



# Celebrating Success at Keith Grammar School Issue No. 6



Wow, we have finally made it to the end of what has been another tricky year to navigate with many changes and difficulties to overcome along the way, but my goodness we have done it as only Keith Grammar could. Starting with a second lockdown to navigating another version of the SQA exam system, to a full return to school, this year has presented some challenges along the way. It is testament to the Keith Grammar community, the hard work of staff and the commitment of our young people and their families that we have successfully reached the end of 2021.

The recent and continuing rise in Omicron cases, as the new and prominent variant of COVID, has certainly ended the year with as much uncertainty as it started. Nobody can predict what is ahead of us, but what is reassuring is the way we tackle our recovery in school and the wider community with determination and resilience where everyone is working hard for the benefit of our young people.

I know everyone is feeling exhausted and the holidays have seemed a long way off for some weeks, but the way everyone has looked out for each other and taken a sensible and caring approach to school life shows how special Keith Grammar School is.

I fully understand the frustrations this year as things seem to be very slow to getting back to some sort of normality, and school life still isn't where we'd like it to be or what we remember from 2019. It is so disappointing for our pupils that we have to make decisions and implement measures that restrict and remove the events and activities they have enjoyed previously. What is incredible is the way our school staff have looked for new opportunities and ways to provide wider and enriching experiences that can give pupils those extra experiences that they will remember beyond their time in school. We understand none of this is fair on our young people and the impact on their wellbeing cannot be underestimated, and yet we continue to rise to the challenge daily and the efforts of everyone in our school community are greatly appreciated. We know the value of what we offer, no matter how small makes a world of difference to our pupils right now.

It is important we remember the virus is still prevalent and impacting on our school. Our safe and cautious behavior makes a real difference, and we need to continue to be responsible for ourselves and each other at this time.

Lastly, please take time to enjoy a well-earned and restful break over the Christmas holidays. Can I wish every pupil of KGS, our families, staff and school partners a relaxing, and enjoyable time with friends and family to connect, recharge and look after your own wellbeing.

I look forward to welcoming our pupil back in the New Year!

Best wishes for 2022

Alan Bruce  
Head Teacher

## iDEA AWARDS

Beth Wallace, Ross WA Dalgarno, Ross Dalgarno, Daniel Kemp and Dylan Robertson in Mrs George's S3 Business class were awarded a Bronze iDEA certificate. They have done amazingly well to work so hard and gain their Bronze award.

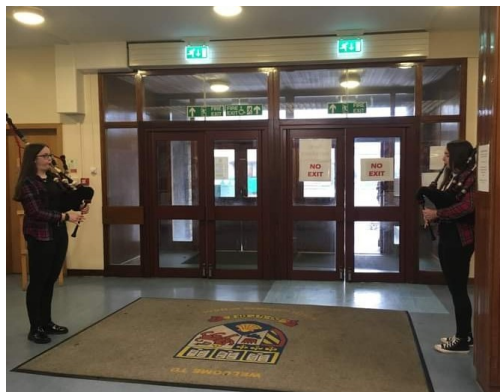
The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills.

A great achievement that you will be able tell future employers about! Well done!



## ST ANDREW'S DAY

Shortbread and tartan were on offer for St Andrew's Day. Donations were given to support the Breakfast Club. Our Prefects did a grand job of helping and leading by example.



We also had a lovely alternative bell at the end of break to welcome everyone back inside.



## **Active Schools News**

The KGS Young Leaders held a promotion fair in the hall to allow new people to sign up, spread the word about what we currently do and what we plan to do in the near future!



## **The Moray and Banffshire Hero Awards - Secondary Pupil of the Year Nomination**

Amanda Walker, Active Schools coordinator got in touch with the School to say that she had nominated Hannah Innes for the Secondary Pupil of the Year, as part of the Moray and Banffshire Hero Awards. Amanda felt that Hannah had made a considerable contribution to Active Schools this year.

### **This is what Amanda said about Hannah**

Hannah began volunteering with Active Schools in May 2021. This has included a range of activities including:

- \*shadowing experienced sports coaches
- \*co-coaching with other young leaders
- \*helping develop a school sport committee
- \*taking part in Young Leader videos to promote Active Schools
- \*doing presentations to classes within school
- \*First Aid CPD
- \*PVG checked, responsible person at sessions

\*Hannah was a key part in the success of the Keith ASG Summer Programme of sports activities due to the number of hours she volunteered. Her tasks included coaching at a P7 Transition Project with The Loft, escorting children to and from sessions, and making up goodie bags. Hannah volunteered during 5 weeks of her 7 week summer holidays.

Having started volunteering in May 2021, Hannah has already reached 60 hours of volunteering by 1 December 2021. This clearly demonstrates her commitment.

Feedback from herself and her mum is that Hannah had been looking for a way to contribute to the community, and also to develop key life skills.

Hannah has shown great teamwork, stepping in to cover for others.

Hannah's confidence has grown considerably since being involved with Active Schools. Both Hannah and her mum have also commented on this.





### Active Sports in Moray Young Leaders

Congratulations to pupils Abbie and Katie who were awarded hoodies for their achievements.

Abbie, 10 hours volunteering was given a grey hoodie and Katie, who carried out 50 hours volunteering and completed a First Aid course, received a purple hoodie. Catriona, received a certificate for completing a First Aid Course and is very close to achieving her purple hoodie.



Celebrating Sporting Success in Keith for the past couple of years, Caitlin has been coaching the Keith Grammar School netball team. On December 1st we celebrated Caitlin passing her Level 1 Netball Coaching Award.

*Well done Caitlin!*



## Modern Languages Department

### Antonie – our German assistant

We are delighted to have Antonie, our German assistant with us this school year. She arrived after the October holidays and will stay with us until April. It wasn't easy at all with all the new restrictions linked to Brexit and the Pandemic, and we are therefore very grateful she could make it together with the other German language assistants around Moray.

She comes from Leipzig where she is also studying to be an English and German teacher for German pupils in a German High School.

Mein Name ist **Antonie**.

Ich bin **dreiundzwanzig** Jahre alt.

Ich komme aus **Leipzig**.

Das ist in **Deutschland**.



She has shared lots of cultural aspects linked to Germany, Austria and Switzerland in our German classes as well as helped our pupils with their German skills, especially their speaking skills.

### Wider Aspect Languages Class

Our Wider Aspect Languages Team has organised more events this term as well as started a language club (every Wednesday during Juniors lunch break – 12.30pm to 1pm)

### The Winter Edition Bake-off Competition

This took place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of December and once again the team were having a hard task deciding on a winner of the best bake. Well done again to everyone who participated. Your bakes looked really amazing, and it has been a pleasure to admire your baking talents.

Our Wider Aspects Team chose Mihandri Van Staaten – S2 as the winner for lovely and beautiful Scottish themed cupcakes.

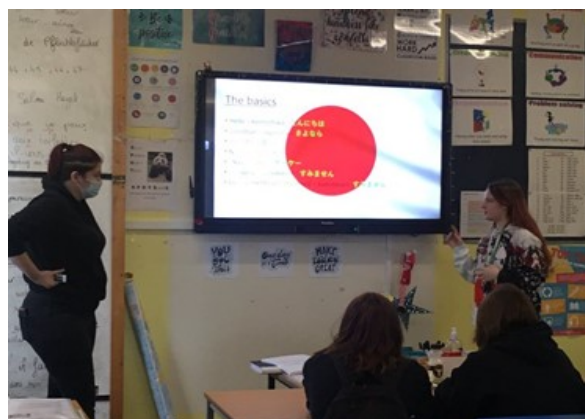


### Primary live quiz:

After the huge success of their first live quiz on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, celebrating the European Day of languages, Cassie Findlay, Katie Dunbar & Memie Milne decided to run another one, this time focused on Christmas traditions and vocabulary worldwide. We couldn't be prouder of them as they are leading this project entirely on their own, and we are delighted to have all our primary schools joining them this time: Keith Primary School, Botriphnie, Newmill, Crossroads and St Thomas.

Beth Smith & Catherine McKenzie organised an amazing Japanese session in our language club and taught us some interesting facts about Japanese culture as well as basic vocabulary.

It was definitely a hit, not only for our pupils, but also for our staff who came along.





Impressive leadership skills demonstrated by Dylan Ralph and Ellie Lipphardt who had organised a games day session and taught us about some games played in other countries as well as teaching us the backstory and how to play these games.



### Francophonie world.

S3L3 wished to learn more about Belgium and despite the fact that traveling abroad is a bit tricky at the moment, they did learn all about Belgium through a virtual trip around Wallonia, Flanders, Brussels and the German speaking part of Belgium. Special acknowledgment goes to Caitlin Bayliss, Leah McWilliam, Rebecca Wright, Amy Scott, Ruby Kellas, Casey Rennie and Jessica Morrison for the great and beautiful notes they took along their trip.



### S1 & S2 Language Olympics

All S1 and S2 French classes have continued taking part in a series of weekly vocabulary tests this term to help build their vocabulary and study skills. As in Term 1, pupils have been encouraged to try different ways to learn their 10 vocabulary items each week from traditional ways, such as writing them out over and over again, getting a friend or family member to test them, to using technology such as Quizlet and Blooket for games based ways to revise vocabulary.

Thank you to all parents who have been helping with the revision of either our Language Olympics or end of unit tests. Pupils were proud to share that they were revising with their parents at home and did well in their tests.

Look out for Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates coming home very soon.

Special acknowledgement for Elias Appraoui, Conleth Davidson, Jakub Greatholder, Megan Harrop, Alfie Rogers, Abby Fraser, Fynn Chapman, Rachael Fraser, Lucy Mark who all reached gold this term!

### S1 end of unit test on pets and grammar

A special mention for Abby Fraser in 1.2 French and Alfie Rogers in 1.1 for respectively achieving 92% and 98% in their end of unit test as well as Elias Appraoui for achieving 80%



## S3 French classes

Special acknowledgement to Ella More, Hillary Davidson, Beth Wallace, Eirin MacFarlane, Nancy Bentinck, Amy Noble, Siena Clark and Craig Dick who all produced a great piece of writing during their end of unit test.



## Seniors French / Seniors German



*The Modern Languages Department would like to thank all our young linguists for their hard work this past term*

## Music News

Huge congratulations to Dodie Simmers who was successful in joining the Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Dodie had to audition for this opportunity and was in for some very stiff competition from all over Scotland, this is a terrific opportunity and greatly deserved. Dodie will be attending several intensive training weekends throughout the year culminating in concerts at the Concert hall in Glasgow and His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen.

Also huge Congratulations to Cassey Findlay for getting into the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. Again this place was gained by auditioning and is a huge achievement for a secondary school pupil. Cassie has already been attending rehearsal in Perth and will get to perform in some terrific venues all over Scotland. Greatly deserved!

The Music department hosted their annual Christmas concert this week although virtual rather than in person. Here is the link to the concert: <https://youtu.be/9gCBkkslszs> A huge thank you to all the young people who took part, you really are a talented bunch. A huge thanks also goes to Mr Tubbs, Mr Geddes and Mrs Innes and none of these concerts would be possible without you. Thanks also to Mr Bruce and all of SLT for your continued support of the Music Department.





## S1 IDL

In our Interdisciplinary Learning classes this term S1 have been learning about sustainability and global goals. In this they have been investigating sustainable businesses and focusing particularly on clothing. As part of this ongoing project, they are collecting school wear to recycle in our new Second Hand But Grand 'store' which we hope to operate in 2022.

For more info on Sustainable Global Goals see <https://www.globalgoals.org/>

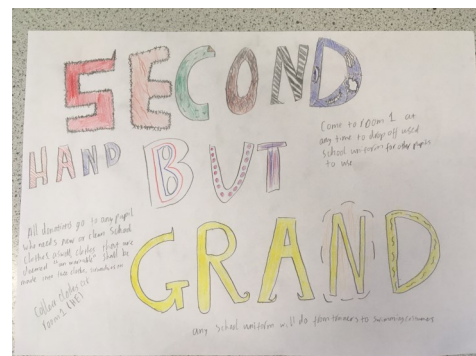
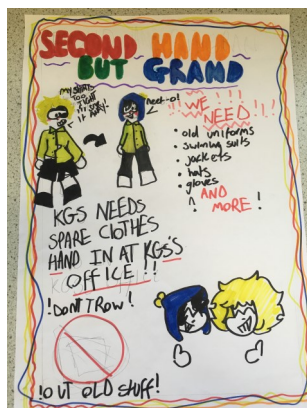
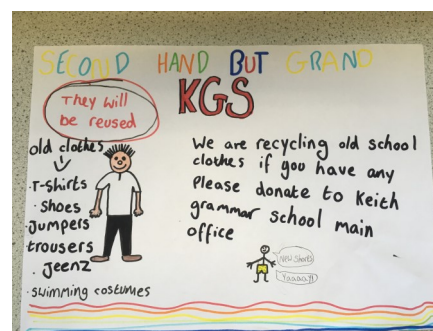
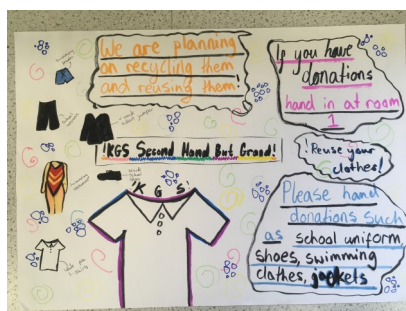


Please hand any uniform/ school wear items into the school office or Home Economics Department.

If you have any Christmas jumpers/ t-shirts/ clothing items going spare, please hand these in after Christmas as well as we will recycle these for next Christmas.

These projects also help reduce the Cost of the School Day (COSD) which we are working to do all the time in response to the consultation last session on costs incurred by every day and special occasions at school. This benefits everyone by reducing costs for all as well as benefiting the planet and our environment.

Staff involved have also been working with Connecting Classrooms which is an organisation doing just that to put schools in other countries in touch with each other to share their work on global goals which is very relevant following on from COP26. We have already spoken to a school in the Punjab and in Pakistan and are looking forward to taking forward our connections and sharing our projects with them.

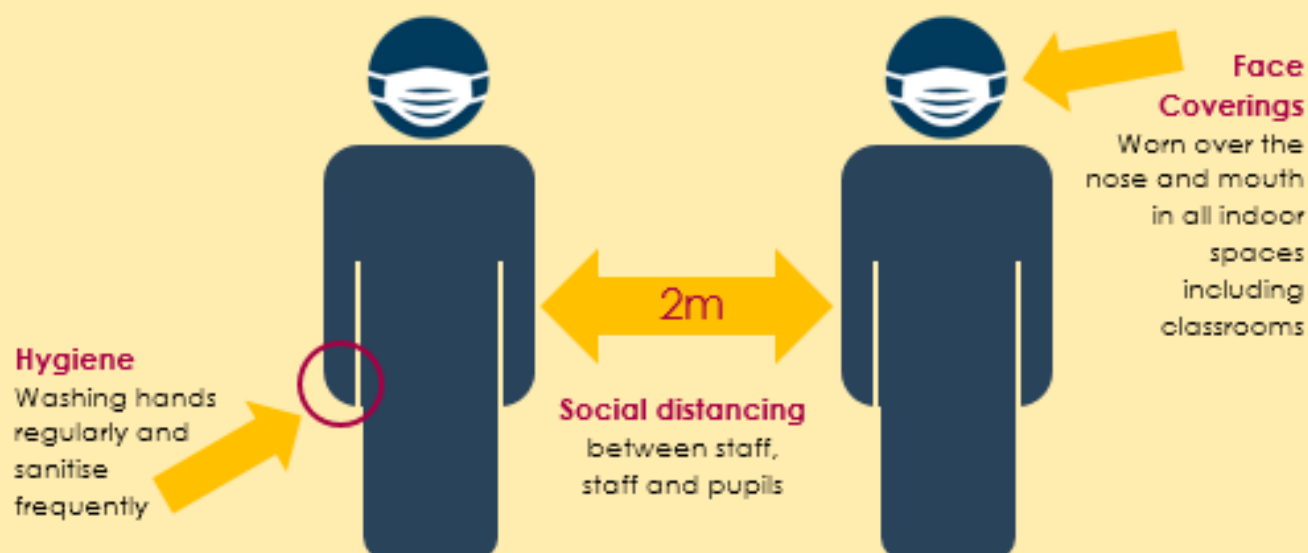




## COVID Update

The Scottish Government recently published an update to the 'Reducing Risk in Schools' guidance which sets out the measures schools should take to continue to retain a safe learning environment. Thankfully many of the measures outlined are already in place at Keith Grammar with little change planned for our return in January.

### KGS COVID-19 measures include:



### Additional measures in place set to continue:

- Continued lateral flow testing at least twice a week
- Following the one-way system.
- Staggered lunch break.
- CO2 monitoring in all learning spaces
- Ventilation measures to support a good flow of air

It is evident that regular Lateral Flow testing is the best way to get any indication of a positive case and I would strongly recommend pupils and their families continue to do so throughout the Christmas break.

We want to ensure we come back to school in January safe and healthy and your support to encourage our pupils to routinely test will certainly go some way to ensuring we fully return to KGS in the new term.

❄️ ❄️ **Ready, Respectful, Safe** ❄️ ❄️