



FRIENDS OF KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL

ABOUT THE GROUP

The aim of the Friends of Kirkcaldy High School is to support the school community and to enhance, where possible, the educational experience of the pupils.

CONTACT

PHONE NUMBER:
01592 583405



Friends of Kirkcaldy High School

Website:

[Friends of Kirkcaldy High School |
\(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.friends-of-kirkcaldy-high-school.org.uk)

EMAIL ADDRESS:

fokhs.secretary@yahoo.com

HOW TO HELP

- Supporting Events
- Sponsorship or raffle prizes
- Mentoring
- Invigilating

ISSUE 1

MAY 2024

Thank you for being a Friend!

This is the first of a new set of annual newsletters informing you of the work of Friends of Kirkcaldy High School (FoKHS).

We would also like to update you with news about the school.

FoKHS has been in existence since November 1999. The committee meets approximately 6 times a year with an Annual General Meeting in June. The meetings are held by Zoom so that those not living locally can be easily involved.

COMMITTEE 23 - 24

Chairman	Judith Kerr
Vice Chairman	Helen MacKenzie
Secretary / Treasurer	Steven Hay
Committee	Bob Docherty
	George Grant
	Harry Kerr
	Ron Moodie
	Alan Rodger
	Sheena Scobie
	Jennifer Shearer

School Representatives

Chris McKay (Rector)
Jennifer Davidson
(Depute Rector)
S6 Students

Rector

On the retirement of Derek Allan last summer, Christopher McKay was appointed as acting Head Teacher and was appointed permanently to the post in October 2023. His message to the Community is:

"I am delighted to have joined Kirkcaldy High School as Rector. I joined from St Columba's High School in Dunfermline, and I have appreciated the welcome I received. Kirkcaldy High School has a fantastic reputation within the local community and beyond.

I will strive to ensure that the school's inclusive ethos, success, hard work and happiness are at the forefront of all that I do."



How Do We Raise The Money We Give To The School?

Members

We have 116 members from all over the world. Modern communication allows us to keep in touch. The membership body consists of former pupils, former staff and anyone interested in supporting the work of the school. Please pass this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested in joining and a membership form can be found on the website as well as at the end of this document.

Race Night

The Race Night in November is an entertaining evening with films of races being shown on the big screen (which is about 1/2 the size of the Proscenium on the stage).

People can sponsor a horse or sponsor a race and as an owner/sponsor they have front row seats for that race – with a complimentary drink to keep up the shouting.

John Thomson, our MC for the evening, encourages everyone to spend money. There are 6 races and his computer program works out all the odds. Horses for the final race are auctioned off on the evening. In November 2023 we raised **£2,031** at the Race night.

The 2024 Race Night will take place on **Friday 8 November**.

Prize Giving

The school prizegiving takes place in the second week of June. This is just after the school has completed all SQA exams.

Prizes still include book tokens and are sponsored by many local businesses.

Last Year FoKHS sponsored the “Derick Herning Linguistic Prize”.

The Dux Medal was also sponsored by FoKHS and we provided medals for the Head Boy and Girl. Last June the Dux of school was Callum Husband (centre of the picture).



Ceilidh

In March we run a Ceilidh. The Assembly Hall is one of the best places available for dancing with plenty of room giving space even for a huge “Orcadian Strip the Willow”! I hope those of you who are former pupils will have fond memories of school parties and Scottish Country Dance lessons during PE.

The current S6 pupils are invited to attend this event and this year several former pupils, who had recently moved on, returned to enjoy the evening once again.

£1,956 was raised at the 2024 event. Much of this was thanks to the work done in putting together a raffle for the evening. Many local businesses donate prizes and the support we receive is such that we aim to increase the access to the raffle by printing tickets and circulating them during the months prior to the event next year.

The 2025 Ceilidh is provisionally organised for the **7th March**.



How Do We Support The School?

Supporting Adult

Taking teachers out of class is not something the school do lightly therefore on occasions such as trips to Pantomime or other activities members of FoKHS go with the trip as a supporting adult. Members also help by invigilating for prelims or other assessments.

What Have We Done with Your Money This Year ?

Dux Medals

The student who is deemed to have achieved the most academically in their school career by the end of S6 has been named as Dux of the school. (Dux is Latin for leader)

Historically these medals were sponsored by local businessmen for example Michael Nairn and were silver, hung on a ribbon in the House colour.

At the start of the millennium FoKHS restarted the tradition of a medal for the Dux and medals for the Heads Team were also added.

The Heads team for session 23 – 24 is pictured here. It might be of interest to former pupils that the 2 yellow stripes on the sleeve are for the Head Boy and Girl and the single stripe for the Deputes. The green stripe means that he is House Captain of Oswald House.



First Aid Course

Additional qualifications from schools to enhance the life skills of all young people have always been a feature of Scottish education.

In June last year the opportunity for S6 pupils to gain a qualification in First Aid became available.

This gave an academic qualification as well as adding to the experiences of the young people.

FoKHS contributed £636 to the cost of this course. Both students and staff found this such a good course that it will be offered to the new S6 this summer and FoKHS will again make this accessible to all pupils.



Playground Seating

Many of you who are former pupils will remember that when the current KHS building was opened in 1958 there was no seating anywhere in the playground.

Lunch time buses were provided so many pupils went off site and the lunch break was over an hour to allow time for the round trips. This caused the school day to run until 4.10pm.

Those who didn't go home or attend lunch clubs hung around in the cloakrooms (no longer in existence), under the science block (which is now C block) or sat on the steps around the entrances.

In the 1990s Kirkcaldy High School Association (this was initially the PTA but gained Charitable status in order to access funding sources such as the National Lottery) raised funds to provide the red seating along the front of the school gradually adding seats and eventually tables as often as they had the money.

As these started to tire, picnic tables were purchased and these are set up in the playground along with a new polytunnel – no more football in this area at lunchtime as the astroturf has taken away the need to use this space.

Pupils are discouraged from going out at lunch time and can buy "takeaway" food in the school. Therefore there was deemed to be a need for more tables and this year FoKHS bought 3 new ones for the pupils at a cost of **£2,300**

Across the School

Towards the end of last term, all members of staff were invited to apply to FoKHS for funding for items that aren't covered by the normal school budget.

£1,369 was given to the Humanities Department for special resources for pupils and **£1,673** for equipment purchased for the group who are doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme pictured here.



Friends of Kirkcaldy High School

New Membership / Renewal Form

Membership runs from 1 September to 31 August each year on payment of the subscription of a minimum of £5. A Banker's Order reduces our administration costs and is a more convenient way to pay.

I wish to become a Friend/I wish to renew my membership

*(delete as appropriate)

Please complete the appropriate section and return this form (with money if appropriate) to:

Treasurer
Friends of Kirkcaldy High School
c/o Kirkcaldy High School
Dunnikier Way
Kirkcaldy KY1 3LR.

OR

by e-mail to:

fokhs.secretary@yahoo.com

Name:	Former Name (If Applicable):
Address:	
Postcode:	Email address:
Dates attended KHS (yyyy – yyyy):	

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we are obliged to tell you what we do with the above information. We will only use this information to communicate with you on matters relating to Friends of Kirkcaldy High School. **If you agree please tick this box**

- I enclose payment for one year.
BY CHEQUE Please make cheques payable to Friends of Kirkcaldy High School.
BY BACS See account details below

- I wish to pay by Standing Order. (*preferred method*). Please arrange with your bank

Account Details

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort code: 83-23-25
Account Name: Friends of Kirkcaldy High School
Account number: 10987910

Signed	Date
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