

Newsletter March 2013



Gordon Miller	Rector
Lynn Bryce	Depute Rector (Pupil Support and Tay House)
John Devine	Depute Rector (Curriculum and Stormont House)
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Rector's Message

Dear Parents,

You will be aware that the inspection, which was held in the last week of November, has now been reported on, and you should have received the resulting letter from the HMI a few weeks ago. There will be a parents' meeting on Monday, 22 April at 6.30pm in the school hall to discuss this. You should receive a letter with this newsletter confirming the details.

The inspectors have given the school a clear indication of what they thought should be our priorities over the coming few years. I would like to reassure parents that we will be working very hard with the authority and our school community to address the issues that HMI have raised with us, as we did with the previous inspection.

Looking forward to next term we have the important SQA exams, the P7 two day visit, the activities days and of course prizegiving. 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.

While we are hopeful that our pupils will achieve very well this year collectively, each individual pupil will be anxious to do the best they can. Parents can help by providing a quiet place for students to study and provide some positive encouragement during the revision and exam period. A reasonable amount of sleep is also important, as is a balanced diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables and non-fizzy drinks.

We intend to hold a parent information evening next term to keep parents up-to-date with the Curriculum for Excellence developments. A date has not been finalised yet for this.

I took the opportunity of recognising the great support that we receive from parents in a recent Blairgowrie Advertiser article. I would add that the Parent Council in particular provides a great opportunity for parents to become more closely involved with the school and I would recommend anyone with an interest in the school and our future developments to come along. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 17 April. The meetings are held in the staffroom and start at 6.30pm, and generally last for no more than two hours.

Should any parents wish to contact the school about their child then I would ask that you contact the guidance teacher in the first instance. Parents wishing to visit the school to speak to a member of staff are asked to take time to make an appointment. Should you come to the school 'on spec', you may find that the member of staff you are looking for is either out of school or busy. We are always happy to receive and answer queries or provide additional information for parents - just contact our office.

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 £2.05. A new range of Meal Deals will be available and can be viewed on the PKC web pages from Easter www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals.

Dear Parents and Members of the School Community,

The Parent Council would like to take this opportunity, to let you know about our work past and present as there have been a few changes over the years and we feel that maybe not everyone has been aware of this.

The Parent Council (PC) has been in existence since the Scottish Government changes to the parent representation in schools in 2007.

Blairgowrie High School parents ("The Parent Forum") set up the Parent Council for supporting the link between parents and school, with a sub-group of parents being responsible for fundraising activities. Meetings of both groups are open to everyone and we would like to invite you to come along and hear about all the activities and events that are going on in the school "behind the scenes". Meetings start at 6.30 pm and are held in the school's staff room. In future dates will be announced on the school's website (where you can also find the minutes of each meeting) or simply contact the school. The following dates have been agreed for the rest of this school year: 17th April and 29th May.

Over the past year the Parent Council has raised around £3,200 through fundraising activities and donations from charitable trusts (Soutar Trust, PHSical Trust, Blairgowrie Common Good Fund). So far this has helped to purchase software for the Maths Department, a spectrometer for the Physics Department, stoves for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, equipment for the Music Department and the Support for Learning Life Skills Room. We are also supporting the forthcoming "Oscar" Event of the Pupil Council and have reserved funds for Senior Football Strips for the PE Department, Dictionaries for the English Department and the Holocaust Play that had to be postponed to next year.

Future fundraising opportunities have been discussed and are outlined below. Any further suggestions are always welcome.

Judith Pearson
(Co-Treasurer)

Fundraising

We are constantly engaged in fund raising for the school. Every year the school asks us to support a range of projects all designed to enrich the pupil's education. Over the coming year we already have a number of existing projects in the pipeline:

- Sponsored Bungee Jump: Mr Patrick Egan, one of the maths teachers, has bravely offered to do a sponsored bungee jump next term at the Killiecrankie Bridge. This is being kindly donated by John Mason-Strang of Naelimits, the company that operates the jump. John is a former pupil of the school. Details on how you, the pupils and staff can sponsor Mr Egan's jump will be issued next term.
- Sponsored Adventure Trip: We are also organising, together with Naelimits, an adventure trip this August. This will be from Craighall Gorge down the Ericht to Blairgowrie Bridge. This will be in teams of pupils, staff and parents using inflatable rafts for a good part of the journey (not Cargill's Leap!). More details about this adventure and how you can take part and sponsor it will be publicised next term - so watch this space.
- Coupar Angus Charity Shop: Over the past 3 years we have run charity shops in Alyth and Coupar Angus and these have raised around £3000 in total. We are going to open one again in Coupar Angus during November and will be starting to collect donations at the start of next session, so please start to lay aside things you wish to donate.
- Other activities: Other activities are going to be a raffle at Tesco, a coffee morning in Alyth at the start of 2014 and possibly an "All Things Fair At Home Party".

We hope that all these activities will raise lots of money to help pupils in their studies.

If you want to help out (it is fun!) please contact either of these:

- Barrie Rutherford (PC Chair): Tel 01250 876353
e-mail: j.rutherford725@btinternet.com
- Karen McDonald (PC Secretary): Tel 01250 874128
e-mail: kazrok2165@hotmail.com
- the school reception office.

HMI report:

At our last PC meeting we welcomed the many good things the HMI report said about the school and pupils. However, we were particularly disappointed with the evaluation summaries and were at a loss as to how these were arrived at. We were disturbed at the many assertions made in the report which appeared to cast doubt on the quality of teaching and leadership, but we could not see anywhere in the report evidence which backed up these assertions.

We noted that the report said that consultation with parents requires improvement, but found it ironic that no role had been identified by the inspection for parents in the development of additional support, that is considered necessary to improve the school.

We are going to draw up a more detailed response to be sent to HMI and Perth & Kinross Council and we welcome any comments you may have, so that they can be built into what we say. We hope to formalise this at our next meeting held immediately after the Easter break, so if you can get your comments to us well before then that would be great.

You will see that there is going to be a meeting in the school, open to all parents, on April 22nd at 6.30 pm about the report. We intend to draw up a further report based on what is said at the meeting, so please make every effort to come along.

Barrie Rutherford
(PC Chair)

SCHOOL NEWS



BBC SCHOOL REPORT 2013

Some of our pupils from the BBC SCHOOL REPORT 2013 went to Aspirations restaurant in Blairgowrie High School to find some information on the Business Breakfast 2013.

We spoke to Mr Fernandez who helped organize the event. He told us that there had been a lot of planning involved. Prefects were on hand to meet the local business people and the event was held over breakfast, provided by Tayside Contracts, in the school training restaurant. The group provided delegate packs with help from All Things Fair, one of the local businesses represented at the event. Mr Miller, the school Rector, introduced the event and spoke about how important it is for Blairgowrie High School to have strong links in the local business community. Higher Business Management pupils John Driscoll and Kieran Matthews followed with their presentation on the current school achievements in this field and how they would like to expand these. The delegates were then split into groups for a tour of the school where they could meet staff and see classes at work. The event ended with a workshop during which the attendees, pupils and staff discussed ways to improve links between local businesses and Blairgowrie High School.

Pupils Mhari McInnes and Linda Saunders, two of the members of the organising committee answered some of our questions. We asked them what gave them the idea to organise the event. Mhari told us the main purpose was to make more links with local businesses. This in turn would hopefully lead to more work experience and more opportunities for Blairgowrie High School pupils. Linda said the breakfast was going well. The guest speaker, Angela McIntyre from local business Proctors, gave an excellent presentation and lots of businesses turned up.

We also spoke to head prefect Scott Jewell. He told us that it was a really good experience for not just the pupils but all of the departments involved too. We also asked him if this event would benefit any future partnerships the school would have. He told us that he thought that the local businesses now know a lot more about the school and will be able to make more links.

Nicholas Assenti, Andrew MacQueen and Lee Cooney for BBC News School Report 2013

Scottish Children's Book Awards 2013



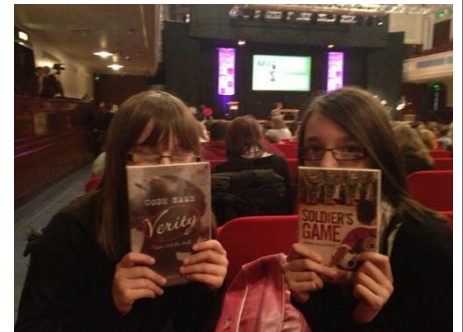
books from the 8-11 category. The one I liked best was "Out of the depths". They had made it into a musical and the little girl sang about how Tyler Lawless, the main character from the book could see and hear dead people asking her to help them!

There was one girl who looked like she really enjoyed herself because when they announced the winners she got up out of her seat and cheered as loud as she could. She always joined in for all the chants that the audience and the host would share. The winning books were "The day Louis got eaten" from the 3-7 category, "The world of Norm - may contain nuts" from the 8-11 category and "The 13th horseman" from the 12-16 category.

I really enjoyed it! The entire group who went had a really good time especially Mrs Pieroni and Miss Graham! Written by Amanda Connan 1G1

It was amazing when I walked through the door of the Caird Hall! The decoration of it was beautiful. We were there for the Scottish Children's Book Awards ceremony 2013. My class had read the books and voted for their favourites. I got to meet some of the authors and get books signed for the school. The host was really funny he was cheerful and happy.

I got to see three plays based on the



Blairgowrie High School Raised Over £1300 for Red Nose Day

The Fundraising Committee organised various events over the course of a week in aid of Red Nose Day. Keeping in touch with the dinosaur noses, the week was started off with 1st & 2nd years pledging their support by painting their hand print onto a Red Nose Dino! Over the following days all pupils and staff were encouraged to print their hands and the dinosaurs were put up in the school. On Tuesday 12th pupils held an Inter-House football tournament. After a tense few



matches Stormont raced to first place, Glenisla 2nd and Tay 3rd. On Wednesday 13th senior pupils became statues around the school over 4 periods.



The school held a non-uniform day on Thursday 14th and sold red muffins during interval. 240 red noses were sold over the week and we raised

£1312.60



Our English Topic: The Hunger Games!

"The Hunger Games" written by Suzanne Collins is a popular and interesting book. This term, we decided to read this book in class and it has been our topic for this term.

To start our topic we were separated into groups, which we later found out would be our Districts - just like in The Hunger Games. We had to decide on a name for our district, set up rules and decide what our District would be famous for. Throughout reading The Hunger Games we had detailed discussions, role plays, a press conference, costume designing and we also learnt about different types of questions. We used this information about open and closed questions to write our own questions for other Districts to answer. Our favourite part of this topic was the press conference because it involved everyone and widened our understanding of the book. We will be using the Press Conference to write a magazine article. You can listen to our press conference on the Blairgowrie High School Glow page.

Not only have we enjoyed reading The Hunger Games academically, it has also improved our skills socially. We have really enjoyed working together in our groups and as a whole class.

Written by Anna Walker (1G3), Holly Kirkwood (1S3), Kaitlin Sloan (1G3) and Kirsty Barnett (1G1)

S2 Visit to Beech Manor Care Home

Our programme included poetry recitals, some Highland dancing, and a medley of Scottish tunes which we sang and played on a variety of instruments. The residents of the home seemed to enjoy the concert and even asked for an encore of 'Loch Lomond'.



Geo-Literacy Award Winners

The English and Geography departments held a presentation in January for the winners of the Geo-Literacy Award. The award was for the best English investigation on a Geography topic. The winners were:

Gold: Holly Kirkwood 1S3 £50 prize

Silver: Abbie Clark 1T1 £30 prize

Bronze: Anna Walker 1G3 £20 prize

There was some really lovely work to choose from but I think we can all agree that the girls did an outstanding job!



Secondary meets Primary

S2 pupils in the English Department made a visit to Newhill Primary School on Monday 11 March to read picture books that they had created to pupils in Primary 2. The audience proved to be extremely lively - even inventing their own actions to go along with the stories. At the end of the session the infants were asked to vote for their favourite book. 'The Ladybird' written and illustrated by Connor Ireland, Eilidh Martin and Nathan Mowett proved the clear winner. Connor's animated storytelling and salesmanship might have had something to do with this!



Blairgowrie High School

What's Coming Up....

Supported Study Sessions

Notes:	Art	Targeted support for different year groups as advertised through the daily bulletin.
	English	Staff available to provide pupil support during lunchtimes by arrangement.
	Geography	Staff available to provide pupil support during lunchtimes by arrangement.
	PE	By arrangement with staff as required.
	Physics	Drop in sessions available by appointment with teachers.

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
During Lunch Break (12.55 - 1.50pm)	Maths H12 Mr Stewart	Maths H12 Mr Stewart	Maths H12 Mr Stewart	Maths H12 Mr Stewart	Maths H12 Mr Stewart
	RE F2 Mr Pullar	RE F2 Mr Pullar	RE F2 Mr Pullar	RE F2 Mr Pullar	RE F2 Mr Pullar
	Technical Department	Technical Department	Technical Department	Technical Department	Technical Department
	Business Management Mr Fernandez	Business Management Mr Fernandez	History(SG) D3 Mrs Haggart	Business Management Mr Fernandez	
	HE(S3 SG) Mrs Thom	Physics B4 Mr Wilkinson		Physics B4 Mr Wilkinson	Bu / Admin I3
	English(Int2) D4 Miss Lynch	German I10 M Bickerstaffe		English(SG) D4 Miss Lynch	Spanish I8 Mrs Boylan
				Chemistry B7 Mrs Grant	
After School (3.40 - 4.30pm)	Music (H, AH) Listening A1 Mr Murray	English (all) C2 Mrs Shields	English(Int 2) E6 Mrs Graham	Chemistry Mr Niven B5	
	Modern Studies (H) E7 Mrs Young	Modern Studies (H) E7 Mrs Young	English D2 Mrs Rutherford	Modern Studies (SG) E7 Mrs Young	
LRC Open to 4.45pm			History (Higher) D1 Mr Nicholson	Biology D5 Mrs Potter	
			Modern Studies (SG) E7 Mrs Young	German I9 Mrs Lumb	
			Maths(Int1) H11 Mr Egan		

Calendar of Events

School Terms and In-Service Days	
Date	Event
Mon 15 April	In-Service Day
Tue 16 April	First Day of Summer Term
Mon 6 May	May Day Holiday
Mon 27 May	In-Service Day
Thu 30 & Fri 31 May	S1 and S2 Activity Days
Thu 27 June	Last Day of Summer Term School closes at noon
Wed 17 April	Parent Council Meeting - all welcome

Reports and Exams	
Date	Event
Thu 25 April	First day of SQA exam leave for S3 pupils
Tue 7 May	First day of SQA exam leave for S4, S5 and S6 pupils
Week Beginning Mon 13 May	S4 Higher Common Assessments
Tue 14 May	S2 Reports issued
Fri 31 May	Last day of SQA exam leave for all pupils
Mon 3 June	New timetable starts
Fri 7 June	S4 Higher Reports issued