



Diary Dates

Mon 22 Oct Yeargroup Assemblies, S5/6 (Fri) with Fife Police and the "Driver Improvement Scheme"

Tues 23 S3 at Dundee University "Discovering Dundee"

Wed 24 Travel and Tourism students at Fife College for Cabin Crew Training, "Speedy STEM" event for S5/6 pm, Rotary "Hi 5" in the evening

Thurs 25 P7 Open Evening—call 01592 583405 for "placing requests"

Fri 26 Lesley Laird MP visiting S4 Modern Studies classes

Mon 29 S2 Assembly with Teenage Cancer Trust, S2 trip to Black Watch Museum in Perth (Remembrance event), S6 Halloween Disco (evening)

Tues 30 S4 Foundation Apprenticeship Fair, Rotary "Young Chef" am, National 5 English Parents' Evening

Wed 31 Drama trip to Kings Theatre, Edinburgh "Dracula"

Thurs 1 Nov "FoKHS" Meeting at 7pm (all welcome)

Fri 2 Nov "FoKHS" Race Night Fundraiser (call 01592 583405 for tickets)

Tues 6 House Assemblies this week, Remembrance, Snr UK Maths Challenge, "Safe Drive Stay Alive" Roadshow at Rothies Halls (for S5)

Wed 7 Rotary "Youth Speaks" Competition at 6.30pm

Thurs 8 S2 "Speedy STEM"

Fri 9 S2 visit to Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, Edinburgh

Sat 10 and Sun 11 Football trip to Manchester/Newcastle

Wed 14 S1 Parents' Evening

Fri 16 In Service Training

Tues 20 House Assemblies (theme: Book Week Scotland)

Thurs 22 Rotary S6 Quiz at Viewforth High School

Tues 27 KHS Employability/Careers Fair pm and evening

Wed 28 S2 Learning Fair (course choices) pm and evening

Thurs 29 S4 "Sexperts" Peer Education Sessions, KHS Christmas Craft Fayre in support of S6 Yearbook and Prom

Fri 30 S5/6 donor sign up session with Anthony Nolan Trust

Tues 4 Dec Parent Council Quiz Night at 7pm

Thurs 6 Fife College talk S4-6

Mon 10 Year Assemblies this week

Tues 11 S5/6 Parents' Evening

Fri 14 S1 Trip to Adam Smith Panto

Tues 18 House Assemblies this week

Wed 19 Christmas Disco

Fri 21 "Dress Down", Staff X Factor and early closure (return 7 Jan 2019).

The Rector Writes ...

WE had a very active start to the new session and I think that everyone here is surprised how Term 1 has flown in.

The school roll is currently standing at its highest level in recent years and we are anticipating that it should remain at just below 1200 for the rest of this year. For the past 10 years we've had about 1100 pupils, and KHS has felt noticeably busier.

As well as our pupil new starts, it was a pleasure to welcome several new members of the teaching staff ... and it's just as well given the rising roll! We have recruited the following teachers; Business: Ms Russell, Computing: Mr Hussain, English: Ms Patton, Mrs Campbell and Miss Wilson, PE: Miss Steedman, Biology: Mrs Scott and Miss McFall, History: Miss McGhee, Geography: Miss Wallace, Maths: Miss Cunningham and Mr Donaldson. Welcome to them all, they have settled in very well.

We are also pleased to report good successes in the SQA exams. Perhaps you saw some of the media coverage? It was lovely to see those delightful pictures of Taylor Williams on the cover of the Courier and our pupils doing the traditional leap of joy on the cover of the Fife Free Press (photo). Overall, we can report some very pleasing outcomes in the exams. The Higher results were very good, with many indicators standing at "best ever" levels. For example, 1 in 3 of the group which came to us in S1 five years ago have gone on to achieve at least three Highers. I am reluctant to focus on any particular students as every individual has a different personal best. However, we did have a group of young people across S4-6 who scored straight A grades and could not have done any better. Special congratulations go to John Hamilton, Megan Jobson, Sorcha Cross, Maja Kheirallah, Craig Kelly, Gabrielle Ward, Kitty Pham and Morgan Stokes.

But of course, there is much more to this school than exam pass rates ... as you will gather from the usual breadth of coverage in this newsletter. You will learn of our great success at national level, in the "COSLA" Excellence Awards. KHS is recognised as leading the way in creating a culture of inclusion, fairness and respect. Values matter.

Yours always

The Session Ahead

School started back on 13 August and you will likely be aware that Mrs Aitken (Senior Depute Rector) has moved on to take on the role of Temporary Headteacher at Lochgelly High School. Mrs Sharon Hamilton (Principal Teacher of Mathematics) has been appointed a temporary Depute Head and is Yearhead for S3. This arrangement is working very well.



SQA Exam Results Day 2018

Thanks for your ongoing support with school uniform. As a reminder, the following items should be worn at all times; white shirt (preferably with a "formal" stiff collar) or blouse, school tie knotted at the throat and plain black trousers or skirt. Please note that leggings without pockets are not acceptable schoolwear. A plain black jumper or cardigan is also appropriate but it must be a v-neck so that the tie is visible. No jeans, track suits, white or coloured shoes/trainers, or hooded clothing are allowed. Footwear must be plain black.

We have made an arrangement with Academy Uniforms, who can supply a good value school blazer for only £31.50. To order direct, you can use www.academyuniformsltd.co.uk. The company also offers jumpers and cardigans with the school name embroidered. Of course, other blazers and uniform items are also perfectly acceptable.

For low income families who may qualify for a clothing grant (now worth £100) and free meals (valued at £10 per week), please log on to www.fifedirect.org.uk and click the "Do It Online" tab. For those without computer access, staff at a local library will help, as will Mrs Hardie, our Family Link Worker. Call on 01592 583405.

It is probably helpful to give details of our Parent/Carer Evenings for the year ahead. These take place in the early evening and dates are given below. We will contact you to advise when our online booking system (called PEBS) goes live, usually about 7-10 days in advance. Here are those dates;

- P7 Welcome Evening: Thurs 25 Oct 2018
- S1 Parents' Evening: Wed 14 Nov 2018
- S1 Growth Mindset for Numeracy Parents' Evening: Wed 5 Sept 2018
- S1 English Family Learning/Growth Mindset Evening: Tues 29 Jan 2019
- S2 Parents' Evening: Thurs 7 Mar 2019
- S2 Learning Fair: Wed 28 Nov 2018
- S3-6 Employability Fair: Tues 27 Nov 2018
- S3 Parents' Evenings: Tues 2 Oct 2018 and Thurs 23 May 2019
- S4 Parents' Evening: Wed 27 Feb 2019
- S4 N5 Maths Parents' Evening: Wed 12 Sept 2018
- S4 N5 English Parents' Evening: Wed 30 Oct 2018
- S5/6 Parents' Evening: Tues 11 Dec 2018.

Week 1 of Term

Before the pupils returned on 15 August, we had staff training on the Monday and Tuesday. This had a focus on improving learning and teaching, exam results, course choices and meeting pupils' needs.

On the Wednesday we extended tutor time to allow for the new timetables to be checked over and we welcomed those new starts.



"Boozebusters" Peer Education Presentations

At the end of the week we had Yeargroup assemblies. We shared expectations for the year ahead and reminded young people of their responsibilities. As you would expect, we've been reinforcing the school's values of "Respect for Self, Respect for Others and Respect for Learning". At the S5/6 Assembly we asked for volunteers to come forward to help at the Templehall Gala and must thank those who assisted. We got a lovely email from the organisers.

Week from 20 August

During this week we had House Assemblies with introductions of the House Leaders and Captains, a further focus on the year ahead and a number of presentations of certificates including for our "Boozebusters" peer mentors and SQA top achievers.

Many thanks to Sergeant Jimmy Adamson and his colleagues from Kirkcaldy Police, who presented the "Boozebusters" awards along with Jayne Preece from the "Clued Up" support agency.

On the Wednesday our Active Schools Ambassadors were out on a training day at St Andrews University Sports Centre. Also on Wednesday and again on Friday we are hosted teachers from the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia and Japan as part of their professional learning.

It's always good to welcome our European colleagues and as always they were very impressed, commenting on the strong family "ethos" or "feel" of our school.

On the Thursday we had a group of English pupils attending the Edinburgh International Book Festival and in the evening we had a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting. We must publicly thank all the "FoKHS" members, especially those who mentored our Higher pupils.

On the Friday, our S5/6 were out of class to have a special focus on the "I Can" skills which is part of our focus on becoming "job ready" on leaving school. Many thanks to Mr Farquharson (Guidance), who organized the session.

Week From 27 August

This was a busy week with

Yeargroup Assemblies which had an emphasis on our shared "Learning Charter", developed along with our linked Primary Schools, led by young people. There was also a further focus on "Respect" ... it's good to reiterate our school values and to examine what they mean in practice. It was also a Personal Learning Planning Week for S4 with discussions on progress and targets with teachers.

On the Tuesday, The Rector attended the Kirkcaldy Rotary Club lunch with Stephanie Blyth, Blain Aitken and Kiara Montgomery (S6). All were sponsored by the club to participate in the RYLA Leadership Camp in the Cairngorms this summer and spoke about their experiences at the lunch.

Many thanks to the Rotary for all their support. We are exceptionally proud of them all, especially the way they demonstrated how they grown as individuals as a result of their experiences in the mountains. It was quite emotional. Many thanks to the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy for their support.

The Wednesday saw Miss Wight and Miss Wallace out on a trip to Tentsmuir Forest with the Higher Geography class in association with the St Andrews University "Geobus".

On the Thursday, for S5/6, the timetable was suspended for our Senior Health Day. After a series of in-school sessions in the morning which included healthy cookery, mental health and physical activity, all S5/6 walked to Kirkcaldy Leisure Centre in the afternoon to take part in various classes such as Body Pump, Body Combat and Swimming. Many thanks to Fife Sport and Leisure Trust for their help with this major event.

For the S5/6 Assembly on the Friday, we welcomed Michelle and Conner, students of Lochgelly High School, who shared their recent experiences as part of the "Polar Academy".

This involved visiting Greenland and undertaking a very challenging expedition. Also that day, our Sports Leaders were up at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes supervising the "Go for Gold" event, which was a sporting competition for vulnerable adults.



Blain, Kiara and Stephanie with their RYLA Awards

Week 4 Report

September has been pretty busy with our 'Next Steps' parents/carers evening taking place on Monday 3 September. The focus was primarily on UCAS and university applications but we also covered college, apprenticeships and employment.

There was an input from Skills Development Scotland too. Many thanks to Mr Farquharson and thanks to those who came along.

It was also good to see a good turnout at our Parent Council meeting on following night. We covered budget, staffing and SQA results.



"Active Schools" Sports Ambassadors Training at St Andrews University

Many thanks to Head Boy and Girl, Fraser Anderson and Mollie Turner who gave an update from a student viewpoint. The Council is now planning a Quiz Night for December and have asked Mr Dick (Chemistry), who is our resident DJ and Quizmaster, to host.

That Tuesday was a particularly busy day with our new crop of S6 "My World of Work" Ambassadors being trained by Skills Development Scotland.

Our Platinum Sports Ambassadors also attending a national conference at Perth Concert Hall and we hosted BAE Systems for a "STEM" event for S1 in the Assembly Hall. This was lots of fun. We also had a vaccination "catch up" session for S3 who missed out in June.

On the Wednesday evening, all S1 parents/carers were invited to our "Growth Mindset for Numeracy" evening. Many thanks to the Maths team who have organised this and also to those who came along. There was a great turn out and the event was very well evaluated.

On the Friday morning Mr Allan attended the annual Fife Education and Children's Services Conference at the Rothies Halls and once again he was so proud that KHS young people had been asked to take a lead.

Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes (S4) were the only Fife young people invited to contribute in this way and they spoke passionately about the impact which Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) can have on young people.

ACES include poverty, neglect, hunger, abuse and violence and Morgan and Cara, along with other KHS pupils have helped in the production of a new film called "Be That Person" over the past year. It had its first showing at the Conference.

We are delighted that our own Mr Broadway (Head of Supported Learning) and pupils appear in the film.



The Osiligi Maasai Warriors, from Kenya

Week From 10 Sept

This was a very active one too with a film crew in school making a short video about our COSLA Excellence Award finalists, KHS LGBT+, first thing on the Monday morning. This went very well (see page 4!). In the afternoon, all of our S6 attended the Fife Careers Convention at the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes, which included information about UCAS University applications as well as College courses and Modern Apprenticeships. In the evening, Mr English, Mr I'Anson and the KHS Tartan Army were at Hampden to cheer Scotland to victory over Albania. Maybe this time!

We had House Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to unfurl our "Rights Respecting School" banner and we were pleased to be joined by David Torrance, the MSP for Kirkcaldy for this special occasion. Well done our "Rights Respecting School" group, which led the events with such style. In the afternoon on Tuesday we welcomed the Osiligi Maasai Warriors Dance Troupe to KHS.

The group caused quite a stir with their amazing dance and jumping routines, which were greatly appreciated by our S1 and S2 pupils.

In the evening, Mr Harrower held a parent/carer evening for those S2 involved in the Great War battlefields trip to France and Belgium in May 2019.

Thanks to Mr Harrower and Miss Osborne for taking

this on. It's sure to be such a moving experience and it's important to remember.

Wednesday was a meeting of "Friends of Kirkcaldy High" mentors in the morning. FoKHS offers support to S5 undertaking academically challenging courses and the mentors meet throughout the session.

We then held a staff training session after school with a focus on summarising what has been learned in a lesson.

Thanks to Mrs Hamilton (Depute) for setting this up and also to Mrs Morris who was filmed in action.

We also had some excellent feedback from a group of S6 students who gave staff useful advice about what works best for them.

On Wednesday evening, the Maths Department held a special parent/carer evening for those studying for National 5. Thanks to Miss Grubb and the team giving up their own time so freely. It really does produce results.

On the Thursday, Mr Allan was joined by Cameron Bowie, Alanah Ferguson, John Hamilton and Dr Paul Murray, some of the leading members of our KHS LGBT+ Support Group, at Verity House (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities HQ in Edinburgh) to deliver our presentation for the COSLA Excellence Awards (Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health).

We are immensely proud to be regarded as such a progressive school where respect for self, others and learning is promoted so persistently.

Some people succeed in life and find happiness despite what happened to them in school. We are determined to achieve this because of what happens in school. Also that day, we had teams taking part in the Fife Heat of the "Enterprising Maths" Competition and that KHS came in third and eighth of the 22 teams taking part.

On the Friday, we posted home our S5/6 "Tracking" letter which gives an indication of initial progress towards exam targets set for May 2019.



Miss Ashby and the "Rights Respecting Schools" Group

Parents/carers should not be overly concerned if any young person is slightly "off track" at this point, as long as the "effort" and "homework" grades are good. We encourage all learners to aim high and very few will presently be at the standard we aspire to by next May.

Week 6 News

During this week we held yeargroup assemblies. On the Tuesday, our LGBT+ Group was in Edinburgh to deliver Equalities Training for Headteachers. They really are outstanding ambassadors, so articulate in promoting the cause of equality. The group also attended Dundee Pride at the weekend.

Also on the Tuesday, our Higher Politics and Advanced Higher French students attended an event with Sir Keir Starmer, the



Our "Enterprising Maths" Team - On to the Scottish Finals in Glasgow

We are now through to the National Finals to be held at Glasgow Science Centre in November. Well done to all our mathematicians and also to Miss Cunningham and Mrs Findlay who support them in the competition.

At Windmill Campus that night it was the official premiere of "Be That Person", Fife Council's "Adverse Childhood Experiences" film.

Arron Kennedy (S2) appears in the film and attended the showing, along with Mr Broadway, Mrs Cairns, Miss Easson and other KHS support staff.

Mr Broadway in particular, has become heavily involved in several initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of those "ACES", including a Scottish Parliament "Steering Group".

Shadow Brexit Secretary. This was very a very useful discussion from a coursework perspective, and it's also the hottest political topic of the day.

On the Thursday, our "Learning Council" took part in a consultation about a Young People's Sexual Health Conference which is planned to be held in KHS in June 2019. We are working with NHS Fife to develop a new way of delivering health advice for young people.

On Friday 21 September, among other things going on, Miss Collins (Head of Home Economics), had a meeting of young people who are interested in taking part in the Rotary Club "Young Chef" Competition.

This is an exciting event which will involve preparing a meal at Fife College ... judged much in the style of "Masterchef".



Team KHS Presenting at COSLA HQ in Edinburgh, subsequent winners of the "President's Award"

We have also signed up for the Rotary "Youth Speaks" Competition. Round 1 takes place in KHS in early November with the UK final in Nottingham next May.

The Penultimate Week of Term

This was our S3 "Employability Week". Many thanks to Mrs Davidson and Miss Malcolm, who planned and delivered a varied schedule with workplace visits, guest speakers, Skills Development Scotland sessions and themed lessons in different subject areas.

This included such diverse inputs as an Army team building exercise to a talk from Jacquie Low, the Chair of Partick Thistle. Jacquie is a former pupil of KHS and has had a highly successful business and media career.

Also that week, we delivered a presentation on "Respect for Self" for all pupils in order to help us understand shared expectations. When everyone understands how we should always try to go about things, it's easier to learn together. This took place on the Monday morning.

Our core values of "Respect for Self, Others and Learning" remain the basis of all we do. On Tuesday, Mr Farquharson arranged a UCAS university sign up session for S6 during periods 1 and 2.

On the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, our First Years were at Fordell Firs Outdoor Centre for a team building and adventure education experience. Activities included climbing, caving, archery etc and we had each of our three Houses out on a different day. Fordell is the national Scouts Outdoor Centre, near Dunfermline.

Also out and about were our Advanced Higher Geography students, who attended a Fieldwork Centre at Kindrogan, Perthshire.

Also on the Wednesday, KHS represented Fife schools at the National "Adverse Childhood Experiences" ("ACES") Conference at the "Armadillo" in Glasgow.



Jackie Low, of Partick Thistle, with Holly, Brooke, Amber and Miss Malcolm

The main speaker was the world renowned expert Dr Nadine Burke Harris from San Francisco and the Rector was joined by Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes (S4), who have been involved in developing Fife's own "ACES" film "Be That Person". After school, our "First Chances" students were part of a tutorial with St Andrews University.

On the Thursday evening, KHS LGBT+ group delivered training for Fife Children's panel members at a session in Glenrothes.

There was also official confirmation of our new link with Mark Fleming, a Scottish author. After a successful application to the Scottish Book Trust, Mark will be our "Author in Residence" for the year ahead. We are very pleased to be one of only nine schools across Scotland to be selected for this scheme and must thank Miss Cunningham (PT Equity in Literacy) for the work she has done to secure Mark's services.

Last Week of Term

During the final week of term we had "Time for Reflection" House Assemblies with Imam Mansoor Mahmood of Kirkcaldy Mosque. Mansoor was joined by his wife Afeefa and explained the functions of the current Mosque and the plans for the new building on Cumbrae Terrace, which is expected to open next autumn. Our pupils were very interested to learn about developments and many are looking to visit the new Mosque which will undoubtedly be a landmark building in Fife.

On the Tuesday afternoon, we held a "Doors Open" event which was supported by "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" to mark 60 years of KHS on Dunnikier Way. We invited the Kirkcaldy community, and former pupils, to come in to the school to be shown around by Prefects. It was a chance to reminisce, see what has changed ... and what hasn't.

We had small group tours of perhaps 4 or 5 people that afternoon, each tour lasting 20-30 minutes. In total, we had almost 40 visitors dropping in and the feedback was really lovely. Many thanks to the Prefects who were super hosts.

Tuesday was also our S3 Parent/Carer Evening and we used the online booking system again. This allowed parents and carers to log on to a website to pick slots. Again, thanks to the Prefects, and also to our My World of Work" Ambassadors for all their help.

On the Wednesday, we had school photographs for S1, S3 and S6 and these went well.

The ordering details have been shared.

Also, our S4 Personal Development Class, supported by Ms Russell of the Business Department, held a MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning for staff. This event raised almost £250 and we are especially proud of our young people for their work with this.

We also had a very important trip to Auschwitz in Poland that day. Nicole MacDonald and Katie Brown, who are both in S6 and both study History, were joined by Miss Osborne of the History Department on a special day trip from Edinburgh to Krakow.



Rachel Barclay with her Sport Scotland Certificate

Sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Trust, the "Lessons from Auschwitz" programme involves young people from all over Scotland having the chance to see the Nazi Death Camps up close and to find out more about the genocidal murder of six million European citizens during World War Two. Nicole and Katie were deeply moved by the experience and will now lead assemblies, sharing their memories and their photographs, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2019.

On the Thursday we had a group of S2 scientists up at Glenrothes to take part in the "Quadcopter" Challenge. This involves building and flying a drone under test conditions. This is an excellent "STEM" initiative.

For the final day of term we held a Dress Down Day in support of the Cottage Family Centre, based in Templehall. Pupils were asked to donate £1 or whatever they could afford. We'll donate half the proceeds (around £350) to the Cottage and put half by for our end of term fair.

It's was also the culmination of our S1 Maths "CSI" murder case as we held a trial in the Hall, in front of the entire S1 year-group.



Welcoming Imam Mansoor Mahmood of Kirkcaldy Mosque

Over the term, they have been cracking numeracy based clues to lead to the culprit. The question on everybody's lips was "Who murdered Mr Young?". The jury did an excellent job and correctly pinned the crime on Mr Cromb. Very best wishes to Mr Cromb, who will be taking special leave for the term ahead (not in prison!) and will rejoin us in January 2019.

Also on the last day of term, our Sports Ambassadors led an "Active Girls" event for all S2 in conjunction with Raith Rovers Ladies and Girls, Kirkcaldy Girls Rugby Club and Darcy Moghimian Arts (Dance School). Congratulations to Rachel Barclay (S4), who won the Sport Scotland Competition to design the certificates for the event.

STOP PRESS: During the October Break

We are delighted to report that KHS LGBT+, representing Fife Council, were declared the winners of the President's Award at the COSLA Excellence Awards held at the Fairmont, St Andrews on 11 October. This is a great accolade which drew many congratulations, including from John Swinney, the Education Secretary.



Findlay, Emily and Sorcha with Gordon Brown at the Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre

Also during the holidays, Mrs Hunter took a group of S6 Politics students to Edinburgh University, where the George Square Lecture Theatre has been renamed in honour of Gordon Aitkman, former Head Boy and MND campaigner.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Rt Hon Gordon Brown, himself a former pupil of KHS.