



### Headteacher's Message

As another busy year draws to a close, I've been reflecting on what we've been up to over the past twelve months and it amounts to rather a lot! It has been an incredibly eventful and fruitful time. September saw the return to school of our colleagues from Education Scotland who reported that they are happy with progress that we are making. Drama has been introduced formally to our curriculum with the appointment of Ms Chivers as PT of Music and Drama. Our parent information evening which offered parents and carers the opportunity to attend 4 sessions (Curriculum Plans, HMI Feedback, Results Services and New Qualifications) was well attended and evaluated positively. If you did not manage to attend, the presentations are available on the school website. Over 200 pupils visited the Junior Ryder Cup. Six senior pupils were also given the opportunity to attend and work at the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

Tay4 Juniors developed their team-working and communication skills by running the 'Coconut Café' to raise funds for their excursion to the Amazonian Rainforest (well, not quite!). They had a very successful excursion to Amazonia.



Dyslexia Awareness week resulted in many of our pupils wearing Ellie's Blue Ribbon. Teachers and pupils in Senior Phase are preparing and working hard for new National qualifications and our new S1 cohort have settled well into life in Blairgowrie High. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils, staff and parents for all their hard work, dedication and support in everything we have done. We all wish everyone in our community a restful, peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year.

**Bev Leslie, Headteacher**

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@BlairgowrieHS

### The Rugby Club

With the help of coaches Cally Gordon and Alan Robertson, the Rugby Club is running squads for Boys at u18 and u14 and a squad for Girls. This year Perthshire Rugby is holding festivals for each age group, which allows four or more schools to come together at one location to play three short matches rather than playing individual matches. This allows schools where numbers are perhaps short to get some competitive games by combining with another school. It also allows players to make friends with players from elsewhere.

The u18 Boys have combined with Breadalbane to form a formidable unit. They won the first Festival, in August, beating Perth Academy, Crieff and Perth High and then turned their attention to the Scottish Schools Bowl competition where they again defeated Perth Academy, this time by a margin exceeding 20 points, before succumbing to Bell Baxter High School in the second round. They will continue their campaign in the Plate competition after the October break.

The first event saw them borrowing players for each game and taking some sound defeats. However at the second, they formed a partnership for the day with Crieff and finished the afternoon by winning their third game!

This is the first season that Perthshire Rugby has catered for Girls and it is proving popular. Two festivals have been held and BHS attended the first and hosted the second. The format is for the girls to be split into seniors and juniors for a training session and then a series of contact games. In order to play full matches we are hoping to team up with Perth

High and Breadalbane to ensure larger numbers. Further events are now being planned.

Pictured are: Back: Lucia Rodriguez Garcia, former pupil Ruth Millar, Alana Cameron, Serena Stanhope, Heather Stewart; Front: Abbie Finlay, Alex McIntyre, Louise Dickson, Jodie Smith, Léa Anderson



The u14 squad is gradually building its numbers and so is benefitting from the Festival system. They have enjoyed two Festivals so far and are gaining in confidence and technique.

### **UNIFORM**

In August, the vast majority of our pupils looked extremely smart in their school uniforms. This has been commented upon by members of our community and HMI stated "Almost all now wear school uniform and proudly identify themselves with the school. The ethos of the school is more positive."

Sadly uniform standards are now slipping. A

reminder please - no leggings; jeggings, jeans or coloured



shoes. Be proud to be seen in our uniform.

### Dundee Flower and Food Festival 2014

Congratulations to our 'Junior Mastercook' Charlotte Merrouche and our 'Rotary Club Chef' winner Shannon Downie who demonstrated at this year's Flower and Food Festival. They did both themselves and the school very proud with their performance and produced really scrumptious dishes for the audience. The girls made 'Venison on a bed of parsley potatoes with green beans strapped in leeks with a Red wine jus' and a 'White chocolate and Jamaican rum cheesecake with a ginger honeycomb topping'. Blairgowrie High school is extremely honoured to be the only school to be given such an important role in this event. Both girls were given the opportunity to meet the two celebrity chefs Nick Nairn and Paul Rankin as a thank you for taking part in the festival.



### Junior Ryder Cup Recipe Book



Mrs Smith from the Home Economics Department and her events group put together a recipe book to celebrate the Junior Ryder Cup coming to Blairgowrie. The sections of the recipe book are all themed around golf and there is also a section entitled 'Those Dreaded Bunkers' where it gives tips on how to resolve problems that may arise when cooking. Bradley Neil (former pupil) wrote the introduction for the book and our Associated Primary Schools were given the opportunity to have their selected recipes printed in the 'Crazy Golf' section. Winners of the Primary School entries received a sponsored package for the Crazy golf course at Crieff Hydro. The book contains a full range of recipes the pupils like to make such as the famous Truffles and Malteser slice through to recipes from our competitions and the chefs who work with us. Copies of the book are still available to purchase in the Home Economics Department for £7.



### The Big Big Debate Hydro Glasgow 11 September

With a week to go to the Scottish Referendum, 23 senior pupils and three teachers joined 7000 other pupils at the Hydro in Glasgow to listen to a debate on the referendum question. When we arrived at the venue all you could see were groups of school pupils everywhere in uniforms of all colours, shapes and sizes but all looking excited at the prospect of taking part in this huge debate. Unfortunately, as there were so many of us it took ages to get into the venue and once in we had to put up with a sub-tropical heat as we found ourselves extremely high up in seats right at the top of the building. The line-up of speakers – Nicola Sturgeon, Ruth Davidson, Patrick Harvie and George Galloway were quite entertaining and we did feel a bit more confident about voting once we had listened to both sides of the argument. The Mexican wave was one of the highlights of the day. Seven thousand pupils taking part and all started by Mr Asensio!

Ellis Page and Alex Tosh S5

### Flying High

In May this year I was lucky enough to be given a place on the Take Off flying scheme. This is a charity based in Aberdeen which offers pupils the opportunity to improve their life skills by undertaking flying instruction through theoretical lessons and ten flying lessons.

Throughout the summer I was at Scone Airport every week enjoying the thrill of piloting a Eurostar fixed wing microlight. I can't say I have fully mastered flying but I did get the hang of take off, landing and flying around the Perthshire area. It was an amazing experience and I really appreciated the time my instructor Jim took with me.

Blairgowrie is the only school outside Perth to be part of this scheme and the organisers are hoping to repeat this

opportunity for our school next year so I would encourage anyone interested to apply. Even if you don't get the scholarship Scone Aero Club also offers Youth membership for a year for £25 which gives you access to the club house and there are often pilots who have a spare passenger seat willing to take you up.



Angus Rutherford S5

### Staffing News

We have welcomed to the Blairgowrie Team Mr Bald (History), Miss Fitzsimon (Mod Studies), Mr McNiven (PT Guidance of Glenisla House), Miss Davies (Home Economics), Mr Brennan & Mrs Kennedy (Support for Pupils). Unexpected staff absence continues in Modern Languages and Maths but we have now managed to secure supply staff. Congratulations go to Mrs McIntosh who also leaves us for a temporary promoted position in Perth Academy.

### Career Academy

This is the second year of Blairgowrie High School involvement with Career Academies. Last year we had 6 S5 pupils who were all successful in completing a month long paid internship at the start of the summer holidays as well as working closely with an industry mentor. Callum Douglas, S6, was invited along to talk to the new group about his experiences last year at the launch of our new Career academy students - this was held in the Salutation Hotel on Thursday 9 October – he also set a real Scottish flavour to the event by piping in the other speakers including Mr Fyffe, Director of Education. We have 10 pupils participating from Blairgowrie High School this year and wish them well as they embark on their 2 year experience.



### Police Interview and Prison Visit

As part of our Advanced Higher modern studies course we have to write a dissertation. In order to help with proving or disproving our hypotheses, two community police officers came into the school. As a class we asked them questions about our chosen dissertation topics. This was really useful as we got first-hand information from a reliable source. It was also good to practice our interview skills. The officers gave us a great insight into their routine and explained the types of crime investigated within the Perthshire area. They also shared with us their personal opinion of crime and provided us with useful statistics.

We also went to H.M.P Perth which is a maximum security prison. This was an amazing experience! We toured the prison with the access manager as he explained the processes for visitors and the procedures staff go through on a daily basis. Whilst on the tour we saw a variety of prisoners ranging from short term offenders to those serving life. Our tour guide also allowed us access to some of the prisoner's cells to see the kinds of conditions they live in. This was extremely interesting. I enjoyed the experience and seeing what it is really like inside a prison.

Megan Lamb S6

### Art Exhibition @ The Royal Hotel And Perth Gallery For The Bookmark Festival



Congratulations go to all pupils for their wonderful contribution to the BOOKMARK festival exhibition that was installed on the last Friday of the October term (12/10/14).

A team of enthusiastic Advanced Higher and Higher Photography pupils installed the exhibition which went on public display on the Friday afternoon to support the weekend literary events.



The organisers of the event and Joan Lennon the festival's Writer in Residence, praised the strength and variety of the visual artwork created by pupils in response to the monotone brief and the word 'Place'.

Art work from 20 pupils across S1-S6 was selected by Joan Lennon to illustrate the Anthology of writing from the project with a large collection on display for the Festival in the foyer, hub and conference rooms at the Hotel. A special congratulation goes to S1 pupil Jodie Finlay, whose pen and wash drawing of a view from the window was selected for the front cover of the Anthology Book which will soon be available to view.

Joan commented "The work ranged from drawing, photography, collage, printmaking to painting illustrating the strength and diversity of Blairgowrie High School pupil creativity and talent".

Mrs Kennedy, Acting Principal Teacher of Art & Design stated "Creating strong links with local community events and opportunities like this is vitally important and this opportunity has given pupils a confidence and a forum to exhibit work in the public domain. The opportunity gave every pupil the chance to engage with the theme and create personal responses both in school and out". The work was praised by the local community and staff at the Hotel and added to the festival experience.

Christine Findlay, Bookmarks chairperson, expressed a sincere thanks to all contributors to the exhibition, praising the staff and pupils for their enthusiastic partnership with the book festival. The work is going on displayed around





the school for anyone who missed the exhibition. All work can be viewed on the digital screen at Perth Museum until January.



Emma Sinclair, Ciara O'Connor, Ellis Page and Katie Morrison (S5/S6) curate the artwork.



Some of the pupil's work that was selected for the printed Anthology.



Eoghan Oosterhoorn (S1) proudly displaying his relief print selected for the BOOKMARK anthology publication



Portrait by Kennedy Muir (S5)



Photography by Louise Dickson (S6)

Congratulation goes to the 20 successful pupils whose work was selected to illustrate the printed anthology

- Alexander Tosh-S5
- Amy McGowan-S6
- Ciara O'Connor-S6
- Danielle Cuthbertson-S6
- Ellie McKenzie-S
- Eoghan Oosterhoorn-S1
- Fiona Stewart-S2
- Heather Stewart-S6
- Jemima Jarvis-S5
- Lauren Comisky-S
- Kiara Marshall-S
- Kennedy Muir-S5
- Jodie Finlay-S1
- Joanna Poole-S
- Jennifer Ritchie-S4
- Liam Carrie-S
- Louise Dickson-S6
- Meghan bissett-S5
- Robyn Milne-S2
- Lauren Kirkwood-S6



S3 Mono-print S3 portraits printed onto book pages.





## What's Coming Up?

School Terms and In-Service Days	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Term ends 12pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Term starts
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	S4/5/6 prelims begin
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2015	S4/5/6 prelims end
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	INSET
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	Holiday
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	Holiday
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2015	Term ends

Reports, Parents' Evenings and Exams	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	S1 tracking reports issued
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	S3 reports issued
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	S3 contact evening
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S2 reports issued
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S4 contact evening
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	S5/6 contact evening
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	S1 full reports issued
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	S2 contact evening

**Please Remember:**

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

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

You can email, phone or send a letter with your child. Thank you.

**STOP PRESS - S1 Footballers Achieve Last Minute Comeback**

Perth Academy 3-3 BHS

On a cold and wintry night under the floodlights of Perth Academy's all weather pitch our S1 football team secured a well-deserved league point. With only minutes remaining our battling team fought back from 3-1 down. Despite long ball tactics by our crafty opponents BHS played some silky stuff and were a bit unlucky not to score the winner in the dying seconds. This was our S1 team's first competitive match and future league games will be taking place in the New Year weather permitting. Well done team BHS!!