

Newsletter April 2012



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Rector's Message

Dear Parents,

Unlike last year we have had a very mild winter and the school has continued to operate uninterrupted by the weather.

This has helped greatly with the new building works which are now near completion. The renovated ground floor of the four-storey building has been open since early March. At that time both the Guidance and Support for Learning departments decanted into the new rooms. Pupils also began to use the new social space which has a food serving kiosk within.

The building that will join the two previous separate buildings, known as the Hub, should be finished as we return from the Easter holidays. We may not get immediate access to this as Building Control will have to carry out final checks before it is handed over to the school. This will provide four classrooms: 2 for Technical, 1 for PE and 1 for the Guidance department. There will also be new offices and staffroom. This will release space in the present buildings for RE, Music, Maths and the English departments. In all, this will be a great boost for the school.

Looking forward to next term we have the important SQA exams, the P7 two day visit, the activities days and of course prizegiving. For students who are planning to leave school who still

require a careers appointment, please contact the guidance teacher.

Easter is always a critical period for exam preparation, and S3, 4, 5 and 6 students should ensure that they have the revision material they require for personal study over the holiday period and the remaining short period of time before the exams.

Parents can help by providing a quiet place for students to study and provide some positive encouragement. A reasonable amount of sleep is also important, as is a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables and non-fizzy drinks.

In going round the primary schools and speaking to parents of the P7 children it is clear that there continues to be some anxiety amongst parents about the Curriculum for Excellence developments. We had some good sessions with the P7 parents recently as we visited the primaries. We attach the leaflet we have issued to parents of both primary and S1 to this newsletter, which should help you understand the main points about the new curriculum. This should add to the information already provided for parents at the information evening held in September. Please note that we will hold another such evening next session to update parents on what is happening within the school.

Have a great Easter holiday. We wish all of our students every success in their forthcoming exams.

School Meals Prices

The price of school meals has been revised. The price of a two course meal will now be £1.90. Pupils will benefit from a great range of money off meal deal options as a new secondary menu rolls out over the coming weeks.

Please also note that packed lunches can be pre-ordered for school trips for both pupils who pay for their lunch and those who get free school meals.

Money and Finance Day

On Monday the 23rd January some pupils from the Business Management and Administration classes took part in a one day course about Finance and Budgeting. The course was run by Colin Campbell from Business Dynamics which is part of the Enterprise Education Trust, "one of the UK's leading business and enterprise education charities".

When we arrived in the morning we were put into teams and then had to choose a name for our team that related to money. Throughout the day there were a number of challenges and quizzes that gave us an opportunity to bank points; the team with the most points at the end of the day would win a mystery prize! The final and biggest challenge of the day was organising a gig.



Colin Campbell, business dynamics tutor, advising pupils on their presentations



Darren McDonald showing off his "gig" poster

We were given a budget and had to work out how much we were spending, and what our final profit was, while also creating posters, leaflets and tickets for the event. The winning team was Ka-ching, with 28 points, but it was a close call, with the other four teams only falling one or two points behind.

Colin then presented us with certificates that he said would prove to be valuable additions to our CV's. All in all it was a fun day, and will be useful to us in the future.

Daniel Duncan and Ruth Saunders (S4)

Dance Show

The rehearsals for the dance show started before Christmas. Rehearsals were productive; people could learn a whole dance within the hour but also the dancers were able to have a laugh and not lose their interest and enthusiasm that they carried forward into the show itself. A lot of time and effort was put into the dances and quite a few of our own ideas were put into the routines. Pupils choreographing their own routines tried to show the same attention to detail as Jennifer Younger and Rachel Livingston who ran the dance workshop.

The dance show this year didn't have a specific theme. Instead, it incorporated a variety of different dancing styles and very different music. As with all shows, there were a couple of slip-ups but these went unnoticed by the audience. Those who were asked said they enjoyed the show. One person enjoyed the show so much they went both nights! All the dancers are really grateful to Michelle Mackay who ran the Dance club all year!

Rhona Dorchester (S4)

Sport Relief 2012

The school fundraising committee organised a week of sport filled activities in aid of Sport Relief. On Wednesday 21st the sport council members Alison Scott and Cameron Dick organised an alternative sports day for the senior school which included a space hopper mat race. On Thursday 22nd there was a Staff v Pupils netball and football tournament, where both teams won one game each.

The main school events took place on Friday 23rd which included 4 P.E. classes doing the mile, 6th year slave auction, muffin and cookie sale, Non-Uniform Day and a whole school mile during lunch. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the weeks events. The school raised an amazing £1500!

Scott Jewell (S6)



Staff and pupils at the start of the Sport Relief Mile

BBC School Report

The BBC School Report was about getting young children involved in researching, writing and reporting their own news stories. For the first few weeks we brought in and talked about different news stories and how they were presented. Then we got into groups and decided on our own story that we would research and film to go live on a broadcast on the BBC school news reports website.

After a few weeks Mrs Pieroni, who was leading the project, invited Peter Small, a sports producer from BBC Scotland to come and work with us. He explained what was expected of us in our reports. He taught us different camera shots and better ways of laying out our stories. Then we started filming our news reports.



Peter Small and Wendy Pieroni who awarded the BHS reporters with BBC School Report Certificates

We decided to report on school uniform. We started with an opening headline. We interviewed Mr Miller, Mr Pullar and the lady who works at Reid's store. They all said that uniform is important for numbers of reasons; one of the main reasons is that uniform allows pupils at Blairgowrie High School to be identified.

We had 2 days of filming, one a practice and the other was when we chose our news story and filmed it with Peter Small. Thursday 15th March was the BBC big news day. We started the day by checking the newspapers to see what the headlines were. Then we split into groups to finish filming our big news stories, work on links and pieces to camera. By the end of the day we had created our own BBC news report which lasted for 8 minutes! We had lots of fun and learned a lot from this club. We would recommend it to others for next year.

Hannah Oosterhorn and Teigan Robinson (S1)

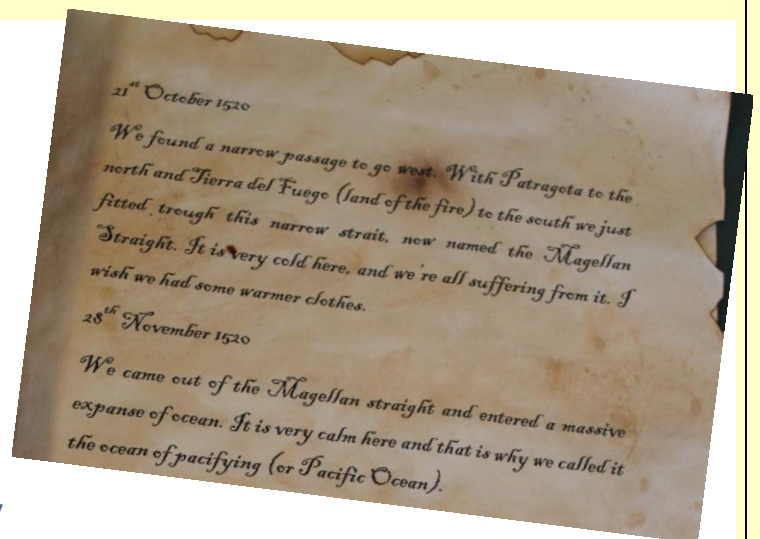
Watch it by following the link on the B.H.S Website or go direct to http://youtu.be/Y_ul-fFF6No.

Pupil Council Trip to Westminster

The Pupil Council is a group of 1st to 6th years who are the voice of the pupils in the school. In January the Pupil Council, lead by Mr Nicholson, journeyed to London to see where the whole of Great Britain is run. We set off at midnight and after a gruelling bus journey we arrived at in London. We had a day of leisure, and sight seeing including photo opportunities at Downing Street, Buckingham Palace and the London Eye

On the second morning we arrived at Westminster. Everyone was in awe to be in the building that they had seen so many times in films and on TV. Instead of going through the grand entrance as we thought we would, we had to go past security and through an underground tunnel, guarded by a stone lion and unicorn. We were now inside the Palace of Westminster. Men and Women in expensive looking suits strode past, talking quietly to each other. Our guide led us through the back corridors of the Palace and into the central lobby. Our tour began with a viewing of a House of Lords debate on Domestic Abuse while the guide pointed out the TV cameras, important faces and the gothic furniture of the debating chamber. We also went into the debating chamber of the House of Commons. After a quick visit to the historic Westminster Hall, we were lead to a small board room where we were met by a very enthusiastic woman. She split us into two teams for a debating competition to see who could win over public opinion. We had a fantastic time (apart from the bus trip!) Our best memory of the trip was seeing the magnificent building for the first time. We learned how difficult being a politician really is!

Tom Walker and Angus Rutherford (S2)



Dear Diary,

We decide to head for a place called Mactan. We offer to be there lord or we will fight them. But they decline so we head for shore at midnight. We had 60 armed men. We wait until daylight before we head for shore. 11 men stay with our boats. The rest of us waded slowly to shore because of the heavy army that was on us. When we get there we found out that there were 1500 people on the island. Magellan's right leg gets pierced by a spear. Then he commanded the rest of the crew to retreat back to the ships. All of the men and I go back to the ship but Magellan and 8 other people stay there and fought them for about an hour. During the time period 1 of the islanders stabs Magellan in the heart and he dies. The islander's near by saw this and kills Magellan. The new captain is called Sebastian Del Cano.

Dear Diary

As part of our History topic, Voyages of Discovery, we had to write a diary about Magellan's voyage. We had to make it look and sound like we were actually taking part in the voyage. We made the diaries look old by using tea bags to stain the paper and either by putting the paper in the oven or burning the edges with candles. Izzy used a blowtorch!!!

We had to include all the main events of the voyage, which included, stops made, fights, people they met, loss of crew and ships.

Some of the most interesting and exciting parts were about the mutiny, the starvation on the Pacific Crossing, scurvy and the fight at Mactan. To make the diary seem real we included information on the feelings and experiences of our person.

The result of our hard work is that we have produced informative and exciting pieces of extended writing.

Izzy Milford, Fern Smith and Kay Henderson (S1)

Trivial History

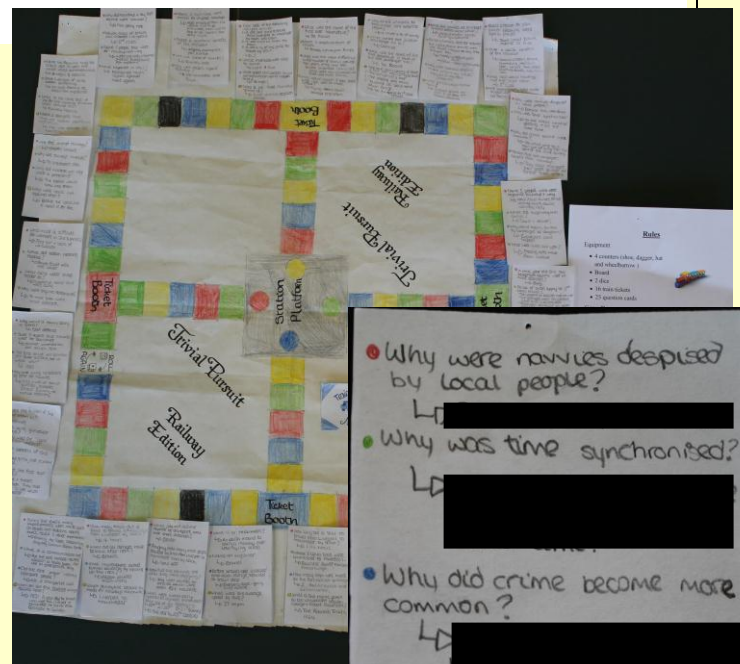
Our homework assignment was to create a board game about railways. It was a fun and challenging way to incorporate our own knowledge into a board game.

We chose, "Trivial Pursuit: Railway Edition" because we wanted a goal for the game that could be moulded to railways and learning all about them.

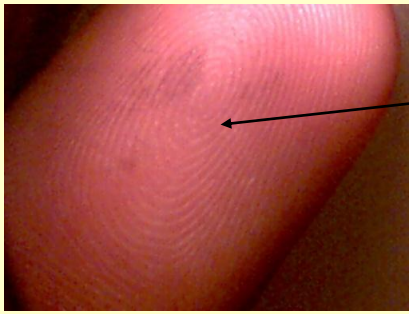
Creating a board game may sound like quite a simple thing to do but it is quite the opposite. You have to come up with the main idea, create a board to play on and a set of rules as well as question cards of some sort. We soon found out that it was rather time consuming and that we would have to work effectively and efficiently if we wanted to meet the deadline.

Fortunately we managed it on time and we were pleased to hear that our classmates found it a difficult yet enjoyable game to play.

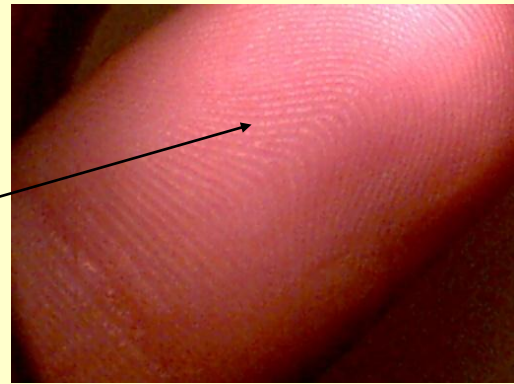
Eidlidh Smith and Rachel Hepburn (S2)



- Why were navvies despised by local people?
↳ [redacted]
 - Why was time synchronised?
↳ [redacted]
 - Why did crime become more common?
↳ [redacted]
 - How did Post and newspapers benefit from railways
↳ [redacted]
- Can you answer these questions???



This is a whorl fingerprint...



...and this is an arch.

Forensic Rookies

In the Forensic project pupils learned about how forensic scientists analyse crime scene information and used what they'd learned to try to solve a "crime", working with other people in a Glow Meet.

"A painting of a lovely winter scene was stolen from a gallery. The last person to see it was the cleaner at 7.30 pm. We found fingerprints, blood spatters, footprints, hair and some teeth marks.

"We learned that when you look at animal and human hair in a microscope you can easily tell the difference. Animal hairs have a dark line through the middle but human hairs don't.

"There are different kinds of fingerprints and everybody's fingerprint is unique. The three types are called "whorls", "arches" and "loops".

"Bite marks can also be used to identify people. There are 4 types of teeth - incisors, canines, pre-molars and molars.

"We learned that footprints can show if a person has been running or walking and also show if a person's shoes have worn treads.

"We used fake blood to make blood spatters. If the blood is dropped from a height it makes a big spatter. If the person is running the spatter is long and thin with its tail pointing in the direction you are running.

"On Glow, we met with a Forensic scientist from Dundee University, and shared information with pupils from Coupar Angus Primary School and other schools. We figured out that the crime was committed by Danielle St John. She works as a vet and we'd found animal hairs. Her fingerprints matched bloody fingerprints we'd found on a broken window at the crime scene."

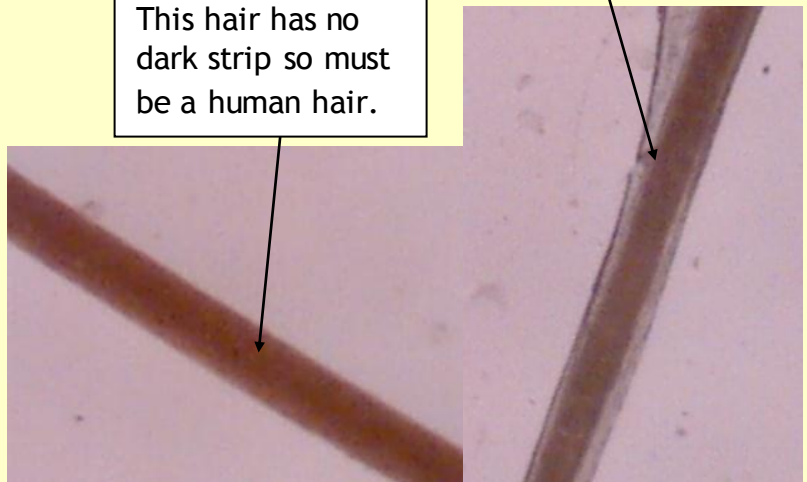
Kay Henderson and Danielle Forbes (S1)



Investigating blood spatters.

This hair has a dark strip down the middle so is an animal hair.

This hair has no dark strip so must be a human hair.



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High
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**Please
Remember:**

It is important
that we are able
to keep in contact
with you.

What's Coming Up....

Date	Event
School Terms and In-Service Days	
Fri 30 March	Last Day of Spring Term School closes at 3.40 pm
Mon 16 April	In-Service Day
Tue 17 March	First Day of Summer Term
Mon 7 May	May Day Holiday
Thur 31 May and Fri 1 June	S1 and S2 Activity Days
Tue 5 June	Diamond Jubilee Holiday
Wed 27 June	Last Day of Summer Term School closes at noon

Date	Event
Reports, Parents' Evenings and Exams	
April	Revision focus for all classes in S3 to S6
Thur 26 April	First day of SQA exam leave for S3 and S4 pupils
Tue 8 May	First day of SQA exam leave for S5 and S6 pupils
Week Beginning Mon 11 May	S1 Common Assessments
Fri 1 June	Last day of SQA exam leave for all pupils
Mon 4 June	New timetable starts
Mon 4 June	S2 Reports issued

If your any of your contact details change, please let the office or your child's register or guidance teacher know.

Text Book Appeal

At Blairgowrie High School, several departments have noted that many copies of essential course textbooks are missing from their current stock. We understand that pupils have, over the years, taken them home but have forgotten to return them.

Therefore, we'd appreciate it if parents/carers could have a look at home for any copies of textbooks or typed booklets that may have been borrowed in the past by their children. In the current economic climate, it would really help some departments if missing copies are returned for the sake of our current and future pupils.

After some parents enquired about extra text books and study guides purchased but no longer needed by their children, Mr Fernandez (PT Business Studies) organised an Enterprise group of Senior pupils to set up and manage this Textbook Appeal.

Any books handed in may be distributed to departments; sold through the group; donated to the Malawi Appeal.

When handing in any textbooks and study guides to Reception, please indicate that they are for the BHS Textbook Appeal. If a parent/carer requests that the book is to be sold on their behalf rather than donated, they should contact Mr Fernandez for more information.