



Diary Dates

Tues 22 Oct: Return to School, Adam Smith Assembly on "Being Well" and Dignity
Wed 23: Carlyle Assembly, Learning Partnership with St Andrew's High School
Thurs 24: Oswald Assembly
Tues 29: Primary 7 Open Evening
Wed 30 and Thurs 31: "Speedy STEAM" in the Hall
Fri 1 Nov: Rotary Young Chef Competition
Mon 4: Rotary Club "RYLA" Interviews
Tues 5: Adam Smith Assembly on "Remembrance", Edinburgh University delivering Personal Statement Workshop at 1pm
Wed 6: Carlyle Assembly, Rotary "Youth Speaks" at 6pm
Thurs 7: Oswald Assembly, UK Maths Challenge Snr, S2 Parent/Carer Evening
Fri 8: S4 Reports issued, FoKHS "Race Night"
Mon 11: Employability Week at KHS, Wreath Laying at War Memorial 11am
Tues 12: KHS Parent Council at 6pm
Fri 15: School closed for staff training
Tues 19: Adam Smith Assembly with feedback from Rwanda Team, Commonwealth War Graves Commission visit to History Dept, Rotary Club Schools' Quiz at 6pm
Wed 20: Carlyle Assembly, Rights Respecting School Assessment
Thurs 21: Oswald Assembly, Boozebusters Peer Education with S4 training S2
Fri 22: Bake Sale in support of Cottage Family Centre
Mon 25: Year Assemblies this week with School Nurses and Active Schools Ambassadors
Tues 26: S4 "Nationals" Parent/Carer Evening
Thurs 28: S2 "Speedy STEAM" in the Hall
Sat 30 (or Sun 1 Dec): Premier League football trip to Newcastle United
Mon 2: Salvation Army Choir Concert in KHS (Evening)
Tues 3: S3-6 Employability Fair in the Hall
Wed 4: S2 Learning Fair (Course Choice)
Fri 6: Edinburgh University "Why Go" Presentations for all S3
Mon 9: Year Assemblies this week, Rotary Hi-Five
Wed 11: Dance trip to London departs, KHS Christmas Concert at 6,30pm
Thurs 12: Christmas Ceilidh (S5/6)
Tues 17: Christmas themed Assemblies this week
Wed 18: KHS Christmas Party
Fri 20: Dress Down for the Cottage Family Centre, Staff X-Factor, close for holiday (pupils return Tues 7 Jan 2020).

The Rector Writes ...

It was a very great honour to have been shortlisted in the Kingdom FM "Local Hero" Awards which took place in August. KHS was up for "Best School" and Mr Young and I attended the awards ceremony at the Rothies Halls in Glenrothes. To be shortlisted was pleasing enough but to be named as "Best School" is hugely satisfying. Many thanks to the KHS Parent Council which nominated the school. As you know, we are the kind of school which values young people above all and I think that this was what led to this recognition.



I can also share that we have recently been awarded "Silver" school status by Sport Scotland and are actively working towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting School "Gold" standard and the LGBT Youth Scotland Charter (Gold). The Rights Respecting School assessment takes place on 20 November.

As ever, thanks for all your support and encouragement. Without your backing we are nothing. Together we can build the best school around. That will continue to be our aim.

Week 1 of The Session: The teachers and other staff started back on Monday 21 August with training days which had a focus on important issues such as our improvement plans, additional support needs, the exam results and homework policy. A major part of our work in the year ahead will be supported by an organisation called "Pivotal" Education to improve the consistency of way we handle routine situations. There is considerable evidence that when adults do this and exhibit calmness and kindness in a predictable way, young people learn better and develop improved social skills. It's pleasing to report that calmness and kindness are staff default positions here already but we want to make this a really strong feature of KHS going forward.

To help us do this, it's important that expectations are widely known, especially in terms of issues such as uniform and mobile 'phones. We've covered these at assemblies this week. Please be reminded that our dress code is quite simple. We expect a plain white shirt and visible school tie, knotted near the throat. Any jumper worn should be plain dark or of the KHS branded type and trousers/skirts should be plain black. Same goes for shoes, and trainers are acceptable so long as they are black. Our blazers are particularly smart, hard wearing and practical. They are available from the school or online from "Academy Uniforms" at a very good price. Leggings without pockets are not acceptable, nor are very thin leggings/jeggings through which underwear can be seen. Hoodies are not acceptable wear in class. Should any parent/carer need help in acquiring uniform, please just ask. We have a "bank", and much of it is new stock.

Mobile 'phones must be switched off and out of sight in lessons and in corridors unless the teacher makes it clear that their use can be part of learning. There should be no use of earphones in classes or corridors; it's rude and can be dangerous. Pupils are welcome to make use of a 'phone during break or lunch eg to listen to music or browse the internet. Please do not call or send messages to your son/daughter during lesson times as this can be a real distraction. If you do need to be in touch for an important reason, please call 01592 583405 and we will have your son/daughter taken out of class to speak to you.

Week 2 News: We held House Assemblies with the usual pattern; Adam Smith on Tuesday, Carlyle on Wednesday and Oswald on the Thursday. Apart from the Kingdom FM Award, we had the Guidance Team and House Leaders talking about ways to get involved. As you know, we greatly value the "pupil voice" and participation.

At lunchtime on the Tuesday, the Rector accompanied Jake Ramsay, Megan Ramsay and Liam Nisbet along to the regular meeting of Kirkcaldy Rotary Club where they gave an illustrated talk about their experiences at Nethybridge in the Cairngorms over the summer. All three were sponsored to take part in outwards bounds adventure training as part of the "RYLA" programme and we are very grateful to the club members for their most excellent support. All three of our students were excellent and spoke without notes, but with great passion, about the challenges and rich learning they experienced.



Kingdom FM "Best School"

On Tuesday evening there was a regular meeting of the "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School". If you are interested in this excellent support group, please respond to this email message and I will give you a call to discuss. FoKHS gives terrific support to the school in so many ways. Our fund raising Race Night on 8 November is the next date for your diary. Again, you can call to book tickets. The last round of fund raising has gone towards the purchase of a 3D printer for the CDT Department. This equipment has also been partially sponsored by National Oilwell Varco, an energy company with a plant in Glenrothes. We greatly value business support of this kind. Again, if you think you can help build links like this, please do give us a call.

On the Thursday we enlisted the help of "Skills Development Scotland" to train up our new group of "My World of Work" Ambassadors. These are S6 students who will help younger pupils to plan career and subject choices, working with S1-3 pupils and supporting vocational initiatives in our local primary schools. Thanks to Mrs Davidson for her work with this, and also to Julie Lautredou, our lead SDS Careers Advisor.

It was also the first of a series of swimming lessons for our new "Supported Learning" class which has been established in KHS. The base is on our top floor and the young people have settled in very well. Thanks to Mr Broadway for his exceptional commitment to "getting it right". The group will visit the pool every Thursday over the next few months.

We were particularly busy that Friday, with our Assembly Hall being given over to a training event for over 100 new teachers from across Fife. Meanwhile our S6 Sports Leadership group were at the Michael Woods Centre in Glenrothes taking part in the "Go for Gold" event, supported by Robert Greenhorn, our Active Schools Coordinator. Our school nurse drop-in started back again (and runs every Friday) at lunchtime. All youth services are available, including pregnancy testing and contraception advice if required. No appointment is needed.

Week from 2 September: We held no morning assemblies but our Tutor teachers had a focus on our fire evacuation procedures. On the Tuesday afternoon we welcomed a guest speaker for all of S2. Ms Mahr (RME) ar-

ranged for the Humanist Society of Scotland to give a talk in the hall. Stewart Struthers talked mainly about his work



Work Experience at the Kwik Fit Training Centre

as a celebrant, officiating at weddings funerals etc. Our kids had some really insightful questions at the end and were a credit to the school, as usual. After school that day, we had another study support session with the St Andrews University First Chances Programme. Thanks to Mrs Hunter, Mr Dick and Ms Nessel for their support of the programme, it really is excellent. It was good to see some of the new P7 pupils from Valley and Fair Isle involved too.

On the Thursday we had a "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) engagement team from the Army working with groups of students in our Assembly Hall. This was terrific. The overall theme was disaster relief and one of the highlights involved designing, building and programming a robot to move around an obstacle course.

It was good to welcome our new Police Scotland liaison officer that week. PC Cameron Lee is the Kirkcaldy schools' link officer and we are looking forward to working closely with him in the future. It's important to build strong community links and respect for the Police and the law in this way.

Week 4 Update: The following week (beginning 9 September) we had Year-group Assemblies with the usual pattern and the main theme has been "Pupil Voice" with an emphasis on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Stonewall "No Bystanders" Pledge, with its focus on challenging bullying behaviour. As you are aware, this is a big theme in our school, with our values of Respect for Self, Others and Learning. We'll be expecting an accreditation from the people from the UNICEF

Rights Respecting School programme in November, and Miss Diamond will be in contact about a survey we are

University as part of their Advanced Higher Physics study programme. Many thanks to Miss Young and the young people of our "Rights Respecting School" Group for their leadership of these engagements. Special recognition goes to Eilidh Drummond, Rebecca Greig and Phoebe Brand (S3). All spoke really well and they are thanked for extending our school's understanding of Human Rights. The Stonewall Charter is so important to us too. We are committed to being a safe and welcoming school where no-one feels discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, religion, disability or sexuality.

asking parents/carers to complete. Many thanks in advance for your help with this. At the Assemblies we also had an input from Stephen and Brendan, Fife Council Youth Workers, to explain about the work of the Templehall Action Group and to encourage our young people to participate.

On the Monday, those S4 who are currently studying the National 5 Mathematics course undertook a "mini pre-lim" in the Hall. Miss Grubb, Head of Maths, is sure that it will be useful to test young people's progress at this point.

In the afternoon, a large group of young people with an interest in the automotive industry were over at the Kwik Fit Training Academy in Broxburn for a hands-on session. Many thanks to Mrs Davidson, who leads on this. We are the only Fife school involved in this way, and it was very worthwhile. There are some excellent pictures on "Twitter".

On Tuesday, after our S2 Assembly, it was the first mentoring session for S5/6 students being supported by "FoKHS" members. Thanks to all our mentors, who helped last session's S6 students to achieve "best ever" SQA exam results. It's a great way of helping young people who are not used to the study requirements of Higher courses, to keep "on track".

The S3 Assembly was on the Wednesday and in the afternoon, Calum Jackson and John Hamilton (both S6) attended Dundee

We also welcomed a new member of staff to KHS as we were joined by Suzanne Squires as our Principal Teacher responsible for Supported Learning. Ms Squires was previously of the "DAS" at Auchmuty High School in Glenrothes. We are delighted that she has joined us and can report that our little group of Supported Learning kids have settled in exceptionally well. Many thanks also to Mr Broadway, Ms Patton, Mr Naismith, Mrs McNab, Mrs Proudfoot and all the other teaching and support staff who have given our new starts a fantastic introduction to our school.

On the Monday afternoon, Miss Malcolm (Lead Teacher for Employability) took our "Career Ready" pupils up to Glenrothes for a "masterclass" session with mentors from local businesses and companies. This is an excellent programme. There is an official launch at the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline soon.



Eilidh, Rebecca and Phoebe lead our "Rights" Assembly

Week beginning 16 September: We held House Assemblies with Adam Smith on Tuesday, Carlyle on Wednesday and Oswald on Thursday. These were led by Mrs Rae (Pupil Support Officer) on the theme of Period Poverty. The Rector is proud that at KHS we are doing our bit to reduce the stigma around menstruation and addressing the "poverty gap" in respect of this. Please be reminded that free sanitary items are available in all our facilities. There is no need for any young person to miss lessons for want of appropriate support. Our PSO team are especially skilled in helping young people with this.

At the assemblies, we formally introduced the Kirkcaldy Schools' Police Liaison Officers, PCs Cameron Lee and Carly Campbell. We are really looking forward to working with Cammy to build links and work together to keep our kids safe and involved in their town. The team will join us every Friday afternoon and at other times during the week.

Also on Tuesday, we welcomed Cheryl Rae, a former pupil, to give a talk about rhino conservation to several groups of Biology students. Cheryl left KHS seven years ago and now works as a vet in Kirkcaldy with St Clair Vets. This summer, she spent time as a volunteer on a South African game reserve as part of a team trying to address the extinction threat faced by African rhinos. She explained the horrific trade in rhino horn, which is, by weight, more highly valued than gold. Our pupils were angered and moved by Cheryl's stories and now have a far greater knowledge of wildlife poaching and other conservation issues.

That Tuesday was our S3 Parent/Carer Evening. We then had another "Parents' Evening" last week, with a different format. It was for parents and carers of S1, held on the Thursday, and we had a focus on developing positive attitudes to reading and numbers. You've likely heard of "Growth Mindset"? Many

thanks to our lead professionals and teachers in literacy and numeracy, Mrs Hume and Mrs Hamilton, Miss Wilson and Miss Hay. The evening was a big success. We had a very good turnout and parents/carers enjoyed the groupwork challenges set by our staff. We'll try to do some more "Family Learning" activities like this throughout the session. Last Thursday, after the weekly swimming lesson, our Supported Learning class took part in a special outdoors event laid on at the new Lochgelly Cycling Park by Disability Sport Fife. This was a great hit and a good chance to get together.

The Penultimate Week of Term: During this week we held Yeargroup assemblies with different themes for different years. For example, for S1 on Monday, we had a focus on the upcoming Fordell Firs Adventure Trips (Wednesday to Friday). For S2 on Tuesday, Mrs Kendrick



Cheque Presentation to Fife Fire and Rescue for Anthony Nolan

(Guidance) had organised by a special fire safety talk from Fife Fire and Rescue.

Also that day, Mrs Hamilton (Depute Rector), Mrs Morris (Head of Modern Languages) Mr McFarlane (Acting Rector of Viewforth High School) and Mr Allan (KHS Rector) visited St Andrew's High School as part of our "Learning Partnership". This was a valuable experience for all involved. There was the chance to be in classes, talk to teachers and talk to young people, before providing feedback on aspects of school improvement at St Andrew's. A team from that school, led by Mr Callaghan (Headteacher) will visit our school just after the October holidays.

That same day, our Rotary Club "Interact" made a cheque presentation to the Antho-



Inaugural Performance of the KHS Community Choir

ny Nolan Trust which was a result of their sponsored walk and bake sale. Anthony Nolan works closely with Fife Fire and Rescue to recruit new bone marrow donors to give hope to those affected by blood cancers. As a result of our partnership, over 80 young people joined the register last session. Kirsty Ogden, who has now left school, subsequently travelled to London to donate after a potential match was found. The charity made a video about Kirsty during her stem cell donation. This is now embedded in the presentation that is being delivered across Scotland at any partnership event between Scottish Fire and Rescue and Anthony Nolan.

On Tuesday afternoon, all S1 were invited to a musical demonstration and performance in the Hall. This performance was put on by our music instructors. Many thanks to all of them, and also to Mrs Duckett, our Head of Music. We are keen to encourage all our pupils to be involved in music. It's never too late to learn a new skill or develop a new passion ... and that goes for learning an instrument too. Our new Community Choir of staff and pupils is also going very well and had their first gig took place at the Salvation Army Open Day at Hayfield Road that Saturday. It was very well received.

On the Tuesday evening, we held a meeting of the

KHS Parent Council and the main themes were some feedback about the Kingdom FM "Best School" Award, a review of the SQA exam results, the latest position on staffing and timetable, our financial position and spending plans for the session ahead and in particular, the way we are attempting to close the attainment gap through Pupil Equity Fund projects and initiatives. We had several new members and had a really good blether about all matters KHS. Cara Turner and Jake Ramsay (Head Boy and Girl) attended and gave their take from a student standpoint. Please join us for the next meeting on 12 November. We'll be discussing teenage mental health and "Rights Respecting Schools" among other things.

On Wednesday afternoon, we had a group of Drama students attending a performance of "A Taste of Honey" at the King's Theatre in Edinburgh. Many thanks to Mrs Bruce and Mr McPherson for leading this. Mrs Bruce has set about organising the very first Fife Schools' "Shakespeare Festival" in conjunction with Fife College. A group of local schools will be staging abridged performances of the bard's works in 2020. Rehearsals have now started for the KHS production of "Othello".



S6 Mentor Leaders at the Fordell Adventure Camp



Donation of £1434 to MND Scotland



Arriving in Rwanda, East Africa

On the Wednesday evening, our COSLA Award winning LGBT+ Group delivered equalities training to Fife Council Youth Workers. Next day they were off to the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow to deliver "workshop" sessions for teachers from all over

Raegan Graham-Lithgow (S4), Aimee Main (S3) and Callum Husband (S3).

On Thursday afternoon, all S1 were in the Hall for the finale of our "CSI" case, which finished with a "murder trial". S1 pupils have spent all week



Kigali Street Kids Project, Rwanda

Scotland. We were invited by Education Scotland, the Government's lead agency in the field. Well done to the team, led by John, Morgan and Blake. KHS is lighting the way ... and many thanks to Dr Murray too. He is our lead teacher supporter.

Well done to our S1, who were out of school (by House group) from Wednesday to Friday that week taking part in outdoor adventure and team building activities at Fordell Firs near Dunfermline. This was a great success, despite the rain and mud!

The Final Week: For this week we marked "Maths Week Scotland" with a sequence of events, in and out of school. For example, on Tuesday, all S2/3 took part in a special "Escape Rooms" challenge set up in the Hall. We hired in a specialist company to set up the event and it was a lot of fun. Teams had to undertake various numerical challenges to unlock special boxes against the clock. Also that day, we had our S3

using number skills to crack clues to help them find the dastardly criminal who "murdered" Mr Young. It was my pleasure to be the presiding judge, wig and all. Finally, on Friday, we hosted the Fife "Enterprising Maths" competition for all the primary schools across the county. Many thanks to our ambassador helpers, all who were interviewed for the role. It's been a huge undertaking but well worth it to promote numeracy and number skills. Many thanks to Miss Grubb (Head of Department), Miss Cunningham (Principal Teacher) and all the Maths teachers for their work with this.

Also this week, apart from our numeracy focus, our S6 who are interested in applying to University have been learning more about "UCAS" and the application process. Then, on Tuesday, all S6 were taken up to the Careers Convention which took place at the Rothes Halls. There were representatives from Universities, Colleges, employers and training providers attending.

"Enterprising Maths" teams up at Glenrothes High School competing in the Fife heat of the "Enterprising Maths" National Competition. The top Fife teams qualify for the National finals in Glasgow and I am delighted to report that one of our teams made the cut. Very well done to Callum Campbell (S4),

We also had a couple of Parent/Carer Evenings in connection with upcoming trips. On Monday, Miss Malcolm and other staff involved met with the parents/carers of pupils attending our Dance trip to London in December. Then, on Thursday, our Modern Languages team held a meeting about our trip to Chateau de Warsy, near Amiens, next February.

Wednesday saw the school photographs being taken for all S1, S3 and S6, including siblings, Prefects and staff.

That same day, our Personal Development class had organised our participation in the MacMillan Coffee Morning. As always, this was a lovely event, held in the staffroom. We raised over £240 from this event. Many thanks to all who baked or supported MacMillan in any way. After school we had another study/mentoring session with undergraduates from St Andrews University supporting our SQA students as part of the "First Chances" programme. Then, a little later, it was S5/6 Parent/Carer Evening.

Thursday was a very important day, with Louise Barrett (S6) and Jonathan McIntyre (S5) flying out to Poland for a trip to Auschwitz as part of the Holocaust Memorial Trust "Lessons from Auschwitz" education programme. This was a memorable and very moving event. We have lined up an opportunity for Louise and Jonathan to give a talk and share their photographs at an assembly next January. This will be to mark World Holocaust Memorial Day.

In the afternoon, our Latin and Classical Studies pupils got a big surprise with the unannounced arrival of a detachment of Roman legionaries on a recruitment drive.

It was all great fun. Mrs Shearer had set up this engagement with a re-enactment group called "Real Romans" and the guys explained their weaponry, battle tactics etc



Enterprising Maths Winners at Glenrothes ... Glasgow Next!

As usual for the end of term, we held a "Dress Down" day, this time in support of MND Scotland. It was also the final day for Miss McIntosh of the PE Department, who starts in a new job at Braeview Academy, Dundee after the break. We're sorry to lose Miss McIntosh, but her new school is much closer to home. Many thanks to Miss McIntosh for her excellent service to KHS.

After the break, we'll be joined by Miss McIntosh's replacement. This is Miss Lucy Kirkwood, who is currently teaching in Edinburgh. Miss Kirkwood is a skilled Dance teacher and we are delighted to have secured her services. We'll also be joined by a new Maths Teacher. Mr Stuart Spence is currently teaching at the Bridges Centre in Rosyth and has a wealth of experience.

Welcome to both of our new teachers. Mrs Hunter will start her maternity leave in November and we can share that her Guidance duties will be undertaken by Mr Mitchell, who has previous experience in the Guidance role and will bring many strengths to the team. Very best wishes to Mrs Hunter.



Maths Week "Escape Rooms" Challenge