

Keith Grammar School

Celebration of Success

Term 4 Newsletter - Summer 2022

Head Teachers Welcome

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

I am delighted to unveil our newly rebranded Celebration of Success newsletter. This termly edition will showcase the work of our talented young people in and out of school as well as many of the experiences we have offered across the session.

This first edition is a real showcase of our pupils achievements and it feels fitting to launch the new look newsletter at the end of this session to celebrate the first full year back in school. We have so much to be proud of and sharing this with you, our school community, allows us to give you an insight into the incredible work of our pupils.

The new session after the summer break will be an opportunity to build on what we have accomplished from this year to make sure the session ahead will be our best ever. In the coming year we hope to offer more opportunities and experiences to our young people. It will also be great to finally welcome parents and partners back to school to help us move forward successfully.

Thinking about everything we have accomplished this year, none of it would have been possible without the hard work, resilience and dedication of all staff at KGS. I'd like to thank them all for their efforts and praise them for their commitment to our pupils.

On the 9th of August our Senior pupils will receive their results from the exams they sat in May, the first in two years. We are sure they will have done their very best and we wish them well on the day. More details of results day can be found in the briefing at the back of this newsletter.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish all pupils, families and staff of KGS a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils return mid August for what I am sure will be another incredible year.

Best wishes
Alan Bruce,
Head Teacher

Ready
Respectful
Safe



Dates for your diary

School reopens to staff
Monday 15th August

Pupils return
Tuesday 16th August

Parent Council AGM
Tuesday 13th September

S4-S6 Progress Report
Friday 14th September*

S1 Progress Report
Wednesday 28th September*

S3 Progress Report
Tuesday 4th October*
*dates may be subject to change

Term Ends
Friday 7th October

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Celebrating Sporting Success

The Active Schools team did a survey to find out what people at Keith Grammar School have done to be successful at sports. The winners were chosen because of their dedication and amount of time and effort they put into their goals. The winners were Cat McKerell (S3) and Anna Grant (S6).

- Anna has played for the CYP Scotland squad twice. Anna recommends sport "because it gives you a chance to forget about your worries and life and do something you love".
- Cat's greatest achievement was winning the League Cup. Here's what Cat has to say about being involved in sport. "I have been able to make new friends and it gets me outside."

Their commitment to football very much impressed Mr Paterson (Head of PE) who said that "celebrating the girls' achievements was important to promote as often girls are under-represented".

Congratulations to Cat and Anna, we hope to see you playing football for Scotland one day!

Cat and Anna were awarded prizes by Active Schools Young Leaders Maisie Richardson and Caitlin McKerell, alongside Mr Paterson: Head of PE at Keith Grammar School.

Article reported by: Alfie Rogers, S1



S1 Cullen Bay DYW Trip

Back in April our S1 pupils were one of the first groups to experience a trip out of school since March 2020. As part of their Modern Languages experience and the Developing the Young Workforce initiative, pupils were able to develop their experience of languages and possible occupations linked to the subject through a trip to the Cullen Bay hotel.

While at the Cullen Bay, pupils were able to experience a range of roles required to run a hotel and be part of this employment sector. Pupils were also able to enjoy the hospitality of the owners where they were treated to lunch. We'd like to thank the Cullen Bay hotel once again for their generous offer and experience they were able to provide our pupils.





Cullen Sea School DYW Trip

It was a beautiful day for our DYW Moray employability group's trip to Cullen. While in town our pupils carried out a litter pick on Cullen beach working alongside and assisted by Cullen Sea School. The group also enjoyed some outdoor learning activities, making it a great day out!

Thanks to Cullen Sea School for organising a beach clean and to the PE Department for the outdoor learning activities. Everyone had a great time and the sunshine certainly made the day even more special.



Ballet Success

Ruby Kellas has had another amazing year with some incredible achievements for ballet. Ruby competed in the Scottish Youth Ballet Grand Prix semi finals just before Covid hit, with competitors from all over the country and made it to the finals! Due to Covid, the finals did not take place until June 2021 where Ruby was placed 6th in a very talented section. Ruby then auditioned for four ballet associate/company programmes and received offers from all four!

Ruby auditioned with over 500 other hopefuls for a much sought after place on Scottish Ballets Associate programme. She was one of only a very small number to be offered a place on their Senior associate Programme which requires Ruby to travel to Glasgow every Saturday to train. She was a Scottish Youth Ballet Associate and went on to gain a place in their Company, travelling to Dundee every Sunday. She also continued her training with S-mb Company.

Ruby performed in the theatre in December 2021 in the Ballet Les Sylphides with SYBC and was also honoured to be chosen to perform a beautiful solo en pointe.



Highland Dance Achievement

Abbie Kellas has been selected to be part of the International Highland Dance Team in Belgium! This is an incredible opportunity and we couldn't be more proud of Abbie. We know she will be amazing and we wish her all the best!



Rural Skills - Knock Farm Trip

Our new Rural Skills class set off for a visit to the local Knock Farm. The pupils, accompanied by Mrs Jex had a cracking morning learning about Agriculture first hand from Roger Polson who gave up his time to spend it with our pupils.

Thank you to Knock Farm for hosting our learners, the experience was invaluable and greatly appreciated.



Rugby Trip

One of the early trips to be organised coming out of lockdown was the Scotland versus France rugby game as part of the Six Nations, back in March. Faces painted and flags proudly flying, a bus load of excited pupils and staff went to Murrayfield Stadium to support the Scotland Squad.



Parent Council

Our Parent Council do great work to support us throughout the year at Keith Grammar School. The Parent Council meet regularly to discuss opportunities for fundraising and ways they can support our young people further.

We are keen to have more Parents involved in the life and work of the school and would welcome new members to join in the new session.

The first Parent Council meeting will be the AGM to be held on **Tuesday 13th September** at 6.30pm at Keith Grammar School.

All parents are welcome to attend and we would encourage as many as possible to support us.

A reminder will be sent out after the holidays prior to the date and we hope to see you there.

Darts Club

This session we've brought back the darts club, run by Mr Geddes every Tuesday lunchtime. It's a nice mix of girls and boys and varying levels of experience and ability. Darts is a great game for hand-eye co-ordination, developing focus and promoting numeracy skills. Pupils are welcome to bring their lunch and can watch or participate. We have our own sets of club darts but if pupils have their own they can hand them in to Mr Geddes first thing in the morning and collect them at the end of the day. We have 3 boards so there's also space for complete beginners to practice in a fun and supportive environment.



Avochie Estate Visit

Back in May a small group of S2 boys visited Avochie Estate, Rothiemay. Our young people were kindly hosted by Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charity to learn about species of fish that inhabit the Deveron and Isla rivers. The day was very informative with a chance for our boys to get their feet wet in the river while looking for fish. A huge thank you goes out to Ritchie Miller for the very kind invitation and providing our pupils with a great learning experience.



Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

On Wednesday 30th March five teams of S3 pupils, each representing a different charity, took part in the YPI finals. Each team delivered a presentation on behalf of their charity to a panel of judges.

Our young people presented extremely well and confidently informed the panel as to why their charity deserved the £3,000 grant money.

Well done to all participants and to the winning team who were representing MFR Cash for Kids. Congratulations to Abbie McWilliam, Ferre Michielsen, Danielle Spence, Michael Maver, Bruce Main and Ella More.





Touch Rugby

On Wednesday 11th May we had 3 teams competing in the North 6 Series event held at Moray Rugby Club. Our pupils represented the school fantastically with the S1 boys, S2 boys and the combined S1/2 girls team are all progressing to the next round. Scottish Rugby are so impressed with how our youngsters are getting on that they have offered an amazing opportunity for 3 boys and 3 girls in S4-6 to gain a Level 1 coaching qualification free of charge!

DYW Trip - Dean's Shortbread

On Friday 29th April some of our pupils had a trip out to Dean's Shortbread in Huntly. Accompanied by KGS staff and Kelly Cormack from DYW Moray, our pupils were able to experience a tour of the factory to learn about the different roles available within Dean's. Hopefully they were able to sample some of the delicious products, surely a must for any trip where food is involved! We hope that they had a great day. Thank you to Dean's for hosting our young people.



Active School Young Leader Fundraising Event

On Monday 6th June, 15 Young Leaders took part in a fundraising event which consisted of taking part in a full day of different sports. Each pair of Young Leaders took a turn in delivering a sport session for the rest of the group to take part in. In total, we did around 6 hours worth of different sports and had a great time taking part. We all got together and decided that all funds raised at this event were going to go towards the KGS Breakfast club which is popular in the mornings before period 1 and at break time. We raised a total of £400.

Author: Katie Dunbar, S6



Wild Things



On Thursday 19th May a group of our S2 pupils were out of school spending their last day in a program of activities with the Findhorn based environmental education Charity 'Wild Things'. The day consisted of various activities that encouraged our youngsters to play an active part, not only in enjoying the outdoors, but also in learning new skills and caring for our natural environment. The group have completed a bush craft award over a number of weeks and today was a celebration of their achievements. Their Woodland Activity Leader Paul, has delivered a program today which had the group participating in environmental conservation, wildlife identification, camping outdoors, charcoal making, bush craft and even chocolate cake baking on an open fire. This has been a fantastic opportunity for our learners and it was great to join them in ending the course on a high. Well done to everyone involved and congratulations for gaining their well-deserved certificate in bush craft. The next Bear Grills may well come from KGS!

Following completion of programme with 'Wild Things' our S1 participants were awarded their Bush Craft Award. The worthy recipients are pictured below (l-r): Owen Sharpe, Duncan Milne, Danny Riddoch, Aiden Sharpe.

Absent on the day and still to receive their awards are Faith Henderson, Dana Wilson and Ryan Russell. Huge congratulations to all our 'Wild Things' for a great achievement!





Royal Highland Show



P7 Transition





Duke of Edinburgh - Gold Award

They did it! Our gold cohort just finished their 4 days practice expedition & we have no words to describe how proud we are. Challenged on many levels (physically, mentally, weather wise) they just did amazing!

Well done to Siobhan, Kirsty, Bent and Dodie.

The training is done and now the preparation begins for the final expedition in late August. Such a joy to see our Gold DofE team so happy. This is them just at the very start of their four days hiking and camping in the Cairngorms.



Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Award

Our Duke of Edinburgh team successfully completed their Bronze Award expedition taking them one step further in the DofE programme. Our intrepid pupils were able to navigate a range of terrain over 2 days and 1 night, covering approximately 30km in total. Well done to Ross W. Dalgarno, Ryan Gerrie, Abbie McWilliam, Abbie Kellas, Darcy Skinner, Rachel Low, Kate Porter, Siena Clark, Aaron Stewart and Ferre Michielsens. A great achievement for all.





Active Schools Easter Programme

Active Schools held an Easter activities programme with a wide range of sports including indoor curling, boccia, netball, football, highland dancing, junior jog and mixed sports for lots of youngsters from Primary 1 to 7. The sessions were led by young leaders from KGS. It was amazing for them to have an experience of teaching primary pupils sports that they love. It was great for the pupils to take part because they might find a sport that suits them and it keeps them active and busy. Amanda Walker from Active Schools said "The Keith Young Leaders are a fantastic group who work well together. Thanks to them, local children get to experience lots of different sports." Overall, the Easter Programme was a huge success for the young leaders and participants.

Article contributed by Kirsty Simmers S2

Mechanical Music Making

Keith Grammar School (Young Engineers and Musicians) along with the Chamber Music Scotland recently collaborated on a project focused on music and mechanisms. The team designed and built mechanical music makers that they then used to write and produce a musical piece based on the theme of 'Moray'. Pupils performed their work at the recent showcase on Friday 17th June at the Longmore Hall here in Keith.



ImROVise - Young Engineers

Across the year our Young Engineers have been incredibly busy. From helping run activities for the P7 Induction to creating the mechanical music makers, they have had their work cut out for them. They are looking for new budding engineers to join their ranks. Please see Mr Tubbs if you would like to join. The team would also like to wish the members leaving the team well for their future. **Written by CEO Bent Michielsen** (signing off for the last time).



Awards Ceremony 2022



On Tuesday 28th June we held our annual Awards Ceremony for 2022. Pictured are some of the worthy winners. Congratulations to all our award recipients we are so proud of you !

