

Keith Grammar School

# Celebration of Success

Term 3 Newsletter | March 2023

## SCQF Ambassadors Newsletter Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

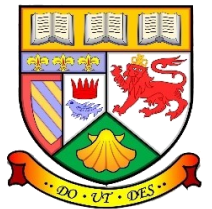
As Keith Grammar School's newly appointed SCQF Ambassadors, we are delighted to introduce the next edition of the Celebration of Success newsletter. We are excited to show you all the wonderful achievements and successes of our KGS pupils; we are immensely proud of all their hard work and commitment.

As the school's SCQF Ambassadors, our role is to promote the wide range of extra qualifications on offer at KGS and offer advice and support in the use of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. The SCQF helps young people to plan their learner journey and understand the range of qualifications available to help shape their pathway. Recently, we had the opportunity to meet with SCQF Ambassadors from across the Moray Schools. This has inspired us to aim for our SCQF Bronze award. We will also continue to take part in training opportunities and support young people, parents, teachers and partners.

As we approach the end of Term 3, the thought of revision, study and exams will be very much on Senior Pupil's minds. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Easter, a restful break, and all the best to our Senior Pupils for their forthcoming exams.

Ross, Abbie, Siena and Rachel.

Ready  
Respectful  
Safe



## Dates for the diary

### School reopens

Monday 17th April

### SQA Exams Start

Monday 24th April

### May Day

Monday 1st May

### S1 Parents Evening

Wednesday 3rd May

### Coronation Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

### Inservice Days

Thursday 11th and Friday 12th May

### S1-S3 Activities Days

Wed. 24th and Thurs. 25th May

### SQA Exams End

Wednesday 31st May

### Senior Pupil Induction

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd June

### Occasional Day

Monday 5th June

### Awards Ceremony

Tuesday 20th June

### Term Ends

Friday 30th June 2023

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## Strathpuffer

Congratulations to Lucy Main for completing Outfit Moray's Strathpuffer event. To take part, Lucy had to undergo a series of training events and meet the standards required to be part of the team of 8.

The event itself took place overnight in the freezing Scottish Highlands with 24 hours of cycling in sub-zero, muddy conditions.

Lucy came into school with an amazing trophy after her team came second in the under 18s category.

The difficulty of this event is a show of endeavour, endurance and resilience and demonstrates the skills and qualities in Lucy. We are extremely proud of her achievement.

Lucy is an extremely busy girl at KGS also through her involvement in lots of activities as part of the Active Schools Young Leaders team; what an inspiration! Keep up the great work, Lucy!



Congratulations to Katie Dunbar (left) at gaining her Dance Leader hoodie for 10 hours of coaching dance in the local community and at school. What a brilliant achievement!



## Active Schools Young Leaders Achievement

Congratulations to Stuart Mackie (to the right) at gaining 10 hours of participating in our young leader programme. Stuart is involved in lunchtime sessions and is a welcome addition to our group work.







## Byres Farm Visit

The Learning Outdoors and Rural Skills Trip on Tuesday 21st March was a great success! The pupils really enjoyed hearing about the evolution of Byres Farm and the diversification. Pupils enjoyed listening to Helen Smith and learning about training opportunities for young women in farming and the skills required to be a modern farmer.

The highlight of the day seemed to be feeding the goats (and the fly cup went down rather well too!)



## Interhouse Highland Dancing Competition



We recently held an Interhouse Highland Dancing competition here at Keith Grammar School, organised by our very own Abbie Kellas. Our dancers took part in a series of routines under the judging eye of Sarah-Ann. Well done to Abbie, Lilly and Katie for participating in this event. A big thank you to Mr Tubbs who created the stunning winners medals, pictured below.



Pictured above are the prize winning dancers alongside judge Sarah-Ann. (left to right) are: Katie Dunbar, Lily Dunbar, Abbie Kellas. Well done to all three and a huge thank you to Sarah-Ann for her expertise.



## TMSA Music Competition

Family success for S1 Phoebe George, and her sister Holly at the TMSA Competition day on Saturday 18th March 2023.

TMSA is the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland.

Holly won the Junior Fiddle category, and Phoebe won the Junior Scots Verse category.

What a weekend of success and plenty to celebrate in the George household after both wins!

Well done to Phoebe and to Holly and keep up the great work!



## Moray Netball Festival

On the 9th and 16th March, Active Schools ran a Moray Wide Netball festival at Gordonstoun. Two teams from KGS Team took part and played against teams from across Moray. It was a great experience for all and the girls did KGS proud!

A huge thanks to Laura Simmers and Iain Grieve for driving the community bus, Janice Innes, Fiona Mckerell and Alex Young for providing adult support and supervision.



Thanks also to Caitlin Brown and Aimee Tasker for providing team support, tactical advice and motivation to the Junior Team throughout the festival. The girls would not have had this fantastic experience without all your help!

And lastly, but by no means least, a huge thank you to Amanda Walker for her sterling work with Active Schools and providing the incredible opportunities for all young people at KGS.



(Top picture) KGS Netball Team

(Bottom picture) KGS Junior Netball





# Heartstopper Event

The LGBTQI+ Group ran a very popular Heartstopper event in the school hall on the 24th February.

Pupils were invited to wear a touch of purple for the day to support the LGBTQI+ Community and were treated to a variety of activities run by our very organised and enthusiastic group.

There was even a comfortable and quiet corner, where you could relax and read the Heartstopper books and delicious home bakes for sale.

Thanks to Miss Campbell and Miss Harvey for organising!

Follow the group on twitter @KGSGLGBT





## Moray Heroes

We are proud to announce that we have two worthy finalists in Moray Heroes 2023.

Mrs Jacquie McLeish, Teacher of Business, has been nominated for Secondary Teacher of the Year, and Craig Dick (S4) has also received nominations for Secondary Pupil of the Year.

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 20th April, fingers crossed and good luck to both nominees for Keith Grammar School!



## Red Nose Day

KGS celebrated and fundraised for Red Nose Day on the 17th March. Our Pupil Leadership Team excelled again and organised an enjoyable event, full of fun activities, including 'Pin the red nose on the teacher,' mystery box and a Space Hopper race. The organisation, team working and leadership skills they have shown have allowed us to have great fun again at break time.



Celebration of Success



## Young Anti-Smoking & Vaping Ambassadors



We are very proud of our young anti-smoking/vaping ambassadors who met with Lindsay Black, Health Improvement Team, Moray to discuss plans on educating young people about smoking and vaping. These pupils ran a stall at Senior Parent's Evenings and will be involved in a forthcoming community event.

Well done, Aimee, Kate, Niamh and Mackenzie, and thanks to Lynsey for mentoring these young people in this leadership opportunity.

## DYW Big Build Competition

On Friday 24th March, our young people from the ASN Department took part in the DYW Big Build Competition at Moray College UHI. After weeks of careful planning and construction our team only went on to win the Secondary School Trophy!

The pupils have been developing lots of skills as they worked hard to build the Newmill Clock Tower, their chosen local landmark.

Fantastic work everyone we couldn't be more proud of your achievement!



## World Maths Day

Thank you to all the pupils and staff who participated in World Maths Day competitions on the 8th March.

There was much debate over how many sweets were in the jar, even some mathematical calculations took place. Fun was also had at the Countdown competition. Big thank you to the Maths Department for organising!





## Ethics Cup 2023

On the 22nd February, KGS, in partnership with Buckie Community High School, hosted The North East Scotland Regional of the 2023 Ethics Cup.

This is a tournament in which teams comprised of S4-S6 pupils match wits with each other, discussing ethical issues of public concern. Organised by the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, a research centre within the department of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews, the cup is now in its 5th year.

This year, in addition to welcoming returning teams from KGS, BCHS, and St Paul's RC Academy in Dundee, we were thrilled to have Elgin Academy, Fraserburgh Academy and St Margaret's School for Girls, all joining the tournament for the first time.

After a full day of lively discussion and debate, Fraserburgh Academy were declared as the regional winner. They will now go to compete in the finals at St Andrew's University in May. Congratulations to them and well done to all and to all participants for a hard fought competition.

A special thank you must go to Mrs Bothoms who organised this excellent day along with colleagues in the English department. We would also like to thank our guests of honour who were on hand to judge the proceedings and had the hard task of scoring the discussions.



**KGS Ethics Cup Team (pictured left)** (left to right): Jessica Morrison, (S4) Robbie McAskie (S5); Kenna Johnston (S4) & Cassie Findlay (S6). **Ethics Cup Judges (pictured right)** (left to right): Rev. Amy Bender (Parent Council); Bent Michielsen (Former KGS Pupil) & Linda Riggall. (Parent Council).

## Allied Health Professionals

We are very proud of our proactive S2 pupils Jakub, Danny and Kirsty, for taking part in a virtual work experience with Allied Health Professionals.

They will all receive a certificate of participation which will help with college, university or job applications. Great work everyone!







## Archery

The ASN Department have had some enjoyable sessions working on their Archery skills ready for the Sport in Moray Festival. All pupils showed excellent concentration skills and improved their aim over the sessions.

Mrs Campbell has also earned the title of Maid Marian!





## Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) Final

YPI engages groups of students to develop skills and confidence by raising awareness of social issues and local charities. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students.

On Wednesday this week we were able to host our YPI final in school. S3 pupils have been working on their presentations throughout the term, and six teams took part in the final which was judged by school staff and local partners from the community and the world of work. 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 £3000.

This year, the winning charity was Moray Sonas Wellbeing Service (Action for Children). Well done to all pupils who took part in this worthwhile venture.



We would like to thank the professional panel who generously gave their time on the day to judge the event; Samira Nicholson (DYW Coordinator), Mike Duncan (Federation Small Business), Ian Grieve (KGS Inclusion officer), Martin Birse (Elgin Rotary club president), Anne Sim (YPI coordinator for Moray and East Highland) and Rebecca Cheyne (YPI Programme Office).

A special thank you to our S6 pupils involved with the preparation of the finale; Cassie Findlay, Katie Dunbar, Fiona Stewart and Aimee Stronach. We also cannot forget to thank our HE department who also did yummy cupcakes with some YPI design on them for our judges. Well done everyone!

