



The Banter

Issue 2 – December 2019

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

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Message from the Acting Rector...

It is the time of year to wish you all a happy holiday but I am aware that this is not a good time of year for all and my thoughts are with those who have had a difficult year and are not feeling so festive. We all need to look after each other and ourselves too. If there is anything we can help with at school, please get in touch.

A good many projects are happening in school which look to improving wellbeing such as a girls and a boys group with our Senior Youth Worker, various activities feeding into pathways decisions such as bike renovation with our Inclusion Coordinator and our DYW Pathways Fair held in the last week of term and organised by the DYW Working Group. There was also a highly successful Wellbeing Fair organised by our Senior Youth Worker in the hall which saw primary pupils, parents and young people find out more about wellbeing. There will be follow up yoga/ breathing sessions for S5 and 6 before the prelims in January with Rhoda Bain.

Our pupils have been busy thinking about learning and teaching with our Young Leaders of Learning working with Buckie and Speyside High schools. Our Student Voice is looking at our Values to launch these afresh and give vigour to all our activities at KGS.

Our Junior and Senior dances were very well attended with almost 80% of all pupils attending which is fabulous and a great boost to school ethos. The enthusiasm and behaviour at both dances was amazing and we were very proud to be able to have such a healthy and positive social occasion for our young people.

Our school Christmas Concert is due to be an entertaining festive evening and showcases the hard work our musicians put in with the help of Anna Birch, PT Music.

It was touching to see the amount of donations received on our Christmas Jumper day last week for the Moray Food Plus charity. We expected a few tins and packets and received a huge amount of supplies which covered 4 big tables and had to be transported by trolley to the collection van. Pupils and families at KGS are certainly mindful of others and very generous.

There has been a lot going on this term and I know staff have worked particularly hard, especially as there have been quite a few absences. Where there is a teacher absence, cover and materials have been sourced for all exam subject classes as a matter of priority and coverage of material for the prelims is assured.

In other staffing news, I am delighted to say that I have been interviewed and appointed as Acting Head Teacher at least until the end of this session so we can continue with certainty and stability with all our improvements across the school.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I'd like to wish everyone a peaceful and restful holiday and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 6th January 2020 when we will be able to wish everyone a happy new year and look forward to its challenges and fresh learning.

Liz Bain



KGS Baking Club



KGS baking club is a go! First week - egg free choc chip cookies! Great fun had by all and some fantastic finished products! The smell in the classroom...mmmmm!



Enterprising Maths Finals 2019

The 2019 Enterprising Maths in Scotland final took place on Tuesday, 5th November in the Glasgow Science Centre. 240 S3 & 4 pupils in 60 teams from all across Scotland competed throughout the day.

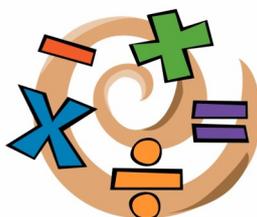
After winning the Moray competition back in June, the team from KGS (Dodie Simmers, Kirstie Low, Cassie Findlay and Charlie Gauld) headed for Glasgow.

The trip down involved lots of rain, lots of snacks and lots of singing, mostly Disney tunes. After a night in a hotel, a full English breakfast and a race around Asda we headed to the Science Centre.

The day began with the Team Round as contestants were faced with tricky problem solving style questions. Round Two was a practical round where teams raced to build 3D shapes. After lunch teams tackled the Stations Round where they worked against the clock on six fiendishly difficult challenges which required teamwork, logical thinking and perseverance in order to succeed. Pupils were then given some time to explore the treasures of the Science Centre during a well-earned break. After a break, teams reconvened for the Relay Round, an action packed end to the day.

The KGS team were awarded a finalists trophy and a bag of mathematics goodies. Lots of maths and fun was had by everyone and even though we didn't win, the whole team were a fantastic representative for our school and we are so proud of them all.

Then the trip home which included more singing, a dinner break in Dundee then finally arriving back at 9pm. Hopefully we can have another chance to go to the finals next year.



Strathisla Distillery Tour



Keith Grammar Travel and Tourism pupils were recently given the opportunity to visit Strathisla Distillery and very much enjoyed a tour around the distillery .

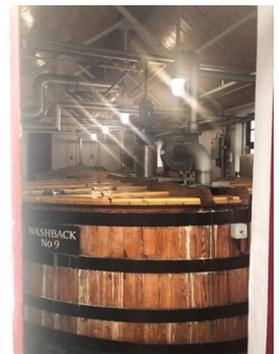
A cold, wet day in November did not dampen the enthusiasm of the pupils.

We heard how Strathisla, originally established in 1786, is the oldest working distillery in the Scottish Highlands. Explaining that Strathisla is the “Heart” of the Chivas brand.

Our guide explained the distillation process from start to finish and gave us a behind the scenes look at production methods.

The pupils were given a chance to smell the different aromas from the Barley after processing.

We saw the “mashing process” happening in the washback tanks.



We were given an insight into the uniqueness of Speyside water used to enhance our whiskies and shown where the water comes from to service the distillery.

A visit to the barrel warehouse was fascinating as we entered to experience the coldness of the warehouse. Our guide gave us an informative talk on the different types of barrels, how many times they can be used and the maturity time to make Strathisla Whisky

The Tour concluded with a visit to the Boardroom for an “atomising” session. Here we enjoyed the aroma of three types of Strathisla Whisky. Pupils were given the chance of testing their knowledge as a Master Blender, to guess aromas that they could identify with.

The Boardroom is a magnificent room. The tale of the ghost “Meg” gave us all goose bumps as we tried to hear noises from above us as Meg goes about her daily business.

We all felt that Strathisla is a very much worthwhile venue to visit for either a tour, or for a “fancy piece” and a “flight of Whiskies”. The newly refurbished building has a shop and café that you must visit.

We would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Sarah, our guide; she is passionate and knowledgeable about the distillery, that enthusiasm is infectious, with pupils feeling that they might like to work in the industry.

Thank you to Jenna for making it happen.

Mrs McLeish and the Travel and Tourism class of 2019

Youth Engagement Team News



Moray Youth Voice took place in September where all Young People across Moray were invited to apply to represent their School on various topics! Delighted to announce that Millie Addison will be your Keith Grammar representative! Millie will be doing training on a residential along with another 30 Young People across Moray in Aviemore.

These YP will be looking at topics and issues such as care experience, LGBTQ+, Young Carers, Volunteering, Armed forces and lots more.. working along side your local MYSF feeding back to a national level ensuring the voice of YP are heard!

Our 1st years at Keith Grammar!



The Youth Engagement Team joined in the 1st year PSE delivering the YoungScot Project. They have all did amazing work researching topics on the YoungScot website making some great posters to share!

Some of our 1st years busy with their posters

Accreditation / wider achievement

Part of our role at KGS and for Young People aged up to 25yrs is to support with accreditation for any volunteering also opportunities to get involved in your community. Saltire Awards is a really great award for young people to receive recognition for this!

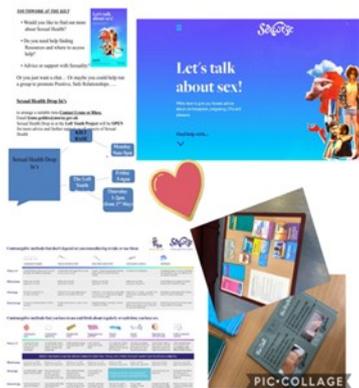
Sign up today at saltireawards.co.uk or pop in to the Kilt-base for some more info!

We have managed to help with over 170 certificates since April 2019 these are all signed by the Scottish Government and look great on a CV!



Some of the pupils have been working on Dynamic Youth Awards: Ceon Still has just completed her DYA for all her great work with Peer Support. The country Quines are also working on DYA along with receiving their Saltire Awards for all their volunteering. The Girls Group, they were amazing, putting together a spooky photo shoot! Well done! They are now working on DYA and thinking of other work they can do with us at Kilt-base.

We recently did some Sexual health in PSE for 3rd Year. This involved some practical work with condom demos and contraception choices.



- Groups
- Self esteem
- Mental well-being
- First aid
- Resilience
- Positive relationships
- Enterprise
- Transition
- LBTQI
- Awards

Vision and Values

As part of our work in Student Voice this year, we have been looking at the school's vision and values. The values below were agreed upon a few years ago. As a result, there is now a large group of pupils, parents and staff who have not been able to have their say on the school's values. It's important that our values reflect what we all stand for as members of the Keith Grammar School community.



This is therefore your chance to choose your 'top 5' values for Keith Grammar School. All you need to do is rank your top 5 by placing a number 1-5 next to the appropriate value (with 1 being your 1st choice and 5 being your 5th choice). You should then email your results to admin.keithgrammar@moray-edunet.gov.uk or simply hand them into the school office.

Keith Grammar School – Vision, Values & Aims

Task

Responsibility
Hard working
Active
Honesty
Equality
Inclusion
Justice
Optimism
Independent
Altruism/selflessness
Endeavour
Integrity
Respect
Resilience
Moderation
Motivated
Ambition

Choose your top 5 values. Write down the value that you think Keith Grammar School should/already does represent the most next to the 1st preference. Continue for 2nd – 5th preference accordingly.

Preference	Value
1 st	
2 nd	
3 rd	
4 th	
5 th	

Lari Don Visit

Top Scottish author and storyteller Lari Don visited Keith Grammar School on Monday 9th December as part of a tour of Moray High Schools. Lari, talking to the whole S1 year group, spoke about her job as an author, the books that she has written and the writing process. Working with the pupils Lari also created the start of a story with them; to show the pupils how easy it can be to create your own story. After reading part of her novel *The Beginners Guide to Curses*, Lari went onto share a Viking myth with the audience – Helgi and Kara, which enraptured the whole hall as they were drawn in to the story! Lari also took time to answer questions for the pupils including ‘Where do you get your ideas and inspiration from’ to ‘Is it OK to kill off characters when writing stories?’ Lari said “I’ve been very impressed with the pupils here at Keith Grammar, their creativity and questions, and I look forward to coming back.”. Keith Grammar School, Buckie High School, Milne’s High school and Forres Academy were the schools visited by Lari on her Moray tour, organised by Moray school librarians, with funding from Scottish Book Trust making the visits possible.

You kind find out more about Lari Don at her website: www.laridon.co.uk



Kynoch Victorious!

Team Kynoch were victorious in the S1 inter-house St Andrew’s Day Quiz. Held in the library the Monday 2nd December, teams from both Kynoch and Laidlaw battled their way through 4 rounds of questions all related to Scotland. The themes included Music, Famous People, Famous Landmarks and General Knowledge. The quiz, organised by senior student Ceon and librarian Mr Leitch, proved a hit with pupils and after the four rounds and bonus question, the results were announced, with Kynoch gaining victory over Laidlaw by 2 points! Well done to everyone who took part and watch out for more team quizzes in the library in the New Year.



Employers Question Time event – Wednesday 4th December

As part of our interdisciplinary learning work in S1, all pupils have been focusing on the 8 main organisers on the Moray Skills Framework. They are: Creativity; Employability; Self-Management; Teamwork; Communication; Thinking; Interpersonal and Leadership. Pupils have been taking part in a variety of activities which have been designed to help them become more familiar with what each of these organisers actually means.

Skills are a big focus in our learning and teaching all the time at Keith Grammar. The aim is to try and help our young people to develop a set of skills that will allow them to move successfully through their learning journey and onto a positive and sustained destination when they come to leave Keith Grammar school.

The work which pupils did in relation to the Moray Skills Framework culminated with a question time event on Wednesday 4th December. 8 employers from a variety of growth sectors took part and the event was chaired by two of our senior pupils; Nathan MacDonald and Findlay Omand. Employers initially gave a brief overview of their role and organisation, before pupils asked questions which they had prepared in their IDL class. The employers found the questions quite challenging but very enjoyable. Some questions included; “what would you say to your younger self?” and “what obstacles have you had to overcome in order to get to where you are now?”.

All of the responses to questions have helped to inform the pathways of our pupils. This could well mean that a lot of our S1 pupils are just starting to think about their potential pathway and the skills required to get to where they want to be. The feedback has been very positive and we hope to run a similar event again in the future.



Positive Pathways Evening – Thursday 5th December

On Thursday 5th December, we hosted a positive pathways evening for all S3-6 pupils and their families. This was very well attended and help our young people and their families in getting more information about the types of pathways available. Throughout the course of the evening, we heard from our Nicola Dall, who is our careers advisor from Skills Development Scotland. We also heard from former pupils of Keith Grammar who have moved onto successful pathways of their own.

Those who attended the event were then able to opt into 3 workshops to get more specific information. Offering these workshops were: DYW Moray, Skills Development Scotland, Moray College UHI, Robert Gordon University, The Student Awards Agency for Scotland, and Ms Innes (PTG at KGS) who provided information on the UCAS process. Feedback has been very positive and we hope to build on this by running a similar event next year.



Prefect Leadership Training

At the start of this term, all prefects took part in leadership training with a particular focus on assertiveness and being confident. This was led by Lynne Geddes from the youth engagement team. There will be further leadership training opportunities throughout the course of the year for these youngsters.



Young Leaders of Learning Programme

10 pupils from S2 to S4 at Keith Grammar School are involved in the Young Leaders of Learning Programme run by Education Scotland and SPARQS. In May students were trained on the skills required to be a successful leader. They planned and hosted a visit at Keith Grammar School for young leaders from Speyside High School and Buckie High School. The aim of the visit was for the other schools to attend focus groups and have a tour of the school so they could feed back to Senior Leadership Team. The programme also provides young leaders with real life experiences which you would not get from sitting in a classroom.

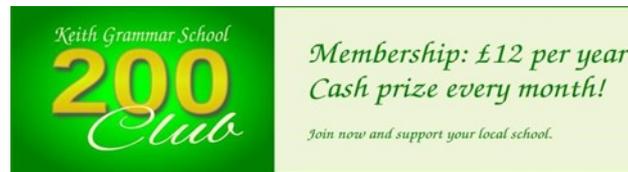
While planning the visit pupils developed problem solving skills because they had to make sure that people involved in Focus Groups knew where to go and at what time. They also had to make sure that the day ran smoothly by thinking on their feet if problems occurred. They developed confidence and leadership skills by leading the tour.

They have also visited Speyside High School and there is a planned visit to Buckie High School before the end of term.



Do you still look like the photo on your Young Scot National Entitlement Card? Some cards have the photo that was taken of you when you were in P7. Many retailers refuse the card as proof of age on the basis that photographs are out of date. If you need to update your photo please take a passport type colour photograph to the school office and complete a Photo Upgrade form.

Discounted ScotRail train tickets are only available using a Young Scot National Entitlement Card with the latest smart chip. The easiest way to tell if your card has the new chip is to look for a pink strip over the date of birth. If you don't see a pink strip visit young.scot/card for information on how to get a new card.



We are re-launching the 200 Club which runs from March 2020 through to February 2021. Last year 172 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 24th February 2020.**

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 24th February 2020.

Let's get to 200 members this year!

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



QUIZ NIGHT AT KEITH GOLF CLUB

Friday 29th November 2019 @ Keith Golf Club

Thanks very much to the Ross family, owners of the The Deli Shop who sponsored the £100 winning team's prize. Thanks also to: all at the Golfie who made us all feel so welcome and organised the quiz, Mrs Ralfs and her Leadership Class for their help, everyone who donated raffle prizes and those came along on the night and tried to beat the KGS teacher team. Again, this year the winners were 'The Fife' team. Well Done! However, the real winners were the youngsters of KGS who will benefit from the fantastic amount raised - £500



RAG BAG

Ongoing Fundraiser – please donate at any time!

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.

Tuesday
21st
January
7 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

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.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 21st January 2020 at 7 p.m. in Staff Lounge. (Please use entrance which faces Keith Primary School.)

Christmas Dances



The Junior and Senior Pupils getting into the swing of things at the Christmas Dances



ASG Pathways Fair

ASG pathways fair in full swing! Thanks to all our partners for supporting our young people!



ASN Department Open Afternoon

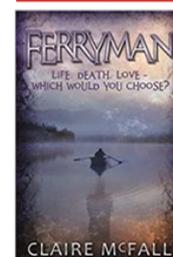
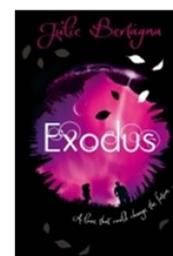
We had a fantastic open afternoon with parents, staff and students. A celebration of our work together and the student's progress. Lots of great baking and tests too!!



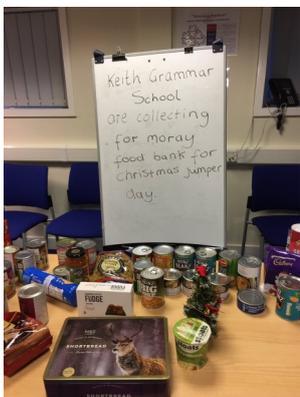
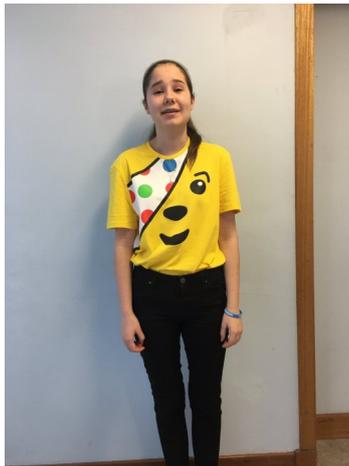
Keep on Reading: Teenage Reading Suggestions from the KGS

School Library (all books available at KGS library and Keith Public Library)

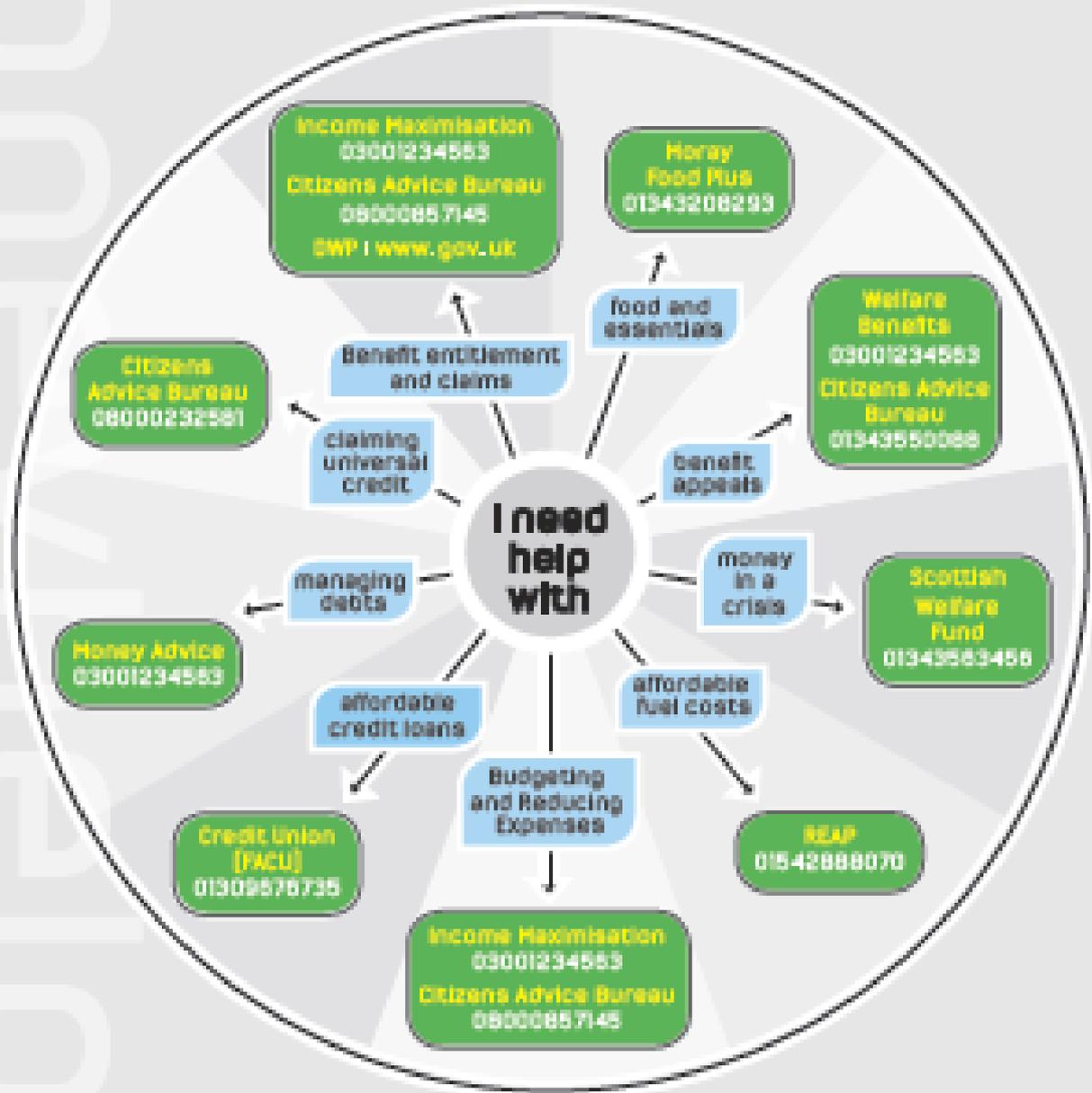
Angie Thomas	The Hate U Give
Catherine MacPhail	Between the Lies
Claire McFall	Ferryman
David Levithan	Boy Meets Boy
James Dashner	Maze Runner series
John Green	Paper Towns
John Green	Looking for Alaska
Julie Bertagna	Exodus
Keith Grey	Ostrich Boy
Keith Grey	Warehouse
Kevin Brooks	The Ultimate Truth
Lisa Williamson	The Art of Being Normal
Malorie Blackman	Noughts and Crosses
Malorie Blackman	Boys Don't Cry
Michael Grant	Gone series
Nicky Singer	The Survival Game
Nicola Morgan	Fleshmarket
Patrick Ness	The Knife of Never Letting Go (Walking Chaos series)
Garth Nix	Sabriel
Philip Reeve	Mortal Engines
Ransom Riggs	Miss Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children series
Robert Muchamore	The Recruit (Cherub series)
Sarah Crossan	Once
Sarah Crossan	Moonrise
Scott Westerfeld	Uglies



KEITH GRAMMAR SCHOOL PHOTO ALBUM



need help with money?



ILLNESS & ACCIDENTS

Any pupil who becomes unwell during school hours will be taken to the office or the medical room. Our help there will be of the type a parent would give. If it is thought necessary, we will contact the parent and ask them to make arrangements for collection of the pupil concerned. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date emergency contact numbers. If a child needs emergency treatment at Turner Memorial Hospital every effort will be made to contact the parents.

It should be emphasised that any pupil feeling unwell must **not** leave the school without permission, but should report to the office in the first instance. The issue of paracetamol tablets to pupils is now not permitted by Moray Council. If paracetamol is required for a particular child then it should be prescribed in the usual way by the child's GP.

ADVERSE WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURES

In the event of the school having to close early buses will be called and pupils sent home. In the event of buses not being able to run those with emergency addresses in Keith will be sent to these. All pupils who live outside the town should supply the school with an emergency address in town or an address on the bus route if they live off the road.

In the event of weather being adverse in the morning the school emergency number will be updated at 7a.m. Moray Firth Radio will also be informed.

Details of school closures will also be posted on the Moray Council website, www.moray.gov.uk, School Closures page.

The School Snow Information Line Number is:

Tel. 0870 054 9999 (Pin Code: 031040)

Calls to this number will be charged a 2p per minute service charge plus your call providers access charge.

Press 1 – to hear severe weather information

Press 2 – to hear a non-urgent message

Press 3 – to hear general school information

Press 4 – to enter a different school PIN number

Press ~ - to end call

Day/Date:	Details:
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Term
Monday 6th January	Start of Term
Monday 13th January	Start of SQA prelims
Tuesday 21st January	Parent Council Meeting 7-9 pm
Friday 7th February	Mid Term Holiday
Monday 10th February	Mid Term Holiday
Wednesday 19th February	S4-6 Parents Night