



Keith Grammar School

# Celebration of Success

Term 4 Newsletter | June 2023

## Head Prefects Newsletter Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to this year's final edition of our Celebration of Success Newsletter. As Keith Grammar School's newly appointed Head Prefects, we are delighted to share with you the many achievements of our young people and staff. It has been a very busy term with our young people taking part in many activities, in and out of school, as well staff and pupils settling into their new timetables and classes. We will all be ready for the Summer Break!

We are delighted to welcome some new members of staff to our school in August;

Mr Sam Martin, Depute Head Teacher  
Mr Blair Cunningham, Teacher of Biology & Science  
Mrs Donna Hamilton, Senior Clerical Assistant  
Mrs Pamela Fanning, Clerical Assistant  
Mrs Dawn Cowie, Pupil Support Assistant

We wish a very happy retirement to our lovely office ladies; Mrs Sheila Nicoll and Mrs Caroline Winchester, who's combined time here at KGS totals nearly 55 years!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Nicky Bothoms, who takes up post as PT English at Milne's High, Miss Caron Flett who will be starting as Teacher of Music at Portlethen Academy and Ms Josie Raffan, who returns to Buckie High School as PT Music & Drama.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very restful and enjoyable Summer Holiday!

Best Wishes,  
Robbie McAskie & Aaron Stewart



Ready  
Respectful  
Safe



## Dates for the diary

**In-Service Day**  
Monday 14th August

**School Reopens**  
Tuesday 15th August

**Senior Parent's Info Evening**  
Thursday 31st August

**S4-6 Progress Reports**  
Wednesday 13th September

**S1 Parents Evening**  
Thursday 21st September

**S3 Progress Reports**  
Wednesday 4th October

**Term Ends**  
Friday 6th October

## Keith Grammar School

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## SQA Level 5 Beekeeping

This past year has seen the successful start of the SQA Level 5 Beekeeping course at Keith Grammar School. Pupils have been working through the introductory unit of the Beekeeping course and been successful in gaining their first unit. They have been out to visit the beehives and gaining 'hands-on' experience in preparation for Unit 2 commencing this year.

We extracted honey last August and managed to sell all of the jars. We also made soap and lip balm for Christmas.

*(Many thanks to "Bee-Fair" and to "Webster's Beef" for selling our products.)*

Our beehives are now much closer to KGS and we have extracted our second batch of honey which you can pick up from school reception after the Summer holidays.

Remember: BEE HAPPY!



## Our Hero

Our local hero Marley Jones (S2) was very busy at the end of last term doing some incredible work to help others. Marley completed the Inverness 5k and managed to hit his goal and raised £200 for the charity SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity). A very humble young person, he kept his achievement extremely quiet but we think it is worth celebrating and we are very proud of his success.

### Marley is doing a 5k! To raise money for veterans

I am trying to raise £200 for SSAFA because they defended our country to keep us safe



**£200**

raised of **£200** target  
by 20 supporters



## Soccer Aid

'KGS does Soccer Aid' was a huge success. The 'Beat the Goallkeeper' became a bit of a grudge match between Mr Allardice and Mr Turner. Riley smashed it out of the park, with a massive 170+ keepy ups in 1 minute! We even had time for a crossbars challenge, won by Mr Allardice and Ian. Thanks to all participants and spectators.



## Horse Riding

There's neighhhhhh stopping these guys who were awarded certificates for improving their equine skills at Cranloch Stables. After the 'mane' event, here they are being rewarded by a fine Ice Cream in Fochabers on the way home. A well planned event.....neigh spur of the moment!





## Senior Phase Award's Ceremony

On the 20th June, we enjoyed celebrating success with our Senior Prize Winners at our annual Award's Ceremony. Parents were welcomed by our very talented Pipers; S6 Leaver, Cassie Findlay and S2 pupil, Barron Stevenson. Special Guests from Moray Council Education, KGS Parent Council, Former Head Teachers, and Local Councillors, Employers and Pastors were treated to an Afternoon Tea provided by Home Economics Teacher, Miss Kirsten Stewart and Senior Hospitality and Barista students.

Mr Kevin Pirie, Master of Ceremonies did a splendid job of guiding us through the evening, which began with the Senior Leadership's Team address, excellently delivered by Mrs Laura Main. Senior Pupils were presented with Merit Awards, which celebrate effort and commitment, with nominations coming from teachers across Keith Grammar. These were followed by Attainment Awards, which recognise academic achievement in subjects areas.





Parents, Pupils, Staff and Partners were treated to some fantastic musical performances from Rachel Low, playing a Scottish Waltz on the Accordion and Jake Grant's singing Elton John's 'Your Song.' The talent and stage presence of these young people was outstanding.

Guest Speakers, Neil Petrie and Martin Birse gave two very interesting and insightful speeches which focused on the core values displayed by our young people and how these will help them as they go forward into further study or the world of work. A huge thank you to both of our excellent speakers.

The last awards of the evening were the Special Awards and Exceptional Awards, which recognise young people who have demonstrated the desirable values for learning, life and work. Winners in this category have also demonstrated a commitment to the wider community through voluntary work and leadership of community groups.

A special thank you to all our sponsors for the evening, and huge well done to all young people receiving awards.



## Keith Grammar School

A thriving school environment is an important part of the experience we offer our pupils. Developing a variety of spaces across our campus can help create purposeful alternatives to the classroom. We need your help and ideas to support the design, planning and regeneration



## Celebrating Success in the English Department

The English Department held a Celebrating Success event for the BGE pupils. The pupils completed a Kahoot based on the units they have studied, with some sweets for brain power! Pupils also received a certificate for Excellence, Attitude, Effort and Accelerated Reader. Well done everyone!



## S6 Residential

S6 pupils made the most of the sunshine on their S6 Residential Trip at Badaguish Outdoor Centre, which took place from the Monday 28th May to Thursday 1st June. S6 pupils took part in a jam packed program, including First Aid training, Resilience Workshops, Outdoor Sports, Team Building and Orienteering. They returned to school on Thursday for Senior Induction looking rather tired and sunburnt! A fantastic experience for our young people. A special thank you to Parent Council for their support in organising funding for this amazing opportunity.



## School Sports Award

We're thrilled to have earned a Silver School Sport Award. This recognises the school's commitment to continuous improvement in school sport and physical activity. Big thanks to Katie Dunbar (who has just left) for assisting Amanda Walker, Active Schools Coordinator in this project – just another reason why Katie will make a great future PE teacher!





## Activities Day

This year, we were able to offer activities days to our young people on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Some of the activities included trips to landmark, surfing, football, Harry Potter Science, baking and Disney themed animation to name only a few.

These activities days give all of our pupils and teachers to develop relationships as well as a number of skills that will then support them in the classroom. The weather shone over the two days which was a massive help and everyone had a fabulous time. Huge thanks to the KGS staff who helped to organise these activities days.





## Active Schools

The Active Schools Young Leader group currently has around 20 members. Our activities include:

**Providing year-round lunchtime activities for S1 and S2 pupils.** This has been one of our biggest successes of the year with all Young Leaders giving up many of their own lunchtimes to make this happen.

**Mentoring and supporting younger pupils to take part in festival events.** KGS has a strong netball team which has attracted a number of new players. This year we were lucky enough to take part in a Moray-wide netball festival at Gordonstoun. Senior players Caitlin Brown and Aimee Tasker volunteered their time to support the junior team at their festival.

**Coaching sports and activities to children and young people.** New Young Leaders start by shadowing more experienced leaders and built experience and confidence to eventually go on to assist and then lead their own sessions. Through this journey, our more senior leaders took on a mentoring role. The bulk of Active Schools sessions are delivered by KGS Young Leaders.





**Promoting Active Schools** at assembly and in classes. New recruit Barron Stevenson spoke at each S1 to S3 PSE class to get folks signed up to our Football for All sessions.

**Creating and running projects.** This year, in her Young Ambassador role, Ellen Large ran a successful Community Sports project where local clubs came together across 3 Friday afternoons to deliver short taster sessions to Keith Primary Pupils.

**Supporting community projects.** Abbie McWilliam and Ross Dalgarno have helped to get our Kit for All project off the ground by building shelves for storage and also sorting and logging donated items.

**Contributing to the local community** by;

- Delivering seated activities at Glenisla Care Home
- Working at KPS and St Thomas Sports Days and Highland Games
- Staffing a stall at KGS Health Fair
- Supporting a recent KPS Clothing Drive

**Taking part in Coach Education Opportunities** such as First Aid, Basketball, Badminton and Competition Organiser Training.

**You can find out more about the Active Schools Young Leader Programme here:**

<http://sportinmoray.co.uk/mcsh/young-leaders/>





## Highland Show Trip

KGS Pupils and Staff had a great day out at The Highland Show on Thursday 22nd June. With so much to see and do, combined with the beautiful weather, it really was a day to remember for our young people. One of the big highlights was meeting Comedian Jim Smith, who kindly recorded a wee video for everyone back at school.

A big thank you to the NFU for kindly sponsoring this trip, your support is very much appreciated.





## Highland Games

The Highland Games was once again, a huge success and a very enjoyable day. There were an array of events from Long Jump and High Jump, to Caber Toss and Tug of War.

As well as sporting events, we were treated to displays from the KGS Pipe Band and Highland Dancers. Mr Pirie received a huge rendition of Happy Birthday from KGS pupils. I bet he thought he'd escaped anyone finding out he was turning the big 40!

A massive thank you to the PE Department for the organisation of the event,





## Senior Induction

On Thursday 1st, and Friday 2nd June Senior Pupils returned from Exam Leave to take part in our Senior Induction. Senior Pupils spent time with Senior Leadership and The Guidance Team discussing individual timetables, leadership opportunities and our school's Vision and Values. They then went into a series of workshops on Positive Mindset (ran by our Youth Worker, Ann Ruthven), Leadership (ran by PT English, Paula Sangster) and Pathways (ran by our Guidance Team).

The Senior Induction was concluded with a Team Building activity organised by PT Technical, Steven Tubbs and PT Physics, Ruth Jenkins. Senior Pupils worked together in teams to complete a series of tasks that require critical thinking, problem solving and team work. The Senior Pupils really impressed us over the two days, and we look forward to seeing what they do with the year ahead.



## Summer Sizzler

The Summer Sizzler was a fantastic event, seeing young people of all ages attending. All Tricket were, as always, absolutely brilliant and got everyone on their feet and dancing! Young people enjoyed a mixture of Ceilidh and Disco music and everyone looked fantastic in their Summer outfits.

True to the Summer Sizzler name, burgers and hot dogs were provided during the break and Summer Mocktails kept everyone cool. Huge thank you to the Home Economics Department for providing these. A big thank you also goes to the organising committee, led by Mrs Young and to the Parent Council for funding the Band.





## Lego League

There was great excitement on the 30th May, as our budding young engineers scooped up lots of prizes and praise at the RAF Youth and Stem Innovator event held at KGS. There was a fair buzz around the place - thank you to Mrs Jenkins and Mr Tubbs for organisation and support. What a great bunch and a total credit to us at KGS.



## 40 Year's Service

What would we do without Linda? KGS' longest serving member of staff received her certificate of long service this month at the Town Hall, Elgin. Linda - Mrs Innes - not only provides invaluable assistance and expertise in her technician role but has, for 40 years, been a source of encouragement, advice and TLC for both staff and pupils. The same day as receiving her award, she was assisting at the Summer Sizzler, which is just one example of her going the extra mile. She has a heart of gold and we are lucky to have her and wholeheartedly congratulate her on 40 years ruby red service. Thank you, Linda!



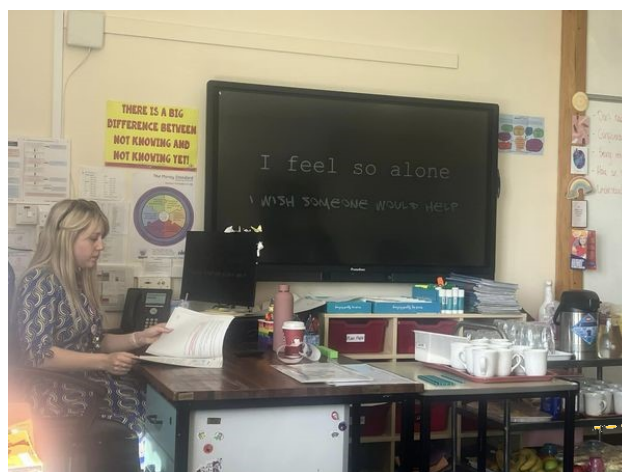


## MVP Training

Mentors in Violence Prevention is a peer led mentoring programme that upskills young people in recognising and challenging cultural norms and beliefs that underpin gender based violence in our society. In October, staff members from KGS underwent two day training and this month, we were pleased to roll the programme out to our Seniors who will take a leadership role. This includes leading sessions in PSE and running a hub so that younger pupils will have a safe space to talk to a peer about bullying issues.

On Day Two of the training, our young mentors planned and delivered lessons to peers. This included lessons on keeping safe on the internet, in the school corridors and coping with peer pressure. The mentors will deliver these lessons to S2 and S3 pupils in PSE next session. They all did very well and hopefully feel confident and ready to hit the classroom! Our mentors were also trained in Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Well done to all our mentors, and big thank you to Miss Stewart for providing the naughty, but nice refreshments and some healthy treats!



**MVP**  
Scotland  
Mentors in Violence Prevention

Challenging Gender Based Violence, Everyone's Responsibility



## Transition

Our P7 Transition event was held in June. Young people attended a mixture of classes and events. On the first day, P7 were welcomed by Mrs Main and the Pupil Support Team. They got to know their buddies and the focus was kindness.

On the second day, Mrs Sangster and Ms Ralf organised a sustainability event on the Astro, focused on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Young Leaders from S2 and the Senior Phase worked together with Primary 7s to participate in a variety of fun activities. It was a very hot day and lots of water and sunscreen were provided.

On the third day, we held a Health and Wellbeing Community Fayre with our GIRFEC partners. This was organised by Lindsay Black, NHS and Ann Ruthven, Youth Worker. Rev Dr Amy Bender organised activities with Mission Aviation Fellowship, and this included having a aeroplane outside for young people and staff to explore.

Later in June, Primary 7 took part in our Highland Games. They participated in the races, wellie throwing and tug of war, after attending lessons throughout May with KGS PE Staff.

In addition, some young people, have been visiting KGS more regularly as part of an enhanced provision programme organised by Mrs Campbell, and a supported programme organised by Ann Ruthven and Inclusion Coordinator, Iain Grieve.





## Head Prefects & House Captains

Congratulations to our newly appointed Head Prefects (Robbie McAskie & Aaron Stewart) and House Captains (Ben Kidd, Maisy Turner, Ryan Morrison and Megan Riach). Here are Robbie, Ben and Megan pictured below, all looking very smart in their new school uniforms. School Uniforms can be purchased via the School Website. Please find our School Uniform Policy below.



Keith Grammar School

## School Uniform Policy



### Expectations of young people in school

**All pupils should be wearing uniform from the following options:**

- Black skirt/trousers/shorts
- Black shoes (need not be formal)
- Plain white shirt/Polo shirt/T-shirt
- School tie is provided and can be worn daily/for formal occasions
- Black jumper/cardigan if required (non-branded)
- Prefect tie for any young person in a student leadership position
- Black blazer/jumper (with KGS badge)

**In addition to this, all pupils should:**

- Not be wearing a hood over their head in class.
- Not be wearing a jacket in class or in assembly.
- Not be wearing jeans of any description
- Not be wearing tracksuits.
- Not be wearing any clothing which is branded and has large logos/motifs.

**Any pupil who is not in appropriate school uniform will be offered alternative clothing to wear.**