

Keith Grammar School

Celebration of Success

Term 1 Newsletter Session 2022-2023

Head Prefects Welcome

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We are delighted to be able to present you with another edition of our newly rebranded Celebration of Success newsletter. This term's edition will highlight the skills and talents of KGS's young people, not only in school but during their own time too. This edition is an excellent example of the pupils' hard work and commitment that everyone is so proud of, and we are delighted to be able to share it with you.

This year as Head Prefects, we hope to allow pupils to become more involved within school and create more opportunities for young people to voice their opinions so that they can have an enjoyable year. It will also be great to get back to inter-house activities which ourselves and the House Captains hope will bring together the house's team spirit.

We hope everyone has settled into their timetables and the new S1 cohort has had a brilliant first term at Keith Grammar.

We'd like to take this time to congratulate everyone who received their exam results in August, we understand how hard everyone worked to achieve them.

Lastly, we hope that all staff, pupils and their families have a great Tattie Holidays!

We are looking forward to next term and exciting new opportunities.

Best wishes
Fiona Stewart and Cassie Findlay
Head Prefects

Ready
Respectful
Safe



Dates for your diary

School reopens
Monday 24th October

Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 8th November 6.30pm

S2 Progress Report
Friday 11th October*
*dates may be subject to change

Inservice Days
Monday 1st November
Tuesday 15th November

S4-S6 Progress Report
Friday 18th November*
*dates may be subject to change

Pathway Event
Thursday 24th November

S3 Progress Report
Friday 16th December*
*dates may be subject to change

Term Ends
Friday 23rd December 2022

Contact us

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Massive congratulations to Riley Simpson who is our 2022 Junior Club Champion. This is a brilliant accomplishment and one he should be very proud of.

Junior Golf Champion

Scottish Golf Coaching

Huge congratulations to Hannah Innes (pictured below) for passing her Level 1 Coaching Certificate with Scottish Golf. This is a huge achievement - Well done Hannah!



Highland Dancing

Senior pupil, Abbie Kellas and former pupil, Molly Smith, were in Belgium last weekend, dancing at the Military Tattoo. What a wonderful experience and we look forward to hearing all about it in school when you get back Abbie.

Scottish School Football

Our very own Lucy Mark was recently selected for the North of Scotland second trial which took place at Turriff Sports Centre on Wednesday 28th September. Lucy was joined by a host of other girls from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland and was one of the few to be selected from Moray.

Living Loft

Members of the pupil support team were bowled over with the end result of this new project which is designed to upskill and build domestic and culinary skills in young people who will, one day, fly the nest. It was great to see progress made by the young people, supported by staff at The Loft, partners and businesses.

What a great facility and opportunities for our young folk.





Former Pupil Achievement

One of our very own KGS alumni was part of Team Scotland at this summers Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Rebecca Matheson (pictured on the right) was part of the 4x100m women's sprint relay, the first event since 1986. The team came eighth in a time of 45:01.

What an incredible experience and we are extremely proud Rebecca was part of the squad and representing Scotland and Keith!



Active Schools: Young Ambassadors

This year's KGS Young Sport Ambassadors Cat McKerrell and Ellen Largue (centre in the picture) attended this year's YA conference at Pittodrie Stadium. This was the first face to face conference in over 2 years and was a great way for new YAs to hear from folk who have previously held the role plus guest speaker and Scottish Olympic Volleyball player, Lynne Beattie. Cat and Ellen took part in various workshops which focussed on communication, team building and planning.

They have great plans for their year in role, including creating community club links and hosting teacher/pupil events. Previous KGS YAs Katie Dunbar and Cassie Findlay formed part of the Conference Delivery team: helping to make sure that events went smoothly and even delivering workshops throughout the day. A great development for these two who were fantastic YAs and were a big part of forming the KGS young leader group.



Under 16's Football Success

Congratulations to our under 16's team for winning The Grierson Wealth management plate in a tournament in Elgin that was run over a weekend in August.

Keith FC under 16's defeated Fraserburgh on penalties after letting a 3 goal lead slip. Ross WA Dalgarno is pictured receiving The Grierson Plate on behalf of the team. Well done to everyone involved; coaches, players, parents and volunteers.

Bison Fury

On Wednesday 28th September our Rural Skills class, accompanied by Mrs Booth and Mr Musil went to Fife to visit the herd of Buffalos at Boglily Farm Steading, Kirkcaldy.

During the day they learned all about the rearing and care for the herd of Buffalo and were able to see both the calves and fully grown Buffalo. As always the class mascot 'Keith the Coo' was taken along to keep an eye on proceedings.

All pupils and staff had a cracking day and were a credit to KGS.



Aberdeen Science Centre Trip

Last month our S2 pupils visited Aberdeen Science Centre to take part in a Discovery Workshop as part of their Young STEM Leader programme. The Young STEM Leader programme aims to give pupils a chance to learn about the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to everyday life and the wide range of careers available in the STEM industries. The pupils took part in two workshops, one of which highlighted the range of science subjects e.g. Psychology and Geology.

The other workshop was on gender bias showing that gender should not be a barrier to working in any STEM industry. The pupils also solve practical problems and spent time exploring the exhibits. A great day was had by all.



Pride in Moray



This year Moray had its first Pride March in Elgin. Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community and has been taking place for over 50 years. It is a fantastic way to celebrate the community, and brings people together.



The Pride March in Elgin had over a thousand in attendance and also had various events such as a drag show, pet contest, motivational speakers, live music and market stalls. The event was a great success and our pupils were delighted to take part.

What a fantastic day. We marched shoulder to shoulder; we waved our banners and flags; we listened to the pledges of politicians; we shed a tear at the testimony of the amazing mother of an amazing trans young person; we marvelled at the talent on the stage and we had fun!



Along with other schools and groups across Moray, KGS had strong representation - our LGBTQI+ group; The Loft Q Group; young people; supporters; staff and families all joined the march and enjoyed the various events arranged on the day. What a day and what an experience. Well done to all; we couldn't be more proud of our group and we're looking forward to Pride in Moray 2023.



Kai Anderson Memorial

Since the start of term our pupils and the ASN team have been busy clearing the small garden area in front of the school for a very special event.

With paint brushes in hand they have been busy giving a fresh look to the trestle over the last few weeks, the planters have been cleared and refreshed and pathways cleaned. Pictured opposite are Bailey, Lennox and Ricky (below) who have been part of the team carrying out the clean up. Well done to everyone involved in getting the garden area looking amazing in preparation for the event.



Personal Achievement Award

While the redecoration continued, behind the scenes Samantha Grant (S6) was busy organising a coffee morning event which was held on Thursday 29th September. Samantha was in charge of the arrangements, including organising the bakes and the raffle. A well attended coffee morning, staff and special guests enjoyed a range of cakes and a cuppa and helped raise £130. Well done Samantha on a great event and another step closer to your Gold Personal Achievement Award.

During the coffee morning we were able to unveil a plaque and garden bench in memory of Kai Anderson, a much loved pupil at Keith Grammar School who we sadly lost a year ago. Kai's family honoured us by coming along to unveil the plaque and see the garden area and bench we have installed in Kai's memory. It was a very special moment when Kai's sister Natasha unveiled the plaque which has pride of place in room 3, an area of KGS where Kai spent a lot of time with a great team who supported him through his time at KGS.





We are absolutely delighted to introduce our Senior Prefect team for session 2022-2023. We are extremely proud of the team and already they are making a significant contribution to the life of the school, demonstrating their skills in various aspects of leadership here at KGS. We wish them all the best for the year ahead and we know they will leave an incredible legacy at the end of this session.

Pictured above are; Front row (l-r) Skye Maver; Hannah Innes; Fiona Stewart; Cassie Findlay; Aaron Stewart; Robbie MacAskie. Middle row (l-r) Caitlyn Lambert; Sienna Jamieson; Kate Porter; Megan Riach; Slaney-Leigh Martin. Back row (l-r) Kyle Robertson; Ben Kidd; Stuart Mackie; Abbie Kellas.

Absent on the day of the picture were Tom Palmer; Alex Wills; Georgie Cowie; Ruby Moir, Phemie Bentick-Skinner.



This year our House Captain team are bringing the team spirit back to the KGS. Already the team are planning events and thinking of creative ideas to develop the House identity. Its certainly going to be an exciting year ahead under their leadership. Pictured are;

Back row (l-r) Logan Mackie; Aimee Stronach; Grant Hendry; Katie Dunbar. Front row (l-r) Siobhan Donnison; Elyse Chapman; Katelyn Adams.

Also part of the team but absent on the day of the picture is Ryan Henderson.