

Newsletter April 2014



Bev Leslie	Headteacher
Lynn Bryce	Depute Rector (Tay House)
Lesley Hill	Depute Rector (Glenisla House)
Nicola Ross	Acting Depute Rector (Stormont House)
Kieran Sherry	Business Manager
Email us:	blairgowrie@pkc.gov.uk Telephone: 01250871200
Online at:	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/pk/BlairgowrieHighSchool/
Twitter:	@BlairgowrieHS
Write to us:	Beeches Road, Blairgowrie, PH10 6PW

Headteacher's Message

Welcome back after Easter break. As we head into summer, there are many wonderful events and activities to look back on last term - some of which you can read about in this newsletter. The skills and talent shown by pupils and staff in these events have been outstanding - from dancing, to reporting, to public speaking, to science - there has been something on offer to cater for all interests either as a participant or as a spectator.

Our senior pupils have coped splendidly balancing subject coursework, events planning and participation in a number of events. As we move towards the SQA exams, pupils should remember that although you are on study leave until the 19th May, teachers can still support and help you - do sign in at the school office if you are coming in to speak with teachers.

Our school website is currently undergoing a revamp. Some of the new features planned are:

- publication of daily pupil notices
- copies of non-personalised letters that we have sent home (we realise some communications have a tendency to get lost in the bottom of school bags!)
- our school calendar for next session
- a section on pupil support including information for parents and pupils on aspects of our PSE programme and specific support needs

Please take the opportunity to visit the website as often as you can. A particular favourite page of mine at present is 'Life beyond Blairgowrie' which is currently being populated with short biographies from some of our young people about their next steps.

Looking ahead, this term will also be busy. Many pupils are embarking on school excursions, and taking part in activities day and sports day (28th May). We are also looking forward to welcoming our new S1 pupils on transition days.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils embarking on exams the best of luck.

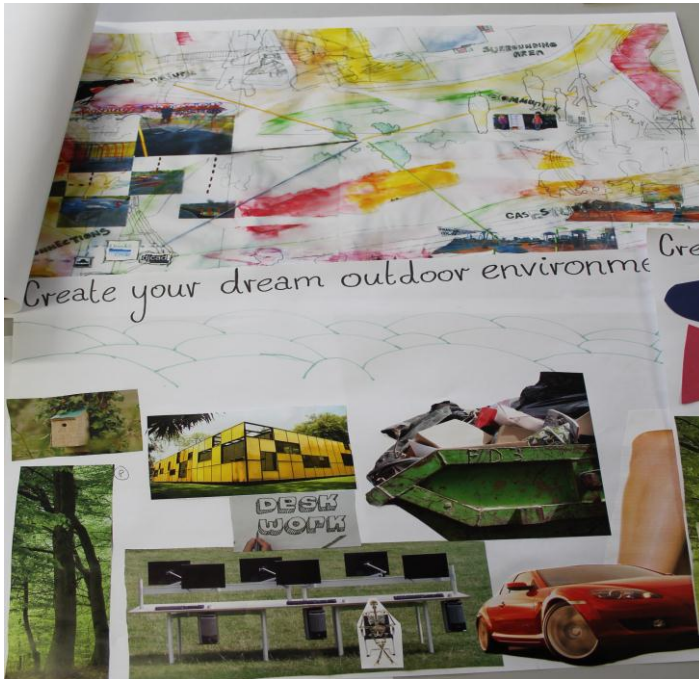
Design in Action @ BHS

DJCAD in conjunction with the V&A: Design in the community

Congratulations to all those pupils in S1-S3 who took part in the 'Design in Action' workshops on Tuesday 25th February 2014 which ran in the Art Department all day.

Three students from DJCAD studying the B Des (Hons) in Interior and Environmental Design had final year projects which required participation with young people to develop ideas and explore user needs. This was an ideal opportunity to raise pupil awareness of environmental design and develop their higher order thinking skills.

Tanith McKenzie worked with small groups of pupils identified as non swimmers to create friendly interactive places to swim.



Nicole Tennant is exploring Learning support environments and worked closely with Tay 4 juniors to engage with both indoor and outdoor spaces. Ideas that came from pupils involved connecting race tracks between buildings with the importance of colour running through interiors to create various moods.

Lessons were a hive of activity and the final design work and discussion illustrated the strength of ideas and enthusiasm from all Blairgowrie pupils.

The students made additional presentations to S4,5 and 6 pupils, who found the 'Life at art school' talk, sketchbook presentation and Q& A session a valuable experience.



Alison Best encouraged pupils to create personal environments that explored personal desires where pupils developed outdoor pods that involved interactive seating, Wifi connections and music venues. The final designs illustrated the importance and need for more outdoor spaces for young people.



Chembus

This term the Chembus came to BHS. Around 80 S2 pupils were involved in the fun. The man poured liquid nitrogen everywhere, put a banana in it and after 2 minutes it was solid and broke when banged on the table. One of us got to put flowers in the nitrogen and they shattered like glass when we pulled them out. We turned a copper coin into a gold coin and got to write on crepe paper with different substances. We got prizes for answering questions correctly. It was a fun and knowledge filled afternoon!

Shannon Downie & Robyn Milne S2



Department Focus – Home Economics

Gala Dinner in Conjunction with Radio Tay's 'Cash for Kids' Charity

The Home Economics Department ran another very successful Charity Gala Dinner in February. The event gave our pupils an invaluable opportunity to work alongside a team of highly acclaimed chefs and Front of House staff from local hotels and restaurants. Pupils prepared and served a 6 course banquet with fine wines to 180 guests in a specially designed marquee.



The event is sponsored by many but in particular Henderson's Marquee Hire and Gordon's Cater Hire to whom we are extremely indebted. Ally Bally from Radio Tay was the 'Master of Ceremonies' for the evening and rounded off the night with a charity auction. Ewan MacGregor (ELM Associates) fronted up the whole event and Bill McNicoll (executive head chef) and Jim Nesmith (front of house manager) from Huntingtower Hotel in Perth ensured the smooth execution throughout the evening. The pupils were superb and a real credit to the school.

Quivering in Queensferry

On Saturday the 22nd of March, I headed down to South Queensferry to participate in a rather daunting public speaking competition. Faced with the task of squaring off against uber-prepared, highly-skilled competitors, I didn't feel like I really stood a chance. Angus Rutherford was also competing and seemed even more nervous than me, if that was possible.

Speech after seemingly-impeccable speech went by, and my dread grew by the minute, as I realised just how high the bar was set.

When it came to finally standing up in front of the beady-eyed audience, I had to take a minute to assert myself, knowing full well that the only way I'd have half a chance was to nail every single line of my seemingly never-ending script. The title of my talk was 'Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire'.

I don't recall much of the speech itself, mostly because I was singularly focused on not fluffing up my lines and turning into a mumbling mess half way through. Thankfully, I avoided this peril, and when I finally rounded my speech off, I was greeted with a reassuring round of applause. However, my relief was short-lived; it was now time to take a 4 minute grilling of questions specifically conjured up by the judges to pick my arguments apart.

Surprisingly, the judges were far less harsh in their interrogation than I was anticipating, allowing me to rebut them far more effectively than I was expecting to be able to.

After the speech came the waiting game, as the deliberation period stretched on forever and nerves began to take over; I can assure you that no fingernail was left intact by the time the judges reached their verdict. Surprisingly, I'm now proud to be able to say that I was one of the two individuals selected to be put forward into the next round of the competition.

Finally, I'd like to offer a big thanks to Mrs Rutherford for her help and support both before and during the event.

Harris Anderson S4



Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Public Speaking Competition 2014

On the 6th March, we went to Crieff High School to compete in a public speaking competition with Mrs Rutherford and our three supporters, Angus, Tom and Harris. We each had to talk for 5 minutes on hate crime and prejudice in Scotland. The competition was judged by the Procurator Fiscal for Scotland and his colleagues. After each person had made their speech the judges and audience had a chance to ask questions - luckily there were not too many questions as there was only an audience of about five. Sadly we didn't win our competition but we got free cake so we were happy.

Alanna Cameron and Serena Stanhope S3

BBC School News Report

I really enjoyed my BBC experience because it has shown me how I can become a reporter, taught me to work in teams with people I don't know and so many skills we require for future life.

I particularly enjoyed the weather report and the sports report because they were factual and they had lots of smiles and clear voices.

I believe that everyone had immense fun when doing this. We had so much fun today and I can't wait for the next time we do the BBC report next year.

Keira MacGregor S2

Youth Philanthropy Initiative

The YPI project is a competition to win £3,000 for your chosen charity. Our chosen charity was Wisecraft which is based in Lower Mill Street, Blairgowrie. Wisecraft is a charity helping adults with mental health disorders. They help them by keeping them busy with fun activities and counselling. With the money, they are planning on finishing the garden and keeping their mini bus running.

We did a presentation in the form of a quiz show. We were the best in our class, then qualified for the finals. In the finals we were judged by a YPI representative, Head Teacher Mrs Leslie and Head Prefects. Our presentation came first and the riding for the disabled presentation came second.

We enjoyed the experience and all the hard work and dedication paid off.



S3 YPI including winners Isobel Milford, Fern Smith, Kay Henderson and Stuart Smith

Career Academies

Career Academies is a programme designed to help pupils develop their skills for the world of work. Six pupils from Blairgowrie High School are currently involved in career academies and are enjoying it. The main part of the programme is a 4 week internship with the company we are at. It's fully paid and allows us to gain a large amount of work experience which will become vital in our future. Currently we have 2 pupils at Perth and Kinross Council, 2 pupils at SSE and 2 pupils at Aviva. I think our message to the younger pupils is that it's a very worthwhile experience and that they should definitely give it a go in the future.

Kieran Matthews S5

S1 Geo-Literacy Award Winners

This is an interdisciplinary learning project carried out by English, Modern Languages and Geography. The winners were:

Gold: Anna MacDougall

Silver: Emma Forrest

Bronze: Katy Alexander



S3 Drama and Workshop

In March all S3 pupils attended a drama and workshop on health issues and use of services. This was funded by NHS Tayside. The script changes every year to reflect young people's concerns and ever-changing needs and is followed by workshops and questions to Health Workers and other colleagues who work with young people. The aims are to raise some of the main health issues facing young people such as substance abuse, mental well-being, sexual health and relationships, as well as to inform pupils about health services available to them. This year's Drama and Workshops were well received by pupils and the positive comments in their evaluations reflected how much they had enjoyed the experience, indicating that they not only felt better informed on health issues but would be more likely to access services, as and when they are needed.

School Meal Prices 2014/15 - No Increase

Following a Special Meeting of the Council held on 13 February 2014, it was proposed that school meal prices should not increase for 2014/15 and this was approved. The current charging structure is therefore retained for pupils.

School Uniform 2014/15

This term pupils will be given the opportunity to try on our new school blazer. Those who have already done so are pleased with the design that was chosen. A lot of pupils are already very smart in their uniform and we hope the introduction of blazers will enhance uniform as well as generate a greater sense of pride in being a Blairgowrie High School pupil. As you plan for next session's uniform purchase please remember our uniform code.



Jordan & Cameron model the new Blairgowrie HS blazer. Don't they look smart?

- School Blazer (plain black or braided*). Purchase braided blazers online at [Border Embroideries](#) (approx. £30)
- School tie (at Doig's, Blairgowrie)
- Black trousers (school trousers, no leggings, jeggings, drainpipes or denim) or black skirt which is at least knee-length
- White shirt or blouse (buttons to collar)
- Plain black sweatshirt or jersey,
- Black shoes. Where trainers are worn these should be plain black.
- An outdoor coat

* Prefects have additional braid around each sleeve



Blair Does Strictly!!

This year for Sport Relief the fundraising committee decided it would be fun for pupils and teachers to do the Blairgowrie High School version of Strictly Come Dancing. Nine teacher pairs took part, with help from their pupil mentors who worked very hard and made miracles happen! Mr Dymock and Miss Kennedy were victorious with Mr Nicholson and Miss Pirie coming a close second and Mr O'Hara and Mrs Williamson coming third. The fundraising committee worked tirelessly throughout the weeks leading up to the event to ensure that every disco ball sparkled and every dance step was perfected. The night would not have gone ahead if it weren't for the dedication of all of the volunteers and staff who gave up their free time to make the event a huge success! A particularly big thank you to the Tech Team, our hosts Michael and Murray, the Judges and Mrs Bryce for the beautiful flowers. With everyone's help we have managed to raise a fantastic total of £2100! Hopefully next year's event will be just as fabulous with the guidance of Mrs Haggart and Miss Lynch! And remember... Keep Dancing!

Rebecca Campbell, Kathryn Isla Menzies, Kathryn Ritchie



Sport Relief

Just to let you all know that our Sport Relief total, including money from PE, is currently sitting at **£2,162.49**. Thank you to everyone for all their efforts.

Fundraising Team.

Blairgowrie High School

Beeches Road
Blairgowrie
PH10 6PW

Phone:
(01250) 871200

Fax:
(01250) 876826

Please remember that it is important that we are able to keep in touch with you. If any of your contact details change please let your child's House Tutor, guidance teacher or the office know.

What's Coming Up....

School Terms and In-Service Days	
Fri 4 th April	Last Day of Spring Term School closes at 3.40 pm
Mon 21 st April	Easter Monday Holiday
Tue 22 nd April	In Service
Wed 23 rd April	Summer term begins
Thurs 26 th June	Last Day of Summer Term School closes at noon
Monday 18 th August	In Service
Tuesday 19 th August	New term begins

Reports, Contact Evenings, Exams	
Mon 28 th April	Study leave and exams begin for some S4,S5 and S6
Fri 16 th May	Last day of SQA study leave
Mon 19 th May	New timetable begins
Other dates to note	
Wed 28 th May	Activity Day
Thurs 12 th , Fri 13 th June	P7 Induction days
Wed 18 th June	Summer Show
Sun 25 th - Sat 31 st May	Strasbourg Trip
Mon 26 th - Fri 30 th May	London Trip
Sun 25 th - Sat 31 st May	Battlefields Trip

Extra-curricular clubs					
Why not come and try something new for 2014					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time		S4 Football	S3 Football		
After school	S1-3 Dance Girls Rugby S1-6 Cricket	S4-6 Dance Netball Boys Rugby	S1-3 Hockey S4-6 Hockey Strength and Conditioning	Basketball S1-2 Football Volleyball	

Prize Giving
Prize giving will be held on Wednesday 25th June at 7.00 pm. Further details will be provided for prize winners' parents nearer the time.