



Kirkcaldy High School

Issue 106
Oct 2012

Community Newsletter

*Respect for Self, for
Others, for Learning*

Diary Dates

Mon 1 Oct:
S4 On track
letter posted
home

Tues 2 Oct:
Fancy Dress
Disco

Fri 5 Oct:
End of term
and Dress
Down for
charity

Sat 6 Oct:
Classics trip
to Pompeii
departs

Mon 22 Oct:
Pupils return
to school

Tues 23 Oct:
P7 Open Evening.
Non catchment
families welcome,
please call 01592
583405 for
details

Wed 31 Oct:
S4 Parent/
Carer Evening

Fri 2 Nov:
Concert by
the RAF Band

Tues 6 Nov:
Senior UK
Maths Challenge.

Parent & Carer Evenings this session;

P7—Tues 23 Oct 2012 and
Thurs 13 Jun 2013

S1—Thurs 17 Jan 2013

S2— Wed 27 Feb 2013—
(Curriculum for Excellence
Evening on Mon 4 Feb
2013)

S3—Tues 12 Feb 2012

S4—Wed 31 Oct 2012 (Info
evening on Mon 21 Jan
2013)

S5/6—Wed 28 Nov 2012

The Rector writes ...

Our newsletter always provides an opportunity to reflect on recent successes and keep parents/carers and the wider community informed about what's going on at KHS. As you'd expect, it has been a very busy term with many highlights. For me the brightest of all was "Annie" - our school musical. What a fantastic show it was. Thanks to the community for supporting us and providing such great feedback. It's fair to say that "Annie" was a riproaring success and a wonderful way for Judith Kerr, Depute Rector and producer of the show, to end her long and successful time at Kirkcaldy High School.

Mrs Kerr, as she will always be known to a large section of the population of this town, has been a fantastic servant to our school, and in my own 30 years experience in teaching, I've never known anyone who has given so much to support young people over such a long period — 22 years at KHS in Judith's case. Judith Kerr is the embodiment of our "Usque Conabor" spirit in the modern age. She will retire at the October break.

We will also say farewell to Sheena Archibald, who retires from her post as Senior Depute Rector at the end of October. Since joining KHS in 2005, Sheena has been a brilliant Depute Rector and Acting Rector. Her uncommon compassion and kindness have made her a favourite of many of our pupils and she will be very sorely missed

by us all. Personally, I have found Sheena to be the best Depute I could have wished for and there is not a day that she has not made me laugh. Very best wishes to Sheena and Judith.

Other staff are also on the move. Best wishes to Mrs Paton, who moves to Buckhaven High School to take up a senior position in November. Mrs Paton has been an excellent Principal Teacher of Behaviour Support and we wish her well. At the October break, Mrs Shenton, teacher of French and Spanish, will move to take a post in her home town of Perth. Thank you Mrs Shenton, you have been a great part of the team here. Mrs Roberts of the Art Department will also be moving to a school closer to home, in Edinburgh in her case. Mrs Roberts has been a terrific asset to Kirkcaldy High School and we wish her all the best.

There is yet more staffing news to share. Congratulations to Mrs Aitken, who will become our Senior Depute Rector on Mrs Archibald's retirement. I am delighted to have someone of Mrs Aitken's quality in such an important role. Also, well done to Mrs Porterfield, who has been appointed as the Principal Teacher to oversee our progress towards the United Nations' "Rights Respecting School" status.

The "Friends of Kirkcaldy High School" continue to support the school in so many ways; through fundraising, mentoring senior pupils, driving the bus on trips and in a host of other ways. "Friend" Bill Beveridge does all of these things and has now sponsored a club in school by donating a wooden model Spitfire kit with a two stroke engine and radio control. This construction project is proving very popular and is the basis of a lunchtime activity club run by Mr Turnbull. Thanks Bill.

Please do be in touch if you require assistance or advice. With best wishes.

Allan.

Get Involved in Wider Achievement

Lunchtimes

Monday—S3-6 Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess

Tuesday—S1-2 Badminton, "Spitfire" Club, Radiowaves Internet Radio Station, String Orchestra

Wednesday— S4 Fitness Club, Arts and Crafts, Jazz Band, String Orchestra

Thursday— S1-3 Basketball, Rotary Club Interact, Film and Animation

Friday—Wind Band, Science Club, Chess.

After school

Monday—S3-6 Badminton, U14 Football, S1 Homework Club

Tuesday— Dance Club, S1 Football, S4-6 Basketball

Wednesday— Zumba, S6 First Aid Training, S2 Football, Senior Football.

Top of the Class SQA Exams 2012

Congratulations to the KHS exam candidates who met, or exceeded, their personal targets this summer. It was especially pleasing to see that once again, at all stages, most pupils exceeded predictions based on testing done by the University of Durham at age 11. In other words, the school is "adding value" in terms of achievement and does so more consistently and effectively than most other Fife schools. Special congratulations go to Michael Grieve, Mohsin Mohammed, Steph Campbell and Mark Moseley, whose results could not have been bettered. Michael, our Dux, gained 2 Highers and 2 Advanced Highers - all at "A" Grade, and has now left to take up study at St Andrews University. Mark and Steph (pictured left and centre) gained 8 Grade 1 Standard Grades and Mohsin (right) achieved 5 straight "A"s at Higher.



Senior Committees

Seniors play a big part in the school and are expected to take on many responsibilities. We have a Committee structure to organise many aspects of the school;

Charities: Chair - Sandy Wallace, Prom: Chair - Kate Philp, Events: Chair—Sean Plumridge, Sports: Chair - Kieren Farmer, Prom: Chair - Sophie McKenzie.

The school is also represented on local bodies as follows;

Kirkcaldy North Community Council: Rep - Lee Pirie. Kirkcaldy Community Safety Group: Rep - Kirsty Wilson.

Local Police Liaison Reps - Kirsty Wilson and Sarah Mackay.

Friends of Kirkcaldy High School: Reps - Kirsty Wilson and Mohsin Muhammed. KHS Parent Partnership Reps: Lee Pirie and Jade McQuillan.

Interact Success

Well done to our Rotary Club "Interact" Group which raised £100 for Cancer Research by taking part in a fancy dress sponsored walk along the Fife Coastal Path at Leven recently. They were joined by Kirkcaldy Rotarians Ann and Harry Mitchell and we are very proud of their efforts. The Interactors are pictured in their "jammies" below.



S1 Flying Start

Well done to our new First Year pupils. They are a credit to their families, looking good in uniform and getting on well with their lessons. One particular new addition to the curriculum is a popular "Learning Plus" option run by Mr McDonald of the Maths Department, offering a short course in flight simulation and navigation using a professional standard computer package. As part of "Curriculum for Excellence" we are offering more and more opportunities for interdisciplinary, practical and active learning.

Templehall's Got Talent!

Very well done to Second Year pupil Sheree Samson, who won the "TEMPLEHALL'S GOT TALENT" contest at the Templehall Gala in August. Sheree impressed the judges with her rendition of "Maybe" from Annie ... which just happened to be one of the big numbers the Kirkcaldy High School Show! Sheree played "Annie" in the Wednesday and Friday performances of the show.



Musical Youths

Congratulations to the KHS pupils involved in a special concert in August at the Rothes Halls. The Fife Youth Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Youth Concert Band and String Orchestra put on an excellent programme. Our pupils were; Melissa Murphy (violin), Sophie Simpson (violin), Rhiannon Cross (viola) and Becky Clark (flute). Melissa is also leader of the Fife String Orchestra.

Excellent Day at Leuchars Airshow



House Captains 2012 – 2013

The KHS House System is the basis of our pastoral care and helps to establish a "family" feeling across the school. We have House competitions and the Houses are the basis of the "pupil voice" in KHS. Each House has a weekly Forum meeting at which matters of importance to pupils are discussed, feeding into the weekly Pupil Council, which is attended by senior school staff and which influences school decisions. The House Captains for the session ahead are;
Adam Smith: Captains - Alex Wilson and Sean Plumridge. Vice-Captains - Sophie MacKenzie and Natasha Laing.

Beveridge: Captains - Mark Moseley and Aaron Black. Vice-Captains - Becky Clark and Hannah McGowan
Carlyle: Captains - Kieren Farmer and Liam Napier. Vice-Captains - Shannon Connolly and Emma Gilmour

Jumping for Joy

The National Theatre of Scotland has been supporting KHS boys by offering the "Jump" Project which uses theatre, storytelling and "parkour" free running to explore issues of masculinity and growing up. In November, after a tough rehearsal schedule which includes sessions at the Tramway Theatre in Glasgow, eight of our pupils will join others from all over Fife to put on a performance at the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. Well done to: Mason Mackenzie, Darren McCallum, Cameron Brady, Dylan Hemsley, Owen Bonner, Ruairaidh Agnew, Sam Haxton and Jamie Greig. Darren, Dylan, Mason and Ruairaidh are pictured (right) on Kirkcaldy Esplanade—from the official poster.

Pupils enjoyed an great day out at RAF Leuchars in September where they were invited to explore some of the attractions of this year's Leuchars Air Display. Our pupils were attending a schools' open day, in which they were given the opportunity to get a hands on experience of the Royal Air Force and an insight into at what it does. Attractions included modern frontline combat aircraft such as the Typhoon, a Hawk from the world famous Red Arrows aerobatic display team, and a Chinook ground demonstration simulator. The group was led by teachers Mr Turbull and Mr Melville, pictured left with some of the group.

KHS pupils were encouraged to explore some of the RAF support roles. The RAF Regiment Gunners in particular, were on hand to demonstrate weapons and provide hands on experience of their indoor weapons training facility. In addition there was a representation from Medical, Air Battle Management and Flight Operations trades and an interesting look at state of the art technologies such as helmet-mounted missile sighting and aircraft targeting. Exhibits included a mock up of a mobile surgical field hospital, which provided an insight into conditions for both medical staff and casualties currently on deployment in Afghanistan. Both the Army and Navy were also on hand with recruiting information and the Navy provided a physical challenge in which Sandy Wallace was just eased out of winning at the very last minute. KHS had some competition success though, as Rebecca Callaghan won a £15 iTunes voucher for identifying aircraft correctly. The RAF Regiment climbing wall also proved a very popular attraction with our pupils, as did the friendly RAF Regiment instructors! All agreed they had another fantastic day out.

Shakespeare Festival

After last year's tremendous production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Falkirk Town Hall, our drama pupils are rehearsing "The Tempest", to be staged in November. Ms Bruce, producer and teacher in charge, is confident that we have the talent to stage such a complex work and is looking forward to the event.



"Annie" is a Massive Hit

From 18-21 Sept we staged a terrific version of "Annie", our own High School Musical. On all four evenings, an appreciative crowd were heartily entertained—laughing, crying and singing along. There is no doubt that "Annie" will be regarded as a real highlight of this session. Well done to the cast:



Kirstin Moore, Rhiannon Watson, Natasha Anderson, Kirsten McEwan, Amy Hope, Sheree Samson, Jade McQuillan, Adam Campbell, Kimberley O'Callaghan, Kieran McDonald, Amy Donaldson, Alisha O'Callaghan, Alannah Watson, Christopher Duffy, Chevonne Leggat, Charlotte MacMillan, Grace Pierce, Talia Toruntay, Sandy Wallace, Lee Cummings, Rachel Stoddart, Mark Dunsire, Rachel Bryson Lauren Thomson and Kaya Bruce.

Also, a big thanks to Mrs Turnbull (Director), Mrs Kerr (Producer), Miss Parkin (Musical Director), Tom Wright (Conductor), Mr Britain (Accompanist), Michelle Brewster (Choreographer), Mrs Mellon (Wardrobe), Sheona Goodall (Stage Manager), Mr Fleming and Dr Murray (Lights and Sound) and all the many other staff and pupils who helped with make-up, scenery painting, scene shifting and all the other aspects of this excellent production.

"Paper Clips" Project

The inspirational true story of events in Whitwell Middle School, Tennessee, has motivated a group of S2 English pupils to set about preparing to raise money for a KHS memorial commemorating the victims of the Holocaust. After watching the 2006 documentary *Paper Clips*, in which the children of Whitwell try to collect six million paper clips representing the number of Jews killed by the Nazis, Mrs Porterfield's pupils were moved to write letters to the American school - and to do their own bit by raising awareness of the darkest hour in Europe's recent past.

Whitwell became famous as paper clips - worn during the Holocaust by Norwegians to show support for the Jews - flooded in from all over the world in support of the small school's campaign to educate its pupils on the extent of the atrocities. Our pupils are planning a series of lessons and fund-raising initiatives within the school. Mrs Porterfield said, "Kirkcaldy High School is committed to creating Global Citizens - and we have an increasing number of EU pupils, in our school and wider community. It seems only right that we should raise awareness and commemorate the atrocity so that it should never, ever happen again".

This project follows the school hosting the Anne Frank Exhibition in June and is part of our work towards becoming a UN "Rights Respecting School".

New Prefects for 2012-2013

Our new Pupil Leadership positions were announced at last term's Prefect Presentation Ceremony, when we also issued special certificates to over 20 Saltire Volunteers. The presentations were made by Richard Brickley MBE, President of Disability Sport Fife, who was joined by Paralympian swimmer Craig Rodgie. The Prefect Heads and Deputes are pictured hard at work planning an assembly; Head Boy - Lee Pirie (second right). Deputes - Sean Plumridge (second left) and Sandy Wallace (third left). Head Girl - Jade McQuillan (third right). Deputes - Imogen Logan (left) and Kirsty Wilson (right).



The full team comprises; Alannah Watson, Alastair Watson, Alexander Wilson, Amna Sajad, Andrew McKenzie, Andrew Woods, Ashley Norcross, Becky Clark, Brandon Ritchie, Calum Harrison, Claire Carr, Curtis Johnston, Darren Burza, Darren

Watson, Emma Robertson, Gary Oliphant, Graham McKay, Imogen Logan, Ivy Li, Jack Bryce, Jade McQuillan, Jane Carr, Jayne Telfer, Jemma Morrice, John Evans, Jordan Henderson, Kate Philp, Kieran Farmer, Kirsty Johnstone, Kirsty Wilson, Lee Cummings, Lee Pirie, Linzi Morgan, Luke Connor, Macaulay Niven, Mark Bremner, Megan Archer, Megan Hastie, Michael McKenzie, Mohsin Muhammed, Neil Redford, Nicola Johnston, Nicole Sinclair, Nikki Robertson, Rachael Hastie, Rachel McMurray, Rebecca Smith, Ryan Bennett, Samantha Williams, Sandy Wallace, Sarah Kilvington, Sarah Mackay, Sarah-Louise McKendrick,

Sean Plumridge, Sean Reid, Shannon Connelly, Shannon Napier, Sophie MacKenzie, Stephen Cunningham, Stuart Hay, Stuart Law, Zaira Zahid and Zoe Shepherd, Cree Johnston, Ellie Turner, Matthew Fleming, Michael MacDuff, Ryan Gallo-way and Daniel Campbell.