

Kirkcaldy High School

Issue 133
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Newsletter

Respect for Self, for Others,
for Learning

Diary Dates

Mon 19 Aug Staff training Day 1, S5/6 Coursing pm
Tue 20 In- Service 2
Wed 21 Extended Tutor as pupils return
Fri 23 S2-6 Year Assemblies
Tues 21 Adam Smith Assembly re School Values, with House Captains
Wed 22 Carlyle Assembly
Thurs 23 Oswald Assembly
Tue 3 Sept "First Chances" tutoring after school, with St Andrews University
Thurs 5 British Army "STEM" workshops in the Hall
Mon 9 Year Assemblies this week, National 5 Maths "Mini Exam", Kwik Fit Training Centre visit, Broxburn
Tue 17 Adam Smith Assembly (Period Poverty), S3 Parent/Carer Evening
Wed 18 Carlyle Assembly
Thurs 19 Oswald Assembly
Mon 23 Year Assemblies this week
Wed 25 S1 Adam Smith day out at Fordell Firs, AH Geography to Kindrogan (Perthshire) for 3 days, KHS LGBT+ Group train youth workers, Drama trip "A Taste of Honey"
Thu 26 Fordell Trip Carlyle, KHS LGBT+ present at Scottish Learning Festival, Glasgow
Fri 27 Fordell Trip for Oswald, Rwanda trip departs
Mon 30 Year Assemblies this week (Maths Week Scotland), S1 "CSI" Maths project
Tues 1 Oct S2/3 Maths "Escape Rooms" activities
Wed 2 No Assembly, School Photos (S1, 3 and 6), OpS5/6 Parents' Evening
Thurs 3 Maths CSI Court Case for S1
Fri 5 Charity Dress Down Day, Primary "Enterprising Maths" Final in KHS, school closes with return on Tuesday 22 Oct (Monday 21 is an In-Service Day).

The Rector Writes ...

Welcome to the new session at KHS. I'm looking forward to the year ahead, working together for the good of our young people, and the future of our community and our wider society. I am also delighted that our recent achievements, which were highlighted at Prizegiving (photo) have been more widely recognised. You are perhaps aware that we are named as finalists in the Kingdom FM "Local Hero Awards", as "Best School"? The winner is announced this Friday. I am also very pleased to report that so many of our young people did so well in the SQA exams this summer. It's difficult to pick out individuals, because everybody's best is different. However, special congratulations to Jawad Ali Madni, Alexandra Duna, John Hamilton, Maryam Imran and Megan Jobson, who all gained straight A Grades and so could not have scored more highly.

As usual, we have several new staff joining us this week; Mr Andy Jones (new PTC Social Subjects, formerly St Columba's High School), Mrs Dale Collie (Art and Design, formerly Glenrothes High), Ms Suzanne Squires (Principal Teacher Supported Learning, formerly Auchmuty), trainees Miss Lizzie Hay (Maths), Mr David Udinkan (English), Mr Ross Paterson (Modern Studies), Ms Kharis Lipton (Business Education), Mr Johnny Penel (PE), Ms Lea Crepieux (French), Mr Michael Sanderson (History) and Ms Joanne Devenney (RME). Also, welcome Mr Billy Naismith and Mrs Margaret McNab as new teaching assistants. Best wishes to Mrs Nelson, who is reducing her hours and will now job share her role as Head of Business and Computing, well done to Ms Yvonne Nessel, her job share partner. Lastly, congratulations to Mrs Sharon Hamilton, who is now confirmed as Depute Head in a permanent capacity, having excelled in the role last year. I am very satisfied with this appointment. Here's to another happy and successful year.

Allan.

Returning after Easter

Many thanks to Mr Stewart, Miss Malcolm, Mr Farquharson, Mrs Dempsey and Miss McIntosh, who led our highly successful trip to the Austrian Alps during the break. This was an excellent experience. We returned to school on Monday 22 April and the SQA exams started on the Thursday with Latin, PE and Administration/IT. The other highlights included a special event for girls in S3 with a focus on Science, Technology Art and Engineering. This was supported by the RAF, Fife College and Sky TV. Also, S1 had another experience with Mark Fleming, our Scottish Book Trust "Author in Residence". We have a group of learners working with Mark on a regular basis to improve their literacy and creative writing. Miss Malcolm and Miss McIntosh were up at Glenrothes on the Friday with our S1 netball teams taking part in the Fife Schools' Championships. At the weekend, our Spanish language students were along at Sainsbury's supermarket bag-packing. The remarkable

total of £1100 was raised to support our June trip to Madrid.

Week from 29 April

During this week we had the Junior UK Maths Challenge taking place on the Tuesday morning. Many thanks to Miss Cunningham, who made the arrangements. That Wednesday was a big day, with our S2 trip to the World War 1 battlefields of France and Belgium heading off in the evening. This was the first such trip in over 10 years.

Well done Mr Harrower and Miss Osborne for their leadership of this, assisted by Mr Mitchell. It was an outstanding success. We had thirty S2 students visiting landmark locations of the Great War, including Thiepval, Ypres and Tyne Cot Cemetery. For most, the highlight was the laying of a poppy wreath at the Menin Gate service on Sunday evening. Our students will lead assemblies later this year, sharing their memories. Also on the Wednesday, a large group of S1 pupils headed off for a day visit to Edinburgh University. We identified



At The Menin Gate, Ypres

young people from families with no experience of higher education to take part. Many thanks to Mrs Hunter (Guidance), who leads on our "widening access" programmes. She is also responsible for our highly regarded "First Chances" project with St Andrews University. Mrs Hunter was joined by Miss McIntosh, Dr Beattie and Miss Kerr. This was a terrific experience, and our pupils got the chance to experience something completely new to them. The other trip that Wednesday was our S3 Biology visit to the labs at Abertay University in Dundee. Thanks to Miss Fotheringham and Miss McFall, who took a group of 40 pupils and had a brilliant time learning some of the techniques involved in a criminal forensic investigation. After school that

day, we held a training session for staff on the theme of the "UNICEF" Rights Respecting School Programme. You will be aware that we achieved the "Silver" Standard last year and hope to go for "Gold" in November of this year.

Week 3 News

On Wednesday 8 May we had a group of S2 students visiting Torness Nuclear Power Station in East Lothian, accompanied by Mr Fleming and Dr Murray. Thursday evening was a "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" meeting. As you likely know, FoKHS supports the school in so many ways - mentoring, invigilation, escorts for trips, providing minibus drivers as well as fundraising. Following successful events this session, especially the Ceilidh and Race Night, the decision was taken to support the school in the following ways; purchase of another trolley of laptop computers, sponsorship of a place on the Rwanda trip, purchase of the Dux medals for Prizegiving, sponsorship of a year group of Distinction Awards at Prizegiving, sponsorship of a new languages prize in memory of a former KHS pupil and another in memory of John Beck, former Chairman, the purchase of a mountain bike for the Big Event raffle and finally, the purchase of new resources for our newly extended Supported Learning Department. This amounts to almost £7000 worth of vital support for the school. KHS is very fortunate to have a group such as FoKHS. The Friday was our Primary 7 Sports Festival and Robert Greenhorn, our Active Schools Coordinator, organised this

event for Capshard, Fair Isle, Torbain and Valley pupils. It was fantastic with football, rugby, golf, netball, dance, tennis, curling, outdoor learning, mindful walking and yoga. Thanks to our S3 and Senior Sports Leaders and to the partner agencies involved. This included Raith Rovers and Kirkcaldy Rugby Club. Very well done to our U15 football team, which won the Fife Schools' League that week to make it a League and Cup double. The boys, expertly coached by Mr English and Mr I'Anson, sealed the league title with a handsome 5-1 victory over Auchmuty High School, the match played at



U15 League and Cup Double Winners

Cowdenbeath.

Week Beginning 13 May

During this week, all KHS staff were involved in equalities training run by LGBT Youth Scotland. This was part of our journey to achieve the "Gold" Charter for inclusive practice. We had very interesting discussions and it gave the staff a chance to develop their understanding of some very complex situations, particularly around the issue of transgender young people. We also hosted our Primary 7 intake pupils once again on the Tuesday and Wednesday as they took part in the "Step Up" Enterprise Programme, delivered by Matt Stewart of Entrepreneurme. On Wednesday, Miss McIntosh took a group of young people to the Fife Schools' Dance Competition which was held at Waid Academy, Anstruther. All who took part were excellent representatives of KHS and special congratulations goes to Aimee Main (S2) who won the contemporary solo competition and scored the highest marks achieved in the whole competition. Aimee, along with Eve Denholm (S3) impressed so much that have been awarded a summer dance scholarship in Edinburgh! Our annual Activities Day (for all S1-3) took place on Friday. This year, young people were off to to; M and D's Theme Park at Motherwell, Xtreme Trampoline Park in Glenrothes, Cinema/Bowling at Dunfermline and Innoflate at Livingston. All involved had a great day out, it was the KHS "family day out", and even the weather managed to fall into line. Also that week (Wednesday to Friday) we had a group of S3 pupils being supported by an

agency called Rural and Urban Training Scheme or "RUTS". The group of 8 worked with mechanics on a certificated motorbike maintenance and repair course in a "pop up" workshop we set up in the astro turf car park.

Week 5 Report

For this week, our main theme in learning was the UN

Sustainable Development Goals. We have been heightening awareness of the importance of protecting our environment and of the dangers of pollution and climate change. As you are aware, governments around the world are recognising that we need to do things very differently to combat the "climate emergency". As well as this being the theme of much of the learning across S1-3, it was the basis of lessons for the Primary 6 visits for a taster day on the Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Modern Studies Department arranged a visit to Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, part of their learning about law, order and justice. We also had staff attending



Motorbike Maintenance Squad at Work



Iron Age Dig in the Lomond Hills

the "Stonewall" Education Conference in Glasgow. As you are aware, creating a highly inclusive school environment is very important to us and this is a further chance to develop approaches. On the Friday we had an early start with a "Business Breakfast" in school for those employers and businesses who support us in "Developing the Young Workforce". Many thanks to Miss Malcolm, who leads on this and has set up the engagement in our Boardroom. Also that day, Mrs Brown and our S3 Classical Studies class members were part of a very exciting archaeological dig on East Lomond Hill. We worked with the Falkland Stewardship Trust to excavate the Iron Age hillfort. Furthermore, our S3 "RUTS" group were along at Knockhill for an off-road motorbike training day. They put into practice some of the skills they learned during the previous week. In school, Mrs Davidson (Depute Rector) and Mr Allan (Rector) were assisted by Ann Mitchell of Kirkcaldy Rotary Club and Mollie Turner (former Head Girl) in

conducting interviews for the new Head Boy and Head Girl. After the interviews, we appointed; John Hamilton, Jake Ramsay, Aiden Russell, Morgan Sinclair, Natasha Stoddart, Rachel Suttie, Caitlin Tindal and Cara Turner to form the new session's Prefect Leadership Team with each standing for election to the top two positions. On Saturday 25 May, Mrs Wood, our Pupil Support Officer, organised a coastal path clean up in conjunction with Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. A group of around 20 pupils, parents and staff came along to litter pick the path and beaches between Seafield and Kinghorn. It was a brilliant morning along a stunning part of the coast and the group were joined by at least a dozen seals! We also collected about 15 bin bags full of rubbish.

Week from 27 May

This week saw the last of the SQA exams. Many thanks to Mrs Davidson (Depute Rector), Mrs Maloney (Chief Invigilator) and the Invigilator Team. On Monday we had a visit from Carrie Lindsay, the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services and the Heads of Education, who were in school to see some lessons, meet staff and spend some time with young people to discuss their experiences in KHS. It was good to welcome them to the school. The feedback we received was very favourable. Our visitors commented on the exceptionally positive ethos of the school and friendly attitude of the staff and young people they met. I think that they were struck by the general feeling of "happiness" in KHS, which is the basis of wellbe-

ing. It's nice to have that recognised as it's one of our aims. Ms Lindsay also commented on the staff "can do" attitude and the idea, which is greatly appreciated by our kids. The staff always "go the extra mile". On the Tuesday we hosted the "Enterprising Maths" Competition for our associated Primary Schools. This was great fun, with teams being supported by our S3 in a series of teamwork

final of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. Eight teams of S3 pupils delivered presentations before judges Cara Hayes, Kai Slater, Blake McBride and the Rector. Cara and Kai were last year's winners supporting "Autism Rocks". Each of the teams "pitched" on behalf of a selected local charity. This year's winning charity and recipient of the £3000 prize was Zaagi, which provides

our Head Boy and Head Girl candidates. Back to school on the Wednesday and it was the start of our new timetable. Many thanks to Mrs Hamilton (Depute Head), who has put in the hours to get this right. We also had two Science trips to Edinburgh, with a team of four S1 taking part in the Salter's Festival of Chemistry at Heriot-Watt University and our S2 "Go4SET" team competing in the national final of this "STEM" competition at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. KHS were declared winners of the Fife and East Scotland heat which was held at Fife College and our floating eco-friendly research station impressed the judges in Edinburgh too. Many thanks to Miss Tennant (Principal Teacher) for her excellent work with this. On Thursday we held Yeargroup Assemblies and as well as a "setting the tone" input from Mr Allan, the Deputes took the lead. S2 had an additional input from Miss Osborne on our next World War 1 Battlefields trip in May 2020, S3 had a focus on the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative and S5 were introduced to a programme called "Career Ready" by Miss Malcolm, our work placement coordinator. This is a fantastic opportunity involving a paid internship and mentoring. The week ended with our Induction Day for S6. Thanks to Mr Farquharson (Guidance) for the programme he developed involving employers, support agencies and providers of further and higher education.

including everyone in our school. There was a collection taken for Kirkcaldy Foodbank and £60 was raised. Also at lunchtime we had a meeting for those interested in taking part in our arts trip to Italy in June 2020. The main themes will be based on music, drama and the visual arts and the location is the Veneto, the area around Venice, south of Lake Garda.

Week from 10 June

This week is always a famously busy one in our school calendar and on the Monday, on top of all our scheduled events, we hosted Mike Haines, who is head of an organisation called "Global Acts of Unity". Mike delivered a passionate talk about reconciliation and forgiveness to our Senior Phase students in the Assembly Hall. He is the brother of David Haines, the Scottish aid worker who was kidnapped and murdered by "ISIS" terrorists in 2014. We had a BBC2 film crew in making a documentary about Mike and we were joined by Lesley Laird MP and by David Torrance MSP for face to face discussions with young people too. Also on Monday, Mrs Cunningham (English) took a group of pupils to Glasgow to take part in a celebration event in respect of the First Minister's Reading Challenge. In the evening it was the AGM of "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School". We are very grateful for all the support and delighted that a further cash grant which will go towards the purchase of a 3D printer for the CDT Department. If you want to know more or would like to join FoKHS, please be in touch with Mrs Davidson, Depute Head. On the Tuesday we had our Interact Club members helping at the Rotary "Kids Out" Day for disabled children and a large team competing in the Fife Schools Athletics Championships at Pitreavie. Many thanks to Miss Steedman of the PE Department, who took this on and oversaw a major success. We had a record-breaking medal haul; S2 Andrew Boateng - 100m - Silver, Roshan Naeem - 800m - Bronze, Ewan Simpson - 200m - Silver, S2 Boys Relay team (Roshan, Andrew, Ewan and Jake Nicholson) - Silver. S3 Kai Forbes - Shotput - Silver, Brodie Humble - Javelin - Silver, Kiera Read - Javelin - Bronze, S3 Boys Relay Team (Jay Copeland, Steven White, Dylan Martin & Joshua Hamilton) - Bronze S4 Scott Graves - 100m - Silver & Long Jump - Gold, Cameron Gordon - 800m - Bronze, S4 Boys Relay team (Cameron McGregor, Cameron Gordon, Scott Graves & Liam Mercer) - Silver. On Wednesday, our Sports Leaders were also at



New Prefect Heads with Provost Jim Leishman

and problem solving challenges. Thanks to Miss Cunningham (Principal Teacher) for her leadership of this. It was very well organised, and great fun. Congratulations to Capshard, who are through to the next round. On the Tuesday afternoon, we had a "debrief" session with the staff and a representative group of S2 pupils who took part in our recent Great War Battlefields trip. After school on the Tuesday evening, we had a Parent Council Meeting. The main theme was "Being Well" and how we address teenage mental health issues. Many thanks to Mrs Kendrick (Principal Teacher of Guidance) and to Alanah Ferguson (S6) and John Hamilton (S5), who contributed. Special thanks to Derek Dunsire, who stepped down as Chairman of the Parent Council, to be replaced by Gillian McIntyre for the year ahead. Congratulations and thanks to Gillian. The Wednesday was especially busy, with our Social Subjects pupils making a documentary film at the Sky TV Studios in Livingston. Our school won the Scottish heat of the "Sky Ocean Rescue" Competition, highlighting the danger of plastic pollution and were invited along to the Sky Studios. That same day, Miss Steedman and Miss Malcolm took our S1 Netball and Football teams to Glenrothes High School to compete in the Dave Garland Memorial Tournament. On Thursday 30 May, we hosted the grand

comfort to bereaved parents of stillborn children or children who have died in infancy through designing and making (by hand) gowns, wraps and mementos from recycled wedding dresses. It's an unusual idea and Zaagi is a small scale enterprise, £3000 makes a huge difference. Very well done to Paige Douglal, Hayley Smith, Josh Calderwood and Scott Moffat, who promoted their cause so very effectively. There were tears. Also, very many thanks to Ms Mahr (our coordinator) and all the staff supporting YPI.

New Timetable Begins

Monday 3 June was a public Holiday and Tuesday a staff training day. The main theme was our collective work on a new relationships framework guided by a programme called "Pivotal". We recently underwent an audit and scored very well. However, our aim is to become more consistent in terms of school uniform, general expectations and how we handle conflict ... all of which can occasionally cause problems. The staff were enthused by the programme, delivered by Hannah Hall, one of Pivotal's best trainers. After school on Tuesday we were joined by Councillor Jim Leishman, the Provost of Fife. The Provost presented our Sports Colours Awards, Saltire Volunteer Awards and helped us with the Prefect presentations. We also had short speeches from



"Zaagi" £3000 Charity Prize

We also held the elections for head Boy and Girl. Congratulations to Jake Ramsay and Cara Turner, who were duly elected by S6 and staff. At lunchtime on the Friday we had a special treat. Ramiza Ahmad (S3) and a group of Muslim kids organised our first ever Eid Party, marking the end of Ramadan, the fasting period for followers of Islam. Muslim and non-Muslim pupils and a large group of staff got together to enjoy some home cooking. It really was a lovely celebration, and a visible way of showing our commitment to

Pitreavie as adjudicators and stewards for the Disability Sport Fife Athletics., a very rewarding experience. However, of course, our main event and a highlight of not just that week, but of the school year, was our Prizegiving. Our main academic award is the Dux Trophy, which was shared by Shannon Houston and Kiara Montgomery. But

Dunnikier Way involving the entire school. We did this in support of the "Brake" Charity, which highlights road safety concerns around schools. This will certainly be one of our largest in recent time. We are anticipating an intake of almost 270, which should boost the school roll to just under 1250. The parents' evening went very well and the atmosphere at the welcome disco was fantastic. At lunchtime on the Friday there was a memorial service to remember John Beck, the former Chairman of FoKHS. Our pupils spoke at the event, which recognised John's important



Our Smash Hit Musical; School of Rock

we also had a series of other awards and welcomed the parents of Ethan King and Connor Aird, the boys who lost their lives in the Standing Stane Road accident in November 2018. They witnessed Mathew Lafferty lifting the Gordon Aikman Cup for charitable work for his superhuman fundraising and community building efforts in the aftermath of the accident. Mathew was also the chief organiser of the candlelit vigil of 1000 young people. One of the highlights was undoubtedly seeing Danny Stevens, who survived the crash, present the new Footballer of the Year Award named after Ethan and Connor to Liam Newton (new S6). Liam has captained Fife U18 to victory in the Scottish Shield and been capped for his country. Thursday and Friday were our Primary 7 Welcome Days, including a Parent/Carer Evening on the Thursday, whilst the kids were having a party downstairs. On Friday, we held a walk around Dunnikier Park and along

contribution to the school, especially as author of "The Memorial in the School", the book on the KHS war dead from 1914-1918. We had a musical input too, many thanks to Cara Hayes (S5) who sang a couple of Burns songs. Burns was John's favourite. This all took place at the Oswald House Hotel (formerly Dunnikier House) and John's wife Diana came up specially from Surrey. The week ended with the final farewell to the Class of 2019 as we said cheerio at the "Prom", held at Fernie Castle Hotel, by Cupar. Well done to the Prom Committee of S6 and staff. It was a major success. Special congratulations go to Adam Halligan and Kelice Peebles, who were awarded the titles of "Prom King" and "Prom Queen".

Penultimate Week of Term

The week's highlight was undoubtedly our Spanish language trip to Madrid, which left school on the Monday. Many thanks to the staff team



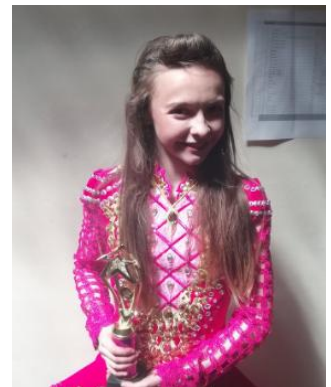
KHS Languages; Cultural Trip to Madrid, 2019

of Mrs Morris, Miss Fotheringham, Miss Malcolm and leader Mr Spink. The trip was an outstanding success ... great fun, culturally enriching and a brilliant learning experience. Well done to all our young people, who were excellent ambassadors for Kirkcaldy. It was also the residential experience for our "First Chances" students at St Andrews University that week. Our new S3 group attended at the start of the week and the S4 towards the end. Many thanks to Miss Hunter, Miss Nessel and Mr Dick who support this. On Tuesday, Miss McIntosh took a smaller group of S3 across to Edinburgh University to take part in another "taster" day. We are committed to developing our young people's understanding of all opportunities, including those in Higher Education. On Wednesday 19 June, Ms Mahr took our YPI charity project winners along to the national Showcase at Perth Concert Hall and in the evening it was the opening night of "School of Rock", which was completely "awesome" ... terrific fun, with great energy and lots of talent on show. It took a huge effort from all the cast and the backstage crew. Many thanks to director Mr McPherson, who led the whole thing brilliantly well. The audience cried, laughed, cheered and thoroughly enjoyed every minute. What a credit our young people are; the performers, technical crew and stage hands. We are also deeply indebted to all the staff who chipped in to help in various capacities; Miss Wilson, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Duckett, Mr Fulton, Mr I'Anson, Mr Hunter, Mrs Cowie, Mrs Jack, Mrs Donaldson, Ms Wight, Miss Steedman, Mr Adams, Dr Murray, Mr Fleming, Miss McIntosh and Mrs Bruce. Well done Ronan Corkey (student Music teacher) who was an excellent Musical Director. A final shout out to Aiden Russell (new S6) who played Dewey, the lead role. Aiden finished the run despite having practically no voice left due to his vocal exertions ... the mark of a real trouper! The week ended with a film crew from "Kingdom FM" visiting the school to make a short film about our work as part of the "Local Hero" Awards. We

The Final Week

On Monday 24 June, the Geography Department organised a field trip to Barns Farm by Aberdour. Well done Miss Wallace for organising such a valuable experience. On the Tuesday morning

we held interviews with S5 students who are interested in the "Career Ready" Programme, a terrific work experience and mentoring project which includes a paid internship and often results in those involved developing a real insight into a business or industrial sector in which they have some interest. On Wednesday, we were invited, along with the other Kirkcaldy secondary schools, to contribute to the Armed Forces Day event taking place in the Town Square. Our input was on a Remembrance theme, led by Kerr Wilson (new S3) who recently helped lay a wreath at the Menin Gate, Ypres as part of our World



Talented Phoebe Bright

War 1 battlefields trip. After Kerr spoke passionately about his experiences and some of the Great War dead of KHS, Dr Murray sang. It was all very moving and we received a lovely email from the Provost's office saying that our contribution was the highlight of the event. The Thursday afternoon was our traditional end of session "Big Event" with inflatables, games, a mobile zoo, various stalls, music and ice cream. We had our end of term Prize Draws with the top prize being a mountain bike (worth £200) sponsored by Leslie Bike Shop and "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School". Very well done to Kenzie Livingstone (S2), who scooped that amazing top prize. Special thanks to our raffle sponsors: Bowlplex, Adventure Golf, Xtreme UK Trampoline Park, Fife Leisure Trust and, of course, Leslie Bike Shop. Thanks also to Premier Stores, Smeaton, who kindly sponsored all the ice cream, cones and toppings. The session ended with a "Dress Down Day" in support of Motor Neurone Disease Scotland and our traditional Talent Show, organised by the S6. Thanks to all who took part, and in particular to overall winner Phoebe Bright. Phoebe is a fantastic Irish dancer. It was an excellent end to the session.