



Kirkcaldy High School Newsletter

Issue 131
December
2018

Respect for Self, for Others,
for Learning

Diary Dates

Mon 7 Jan 2019 Pupils return
Wed 9 S4-6 Prelims for N5/H/AH
Tues 15 Primary Engagement Evening 1 with Torbain at 5pm, Capshard at 6pm
Wed 16 S3 Tracking Report issued, Disability Sport Fife football
Thurs 17 FoKHS Meeting at 7pm
Fri 18 End of prelims
Sat 19 Saturday School: Music and Supported Learning
Mon 21 SQA Hospitality assessments
Tues 22 S1 "Speedy STEAM" in the Hall, Primary Engagement Evening 2 with Valley at 5pm and Fair Isle at 6pm
Wed 23 Carlyle Assembly "Lessons from Auschwitz" with Katie Brown and Nicole McDonald (S6), SQA Hospitality assessments
Thurs 24 Oswald Assembly
Fri 25 Adam Smith Assembly, S2 Full Report issued
Sat 26 Saturday School: Health and Food Technology
Mon 28 S1 Assembly—Teenage Mental Health all years, all week
Tues 29 S1 English "Growth Mindset" Evening for Parents/Carers
Fri 1 Feb S5/6 Assembly with Anthony Nolan Trust (bone marrow donation)
Sat 2 Saturday School: History
Mon 4 Early Learning and Childcare Roadshow in KHS (Scottish Government)
Tues 5 S5/6 PSE, S1 STEM "Energiser" event in Hall, Silent Disco in support of the Madrid trip (evening)
Thurs 7 Intermediate Maths Challenge
Fri 8 Anthony Nolan donation session (DNA samples taken)
Sat 9 Saturday School: Business, Administration and Computing
Tues 12 London Trip (Social Studies)
Wed 13 In-service training (closed)
Thurs/Fri 14/15 Mid Term Holidays. KKS LGBT training staff at Victoria Hosp.
Mon 18 S4/5 "Learning Fair"
Tues 19 Adam Smith Assembly led by KHS LGBT
Wed 20 Carlyle Assembly, Disability Sport Fife football, First Chances tutoring
Thurs 21 Oswald Assembly
Sat 23 Saturday School: French, PE and CDT
Mon 25 Year Assemblies this week, S5/6 Course Choice
Wed 27 S4 Parents' Evening
Sat 2 Mar Sat School: English
Tues 5 Adam Smith Assembly re British Science Week, Kirkcaldy Rotary Youth Evening
Wed 6 Carlyle Assembly, S4 Course Choice
Thurs 7 Oswald Assembly
Fri 8 FoKHS Ceilidh
Sat 9 Saturday School: Latin, Psychology, Classical Studies and CDT
Tues 12 SAAS talk at lunchtime (student finance)
Wed 13 STEM Speed Dating in Hall
Thurs 14 S3 "Sexperts" peer education sessions, Dance Showcase after school
Sat 16 Saturday School: Science and Drama
Mon 18 Year Assemblies this week re "Learner Journeys"
Wed 20 Disability Sport Fife football
Fri 22 Visit of Norwegian teachers
Sat 23 Saturday School: Care Spanish and Latin
Tues 26 SYP Elections in KHS
Thurs 28 Spring Concert (tbc)
Fri 29 S4-6 Assembly re SQA exams
Sat 30 Saturday School: Mathematics
Tues 2 Apr Adam Smith Assembly (led by leavers all week)
Wed 3 Carlyle Assembly
Thurs 4 Oswald Assembly, Dress Down Day for Charity
Fri 5 School holidays begin with re-turn on Mon 22 April.

The Rector Writes ...

I must say that I have been immensely proud of our young people over the past few weeks. They have shown tremendous compassion, respect and generosity in the aftermath of the Standing Stone Road crash. Of course, we all felt overcome as we reacted as a school community to the deaths of Ethan King and Connor Aird, and the terrible injuries suffered by Danny Stevens. But it is some consolation to know that the kids of Kirkcaldy have been so understanding and kind. They have been quietly resilient. Sometimes events such as these can strengthen a community which already has many strengths. I know that the widespread feeling of solidarity with the bereaved families is helping just a bit. Sometimes young people get a bad name, but I always think that this is undeserved. Certainly, our young people have shown their best side throughout this tragic time. Kirkcaldy is a proud town and should be proud of its youth. Also, it was a real pleasure to welcome Danny Stevens back in school recently. Danny is recovering well, although he knows that he has some way to go yet until he is fully fit again. Just knowing that he might get through this ordeal was a comfort for many people affected by this tragic incident.



Ethan King and Connor Aird

On a different tack entirely, very well done to Debbie Aitken, former Depute Head. You are aware that Mrs Aitken has been acting Head of Lochgelly High School. She has now been confirmed in the job. We are all hugely proud of Mrs Aitken and wish her well. She was an excellent colleague and friend here, who did so much in her ten years at KHS. She fully deserves to be leading her own school. Personally, I owe Debbie a great deal ... and I thank her for the skill and commitment she deployed to the advantage of the kids and their families here, and for her friendship. At least the friendship aspect continues.

Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

The October Break

During the break, we received much credit and recognition for our collective achievement in the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (or COSLA) Excellence Awards. Our school had been nominated by Fife Council as an example of best practice in fairness and inclusivity, in the category of "Reducing Inequalities and Improving Health" and we are delighted to say that we were declared to be the winners of the final award made on the evening, the President's Award, which is given for "exceptional achievement". The presentations took place at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews and were hosted by Jackie Bird, of BBC fame. It is clear that KHS is regarded as one of the leading schools in the country in this field and we must congratulate the members of our LGBT Group, who were the basis of our success. They enjoyed the ceremony at St Andrews.

We have been effectively addressing homophobia and prejudice for a number of years now as part of the Stonewall "Champions" Programme. Special thanks go to Dr Paul Murray, the staff link with the LGBT Group. Due to his tireless work, and that of our young people, KHS is leading the way in showing how to create a safe and supportive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender young people. Many thanks also to Lesley Laird, MP for Kirkcaldy, who was kind enough to offer her congratulations before the House of Commons and also to John Swinney, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, who sent us a message of praise and appreciation. David Torrance, the MSP for Kirkcaldy, also commended the school in Parliament in Edinburgh.

Week Beginning 22 October

During the first week back we had Yeargroup Assemblies at which Mr Young and Mr Allan highlighted the danger from weapons in our schools and communities by relating the case of Bailey Gwynne, the 16 year old from Aberdeen who was stabbed to death in his school three years ago. All our young people have given a commitment that they will report it if they ever see another pupil with a weapon in school.

We also had specific inputs for different year groups with Miss Malcolm delivering a talk about "allied health professional" careers in the NHS for S2 on the Tuesday. On the Thursday, the S4 were encouraged to consider the Foundation Apprenticeship route to employment and on Friday, Police Scotland staff were in to deliver the "Driver Improvement Scheme" Programme for S5/6.

On Tuesday 23 October, Mrs Hamilton (Depute) led a visit to Dundee University for S3. We had a large group of pupils who spent the day in lectures and seminars as part of the "Discovering Degrees" programme and this was an excellent experience for them.

Wednesday was another busy day with our Travel and Tourism students spending the day at Fife College for training sessions developing the skills required of airline cabin crew. In CDT, we were joined by Richard Greig, of Commscope, a communications company based in Lochgelly. He was demonstrating a state of the art laser scanner. Apparently the equipment he brought in cost over £100 000 and our pupils were amazed at the way in which engineering parts could be modelled in 3D. Many thanks to Mr Greig.

In the afternoon we welcomed a team of "STEM" Ambassadors, who laid on a series of practical challenges for our S5/6 Science students. Many thanks. In the evening, we hosted the Rotary Hi 5 games night and our Interact Club members had great fun competing against other Clubs and teams of Rotarians.

On the Thursday, we held our P7 Open Evening and this was a big success. We had a massive turnout, including many "placing requests". After a short introductory talk from me, parents/carers and young people toured the school to see learning displays or activities in different departments, guided by the Prefects.

The week ended with a visit from Lesley Laird, MP for Kirkcaldy, who kindly agreed to visit our S4 Modern Studies classes to talk about her role, Brexit, welfare changes and the future of Kirkcaldy Town Centre.

Week 2 of the Term

Week beginning 29 October was another busy one with a special assembly for S2 on the Monday. We had a guest speaker from the Teenage Cancer Trust. We also had a group of 30 S2 pupils up at Perth on a visit to the Black Watch Museum to mark the centenary of the Great War. Thanks to Miss Osborne of the History Department. On Monday Evening, our S5/6 organised a Halloween Disco in the Hall, which was great fun. Many thanks to all the staff who helped out, especially to resident DJs, Mr Dick and Dr Murray.

On the Tuesday we had a large group of S4 attending the Foundation Apprenticeship Roadshow, which took place at Fife College, St Brycedale Campus. We also hosted the Rotary "Young Chef" Competition. Well done to Jake Ramsay and Andrew Collins, who go through to the next round.

In the afternoon, Mr Allan attended the Area Committee of Fife Council, joined by Cameron Bowie, Alanah Ferguson and John Hamilton, to explain about our approaches to involving young people in school. As ever, we were exceptionally proud of our young people. In the evening, our English team hosted a special Parent/Carer Evening for all those sitting National 5 English next May. This was very useful and thanks go to Mrs Thompson for her input. Thanks also to Katie Brown (S6), who spoke very well and gave excellent advice.

There was a Drama trip to Edinburgh on Wednesday afternoon, to see "Dracula" at the Kings Theatre. Mrs Bruce reports that this was an excellent production ... and quite appropriate for Halloween. The Rector was also in Edinburgh that day, at a meeting at the University, discussing how we can get more KHS kids involved in their wider access scheme. The University of Edinburgh is keen to extend its work to ensure that more young people from working class backgrounds get the chance to experience Higher Education.

On the Thursday, our "Walk and Talk" Group completed a sponsored walk at Lochore Meadows. They had a beautiful day for it and

thoroughly enjoyed the activity. Thanks to Gillian Easson (Pupil Support Officer) for all her work with these health and wellbeing initiatives. Being outdoors is recognised as great boost for emotional and mental health. The group raised over £250 to go towards establishing a quiet, reflective, garden space in the school grounds.

Then, in the evening, the Rector and the Depute Heads met with Callum Henderson, Scotland's Honorary Consul to Rwanda, in advance of our school visit to that country next year. Many thanks to Ms Mahr (RME), for all her work to build this very important link to Africa.

Later on, we had a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting. Once again we offer my appreciation of the support given by this group. A further donation has been received and this is going towards the purchase of another set of laptop computers. This is especially useful now that we now have wifi available throughout the building. The Friday was our fund raising "Race Night", organised by the "Friends". What a brilliant night it was, with a light supper laid on by the kitchen staff. Many thanks to those of you who came along. This raised the excellent sum of £3250, which will go towards subsidising educational trips for young people facing financial hardship. In particular, "FoKHS" have kindly sponsored a place on our trip to Rwanda in September 2019, this place is available to a young person who qualifies for free school meals.

Also that weekend, our Spanish language students were out bag-packing at the B and M Store at the Retail Park, raising funds to support their visit to Madrid next June. Mrs Morris (Head of Languages) shared that they raised over £860! We are very grateful to the store, its customers and to the many staff who joined our pupils.

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Week from 5 November

This week, as you would expect, we had a very strong focus on Remembrance, given it was the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice which brought the Great War to a close. We had House Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday marking the end of hostilities. Mr Allan introduced Blain Aitken, Cameron Bowie and Fraser Anderson who delivered very moving monologues based on the book "The Memorial in the School", which gives a fascinating insight into the brief lives of the 108 former pupils and staff who lost their lives in the Great War. Dr Murray sang a haunting rendition of "Willie McBride", accompanied by Mrs Findlay, and Cameron Hamilton (S4) closed the assemblies with the "Last Post" on cornet.

On the Tuesday afternoon, our S5 were out at the "Safe Drive, Stay

Alive" Roadshow in Glenrothes. As always this was a very hard-hitting and emotional event which highlighted road safety. At the same time, the S6 were part of a driver induction programme in school with Kwik Fit. It's called "New to the Road" and we are grateful to Kwik Fit for their support.

On Wednesday, our Advanced Higher English group attended an event held in St Andrews University Library. Also, we had a large group taking part in the Senior UK Maths Challenge, we'll have the results back soon. Later on, we had a "FoKHS" mentoring session for some of our S5 Higher students that afternoon.

That evening, in school, we hosted Balwearie in the Fife heat of the Rotary Club "Youth Speaks" Public Speaking Competition. Very well done to Brooke Wishart, Cara Hayes and Morgan Faulds (pictured), who represented the school so well. KHS won and will now progress to the next round, to be held in Newcastle. The girls spoke brilliantly about the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (or "ACES").

Thursday was another one of those "Speedy STEM" days for S2, when we had a series of technology challenges in the Hall, led by STEM Ambassadors. This was supported by Fife College, and we are grateful for that support.

Also that day, in the Scottish Parliament, we were twice cited as an example of best practice in developing equality and fairness in schools. John Swinney, the Education Secretary, was announcing legislation which will make inclusive education, in which LGBT identity is recognised and discussed, compulsory across Scotland. We will be the first nation in the world to make this move and we are exceptionally proud that

our school, especially through our student group KHS LGBT+, has been one of the leaders of this movement.

On Friday, our Higher Geography students enjoyed a field trip to Forteviot and Kinkell Bridge to study the course of the River Earn. Miss Wight arranged an interesting programme which included a visit to a "SEPA" monitoring station. Flood control and flood plain management have become ever more important as we experience more extreme weather events.

Also on Friday, we placed wreaths at our school war memorial as a mark of Remembrance and held a two minutes silence across the school. This was impeccably observed and was very moving. After school that day, the Rector

was joined by Mollie Turner and Fraser Anderson (our Head Girl and Head Boy) for an Armistice Day commemoration at Dunfermline Abbey, hosted by Jim Leishman, the Provost of Fife.

On Sunday 11 November we were part of the Remembrance parade in Kirkcaldy when Fraser and Mollie laid a poppy wreath at the town memorial on behalf of all of our young people. We were also part of the commemorations at the Adam Smith Theatre afterwards when Blain Aitken, Cameron Bowie and Fraser Anderson honoured the KHS war dead by reciting their monologues once again ... these short talks are designed to represent the "ghost voices" of past pupils of KHS. Dr



Remembrance Parade

Murray joined them to play "Flo'ers o' The Forest" on fiddle and Cameron Hamilton gave a splendid rendition of the Last Post on cornet. KHS closed the event and received many plaudits from those in attendance, some of whom had been brought to tears.

Also that weekend we had a large group of young people taking part in a trip to Premier League football matches in England. Many thanks to Mr I'Anson, who led the excursion which took in Newcastle United versus Bournemouth on the Saturday then Manchester City against Manchester United on Sunday.

Week 4

On Monday of this week, we had a group of S2 pupils attending an "Allied Health Professionals" work experience day at Victoria Hospital. They were accompanied by Mrs Rae (Pupil Support) and learned about radiography, podiatry, occupational health careers etc. After school, our LGBT+ Group laid on training for staff and this was very well received, as usual.

On Wednesday was the final of the Fife Quadcopter Drone Design Competition, held at Auchmuty High School in Glenrothes, supported by Miss Tennant. It was our S1 Parent/Carer Night in the evening.

On the Thursday we were pleased to be joined by a group of eight school inspectors from France. The team visit Torbain in the morning before seeing some action at KHS.



Rotary Young Chef Winners



Hydrology at the River Earn

They were hosted by our S6 Languages Ambassadors and saw some classes in action as well spending time in discussion with senior teachers about classroom practice. The group reported that they had had an excellent day.

On Friday 16 November, the school was closed to pupils for staff training. First up, we had a brilliant presentation from the young people of KHS LGBT+ and then some sessions on effective learning strategies, led by Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Morris. In the afternoon, we had a focus on high level additional support needs in preparation for our new intake of S1 "Supported Learning" pupils in August 2019.

Week from 19 November

S3 pupils began the Scottish National Standardised Assessments in literacy and numeracy. These are computer adaptive tests which help us judge progress towards the "Nationals". At lunchtime on Monday 19 November, Mr Allan visited the Cottage Family Centre with a donation of £410 made on behalf of our Charities Committee. He was joined by Ellie Hitchcock, who spoke so passionately in support of the Cottage as part of our "Youth Philanthropy Initiative" earlier this year. They were very impressed by the excellent work going on at the Cottage and have promised Pauline Buchan and her team that we will look at new ways to work together to support the most vulnerable families in our town. Mrs Davidson has already set up work placements as a result of this.

On that Monday after school, our U14 footballers had a fine win away in the Scottish Shield, defeating St Paul's Academy of Dundee 4-2. Many thanks to coach Ms Wight (Geography), herself the captain of Dunfermline Athletic Women, for her work with this squad.

We had House Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when the theme was Book Week Scotland. Many thanks to Mrs Cunningham, Miss Wilson, Emily McCormack and Katie Brown, who led these sessions, which also marked the launch of our involvement in the "First Minister's Reading Challenge". Furthermore, on the Wednesday, we had authors John Young and Mark Fleming in school, as part of a Scottish Book Trust initiative. John spoke to all S2 on the theme of mental health and Mark worked with a target group of S1 as part of our Author in Residence programme.

On the Wednesday, we had a group of S5/6 Modern Languages students along at St Andrews University for their "meet and mingle" event. It was a chance to have a chat with current undergraduates and was a very enlightening experience for our linguists.

Thanks to Mr Morrice, who was the chauffeur (pun intended). In the afternoon, it was a pleasure to welcome staff and students from Fife College to our Drama Department. Our visitors laid on musical

theatre workshops which were great fun for our own students.

Thursday saw an Engineering Science trip to Rosyth Dockyard for a STEM event hosted by Babcock and in the evening we competed with the other Fife High Schools for the Kirkcaldy Schools Quiz Championship, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy. This took place at Windmill Campus and was won by Viewforth High School on this occasion. Congratulations to them. To close the week, our orchestra was invited along to ASDA at Carberry Road to play Christmas music to mark the switching on of the festive lights.

Sixth Week of Term

On Monday 26 November, S5 students Andrew Collins and Jake Ramsay competed in the Rotary "Young Chef" Competition at Fife College. They were up against the other Kirkcaldy schools and judged by TV Chef Eadie Manson among others. It was a competition of the highest standard, and I am delighted to share that Jake has progressed to the next round in Dundee. Well done Jake. Also on that Monday, it was a pleasure to welcome Emma Seith of the Times Educational Supplement Scotland, who is doing a big feature on LGBTI inclusive education in the next few weeks. She was looking for some of the best practice in terms of developing an accepting and fair school culture, and wanted to come to KHS to speak with young people and staff.

Then, on Tuesday, it was our Employability Fair when we welcomed employers, universities and colleges in to the school to discuss future opportunities with all young people in S3-S6. Parents and carers were invited to join us after school for what was effectively our own "Careers Convention". Thanks to Mrs Davidson and especially to Miss Malcolm, who made most of the arrangements. Joining us were Skills Development Scotland, Fife Council, Kwik Fit, Fife Voluntary Action, BAM Construction, Crane Ware Software, the Army, the RAF, the Royal Marines, Fife Police, Fife College, Scotland's Rural College, Fife Foundation Apprenticeship Team, NHS Fife, the Law Society of Scotland, IDTC Training, Ad-



Book Week Scotland 2018

dleshaw Goddard (Corporate Law), the Scottish Government (Civil Service), Kingdom Homes, the Student Awards Agency Scotland, Camp America, Edinburgh Academy of Music and the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Glas-

gow, Edinburgh Napier, St Andrews, Heriot-Watt, Strathclyde, West of Scotland and Edinburgh. We had something for everyone, and a great many young people got a lot from engagement on the day and in the early evening.

The following evening (Wednesday 28 November) was our S2 Learning Fair, which was a sort of "roadshow" intended to help with course choices being made at the start of next year. I explained how our S3 curriculum is designed and how we ensure balance of choices. Then, parents/carers and young people were able to wander around the Hall chatting with teachers and senior students about various options. All S2 had spent a period during the day visiting the Fair and the evening was well attended, despite the terrible weather. It was good to meet parents and carers at this



S2 Learning Fair in the Hall

event. Many thanks to the staff and S6 who supported this, and also to the partners who came along.

Also, after school that day, there was a meeting for those involved in Fife's "Be That Person" film project. This explores the negative impact of "Adverse Childhood Experiences" or "ACES". Our own Mr Broadway, and some of our young people have been involved in this from the outset. We have lined up a training event for staff in February when we will welcome Mary Glasgow, the Chief Executive Officer of Children First, a leading child rights and child protection charity. We are also showing the "Be That Person" film. Mr Broadway is currently part of the planning of an extension of the film project and is looking for parental involvement in this. If you feel you could contribute and have an interest in child development issues, please call the school and ask for Mr Broadway.

On the Thursday, all our S4 took part in a special peer education training programme called "Sexperts". This involves specially trained S6 peer educators leading sessions on relationships and sexual health. It's been a big part of our drive to reduce teenage pregnancy and STDs in our com-

munity and you will likely know that the success of this programme has been recognised nationally. Many thanks to Mrs Houston (Lead Guidance Teacher) who oversees this work, especially the partnership element with Barnardo's, Fife Council Community Development (Youth Work) and NHS Fife Health Promotion.

The sessions were excellent...very well led by our S6 leaders, and thanks to the S4 for engaging so positively. The main themes included sex and the law, consent and parenthood. With (accidentally) perfect timing, that day, our LGBT+ group members organised the distribution of wee red ribbons for anyone who wanted to raise awareness of AIDS and HIV for World Aids Day.

The Thursday evening was our Annual Christmas Fayre, with all funds raised going towards our S6 Yearbook and Prom. We had stalls featuring: Body Shop, Silver and Cream, Balbirnie Candles, Bead-Dazzled Jewellery, Scarves, Christmas Frames and Mugs, Yomelda Perfume, Darcey's Candles, Christine's Card Creations, Bunt's Celebrations, Cards and Tote Bags, Sand Art, Enchanted Events, Comfort International (Rwanda) and Handmade Soaps. We also had tea, coffee, cake and raffles.

Those who came along had good night out, and the sum of £750 was raised for the cause. Well done to Mr Fulton (CDT) and the other organisers and helpers.

On Friday, Mr Young had a meeting with Fife Fire and Rescue and the Anthony Nolan Trust, who are looking for new bone marrow donors... a very worthwhile exercise. We will be holding a senior assembly with a view to encouraging young people to register as potential donors.



Meeting Humza Yousaf, Justice Secretary

On 1 December Saturday, at Beveridge Park, a large number of our young people took part in a sponsored 5 kilometre run in support of the families of Ethan and Connor (and also Dylan McLeish, who passed away recently). Very well done to principal organisers, Kelsey Robertson, Chelsea Lithgow (both S4). We understand that well over £2000 has been raised by this event. We had staff helping supervise and they were particularly proud of Danny Stevens, who completed the course on crutches.

Week from 3 December

There were no assemblies last week, but on Tuesday we had a group of young people away at St Andrews University for the Royal Society of Chemistry annual Christmas Lecture. This was tremendous fun, with the obligatory explosive ending.

Also that day we had a large group of S2 and S3 girls competing in the Fife Schools' Dance Competition at St Andrews High School.



Fife Schools Dance Festival

Many thanks to Miss McIntosh (PE). Interest in dance has really grown over the past couple of years as a result of her commitment and we will have our first ever Higher Dance class next session. Our dancers did us proud, with several exceptional performances.

On Wednesday, the Rector joined Dr Murray and the KHS LGBT+ Committee members at a Civic Reception held at the Town House,



KHS LGBT Group with the Provost

hosted by Jim Leishman, the Provost of Fife. This was in recognition of our leading work in developing an inclusive school culture which embraces difference. Our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender group are a fantastic group of young people, so committed to fairness and human rights. The Provost and Cllr David Ross (Co-Leader of Fife Council) were rightly impressed and commended them in the highest terms.

That same evening, we are held our "Senior Formal", which was a ceilidh/dance for S5 and S6 students. Many thanks to Miss Malcolm for her support with the organisation. Thanks also to Dr Murray and his amazing ceilidh band. This year, the students have decided to donate the proceeds in memory of Ethan and Connor.

On the Thursday, we had three of our Higher Politics or Modern Studies pupils across at the Scottish Parliament as a prize in an essay competition organised by Kirkcaldy based solicitors Fords Daly Legal. Esha Aslam, Katie Brown and Kieran Harmes got the chance to attend First Minister's Question Time and even had lunch with Humza Yousaf, the Justice Secretary. What a fantastic experience for them. All are very interested in law and politics (photo page 3).

We also had a group of would be design engineers across at Inveralmond High School in Livingston taking part in the F1 in Schools Competition. This is a fantastic hi-tech initiative and we are very grateful to our CDT staff, particularly Mr Hunter, for supporting our participation.

On Friday morning (7 December), Mr Young attended the presentation for a group of S1 girls, all formerly of Fair Isle Primary. Abi Garthley, Tahnee Sinclair, Hannah Young, Chantelle

Brady, Jamie Lee Hooper and Kenzie Lee McColl took part in a remarkable mountain bike challenge in the Cairngorms in September, supported by the Big Lottery Fund and organised by Youth Worker Linsey Neilson. This event took place at the Argos Centre in Linton Lane, Templehall and was a great celebration of resilience and determination.

Also that morning, at St Andrew's High School, we were asked along to a fundraising coffee morning, organised by S6 pupils there who knew Ethan and Connor.

Mr Allan was joined by a group of KHS S6 who were close to the boys and had coffee with our friends along the road.

Thanks to Mr Callaghan (Rector), Mr Wood (Depute) and the St Andrew's S6 for such a lovely gesture, and excellent hospitality.

We also learned that in recent weeks, when prayers were said for Ethan, Connor and Danny, the regular Thursday Mass was twice as well attended as usual. Respect to all the young people of St Andrew's High School. Also that day, we held a bake sale at interval and lunchtime to mark World Aids Day, with all proceeds going towards HIV Scotland.

The Penultimate Week

This week we have had Yeargroup Assemblies, with different musical performances from our Christmas Concert. Many thanks to our musicians, choir and soloists.

On Monday, we had a group of young people giving presentations at the Scottish Parliament, having been invited along by the Equalities and Human Rights Committee to celebrate World Human Rights Day. The EHRIC was focussing on some of the best practice in "participation" from all around Scotland.

Many thanks to Miss Ashby and to Dr Murray, as well as all the young people who were involved. We were asked along as a result of our strong track record in developing "pupil Voice" eg our pioneering work in tackling homophobia and bullying, and our achievement of UNICEF Rights Respecting School status. Our young people have once again shown, that they are a credit to the school.

On the Tuesday, we had a group of S2 pupils competing in the GO4SET Science, Engineering and Technology Challenge along at Fife College, Carnegie Campus in Dun-

fermline. Many thanks to Miss Tennant. In the afternoon, another group visited Dundee University for the Institute of Engineering and Technology Annual Christmas Lecture. As always, this was great fun, with a focus on the science of music.

It was also our S5/6 parent/carer evening on Tuesday. This was a well-timed engagement, with our Prelim exams scheduled to start on Wednesday 9 January, the first week back after the Christmas break. Those who have been over the course before will know that preparation and revision are the key, especially going over past papers. These are available on the SQA website here: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpaper.htm>



Rachael Barclay, Joint Player of the Tournament

Another important part of preparation for the final exams in May is our "Saturday School" pro-

gramme. Many thanks to Miss Diamond, who has put together the timetable, please see the "Dates" section or check out "Twitter".



KHS Christmas Concert and Show

On the Wednesday evening, it was our Christmas Concert. Many thanks to Mrs Simpson (Head of Music) who worked with others to put together a very varied show with choral and instrumental music as well as dance. Also, many thanks to all who took part, and also to the tech team, who supported the show so well.

On the Thursday evening, Mr Allan was at Burntisland Speakers Club along with Morgan Faulds and Cara Hayes. The girls had been invited to speak at the Christmas Dinner. This invite came after they became the Fife winners of the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition earlier in the term.

Morgan introduced Cara and gave the vote of thanks, whilst Cara spoke about the importance of kindness and understanding in cases of childhood adversity and neglect ... a serious, but appropriate theme for Christmas. It was our annual visit to the

panto at the Adam Smith Theatre on the Friday. This year it was "Beauty and the Beast". We had a large group of S1 attending and they had great fun. Mrs Rae (PSO) was even lured on to the stage.

We also had our senior netball squad taking part in the Fife Championships at Glenrothes that day. We've seen a great increase in participation in netball in the past few sessions and must thank Miss Malcolm, Miss McIntosh and Miss Ashby for the time they have committed to this. Special congratulations go to Rachael Barclay, who was named as joint "Player of the Tournament".

The Final Week of Term

For the last week, we had our school orchestra along at Elizabeth House Care Home playing some seasonal music on the Monday afternoon. We also had assemblies on the theme of "Kindness", which were led by the Rector and the House Captains. It was the usual order ... Adam Smith on Tuesday, Carlyle on Wednesday and Oswald on Thursday.

On Wednesday, our Travel and Tourism class have organised a trip to Edinburgh, accompanied by Miss Wallace of the Geography Department. In the evening we hold our end of term disco/party in the Hall.

We are grateful to Mrs Hamilton (Depute Head), who has set up a special treat for S5/6 on the afternoon of Thursday 20 December. Her friend Keith Partridge is a renowned adventure photographer and documentary film maker, who has won many awards, including an "Emmy" for Outstanding Cinematography for the BBC's "Human Planet". Keith will give a fascinating illustrated talk about his work ... especially some of the mountaineering expeditions he has been part of.

The term ends on Friday 21 December with a "Dress Down day" in support of Motor Neurone Disease Scotland. Young people are asked to donate £1 or whatever they could afford.

We also hold our traditional Staff X Factor, which is always a good laugh at Christmas. Well done to the staff who will put their "talent" out there, you have to admire their pluck!



Mrs Rae's starring role!