



Diary Dates

Mon 6 January 2020: Staff return to school for training

Tues 7: House Assemblies this week, looking forward with the Guidance Team

Thurs 9: Edinburgh University Wider Participation Event for S2

Fri 10: Top of the Bench Chemistry Quiz at St Andrews University

Mon 13: S4-6 Prelims start (over 2 weeks)

Tues 14: Primary 7 Roadshow Evenings at Torbain 5pm and Capshard 6.15pm

Tues 21: Primary 7 Roadshow Evenings at Fair Isle 5pm and Valley 6.15pm

Fri 24: S2 Reports issued

Tues 29: House Assemblies this week, lessons from Auschwitz

Tues February 4: Parent Council meets at 6pm

Thurs 6: Intermediate IK Maths Challenge

Mon 10: French trip heads off to Chateau de Warsy near Amiens

Wed 12: Closure for staff training

Thurs 13 and Fri 14: Closed for mid term holiday

Mon 17: Year Assemblies this week on "Equality and Diversity"

Tues 18: S2 Respect for Learning Awards Evening, Rotary Young Musician

Fri 21: S4 Tracking Report issued, S5/6 Assembly with Anthony Nolan Trust

Mon 24: S5/6 Reports issued

Thurs 27: S4 Parent/Carer Evening

Mon 2 March: S5 Course Choice

Tues 3: House Assemblies this week to mark British Science Week, Rotary Youth Awards Evening

Fri 6: FoKHS Fundraising Ceilidh

Mon 9: Year Assemblies this week to mark World Book Week

Wed 11: S4 Course Choice

Tues 17: House Assemblies this week on the theme of "Learner Journeys"

Fri 20: S1 Tracking Report issued

Fri 27: S4-6 Assembly re SQA Exams and Anthony Nolan Donor Session

Tues 31: House Assemblies this week led by S6 Active School and Sports Leaders

Fri 3 April: Dress Down Day and end of term

Mon 20: School returns with SQA exams beginning on 27 April (with PE).

The Rector Writes ...

In our last Newsletter, I explained that we were being considered for the UNICEF Rights Respecting School "Gold" standard. I am delighted to report that the evaluation which took place in November was a success and KHS is officially Fife's first "Gold" Rights Respecting secondary school!

This is a huge honour and I must thank our entire school community for getting right behind the idea that young people have the right to influence and sometimes, lead, their school. Special thanks must go to the staff and young people most directly involved; Miss Young and Miss Diamond and the "core" group in S3; Eilidh Drummond, Rebecca Greig, Phoebe Brand and Gemma Hepburn.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a prosperous New Year. I'm confident that 2020 can be another happy and successful year for our young people. Working together in partnership, we have proven that we can achieve so much.

The First Week of Term

We started back with a staff training day on Monday 21 October, and held House Assemblies that week. The main theme was "Being Well" with a mental health focus. Our "champion" is Mrs Kendrick and she has put together a team of senior pupils to act as "Mental Health Ambassadors" who will advise the school and help us getting the right messages out there. She was joined at the assemblies by Sam Michie and Amber Thomson (both S4), who attended a conference on emotional wellbeing in Edinburgh on the Monday. At that conference at Edinburgh University, our LGBT Equalities group led "workshop" sessions for young people from across South East Scotland. Very well done to John Hamilton (S6), Blake McBride (S3) and Morgan Cameron (S3) for their leadership. The Rector was also over at Edinburgh University on the Tuesday, to discuss an extension of the "Your Ed" programme. This is a wider access project and KHS

is the only Fife school involved. It's about allowing working class kids to experience higher education and take part in a study programme which will guarantee them a university place based on the "minimum entry requirement". It sounds really exciting. On the Friday we had a large group of First Year along at St Andrews University as part of the "First Chances" scheme. This is another "wider access" programme aimed at opening doors for kids from working class backgrounds. Our group was accompanied by Mr Dick and Mrs Hunter. Thanks to them.

Week 2 Report: The week from 28 October started with a special assembly for S2 on Monday morning. This had a focus on career opportunities in the NHS, about increasing access to allied health professional careers such as physiotherapy, radiography etc. Tuesday evening was our Primary 7 Open Evening, when pupils and families from P7 at Valley, Torbain, Fair Isle and Capshard, as well as others who have made "placing requests" joined us for a tour of the school and the chance to meet staff and pupils to find out what KHS is all about. Many enjoyed the explosive experiments in Science and some enjoyed the meal worm snacks offered by our Hospitality students ... seriously! It really was a terrific evening, which was very well attended. We had a strong technology focus during the week. Dr Murray and Miss Tennant (Principal Teachers in Science) had organised "STEM" workshops for S5/6 science pupils on Tuesday and the next day we had 36 "STEM" ambassadors from industry taking part in a "speed dating" style event with all our S3 pupils. The kids were able to find out about job opportunities in science and engineering by chatting with our visitors. On that Wednesday, Mrs Cunningham (PT Equity) organised for a large group of S1 pupils to pay a visit to the Public Library at Templehall. It's important that we promote reading and all S1 will have this opportunity over the coming weeks. Miss Malcolm led a trip to Dundee University on the Thursday. The programme is called "Discovering Degrees" and was for a large group of S3 learners. They had an excellent day, with a focus on civil engineering, graphic design etc. Also that week, we welcomed an international delegation of teachers from Poland, Germany, Italy and Slovakia. Our visitors were especially impressed by the warm, "family" ethos of the school which they thought was less formal and a bit more natural than in their own countries.

On that same day, we welcomed the Templehall Youth Worker team to lead a group of pupils to undertake a litter pick of the "Den".

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Litter Picking the Den with Templehall Action Group

Week Beginning 4 November: This was another busy one. We marked Dyslexia Awareness week with several staff teaching young people about dyslexia. Mrs Patton Principal Teacher of Equity in Learning, had a stall at lunchtimes. That week, we were joined by Mary Patrick, Mark Rossiter and Tony Paine from Kirkcaldy Rotary to conduct interviews for the Rotary International Leadership Camps which take place next summer in the Cairngorms. Congratulations to Charly McMillan (S5) who has been selected for the camp. We had House Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to mark Remembrance. These were organised by Miss Osborne of the History Department, with support from Mrs Duckett and Mr Duncan (Music).



KHS Poppy Appeal 2019

We had an illustrated talk from pupils who were part of our Great War Battlefields trip in May, tributes from several other young people, including Charlie Murdoch (pictured) who explained the symbolism of the poppy, a wonderfully expressive dance routine from Amber Thomson and Eve Denholm (S4) and a beautiful song specially composed and sung by Martina Giorgio (S6). We were also moved by Cameron Hamilton (S5), who played the "Last Post" on cornet. Tuesday was an especially busy day, as we also had our "Quadcopter" design and engineering team up at Auchmuty High School in Fife competing for a place in the UK finals in Birmingham. Miss Hay accompanied our "Enterprising Maths" team of S3 to The Glasgow Science Centre to compete in the Scottish final of this competition. They were presented with a lovely glass trophy by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. After lunch that day, we had outreach team in from Edinburgh University to support our S6 with their "UCAS" applications, especially the "Personal Statement" element. We also had an Eng-

lish Department trip for S3 and S4 to Jupiter Artland, near Edinburgh. It's an amazing outdoor space and sculpture park which is an inspiration for creative writing. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy, sponsors of the "Youth Speaks" public speaking competition, which took place last Wednesday evening. We had a team of Third Year girls talking on the theme of Human Rights. Eilidh Drummond, Rebecca Greig and Phoebe Brand did very well and we are pleased to report that KHS are the official Rotary Club Public Speaking winners for 2019. Our Modern Languages Department had also organised a trip to Edinburgh to the Filmhouse on Lothian Road, for a special showing of "La Famille Belier". Just before the S2 Parents' Evening, Dr Murray, Miss Collins, Mrs Patton, Mrs Hardie, John Hamilton (S6) and Mr Allan met with Cara Spence of LBGT Youth Scotland to discuss the next stage on our "journey" towards achieving the LBGTYS Charter. Cara joined the KHS LGBT group at the information and awareness stall they laid on for the parents and carers of S2. The group has designed a leaflet which is intended to be helpful for families. On the Friday we had S4 volunteers helping along at Chapel Level Care Home as part of the SQA Volunteering Award. That evening it was our "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" Race Night and I think that all who attended had a great night out. Once again, may I add that We are very grateful to "FoKHS" for all their fantastic fundraising efforts ... this is a brilliant support group which has donated over £8000 in the past two years. We were out and about on Remembrance Sunday, with our senior prefects laying a wreath at the Kirkcaldy War Memorial after being part of the town's Remembrance Parade. In the afternoon, the KHS Community Choir performed at the "Rejects" store's Christmas launch. The Choir, which comprises staff and students, is a brilliant new initiative led by Mrs Duckett, supported on Sunday by Mrs Simpson.

Week 4 News: This week was a shortened one for pupils, with a staff training day on Friday 15 November. On the Monday we observed a two minute silence across the school at 11am to mark the 101st anniversary of the end of the Great War. At the same time, our Prefect team laid poppy wreaths at our own war memorial in school. The KHS memorial is a tribute to the 215 men and boys who gave their lives in the World



Kirkcaldy Schools Rotary Club Quiz Winners

Wars of the twentieth century. On the Tuesday, outreach staff from Edinburgh University held a "focus group" with S6 on the subject of widening access for young people from working class families. All of our S5 travelled to Glenrothes for the "Safe Drive - Stay Alive" Roadshow and at lunchtime, Mrs Davidson and I were joined by Interact Club members along at the regular Rotary Club lunch at the Dean Park Hotel. Our Interactors were presented with a cheque for £1000 by President Robert Main as a contribution to our MND Scotland fundraising appeal. Also, our Advanced Higher English students visited the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. That evening, it was a Parent Council meeting. The main focus was our efforts at consistency of approaches to relationships, our curriculum "rationale" and "Rights Respecting School". On Thursday evening, we attended Fife College (Halbeath) for a conference on the School/College Partnership arrangements. We work closely with Fife College on a variety of different programmes including Foundation Apprenticeships in Childcare, Software, Engineering etc. However, right throughout this week, our main theme, especially for S3, was "Employability". We are fully committed to giving all of our young people the best chance of a successful pathway to employment and want all of our leavers to be "job ready". This week saw all out S3 out on a workplace visit on Tuesday afternoon. On Wednesday they were off the usual timetable to take part in team-building and then design activities. We also had an infor-

mation session from Fife College. The "destination" for about a third of our leavers is the College. Our staff are delivered "Barclay's Lifeskills" sessions on creating a CV.

The Week 18 November: This was "Book Week Scotland" and we had various events to mark it. Also, our S3 started to undertake the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) in reading, writing and maths. These are computerised tests which indicate progress with "Curriculum for Excellence" so far. On the Monday, we had a large group of S1 pupils taking part in the St Andrews University "First Chances" programme. The engagement took place at Fife College on this occasion. Tuesday was the Adam Smith Assembly - and we had reports from October's Rwanda trip all week. Many thanks to Ms Cunningham, Dr Murray and all the young people who led this. The feedback given was very powerful and a real challenge to open our eyes and minds to see the global picture. We are planning a further African adventure for 2021. We had a guest input for English classes that Tuesday.



Remembrance at the KHS Memorial

This took the form of creative writing advice from popular Scottish thriller writer Doug Johnstone. Doug has visited KHS before and his talk was part of our author focus for "Book Week Scotland". That evening we hosted the Rotary Club of Kirkcaldy Sixth Form Quiz in KHS. This was for all the four local high schools and we are absolutely delighted to share that we are officially the brainiest school in town! Very well done to team captain John Hamilton, joined by Megan Jobson, Callum Ritchie, Emma Reekie, David Manzie, Melissa Francis and John Hamilton. Wednesday was UNICEF

"Clued Up". All of our mentors have been outstanding. For Book Week Scotland, we had a Royal Society of Edinburgh sponsored talk on poetry from Professor Jeremy Smith of Glasgow University. It was terrific. In the afternoon, Miss Wallace (Geography) and Mr Allan met with Kate Somervail from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to discuss our progress with the programme. Our first group have been practising their outdoor skills preparing for the expedition element soon and now we are planning a significant expansion with a new S3 group. The Friday was the Oswald Assembly and the contributions from our young people, on the UNCRC and our African link, were outstanding. We also had another Royal Society of Edinburgh "Book Week" talk that day, this time from Dr Alice Koning of St Andrews and a lunchtime bake sale in support of the Cottage Family Centre Christmas Appeal, organised by Ellie Hitchcock (S5).

Carer Evening for S4 who will be undertaking the qualifications in National 5 next May. We had an excellent turnout on a very dreich night. Wednesday was the S3 Assembly and in addition to the active schools and nurse team input, Miss Wallace gave a talk about a new group about the Duke of Edinburgh "Bronze" Award. In the afternoon, we hosted a "live screening" of a film called "Balisong", which was made by the "No Knives Better Lives" Campaign to highlight the dangers of carrying a weapon. We have a responsibility to tackle difficult issues such as this and at assemblies last year, we successfully encouraged all our pupils to pledge that they would "grass up" any pupil they knew had a knife or similar item to school. We are very grateful to Miss Young (Modern Studies) for taking this on to the next stage. The film was a harsh reminder of the consequences of staying silent about anyone carrying a weapon. Our pupils watched and listened very carefully and reiterated their pledge to report anyone bringing a knife or any similar weapon to school. Thursday was a "Speedy STEAM" event. This time it was for S2 and we thank Fife College and The Royal Navy for their support. We had teamwork, problem solving and engineering challenges to be solved. On the Friday afternoon, our choir (which is now 28 strong!) was along at ASDA on Carberry Road to mark the official Christmas launch at the store. Also that day, our senior netball team did very well, reaching the semi-final of the Fife Championships up at Glenrothes (photo). That's our best performance in this sport for decades. That weekend we had our Premiership football trip to Newcastle United for the match against Manchester City. We had a large group of young people involved and all enjoyed a close, exciting encounter with some great goals and a twist in injury time. Also, pupils involved in our French trip to Picardy in Feb-



KHS Community Choir in Action

ruary were fund raising at the B and M Store at the Retail Park. They helped with bag-packing and we are delighted to report that the brilliant total of £930 was raised.

Week Beginning 2 December: S5 students Rachel Cummings and Eryn O'Donnell visited Ingolstadt in Germany with a group from St Andrew's High School. Ingolstadt is Kirkcaldy's twin town. On the Monday afternoon, Miss Young (Modern Studies) and Mr Allan took members of our "Rights Respecting School" Committee along to Kelty Community Centre where Fife Council had organised a teachers' conference about improving pupil participation in schools. That evening, Mrs Morris set up parental study sessions for S4 and parents/carers. These gave some hints and tips for revision. We had 4 workshops; a generic session on revision skills (timetable, SQA website/Study Guides etc); a Literacy based session, so subjects with lots of writing, facts to remember (English, Modern Studies, etc); a Numeracy based session (Maths, Science, Engineering Science etc) and a session with S6 pupils who explained what went well for them and maybe more importantly what didn't go so well and what they would do differently. What a terrific turnout, we had four full classrooms. At 7pm that evening, it was our pleasure to host the Kirkcaldy Salvation Army Christmas Concert in school.



Jake Ramsay: Rotary Young Chef

World Children's Day and we were delighted to be joined by Jenny Price and Clare Westwood of "Rights Respecting Schools" to mark this event. It was the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and we had various events, including a special assembly, as well as our Rwanda reflections. Thanks to Jake Ramsay (Head Boy), who hosted the assembly and very well done to Rebecca Greig (S3), who delivered a very powerful speech about the impact of the UNCRC. That evening, there was a meeting about our "Battlefields" trip which takes place in May 2020. Last year's trip was highly successful and this week's meeting was very positive too. The Thursday saw the "Boozebusters" training sessions in the Hall for all S2. Our S4 mentors delivered special alcohol awareness sessions. Many thanks to our supporters in this initiative: NHS Fife, Police Scotland and

Week 6 News: During week beginning 25 November we had assemblies for all year groups (except S4) with a focus on our "Active Schools" work and the role of our School Nurse team. These inputs were really useful. Special thanks to Calum Ritchie and Sophie Stark, the S6 Sports Ambassadors involved ... both spoke exceptionally well at the assemblies. Also on the Monday, we had a large group of S1/2 teaming up with youth workers based at the YMCA to bake scones, biscuits etc for sale on the Tuesday in support of a local homelessness project. It's part of the wider "Templehall Action Group" initiative. It was also the Rotary Young Chef Kirkcaldy final at Fife College on the Monday. We had Holli Moffat and Jake Ramsay representing the school. We are absolutely delighted to report that Jake has won through to the next round. This will be held at Dundee and Angus College on January 25. Well done to Holli also, who is only in S2 and shows huge potential. On the Tuesday morning, we had Patricia Kerppe from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission speaking to our S2 "Battlefields" pupils. This was an excellent experience and our young people now know a bit more about what to expect when they visit Belgium and France next year, and also how to use their research skills more effectively. Then, in the evening, we hosted a special Parent/



Senior Netball Success



Football Trip to Newcastle United

As well as the Salvation Army's own musicians and singers, the KHS Community Choir performed. It was a very successful evening. Over 200 people came out in poor weather and a fantastic sum of £630 was presented to Margaret Langlands of CHAS, the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland. On the Tuesday, our main event was the KHS Employability Fair in our Hall. We had a very wide range of employers, College representatives and Universities attending and all young people in S3-6 spent time at the fair. Many thanks to; Royal Navy, Air Force and The Army, Careers at Sea, Babcock, Fife Council, Fife Voluntary Action, Kwik Fit, Skills Development Scotland, Clyde Marine Training, Kingdom Homes, Exterity, Raytheon, Proto-Pic, Addieshaw Godard, The Law Society of

of four S5 pupils undertaking a construction industry basic training programme over the past few weeks. Very well done to Jay Cunningham, Lewis Clark, Taylor Wilson and Cameron Hynd, who now have a wee edge when applying for jobs in construction. On Friday, we had the Edinburgh University Engagement Team in school for an event called "Why Go?" for all S3. Also that day, our S3/4 Sports Leaders supervised at the Michael Woods Sports Centre in Glenrothes. It was the Fife Primary Athletics Festival.

The Penultimate Week

For this week we had Year-group assemblies with a musical input for each. We showcased performances from our Christmas Concert, which took place on Wednesday evening. Also, on Monday, we welcomed Hank John of Gideons

parasites. In Modern Studies, representatives of Fife Police visited classes to explain aspects of their work and take questions from young people.

Wednesday night was our annual Christmas Concert. Mrs Duckett (Head of Music) put together a very interesting and diverse programme. It really was a fantastic evening. On Thursday, we had a group of Sports Leaders from S5/6 along at the Ice Rink, supporting the "Curling's Cool" Festival for locally primary kids. In the evening it was our S5/6 Christmas Ceilidh or "Formal".



Our Christmas Concert

Thanks to all the staff who supported this. Their commitment at a busy time of year is greatly appreciated. The week ended with our annual trip to the Adam Smith Panto on Friday morning. It's was for S1, and it was "Jack and the Beanstalk".

Fife's Executive Director of Education and Children's Services for a celebration lunch. Many thanks to the Hospitality pupils who did the catering. That evening it was our Christmas Disco and Party. Thanks to resident DJs Disco Doc and Dick of the Decks, who, as usual, kept things rolling along. The term ended with a "Dress Down" Day in support of the Cottage Family Centre, Templehall. Before lunch we held traditional end of term Staff X Factor, when teachers and other staff showcase their talent, or in many cases, absence of talent. Then we showed a Christmas movie in the Hall. It was a lovely way to end a successful year at KHS.

The Final Week

For the last week of term we had Assemblies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These were extended House Assemblies with a Christmas theme. However, the main business was a celebration of our newly confirmed status as a "UNICEF" Rights Respecting "Gold Award" School. At lunchtime on Wednesday we welcomed Carrie Lindsay,



KHS Employability, University and Careers Fair 2019

Scotland, PDSA, IDTC, Sainsbury's, Glam Candy, Fife College, Edinburgh Academy of Music, Aberdeen University, Dundee University, Glasgow University, Napier University, St Andrews University, Strathclyde University, Abertay University, the Students Award Scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. On Wednesday, it was our S2 "Learning Fair". We made the Fair available for all parents/carers of S2 in the evening and were delighted by the big turnout. We started the evening off with a short talk from the Rector, about course choice. Then parents/carers and young people got to meet teachers and talk to young people who are currently studying specific courses. As well as the Learning Fair, we also had our Christmas Fair, with all welcome. We had stalls with gifts, crafts, baking etc. we are pleased to say that £500 was raised and all proceeds go to subsidise the cost of the S6 Yearbook and Prom, which takes place in June next year. Mrs Davidson and Mr Allan were along at the Skills Development Centre at Mitchellson Industrial Estate for a "graduation". We had a group

International, the Christian organisation which places scripture in public places. Hank talked about the work of Gideons and later offered New Testaments to young people. After school on Monday, our Rotary Club Interact Group hosted a "Hi 5" Games Night with other local schools. As usual, this was great fun. Tuesday's assembly had another input about our work with the Widening Participation Team of Edinburgh University, Dr Beattie talked about opportunities beyond school, this time for S2, and explained about an event (including a free lunch!) we are planning for January. Wednesday saw our Dance trip heading off to London ... at 5am! It's a very exciting programme with a day at the famous Pineapple Studios, near Covent Garden, and a trip to the West End to see "Matilda". In the afternoon, our LGBT Support Group delivered training for Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisers along at the Bay Hotel, Kinghorn. We also had a combined Biology and Geography trip the National Museum of Scotland for a new exhibition about viruses and



Team KHS at Pineapple Studios, Covent Garden, London