bowie, Katie Brown, Ella Dews, Kirstin Graham, Shannon Houston and Mollie Turner who will form the Student Leadership Team next session. In all, we have appointed around 80 Prefects for 2018-2019.

Our S3 Parent/Carer Evening took place on the Thursday night. We used online booking for the first time.

The winning school this year was Queen Anne High School ... very well done to them. Well done also to all of our staff, especially the PE team, who promote school sport and physical activities. The highlight for many was the speech delivered by our own Kianna Shearer (S4), who spoke eloquently and passionately about her involvement in the Fife "Sports Stars" programme.

The other big deal that week was our S2 "Disaster Day" with all pupils "off timetable" on the Friday



S2 Disaster Relief Team Challenge

to take part in themed outdoor learning linked to a disaster situation. We had outdoor teamwork activities with a focus on building temporary shelters, using communications (including Morse Code), survival skills, an assault course, first aid including "Heartstart" CPR, decoding messages and moving and filtering fresh water ... and our young people also had a lot of fun in the sun. It was a great way to mark the end of Year 2 in KHS. Thanks to organiser Miss Wight of the Geography Department for her expert coordination of a complex event. We also had a group of S3 Sports Leaders helping out local primaries with their Athletics Festival and our windband playing in a concert along at Capshard Primary.

Week 8 News

This was a short week but a particularly eventful one! Monday, June 4, was a public holiday and Tuesday was teacher in-service training, with our Sports Colours Ceremony with Saltire Volunteer and Prefect presentations at 4pm. Those attending were all blown away by the quality of the election speeches delivered by the Head Boy and Head Girl candidates. They spoke passionately about how they plan to be part of our ongoing improvement.



Fraser Anderson and Mollie Turner, Head Boy and Girl

On Wednesday we got underway again on our new timetable, which has run very smoothly.

We had yeargroup assemblies on the Thursday, including an input from Ms Mahr and Mr Mitchell (RME) who will be leading our upcoming trip to Rwanda in October 2019. This is a very exciting prospect and the next stage in developing our partnership with Group Scoliare Bumbogo, near Kigali. It was fascinating to hear about school life in Africa. We explained that, although this is an expensive trip, we are able to support two entirely funded places (worth over £3000 in total) through sponsorship from "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School". These places are being reserved for pupils who qualify for free meals. We are also intending to fundraise to support the other participants too.

Mr Harrower (PE) spoke at the S2 assembly about a World War 1 Battlefields Trip to Belgium and France which he is planning for May 2019. Again, this is a fantastic opportunity. Again, financial support is available for pupils on free meals. For help with registering for free meals entitlement or a clothing grant please call 01592 583405 and ask to speak to Mrs Hardie (Family Link Worker).

At the assemblies, we had a further input from Robert Greenhorn, our Active Schools Coordinator, recruiting potential Sports Ambassadors and potential "Sports Stars" for the year ahead.

On the Thursday, our U14 football team contested the final of the Scottish Schools Plate against Wallace High School from Stirling at Bathgate. KHS won after a penalty shoot-out. It was a dramatic final which ended 2-2 (with scorers Jordan Tosh and Cameron McGregor). In the shoot-out, the winning penalty was cored by Owen Dewes. Well done on a magnificent achievement, and thanks to coaches Mr English and Mr I'Anson.

Further congratulations go to Cameron Bowie (S6), who was named as "Young Volunteer of the Year" in the Fife Voluntary Action Awards. Cameron, who is chair of the KHS LGBT+ was nominated by "Pink Saltire" for his work in promoting "Inclusivity in Fife Schools". Well done Bowie ... your school is very proud.

Friday 8 June was our S6 Induction Day, many thanks to Mr Farquharson (Guidance), who put together an interesting and varied programme with inputs on volunteering, careers, university applications, financial health and leadership opportunities.

We also had team building activities and problem solving in the afternoon. At the end of the day, Mr Allan announced our Head Boy and Head Girl for the session ahead ... congratulations to Fraser Anderson and Mollie Turner ... and to all our Student Leadership Team.

Also that day, we had an author visit from Dion Leonard, of "Finding Gobi" fame. A group of RME pupils met with him to discuss his work. Dion's true tale is about one man's love for his dog, and dedication and resilience in overcoming the odds. Everyone was very impressed after meeting Dion and Gobi ... it truly is an inspirational story. Gobi is the cutest of dogs too!

As if there wasn't enough going on, our "Learning Council" met that afternoon with their counterparts from our local primaries to finalise our shared "Learning Charter". What an excellent project this has been. It should help improve the "learner journey" of all our young people over time and is to feature as "good practice" on the Education Scotland website.

Week from 11 June

Many thanks to Miss McIntosh and Miss Malcolm, who led our Cairngorms trip over weekend. It was very challenging and enjoyable programme aimed at boosting confidence. Those involved got a great deal from the experience and were involved in all sorts of active, outdoor adventure experiences such as climbing and abseiling. It's all part of our "health and wellbeing" agenda, and this trip was targeted at those who have not had an outward bounds experience in the past.

We had the AGM of Friends of Kirkcaldy High School on the Monday evening and must once again thank this fantastic group for the excellent support they offer our young people. The two main fund



U14 Scottish Plate Winners 2018

raising events are the ceilidh and the race night ... please do be involved.

On Tuesday 12 June, we had a group of 28 young people participating in the Fife Schools' Athletics Championships at Pitreavie. Many thanks to Mr Harrower, who organised this. Congratulations to Sean Stewart (S4) and Scott Graves (S3) who each won a Gold and a Silver Medal ... coincidentally, both in Long Jump and the 100m respectively.

We also had music students taking part in a Trinity Music Workshop at Lochgelly Centre. This was a fantastic opportunity and the chance to listen to professional musicians perform a programme of rock and pop music before learning to play some music in smaller groups on their chosen instrument. It was also being completely funded by Trinity Music so there was no expense for those involved. Well done to Ms Simpson, Head of Music, who set this all up.

It was also our Prizegiving on Tuesday 12 June. We were delighted to be joined by Joe Pike as our Principal Guest. Joe is a Political Correspondent with ITV and is the husband of the late Gordon Aikman, former Head Boy of KHS. Gordon died of Motor Neurone Disease last year and was a remarkable ambassador for that cause.



Charlie Murdoch with Joe Pike and the Gordon Aikman Cup for Charity

We are making the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association the main focus of our charity work for the next few years ahead and have introduced the "Gordon Aikman Cup" for charity work, sponsored by Gordon's family. Joe was a brilliant speaker and gave a moving account of Gordon's life, challenging our young people to make the most of theirs and to be someone who makes a difference, as Gordon surely was.

Prizegiving celebrates academic, sporting and wider achievement. Once again, it was a brilliant showcase for our young people. We are all really felt very proud of all of them as they received recognition for their efforts.

We should give a special mention to our major prizewinners. Congratulations to our Dux for 2017-2018, Rebecca Meekison. Rebecca is the leading scholar of the year, having gained straight A passes in her Highers and excelling in her studies this year too. She is off to Glasgow University to study Law and has ambitions to one day work for the United Nations.

Rebecca was also the recipient of the McDermid Bursary for this year. This is an award of £500, given by internationally renowned crime writer, Val McDermid, to support a young person in their first year of a University course, living away from home. Val is a former KHS student. Very well done Rebecca.

The first ever winner of the Gordon Aikman Cup was Charlie Murdoch, a Second Year pupil who is chair of our Rotary Interact Club. Charlie has raised hundreds of pounds for several good causes in his two years at KHS and thoroughly deserves recognition.

On the Wednesday, our new crop of Sport Leaders were assisting at the Disability Sport Fife Athletics Championships which were held at Pitreavie.

It was a very rewarding experience for our young people and their support was greatly appreciated by the organisers, who were in touch to express their gratitude, on behalf of all the competitors. All of our Sports Leaders showed exceptional commitment to supporting the disabled athletes, as judges, timekeepers or setting up equipment. In particular, commendation goes to Zak Cairns (S6), who was described to us by Gilbert Cochrane, of Scottish Athletics, as "outstanding" on the day. Zak said that he had been humbled by the experience and had found it a very rewarding one.

This week saw our Primary 7 Welcome Days, held on the Wednesday and Thursday. Many thanks to our PSAs, buddies, escorts and Prefects who brought the P7 to the school and looked after them. Our visitors followed a "normal" timetable and met their new teachers. On the Thursday night there was a parent/carer evening and a disco/barbeque for the P7. It was a great way to break down barriers, get over any fears and make new friends. I have to say it was excellent. It was good to meet our new bumper intake and their parents/carers.

We also had Academy Uniforms, our recommended uniform supplier, in school. Uniform orders can also be placed online for collection in August. These will be available from Monday 6 August 2018. Please order directly at www.academyuniforms.co.uk/ Blazers sourced elsewhere are also perfectly acceptable and we have school badges for sale from the office at only £5.

On the Friday we had a group of 18 S4 Science students taking part in a "Next Generation" activities event at Port Edgar Sailing Centre. It was a very active learning event ... with much wetness! The week ended with our leavers' Prom, which was held at Forrester Park, Dunfermline. It was a terrific final send off for the "Class of 2018". Good luck to them all, they have been a real credit to KHS. The event went very well, and much credit goes to the staff side of the Prom Committee. Many thanks to Mr Fulton, Mrs Hardie, Mr I'Anson and Miss McIntosh for their excellent work.

On the Saturday, our LGBT+ Support Group members took part in Edinburgh Pride, and had a great day out. We are immensely proud of this group and all they have achieved in a short space of time. KHS is a better place for their campaigning work, and in fact their influence extends beyond this school. This has been recognised by Fife Council and we are very pleased to share that the group has been nominated by Fife Council for the "CoSLA" Excellence Awards 2018.



S4 "First Chances" Graduates at St Andrews University

The Penultimate Week of Term

Week beginning 18 June was an exceptionally busy one. We had our new S3 First Chances group off for a residential experience at St Andrews University from Monday to Wednesday. From Wednesday onwards our S4 students then stayed at the University with their graduation at the end of the week. Many thanks to Mrs Hunter, Miss Nessel and Mr Dick for their commitment to this. They reported that our young people had all done particularly well. Also on the Monday, and again on Friday, our Advanced Higher Chemistry students spent the day at the Edinburgh University labs at King's Buildings. Thanks to Dr Murray for organising this.

We also had the S3 Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Finals in school on Monday. This is sponsored by the Wood Group and results in a local charity receiving a cash donation of £3000. It's a very worthwhile initiative and involves groups of young people researching good causes and becoming advocates for that charity.

It was tough for the judging panel which comprised Mr Allan, David Torrance MSP and Charlie Murdoch (S3), winner of the Gordon Aikman Cup for Charity. After much deliberation, the judges decided that Autism Rocks, promoted by Khai Slater and Cara Hayes were winners. Autism Rocks is a small charity based in Buckhaven and this donation was described by Morag Duff, one of the volunteers, as a "game changer". Khai and Cara's reward was to attend the National YPI Showcase at Perth Concert Hall on the Wednesday, which included a performance by Emeli Sande. This was, as you may imagine, very special.

On the Monday afternoon, we also had "Boozebusters" Peer Educator Training supported by "Clued Up" and our Employability Partners Meeting after school, arranged by Miss Nessel. The aim was to set up work placements etc for the year ahead. If you can help us provide "real life" or vocational experiences, please do be in touch. Ask for Mrs Davidson.

On Tuesday we had an Adam Smith Assembly and Miss Osborne (History) took a group of S4 students to St Andrews University for workshops and lectures to help with their studies. This was a fantastic experience and included a talk from Michael Morpurgo, celebrated author of "War Horse".

In the evening it was the AGM of our Parent Council. We discussed our latest budget position, which is reasonably healthy in a time of difficulty in the public sector. The Rector also gave a staffing update and explained that by and large, we are unlikely to have recruitment problems, although this can often change by the week.

Mr Allan shared our Improvement Plan priorities for the year ahead and spoke about the latest "Pupilwise" and "Parentwise" Survey results. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday 28 August at 7pm. Please do come along if you are able, it really is useful to have you involved in the workings of the school.

The Wednesday was an Oswald Assembly and we also held a staff "Bake Off" in support of Cancer Research UK at lunchtime and this raised over £125, many thanks to Ms Collins, Head of Home Economics. At lunchtime, student members KHS LGBT+ delivered training NHS staff at Victoria Hospital. As you know, we are very proud of all their campaigning and training efforts ... breaking down prejudice.



Bubble Football at the "Big Event"

Our Boozebusters sessions, delivered by the S5 peer educators to all S3 took place on Thursday and we also had a group out of school all day attending the Computer Game and Animation Jam Competition at Fife College, Stenton Campus, Glenrothes. We are delighted to report that KHS won the competition! Well done to Amy Krzyanowska, Mackenzie Aitken, Lyall Parter and Leon Lessels, won over the judges, taking home the top spot with their simple, yet challengingly addictive game "Gilbert in Space". Mr Adams, of our Computing Science Department said that he was very proud of his team.

On the Friday, we had two trips to Edinburgh ... one is a Business Studies trip to the Investment 2020 Conference and the other to the Royal Highland Show (Home Economics). Both were rich learning experiences for those involved.

The Last Week of Term

We had a pretty busy final week too. On Monday, Dr Jones and Mrs Brewster (PSA) took our S1 "Reading Group" on a day out at Camperdown Wildlife Park in Dundee, and all had a great experience.

Also on Monday, the History Department hosted a seminar on the First World War. It was good to welcome back Fraser Brown, former curator of the Black watch Museum in Perth. Fraser is an old friend of the school and a brilliant military historian. On Tuesday, our Administration and IT students planned and organised a trip to Edinburgh, where they visited the Camera Obscura and we were represented at the Capshard P7 Leavers' Show.

We had a special assembly for S4 on the Wednesday. Miss Diamond explained what to expect from the SQA qualifications process and exams. That afternoon, we attended the Torbain leavers' show. In the evening, we held a parent/carer evening for those interested in our 2019 trip to Rwanda.

On Thursday we held another special assembly for S3 to announce the winners of our recent "Disaster Day" Teamwork Challenge. Very well done to Oswald House, declared overall winners. In the afternoon it was our "Big Event" to mark the end of session. We had the usual stalls and fun activities with bubble football, giant inflatables as well as ice cream, face painting, nail bar etc. Many thanks to the staff committee who have planned this and booked up the different inputs.

Thanks also to the sponsors, especially to Smeaton Stores, who donated the ice cream, which was much appreciated in the heat!

For the end of session we held a "Dress Down Day" in support of the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association, in tribute to Gordon Aikman. It was also our traditional last day Talent Show ... many thanks to all the young people who took part.

Parents and carers know that Mrs Aitken (Senior Depute) will become the Headteacher of Lochgelly High School after the break. This is an "acting" arrangement at first, and recognition for Mrs Aitken's fantastic contribution here over 10 years, it's also a chance for her to lead her own school.

We'll also be promoting Dr Jones, who will also be leaving us after the break to take up a promoted post as Head of Additional Support at Speyside High School in Aberlour. Very well done too to Mr Mitchell of our RE Dept. He has been appointed to be Mrs Thompson's replacement as Guidance Teacher in Adam Smith House. This is a temporary arrangement for the year ahead. Mrs Thompson has been appointed Head of English, and very well done to her. She replaces Mrs Hume, who has been seconded to position with the Scottish Government's Education agency. Congratulations to Mrs Hume.



Mrs Aitken, new Head at Lochgelly

You already know that Mr Morrice (CDT), Mrs Tulloch (Computing) and Mr Britain (Music) will be taking retirement. Best wishes to all of them. I am delighted that both Mr Morrice and Mr Britain will continue in a part-time capacity after the summer, at least in the short term.

Looking ahead, after the SQA exam results on Tuesday 7 August, the staff return to school on Monday 13 August and the pupils' first day in Wednesday 15 August. Anyone requiring to reconsider their course choice in light of their exam results should come in to school on the afternoon of Monday 13 August.