



# The Banter

## Issue 1 – September 2019



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

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### Message from the Acting Rector...

School Improvement is high on our agenda this session as we try to go get the best results and outcomes we can for all our young people. We have a 3 year plan going forward and our priorities are based on self-evaluation, consultation and feedback we have had from within school but also on studying attainment data and using our Schools For the Future visit report from last session. Our priorities this session are summarised below with some key items of focus included to give a flavour of what our staff will be working on. Student Voice and Parent Council are key partners in this and we still firmly believe that Working Together is vital to success. You may be asked for opinions on various issues at times by survey or in a focus group and we value your response/input to these to help us improve.

#### Priority 1: Curriculum

learning pathways; skills for learning life and work; responsibility of all; partnership working

#### Priority 2: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

quality of teaching; learning and engagement; effective use of assessment; ASG work

#### Priority 3: Supporting our Learners

building relational practice; family learning; transitions

#### Priority 4: Leadership and Self-evaluation for School Improvement

developing a shared vision, values and aims relevant to the school community; strategic planning for continuous improvement; implementing improvement and change

As you will see from this edition of The Banter, there are many wonderful opportunities for our young people and we endeavour to make the pupil experience increasingly positive. If you have any ideas about how we can improve OUR school, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Enjoy the tattie holidays in the meantime.

*Liz Bain*

*Acting Rector*



## Coastal Rowing @ Keith Grammar School



Coastal Rowing is great fun, exercise and relies on an array of skills such as co-ordination, communication and teamwork. No previous experience is required- come along and try something new! Thanks to support from the Parent Council and monies awarded from the Keith 'Young People Decide Vote' pupils and staff are able to enjoy coastal rowing through a school membership at Cullen Sea School for free.

Dates: One Friday afternoon, each month. Pupils will sign up for the rowing sessions they wish to attend prior. An out-of-schools activities form (Green) and Cullen Sea School consent form (Yellow) must be completed and returned prior to each session.

### **Timings:**

- Meet in Miss Garden's Room (20) @ 1.15 pm to be registered, have lunch & get changed.
- Depart Keith Grammar School @ 1.30 pm by Minibus.
- Arrive at Cullen Sea School @ 2pm approx.
- Rowing Session from 2pm – 3.30pm approx.
- Depart Cullen Sea School @ 3.45 pm, arriving back for 4.15pm (please collect your child/arrange transport home)

### **About Cullen Sea School**

"Cullen Sea School offers a great range of activities, including boat-building, coastal rowing, kayaking, stand up paddle-boarding (SUP) and sailing. Our core volunteers have up-to-date First Aid qualifications, RYA Safety Boat licenses and our launch masters have years of on-hand experience with the water and weather conditions at Cullen Bay and the surrounding area.

We also have fully up-to-date changing, shower and toilet facilities including a disabled toilet and lift, as well as a nice kitchen area for that well-deserved cuppa afterwards."

### **What do I need to wear for coastal rowing?**

- Waterproof jacket
- Warm, comfortable clothes. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us, but be prepared with layers (just in case!)
- Old shoes / wellies you don't mind getting a little wet or sandy
- Hat and gloves



## What do I need to bring?

Come to school as normal on a Friday (remember and bring packed lunch or go to the canteen to eat before we leave!), and bring an extra rucksack with the following:

- The clothes/shoes you will change into
- A snack & a drink
- Change of dry socks & shoes
- Plastic bag for anything wet or sandy

**Want to come?** See Miss Garden for consent forms. The next rowing sessions will be:

**Friday 4th October**

**Friday 29th November**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Note:** Coastal Rowing can be enjoyed all year round, but is tide/weather dependent. Sessions may be cancelled & rearranged if weather is not suitable. Notice will be given on the morning of the session.



Great Friday afternoon [@CullenSea](#)

The wind may have picked up and scuppered our plans for paddle sports but we still made the most of being at the beach



## Highland Dancing



The World and Scottish Highland Dancing Championships in Cowall. Molly Smith finished sixth in Scotland! Congratulations from Keith Grammar School!



KGS/Jessiman dancers doing the Highland Fling at Cowall. Well done to Isla Duncan and Corey MQuade.

## Football

Well done to KFC/KGS S1 footballers who won the Speyside League. Let's hope you get involved in school football too



KGS/Deveronvale girls are at it again- league winners and more silverware. Well done you three!





## World Challenge Expedition to India 2019

How to describe this trip? There are so many words: hot; dusty; smelly (and that was just us!); colourful; unbelievable; amazing; beautiful; crazy; noisy and busy, very very busy. India is an absolute assault on every sense that you have with all that is going on and also rather a culture shock with wealth and absolute poverty living close together side by side.

Our trip was amazing and we were never still for long with all the activities that had been planned. On arrival in Delhi we immediately started travelling by minibus to Manali in Himachal Pradesh, stopping for our first night in Chandigarh. We went out looking for something to eat that first night and I think we were all very apprehensive as it was all so very different. There were so many people out, shopping in markets, selling goods, and whizzing around on motorbikes. We had our first tuk tuk ride that night though which was entertaining!

Next day it was then on to Manali using a road that was absolutely terrifying at times as it was very steep and narrow and extremely busy with all sorts of traffic. On arrival in Manali, we had a couple of days to acclimatise to the altitude and the heat. These days were also used to exchange money, to arrange travel and the other activities that pupils wanted to take part in towards the end of the trip.

Then it was off on the trek. We were so well looked after by our guides and cooks – the food all trip was fantastic! We walked for 6 days and had 1 day of rest, reaching a total altitude of 4,800 metres at Deo Tibba base camp underneath the Deo Tibba glacier. We climbed through forest, up into the mountains onto more open terrain, over rocks, boulders and also snow, pitching our tents every night and sleeping soundly listening to the river rushing by.

Following on from the trek we took a train to Delhi to take part in a Sustainable Tourism workshop and stayed overnight in a posh hotel with a very welcoming swimming pool. After this it was an overnight train (which was interesting!!) to Udaipur to take part in our community project. This involved a homestay with the project leader, Samvit. The project involved working with children in an afterschool education centre based outside of Udaipur, in a remote and disadvantaged community. We were also tasked with brightening up the accommodation, sorting out toilet facilities and providing equipment such as tables and chairs. This was a very enjoyable part of our expedition, allowing us to meet and really connect with the local population.

After completing our community project it was time to move on to the more touristy activities that were planned. We took some time to look around the city of Udaipur, a beautiful city again full of contrasts, before catching another overnight train (we liked these!!) up to the city of Jaipur where we had arranged for a minibus and driver to collect us. The driver took us round the sights of Jaipur, including the lakes, the Blue City, the Palace of the Winds, the Amber Palace and Amber Fort which were all absolutely amazing and incredibly beautiful. We then travelled to the most fantastic hotel in the Ranthambore National Park (had another swimming pool!) where we stayed before embarking on a tiger safari. Unfortunately no tigers were seen this time. More travelling occurred the next day up to Agra where we were up early about 5am in order to travel to the Taj Mahal before it became too hot and busy. This is an incredible building and encompasses a huge area with many other buildings to look at. After visiting the Taj Mahal, it was then time to travel back to Delhi to catch our flight home, on the way we had planned our last visit which was to the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre. This was really wonderful. The elephants here have all been rescued from temples, performing circuses and from giving rides. They are all terribly injured and recovering slowly but we were able to get really close to these magnificent creatures and see the slow but sure improvement.

And then on to Delhi and home...

This World Challenge was such a great experience. It is something that I will never forget and will cherish. It was so amazing to see our young people develop over the 3 weeks, becoming more confident, at ease and able to cope with the various issues and complications that arose. I would highly recommend taking part in the next World Challenge which is due to be launched in September.

**In Chandigarh**



**In Manali**



**Start of trek**



**First nights camp**



**Ponies and Mules coming into camp to load up**

**First sign of snow – can you see the ponies?**



### **World Challenge 2021 Launch**

Following this incredibly successful and exciting World Challenge expedition to India this summer, we are busy planning the next expedition to which all current S3, S4 and S5 pupils will be invited to take part in.

The 2021 World Challenge expedition launch took place in an assembly on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September where the destination was revealed and information was made available to interested pupils.

A Parent Information meeting also took place on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September where any questions and queries were discussed and answered.

Check out <https://weareworldchallenge.com/uk/>

### **Night train to Udaipur**



## World Challenge Expedition to India 2019

Lunch at the top of the world (nearly)



Eating out in Manali



Education centre  
outside Udaipur  
where project work  
was carried out.



Carrying out repairs  
and decorating.

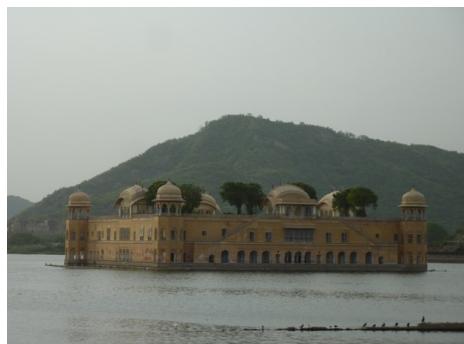
Meeting the children



Palaces on the lakes in Jaipur



Supplies bought



At the elephant sanctuary



## Career Ready 2019/20



Pupils from Keith Grammar School recently travelled to Elgin Academy to embark upon their journey to become "Career Ready". This is a programme designed to prepare students for their future careers in Industry.

Groups of students from all Moray Secondary schools were given an introduction to the two year programme and were fortunate to receive business coaching from Industry Professionals. This coaching involved ice-breaker activities to improve communication skills.

Following on from the introduction to what the programme will involve, students were asked to consider their skills and qualities and to reflect on values that organisations may expect from their employees. Each student has been matched with Business Mentors in the particular sector of industry that the students have an interest in.

Masterclass 1 concluded with a plenary session and an interesting task, where all the students wrote a letter to themselves, considering their aspirations for the programme. This letter will be mailed to them at the end of the programme, when reflections can take place on their individual journey.

The students returned to school looking forward to the launch of their programme on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019, at the Laichmoray Hotel.

### PARKING

**Reminder** For safety reasons, parents are reminded that parking at the Primary School side of the school is not permitted and that they should park at the Community Centre Car Park when picking up or dropping off a pupil. With pupils walking around, it is simply not safe for vehicles to be manoeuvring in this area.

Thank you for your cooperation

Day/Date:	Details:
Wednesday 2nd October	S1 Halloween Disco 6-9pm
Friday 11th October	Last Day of Term
Monday 28th October	Start of Term
Monday 11th November	In-Service School closed to pupils
Tuesday 12th November	In-Service School closed to pupils
Thursday 14th November	S2 Parents Night
Tuesday 10th December	S3 Parents Night
Wednesday 11th December	Junior Christmas Dance
Thursday 12th December	Senior Christmas Dance
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Term



DURING THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR (2018-19)

YOU HAVE HELPED US RAISE FUNDS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

TOMBOLA (£1850)

200 CLUB (£1031)

RAG BAG (£477.20)

TESCO BAG PACK (£476)

**TOTALLING £3834.20**

THIS HAS ALLOWED US TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS:

CULLEN SEA SCHOOL (OPEN TO ALL ) £320

S2 UPS TRIP TO SPEY BAY £180

BUSINESS STUDIES TRIP TO CONFERENCE (FOR ALL BUSINESS STUDENTS) £125

TRANSPORT FOR OUTWARD BOUND COURSE, FORT WILLIAM £447.64

S6 PROM £150

TRANSPORT FOR ASN TEAM TO SCOTTISH FINAL OF TABLE TOP CRICKET £100

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL S1-S3 TRANSPORT £1575.10

DARTS CLUB £94.25

ART DEPARTMENT -MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS £252

SCHOOL TIES FOR ALL S1 £390

S5 DUX AND S6 SPECIAL AWARD £ 75

**TOTALLING £3708.99**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE INCLUDING PUPILS, PARENTS, CARERS, STAFF, LOCAL PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WHO HAVE HELPED US THROUGHOUT 2018-19.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

**YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!!! A NEW GROUP WHICH WILL ONLY  
DEAL WITH RAISING MONEY TO BENEFIT  
ALL OUR YOUNGSTERS AT KGS!**

**QUIZ NIGHT COMING UP ON 29TH NOVEMBER AT KEITH GOLF CLUB**

Our popular Tombola has been moved to March. We would love parent/family volunteers to help with these events— no other commitment necessary needed—just turn up and help! All pupils benefit from the fundraising.