



# The Banter

## 2018-19 Issue 5 – February

**The Newsletter of Keith Grammar School, School Road, Keith, Moray, AB55 5GS**

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### Message from the Rector...

At a time of great political and financial uncertainty locally and nationally it is comforting to see that the wellbeing and future prospects of our young people is still uppermost in people's minds.

Throughout this edition of The Banter you will see examples of our community pulling together to ensure that our young people continue to have opportunities to make the most of themselves.

The range of in-school activities is only possible because staff and students are prepared to give of their own time to organise and participate. As always we are very grateful to all parents and friends who turn out to appreciate the talents and effort displayed at the concerts and performances. Your time allows our young people to test their performing skills whilst your monetary contributions support a wide range of activities that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

The Engineering Sector Day was just one of a number organised to showcase career opportunities across a broad spectrum of industries. These days were only possible through the contribution of Moray Council, Moray College UHI and a wide range of local employers and industry bodies. As a school we are offering a number of work-based courses in partnership with local employers. Our S5/6 students are able to participate in Foundation Apprenticeships through Moray College UHI in partnership with employers.

The news might be full of doom and gloom but The Banter can continue to tell a positive story about our school, our students and a community which cares about its young people.

*Jamus Macpherson*

 @kgsRector



## The Christmas School Concert

By The Digital Media Group

As the cheerful guests readied themselves for the marvellous night, a plethora of musicians jumped on stage to give a memorable performance. The performers belted out beautiful tunes and played splendidly on a range of instruments including violins, guitars and xylophones. The stars of Keith Grammar School worked for weeks preparing for this event. It's moments like these that we realise how talented our small school is; small but mighty. For myself it was difficult to choose my favourite, but Rosie Winchester and Niall Stuart's version of "Tears in Heaven" was particularly heart wrenching.



The night was wonderfully presented by Niamh Taylor and Abby Clark. Their well placed jokes and presence on stage kept the audience hyped up and excited for the next performance. There was never a dull moment with the upbeat songs which were played. Abby and Niamh had a fascination with Mr Geddes' gleaming head which was luckily covered with a Santa hat. Nobody had to get their sunglasses out.

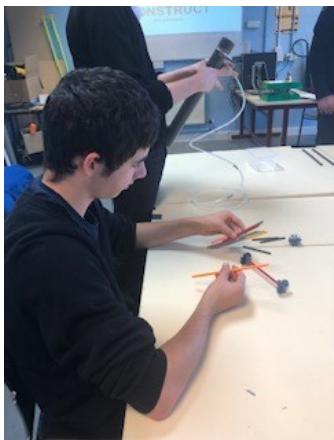


Molly Riddell sang "I love to sing" beautifully and had the audience in stitches with her song of choice and the way she presented the song. She was also part of the funk band and rock band where she sang "Smells like teen spirit". Molly has been singing for many years and I believe this was her best performance yet.



## Insight into Engineering Sector Day

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 6 S3 pupils attended the Engineering Sector Day at Moray College, Linkwood Campus. The purpose of the visit was to allow pupils to learn about the variety of engineering jobs available in Moray, to speak to businesses with Engineering roles and also gain some hands on experience through attending three different workshops. The pupils learned about different engineering roles such as being a truck and HGV mechanic, instrumentation control, aviation engineering, IT engineering, chemical engineering, renewable engineering, civil engineering, maintenance engineering and project engineering. The pupils involved, Scott Riach, Kyle Mathieson, Connor Maver, Stuart Maver, Alan McLeod and James Gauld enjoyed the day which has further fuelled their interest in different aspects of engineering. The boys behaved impeccably on the day and were a credit to KGS.



## Spell Slam at Keith Grammar School

The inaugural Keith Grammar Spell Slam took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February in the library - Harry Potter Book Day. All S1 pupils were invited to take part in the event, each writing a spell poem. The best 5 in each English class made it through to the final on the 7<sup>th</sup> February, when the poems were performed to an audience of the combined 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils. They were judged by 6 senior pupils. Once all 15 poems had been performed, the judges presented Mr Leitch with their decision. The Master Spell Caster 2019 was Jasmin Hunt, with Carrick Robinson and Jake Grant as runner ups. The event was organised by the Librarian, Mr Leitch, and the English Department, and proved to be a very popular event with the pupils and staff.



## **Outward Bound Trust Course January 2019**

Seventeen pupils (a mix of S2 and S3 pupils) recently made their way down to the Outward Bound Centre at Loch Eil, in order to participate in a week's worth of adventure, walking and canoeing. The Loch Eil centre is the Outward Bound Trust's most remote outdoor education centre, set just outside of Fort William in some of the most beautiful and truly remote wilderness. During the week, pupils were tested on their resilience and 'can do' attitude by taking part in jumping in the loch, abseiling, canoeing, building rafts, winter walking and sleeping out in the Steall Hut in the mountains around Ben Nevis. Pupils rose to the challenges that they were presented with and dealt with these new experiences with enthusiasm and gusto.

KGS is very excited to be able to offer our current S1 and S2 pupils the opportunity to attend a 5 day course with the Outward Bond Trust in January 2020. A letter containing further information will shortly be available to your child, please take time to read this and discuss attendance with your child. A payment plan will be put in place for this course.



## World Challenge 2019

There are now less than 139 days to go until the intrepid World Challenge group heads off to India and the group is now working on their fitness, ensuring that their vaccinations are in order, looking at completing visa applications and checking that they have the correct kit and of course getting excited!!.

On arriving in India, the group will be heading up to Manali in the foothills of the Himalayas. The group will then be taking part in a 7 day trek in the Kullu Valley which will involve covering a distance of about 50km reaching a highest point of 4,800m at Deo Tibba (a glacier) Base Camp. The group will then be carrying out project work with the Sambhali Trust which works to provide underprivileged Rajasthani women, girls and boys with educational, vocational and social skills to help them become confident and financially independent.

The amount raised at The Quiz Night was £683.50. Many Thanks to all who supported this evening.

### Dates to watch out for are as follows:

Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> March: Pre-departure Meeting for team members 4.00-5.00pm.

Pre-departure meeting for parents/carers 5.00-5.30pm

Saturday/Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March: Training expedition. Badaguish Outdoor Centre.



## Duke of Edinburgh

Expedition training is well under way for our Bronze and Silver participants. Attendance is essential to ensure inclusion on the expeditions. Meetings are currently running every two weeks.

Dates for parent/carer diaries are as follows:

Bronze Practice expedition: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Bronze Qualifying expedition: 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

Silver Practice expedition: 23<sup>rd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Silver Qualifying expedition: 6<sup>th</sup>- 8th September.

Letters and consent forms regarding these will be issued nearer the time.

All participants are encouraged to complete their outstanding sections for their awards and to ensure that those wishing to do their Silver award must ensure that they have signed up for this and paid the joining fee.



**We are re-launching the 200 Club** which runs from March 2019 through to February 2020. Last year 152 tickets were sold! In our school with around 400 pupils we really think it is achievable to reach 200. **If every family purchased at least one ticket we would reach our target!**

It costs £1 per monthly draw. Each member is given a number. A number is drawn at random and the lucky person wins half of the money raised. The other half is for KGSPC funds. **Therefore, if there are 200 members the monthly prize is £100.**

To join the 200 Club you must be over 16 years old. **It costs £12 per ticket which enters you for 12 monthly draws!**

**The easiest way to join is to set up a Direct Debit using the link:**

**<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/keithgrammar/kgs-parent-council/parent-council-fundraising/>**

**The last date for purchasing tickets online is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

If you'd prefer to pay with cash or cheque (made payable to KGS Parent Council) then please send payment to school office with your name, address, email and telephone number in a sealed envelope addressed 'KGSPC 200 CLUB' by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Thank you for your support!  
Let's get to 200 members this year!**



## QUIZ NIGHT AT KEITH GOLF CLUB

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 7 for 7.30pm start.**

Please come along with the added incentive of seeing if you can beat 'beat the teacher' team! Please hand in any donations for raffles into school office. Thank you!

## RAG BAG

**Ongoing Fundraiser – please donate at any time!**

**We just received £80 for our last collection! Thank you!**



We participate in the Rag Bag textile recycling scheme which provides regular fundraising and raises awareness about recycling.

**Please bring good quality clean Men's, Ladies and Children's clothing, belts, bags and paired shoes (tied together) in a securely tied plastic bag to our outdoor textile bank. It is located in the fenced off area in the Community Centre car park where the Community Centre links with KGS.**

**ALL FUNDS RAISED BY KGS PARENT COUNCIL ARE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL KGS PUPILS**

## NEXT MEETING

<b>Tuesday</b>	We warmly welcome all parents and carers of KGS pupils, as well as teachers and any interested persons from the Keith area, to attend our meetings.
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>March</b>	<b>Our next meeting is on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7 p.m. in Staff Lounge.</b> (Please use entrance which faces Keith Primary School.)
<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>It would be great to see you!</b>



We would like to remind pupils to take care on their way to and from school. The A96 is especially busy and groups of pupils do NOT have priority over cars. Guessing that cars will give way is not a good tactic for crossing. Our 'Hands Free' message applies out in the community too and pushing/ shoving each other on or off pavements on busy roads could have very serious consequences. We would ask parents at home to reinforce this message.

## KEITH GRAMMAR SCHOOL - STUDY CLUBS

Subject	Stage/Level	Day and Time	Room	Teacher
English	N5	Wednesday/Thursday Lunchtime 1.30	Room 33	N. Bothoms
English	Components Higher/N5 (TBA)	Thursday after school	Room 32	F. McAllister
Debate Club	S2-S6	Thursday after school	Room 33	N. Bothoms
English	Components Higher/N5	Thursday after school	Room 30	S. Whyte
English	S1-S6	Monday/Wednesday Drop-in lunch 1.30	Room 32	F. McAllister
Computing Science	Higher/N5	Thursday Homework Club 3.40-4.30	Room 12	A. Allan
Admin	N5	Thursday Homework Club 3.40-4.30	Room 12	A. Allan
Business	Higher/N5	Lunch by prior arrangement	Room 13	J. McLeish
Art & Design	Senior S4 – S6	Thursday 3.30-4.30	Room 20	R. Garden
Art & Design	S1-S6	Wednesday 1.30-2.00	Room 20	R. Garden

## REMINDER TO PARENTS—DROP OFF POINTS

Parents are reminded that, in the interests of safety, students should only be dropped off within the KGS/Swimming Pool car park. There is no access for vehicles beyond this car park in order to allow safe passage to and from school buses. To ease congestion and again ensure safety of students walking to school there is no access to KGS for vehicles via the Primary School entrance.

## Dates for your Diary 2018-19

Day/Date:	Details:
Tuesday 5th March	Parent Council Meeting 7.00-8.00pm
Tuesday 12th March	Word Wizard Spelling Bee—Oldmeldrum
<b>Change of Date</b> Friday 15th March	Parent Council Quiz Night, Keith Golf Club
Friday 22nd March	KGS Music Quiz Night, Keith Golf Club
Wednesday 27th March	Farmer's Market 8.00 -2.00pm
Monday 1st April—Friday 12th April	Holidays
Friday 19th April	Good Friday Holiday
Tuesday 23rd April	Leavers Ceremony - am
Wednesday 24th April	SQA Exams/Study Leave
Thursday 25th April	SQA Exams Start
Monday 6th May	May Day Holiday
Tuesday 14th May	Parent Council Meeting 7.00-8.00pm
Thursday 16th and Friday 17th May	Staff In-Service (school closed to pupils)
Monday 27th May	New Timetable start (S1-3)
Wednesday 29th May	Return from Study Leave
Monday 3rd June	Local Holiday
Wednesday 5th June	KGS Awards Ceremony 7-9pm
Friday 28th June	Last day of term
Monday 19th August	Staff In-Service (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 20th August	First Day of Session 2019-20
Tuesday 10th September	Parent Council AGM 6.30-8.00pm (tbc)