



Balfon Highlights

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Vocal Trip to France, Liam Cassidy

June 2016:

Vocal Trip to France

World Book day

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On the 13th July, the choir set off on a tedious 16-hour coach journey to the Château de Warsy, where we would be staying to rehearse for our summer concert performances. After arriving, we met a friendly team at the château, where we were then taken to have a great dinner. Then before bed, we separated into groups for a scavenger hunt, which proved a challenge!

After having amazing fresh croissants and pains au chocolat, we headed off to Beussent Lachelle chocolate factory, where we were greeted by a seemingly nice Frenchman who was having slight trouble trying to speak English, and after several attempts to understand his French, he revealed he was actually English and putting on an act. Whilst there we learnt about the process which the company goes through to source their chocolate, and we even had an opportunity to taste the chocolate and buy some as well. That evening, we had our first rehearsal and our selection of songs was finally coming together.

The next day was our trip to Disney! We got there at around 10am and we then separated into our smaller groups and took off. I had never been to Disneyland before, so it was an overwhelming experience for



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me going on all of the rides and getting to know the park. My group's favourite ride was definitely Space Mountain - we went on it again and again! There was so much to do, from the rides, to the shops, to meeting the characters, and we even got to see the parade before we left. However we did have to eventually leave, and headed back to Warsy for dinner.

For our final day, we did something different. In the morning we visited a local market that ran up and down and along the streets of the small town of Montdidier in rural France. The market had a lot to offer, such as little French souvenirs and fruit and veg stalls full of variety. The main challenge which we faced was the fact that there was little to no English spoken at the market, so everyone tried their best to communicate: some French bartering even occurred! After returning back to the château, we had another practice, and our pieces were nearly ready for the summer concert. Finally, to end our stay in France, we took part in some fun games of ultimate Frisbee and rounders, which was great fun, and tired us out for the joyous journey back to Scotland.



There is a selection of pictures from the trip on the next few pages.





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Literacy Champions Update



Last term has certainly kept us busy! We were keen that our school would celebrate World Book Day in style and were determined to include everyone in our school. We wanted to mark the day at a local level but also globally. In many countries, not every young person has the opportunity to access books like we do here at Balftron High School.

Our weekly meetings became a springboard with ideas to mark the event. In the end we decided that the whole school would make a large banner to decorate the atrium and everyone was encouraged to bring an unwanted old book that would be sent to Malawi.

Many form class mornings were spent going around classes, getting everyone involved. Pupils wrote the name of their favourite book and author on our banner, and we started to collect unwanted books.

The banner went up during World Book Day week. At the end of term the Champions gathered all the gifted books to take them to Killearn Kirk, where they would be sent off to Malawi via Raven Trust. The Killearn Malawi Group is a small fundraising charity which aims to promote education and health in Malawi. Their fundraising is on-going through jumble sales, events and donations, and their projects are many and varied. Currently they are funding the repair of wells, the buying of bullocks, the construction of a new bridge and the addition of a store room and toilets at the Hilltop School. Our books are going to Hilltop and surrounding areas.

Balftron High School World Book day was a great success. Form class time became an opportunity to discuss favourite books and authors, this will hopefully inspire many pupils to try different books. We also hope that our old books will provide the young children in Malawi with the opportunity to enjoy reading like we do here.





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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term comes to a close I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and many positive messages over what has been a challenging few months. Although this has been a difficult period, I am very proud of what we have achieved together and grateful for the excellent support that we had from Stirling Council. I am glad that we have minimised disruption for our young people. This edition of Balfon Highlights reinforces that.

It is now time to recharge our batteries and get ready for a new session. There is much to look forward to! I am keen to hear from parents about the sort of activities and resources that we could offer to help you support your children next session. Please do get in touch with suggestions. The Parent Council is keen to canvas your view on this too. They will be in touch early in the new session. I would like to thank Fiona Edward-Smith for her input and support of the school and parents as Chair of the parent council. Fiona has stepped down from this role and will be succeeded by Gerry Eckersley. Our thanks to Gerry for taking on this important role.

Ms Cunningham (English) and Mr Finnerty (PT Creative Arts) retire at the end of term. Thanks go to both for their commitment and service to the Balfon High Community over the years. We wish them both a happy, healthy and long retirement. Congratulations to Miss Roscoe (Acting PT Science) who has secured a permanent PT Biology post at Perth High School. Thanks and best wishes go to Miss Allan (Modern Languages), Mr Brown (Social Subjects), Mr Campbell (PE), Miss Doran (English), Mr Kenny (Social Subjects), Mrs Layden (Chemistry), Mr Perman (PE), Mrs Poole (Maths) and Miss Quearns (Business Education). All are moving on to new posts in other schools. We have very much appreciated the massive input they have made to their teams and whole school events and activities. Mr Sheerin leaves us for a career break – we wish him luck on his adventure.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new staff in August. Mr Ratcliff takes over as PT Creative Arts/Campsie 3. He will be joined in music by Mr McIntyre. Mrs Volley joins Modern Languages and Miss Quinn will join the science team. We have eight probationers coming to Balfon High in August. It was great to meet them last week. They will be joining the Creative Arts, Health, Social Subjects, Technology and Maths teams.

With the move to new school day times looming, we have requested that new bus timetables will be issued as soon as possible. We will email these out over the holiday when they have been confirmed.

I wish you all a fantastic summer and look forward to working with you in the new session. As always, thank you for your support of our school.

Head Teacher





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School Day Timings from August 2016

Timings for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Class	Start	Finish	minutes
Form Time	8:55	9:20	25
Period 1	9:20	10:10	50
Period 2	10:10	11:00	50
Interval	11:00	11:20	20
Period 3	11:20	12:10	50
Period 4	12:10	13:00	50
Lunch	13:00	13:50	50
Period 5	13:50	14:40	50
Period 6	14:40	15:30	50

Timings for Tuesdays

Class	Start	Finish	minutes
Period 1	8:45	9:35	50
Period 2	9:35	10:25	50
Interval	10:25	10:40	15
Period 3	10:40	11:30	50
Period 4	11:30	12:20	50
Period 5	12:20	13:10	50
Lunch	13:10	13:50	40
Period 6	13:50	14:40	50
Period 7	14:40	15:30	50



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Outstanding Achievement Ceremony

Our Outstanding Achievement Ceremony took place at the Albert Halls as our own building was not available at the time. This brought an opportunity to celebrate the academic successes of our young people. It was great to have Michael Ferns as our keynote speaker. Michael is a former pupil of Balfon High School and is widely known within the community for his short films.

Michael is a Scottish director who won a BAFTA when he was 17 whose work has been hailed as “brilliant” by the legend that is Peter Jackson himself. Michael comes from a prestigious line of influential film people; his grandfather was the youngest ever director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival and director of The Film Council.

In 2014 he was voted as ‘The Greatest Living Scot’ and ‘Scotland’s Greatest National Treasure’ in his hometown of Balfon. 2015 starts Michael’s TV career as he creates 28 episodes for the BBC, some more content, a few shorts and couple of awards thrown in the mix. Exciting times ahead for the superlatively talented Michael Ferns.

Former pupils Callum Farquhar and Robin Brown took some pictures during the event. We were unable to take individual pictures as in previous years but have a selection of shots by Callum and Robin that give a flavour of the evening.



Dr Appelquist, MC for the evening



Innes Dunlop, Roisin McGinley, Eva Dallas and Shannon Park (Vocals and ukuleles)



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Fraser Lindsay on guitar



Hamish Finn on piano



Tom Morley receives the Owen Britton Trophy for Debating from Professor Britton and Ms Barclay, Owen's parents



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Isla Harper receiving the Dux Medal from Michael Ferns. Emily Watson with the Proxime Accessit medal beside Michael.



New Head Girl, Emily Watson and Head Boy, Rory Teed give the vote of thanks



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A reflection of first year by Sian Williams
& Ben Lennox



Anna McDonald on Cello

A special Goodbye to Mrs Finnerty at the Summer Concert, Yvonne Bauwens



This evening saw the closing of a chapter; a 25 year service to music education from Mr Adrian Finnerty. This multi-talented 'music man' has taught hundreds of ...pupils at Balftron High School and for a very well-deserved early retirement, we send you off with our warmest and most sincere wishes for the future! This folded book says 'Arr.AJ' - Adrian's signature at the top of every orchestra score. Compiled in the first few pages of this book are messages from over 40 former pupils, fellow colleagues and friends. Words of appreciation and huge congratulations to such a great man.

It was an honour to have shared in this evening - such a variety of talent! On behalf of everyone who contributed to this book, and I'm sure there are many more who will join me with this, thank you and happy retirement!



ParentPay - our new online payment service

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and uniform. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school.

Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

How to get started with ParentPay



We will shortly be sending you your account activation details, just follow the instructions in the letter we give you to get started with ParentPay.

If you want to find out more about ParentPay go to:

www.parentpay.com/Parents

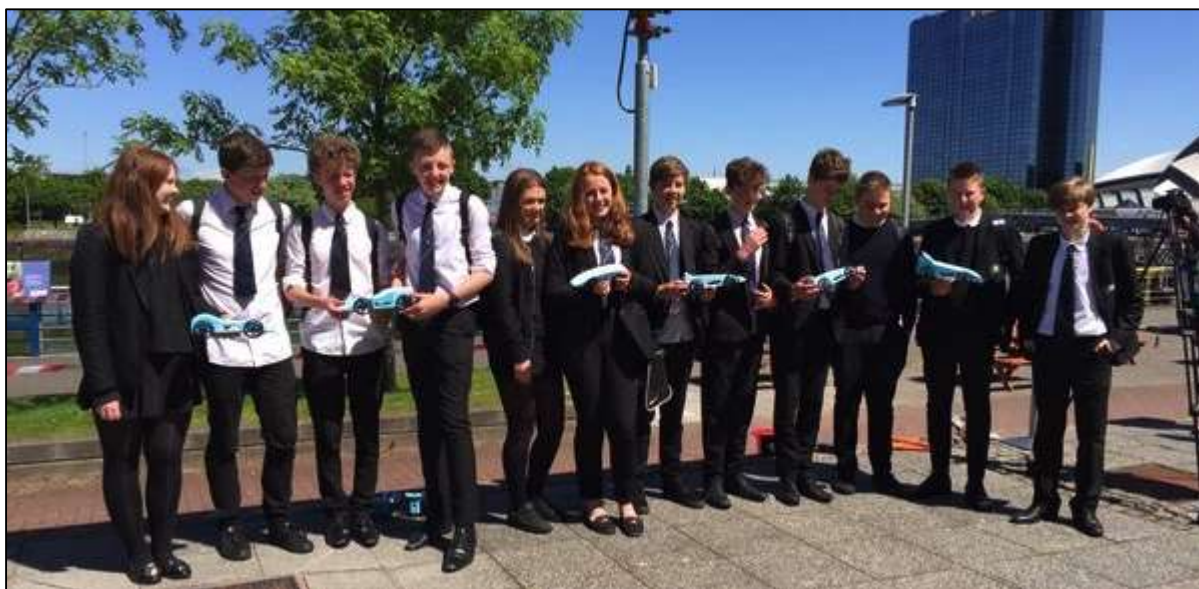


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The Big Bang Fair, Kim Denton, Ewan Hailstones and James Lorimer

A group of S4 pupils studying Maths, Physics and Technologies recently attended the Glasgow Science Centre to take part in the Big Bang fair. We explored some amazing exhibits such as the Tornado Machine and Whirlpool Tunnel before heading to the Planetarium to see our Solar System and the Universe! As part of the Bloodhound Challenge, we worked with the Army and West College Scotland to build our very own rocket cars from modelling foam. We had to make the most aerodynamic shape possible for our cars before attaching a mini version of the Bloodhound rocket and having a race along the banks of the Clyde! The winning team, by only 1mph, managed a fantastic speed of 53mph-amazing! We had a great time and wish to thank Mrs Hendry and Mr Dalziel for taking us





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Loch Lomond and Trossachs Junior Ranger Programme

June 2016, Mrs Smith

A group of twelve S2 and S4 pupils were invited to take part in the new Junior Ranger Programme, for a week in June. This was organised by Alison Cush, Education and Inclusion Advisor for Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

It involved five full days of activities to enable the young people to experience the work of the park rangers.

Day 1



An 18 mile cycle from Glen Ogle back to Callander along National Cycle Route 7 which goes from Glasgow to Inverness.

Pupils learned about the access issues, user conflicts and maintenance of the cycle path. Mrs Smith

learned about the joys of an electric bike on the uphill stretches. We all managed to deal with the local wildlife, midgies

Day 2

The group headed up Conic Hill at Balmaha armed with shovels, picks and loppers. They then worked their way back down clearing and repairing cross and bar drains in the path. They discovered first-hand the problems caused by erosion from weather and approximately 30,000 pairs of feet per year. They did a very professional job with great enthusiasm and excellent problem solving skills.





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Day 3

The group visited the new RSPB reserve near Gartocharn, Loch Lomond. The morning started with a bird count and moth identification task. They then set up 5m x 5m quadrats in a meadow in the reserve to identify and count heath orchids and common spotted orchids (Not so common it would appear!)

After lunch the group learned about the problems non-native (invasive) plant and animal species can create for our native species. They took part in the practical task of removing Himalayan balsam from a burn. It has to be removed as it would take over the waterways if left to grow. This would cause problems for local plant species.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was netting and identifying moths and butterflies.





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Day 4

Pupils spent time at the Balmaha visitor centre, meeting volunteer rangers and learning about their role within the Park. They also got the opportunity to express their views on how to engage young people in the Park and offered some very creative solutions to some of the issues the Park faces in dealing with young people.



They also took part in a conflict scenario on the beach at Balmaha to understand the problems created by the public leaving litter and wild camping. This creates problems for locals and visitors alike. They learned about the ways rangers deal with some difficult situations and members of the public.

Day 5

On Friday pupils were given 2 hours to create a powerpoint presentation to deliver to invited guests. They had to demonstrate all they had learned throughout the week.

The group had been presented with Junior Ranger T shirts on the Thursday and received caps to match on Friday. They also gained their John Muir Award for their work within the Park and also Junior Ranger certificates.

Once the young people reach the age of 16 there will be opportunities to volunteer to work with the ranger service or at the RSPB reserve. The understanding and development of employability skills required for the job of park ranger and the opportunity to be involved in this programme will be invaluable especially to those thinking about this as a career option in the future.



Everyone agreed that it was a very worthwhile week for developing many skills including problem solving, creativity and team work along with learning how to use scientific techniques to support research and to understand the environmental and public impacts on the Park. This was a group of enthusiastic young people who demonstrated leadership and enthusiasm and were a credit to Balfron High. They have set the bar high for next year's hopefuls.



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Abby Fabel, Inspire Aspire

Congratulations to Abby who came overall 2nd in the national Inspire Aspire competition. Abby researched inspirational characters and reflected on the values that make them inspirational. Abby concluded with four statements about the type of person she wants to be. Well done Abby!



Eilidh Laurie, Wicked Young Writer of the Year



Congratulations to Eilidh Laurie who won first prize in the 11-14 age category of the Wicked Young Writer of the Year.

Eilidh met with Miss McKeown following an announcement about the competition. Miss McKeown told Eilidh that she had to write a 750 word story on any topic. Eilidh chose a story with a sci-fi theme. In her story an acid fungus was taking over the world. The story followed the main character looking for a safe space to live. There's cliff hanger ending to this story!

Here is Eilidh's prize winning story...

As White As Snow, by Eilidh Laurie

The bus goes over a bump in the road. Just like it did last year on the journey to school. Just like it did every day. There is nothing everyday about today.

We were told last night that we had to leave. I remember how everyone started murmuring after the door closed. Quietly, as though to speak in our normal voices would bring death creeping nearer even faster. We all knew it would happen sometime but we didn't want to believe it.

There were fourteen of us in the room. There were seven safe rooms left in use in a village that once included around three thousand, nine hundred and sixty safe rooms. Seven safe rooms and ninety eight people.



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The rest had vanished beneath the all-enveloping sea of fungus. The fungus as white as snow. It had come overnight. What we thought was frost had swept over the land in the afternoon. We were confused by the stinging sensation it caused but we decided that was just the cold. Even though it was April. We went to sleep in the frost. And woke up in the snow.

The fungus had spread everywhere. It was unsafe to leave your house. A lot of people died on that first morning. The children wanting to play in the snow. The adults going out to defrost their cars. All died. Burned by the acidic fungus that had no name. We didn't know how it had got here. We didn't know when it would leave. It soon became unsafe to walk around on the ground floor of the houses without shoes on.

It's now May and many houses have vanished under the poisonous blanket. The ones that still stand are supported by the fungus. They don't stand of their own accord.

The fungus has eaten through everything. Some scientists say this was caused by global warming. Others don't agree. We live in fear and confusion. The only way to survive is to throw down more and more layers of anything we can find. Metal, rubber, plastic, material, clothes, toys. Nothing really works.

The sun barely shows its face anymore as if scared by what has happened. We're scared too.

This morning the reinforced bus came to take us to a safer place and we were all told to get on. There wasn't space but we piled on anyway. We stand and sit on blankets on the floor. We don't want to risk touching the fungus. It's a double decker. We might not make it. We know that but no one says anything.

It ploughs through the toxic quagmire which clings to the step at the bus door. The driver goes at a steady pace, not so fast as to risk slipping and coming off the road but fast enough that the acid affects the bus as little as possible. To slip would be fatal.

A baby starts crying and we all jump at the sudden wail of harsh noise. It's hushed by its mother. The bus' rubber tyres are burning. We can smell it but the driver keeps going. I don't know whether it's a man or a woman. I didn't see. I'd rather not know who it is that holds our lives in their hands.



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A small girl is sniveling in the corner by the window, under a seat. She's one that lost her parents to the fungus. I never knew my parents so I don't fully understand how she feels, but she looks so sad. I feel sad for her. I think her name's Elle. Or Mel. The person that told me had food in their mouth at the time. I didn't bother asking them to repeat it. Oddly, I now wish I had. I have a sudden urge to comfort her. I ease past a few people who don't really notice I'm there and scoop her up in my arms. She snuggles into me, not caring who I am, just glad.

I feel a little better. Not much though. We could all die here. Even if we survive we will be forced to move on, from place to place, until scientists discover a way to stop the fungus. A continuous cycle.

There is a sudden movement at the door. People are drawing away. I guess that the fungus has started to eat through the metal floor of the bus. Their voices start to rise in a single discordant hubbub of terror.

Then the first tyre bursts.



Introducing Head Prefects

2016-17

Pictured with our Head Teacher Ms Bannatyne at the Outstanding Achievement Ceremony from left to right, Head Girl Emily Watson, Head Boy Rory Teed, Deputy Head Girl Kirsty McArthur, Deputy Head Boy Elliot Fisher.





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German Visitor, Mrs Wood

We were very fortunate at Balfon High School to have the chance to host a teacher from Freiburg in Germany during April. Katrin Zeshcky worked mainly with the Modern Languages classes but also in other subjects. She very much enjoyed her experience of working with the staff and young people and said she left feeling inspired, taking with her lots of ideas and strategies to use in her own school. The German learners benefited from speaking with a native German speaker and learning about various aspects of day to day German life - they especially enjoyed hearing about the differences between the 2 educational systems and tasting the German food!

We will continue this link next session when our young people will be corresponding with the learners in Katrin's classes.

Salters Festival of Chemistry, Mrs Layden

A team of S1 pupils represented the school at the Salters Festival of Chemistry. The team included Benjamin Connolly, Finn Thompson, Madeleine Jones and Julia Anderson.

They had a fabulous day at Heriot Watt University on 1st June. It was a great opportunity to see and use university laboratories. They had to solve two chemistry challenges; this involved forensics, code breaking, experimental predicting and report writing. They did fantastically, completed their challenges and got all the answers correct. Then they enjoyed a spectacular demonstration on extreme heat and cold.





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Maths Workshops at Stirling University, Mr Shields



A group of 10 of our Maths stars recently attended a Maths Workshop at the University of Stirling, taking part in various quizzes, team challenge tasks and problem solving activities throughout the day. Everyone had a fantastic time and would recommend it to others to take part next year! Thanks to Mr Perman, PE, for taking the pupils and helping throughout the day!





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Science

The new 3L1 took to the microscopes in their science lesson at Wallace High recently. The pupils were investigating cells.



The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Kirsty Wilson 4E2



On Saturday 18th June we were granted the opportunity to visit the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh to gain insight into how to apply for medicine and how best to further our chances of being accepted. Along with various other medical students and professionals, Vascular surgeon, Mr Zahid Raza, led the event and emphasised to us how we could optimise our personal statement. Captain James Campbell also came to detail to us how medicine is incorporated in the military. Overall the experience was informative, worthwhile and will prove valuable when nearing the time for applying for such a competitive degree.

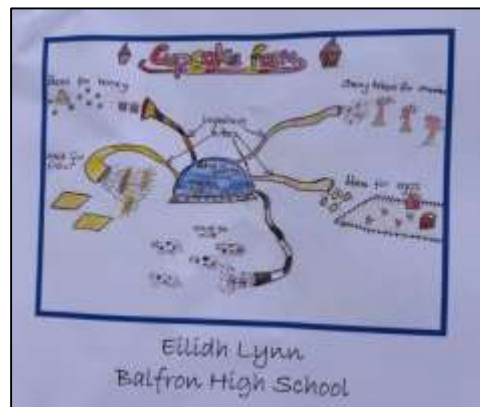


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Art Competition Winners invited to Royal Highland Show

Congratulations to Ellie Thomson and Amy Kirkpartick who won 2nd and 3rd place in the Scottish Government Schools Design Competition. Pupils had to submit their design that outlined the future of farming. As a prize, Ellie and Amy were invited to the Royal Highland Show with a group of friends to receive their award and spend the day at the show. Other Balftron High pupils had their great work displayed on the Scottish Government banner.





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New S3 visit the Royal Highland Show

On 23rd June S3 pupils visited the Royal Highland Show. The purpose was to learn about the careers available in the agricultural, environmental, food and fisheries industries. They attended talks by experts in these fields and had the opportunity to learn about local food produce and sustainable food production. Some pupils even won a rosette for their culinary skills.

There was also the opportunity to see the best of breeds of cattle, sheep and horses. A very enjoyable day in the sunshine! Our thanks to The Royal Highland Educational Trust who supported this trip by covering costs.





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Primary 7 Induction Day

It is always fantastic to welcome a new yeargroup to Balfon High and this year was no exception. The P7 pupils threw themselves into activities. Here are some pictures from the day.





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ConneXions Course, Mrs Patrick



Well done to Louise, Scott and Robyn who were presented with their certificates for the successful completion of the Connexions course. Over the year they have worked in the polytunnel, visited local businesses and attended classes to develop their skills and knowledge in Biology, Home Economics, Technical, Literacy and Numeracy. Two highlights for the pupils this year were: being able to plan, cook and run the Official Opening Ceremony of the Polytunnel and being able to organise and perform a presentation on a Sprouts project. Mrs Smith in the Support for Learning Team, and a group of teaching staff, have co-ordinated this course with the support of a number of local external partners. Well done and thanks to everyone who supported this course!



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Young Carers, Mr Davidson



Balford High School celebrated Carers week with a stall in the marquee where pupils could ask questions and glean information about Young Carers and the support available from Stirling Carers. The following week Colleen from @stirlingcarers spoke to S2 and 3 pupils in assembly about the challenges faced by young carers in particular. At the same time form class leaders of S4-6 took their classes through a presentation on young carers during form class time. The young carers group finished their last group support session with Colleen and Molly by attending a lunch at Doyle's cafe where they evaluated the work they had completed over the last term whilst having a bite to eat. Three of our young carers group then met with Alan Milliken from Stirling Council and representatives from the Young Carers Organisation the following day to share their experiences of being a young carer in Balford High School and the support available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5dWOQb3xTo>

If you think you might be a young carer, please contact Mr Davidson.



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Leadership Training Event



Our new Prefect Leadership team took part in a training event on Friday 24th June during periods 1-5. This event was divided into 3 sessions, Practical Teamwork, Teambuilding /Problem Solving Training and Practical Leadership with all pupils having the opportunity to experience all tasks in addition to some fitness training.

Our S6 pupils were tasked with a number of problem solving tasks in their teams: from using a giant Meccano kit, practicing their communication skills while leading their group around a course while blindfolded to competing against another team to complete an engineering challenge. These tasks were supported by staff from the Royal Navy and the Royal Marine Commandos.

Pupils in S5/6 were then given the opportunity to experience these activities during their Health and Wellbeing period (period 6).

Some feedback from the event:

- “really great problem solving activities”
- “really helped me think about my communication skills”
- “brilliant team building day”



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Summer Concert, Liam Cassidy



Just like every year at Balfon, the summer concert took place on the 23rd June to celebrate and showcase the musical talent of the pupils, however this year had a slightly different vibe: it was Mr. Finnerty's 25th year at Balfon High School, and his last as well. To kick off the concert in a true Scottish theme, the orchestra played a wonderful performance of Loch Lomond, and many wonderful musical performers followed from Mozart to metal. During the interval the audience was treated to the catering staff's infamous strawberry tarts, and then we were back to more talent from the orchestra, choir and soloists. To end the night accordingly, our thanks were given to Mr. Finnerty, who was not only responsible for the smooth-running of this year's concert, but all the last concerts for 25 years. It was a great night in which Balfon truly put up a show, and we will all be looking forward to the next.

Mr Finnerty's last concert as PT Creative Arts was a finale to be proud of. Some former pupils were in the audience and a special presentation was made to Mr Finnerty by Yvonne Bauwens. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Finnerty for his 25 years of service to Balfon High.





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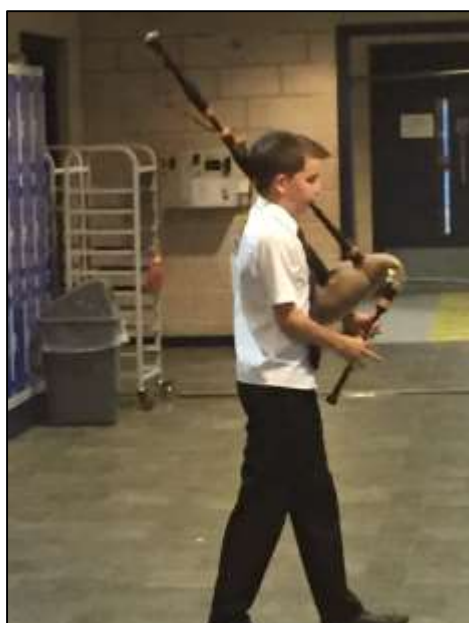
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Choir and orchestra (above)



Innes,
Eva and
Fraser
(left)



Ewan piping (left)
and Liam playing
percussion (right).





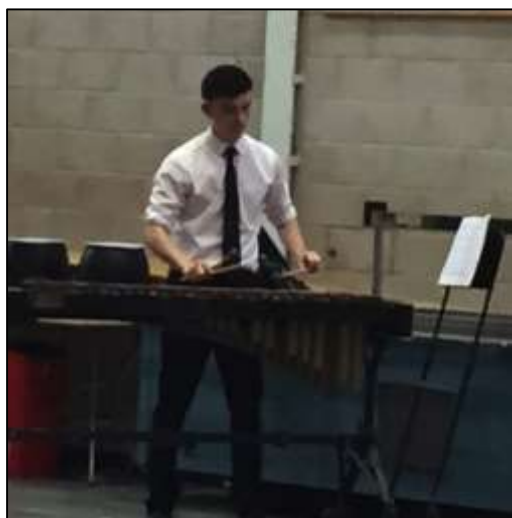
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Ruaridh on guitar, Anna on Cello and Kirsty on Music Technology (above)

Rory on percussion, Roisin, Innes and Eva (below)



Mr Spriggs (left) our senior technician, making sure everything runs smoothly as always.



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Mrs McEwan leads the wind band (above) and the choir led by Mrs MacDonald (below)



The orchestra and choir came together to performed Adiemus and Cantus Iteratus



Mrs Bath, our Chief Invigilator, and Mrs Cameron receiving a little token of thanks for their support with the exams this year. It was great to have Mrs Bath's help on the Head Prefect interview panel too.



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Prefects serving strawberry tarts and refreshments (above), performers enjoying the strawberry tarts and art work (below)



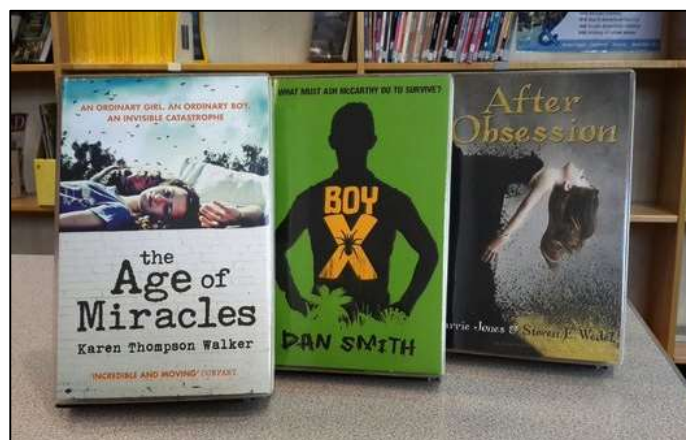
Thumbs up to Hilary and the Bellrock catering staff for the strawberry tarts!



Balfon Highlights

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Library, Mrs O'Donnell



I've purchased (used) or donated three chess sets, 2 Scrabble games and 1 draughts game, which pupils are encouraged to use in the library during lunch period on Tues/Wed/Thurs.

I don't have a formalised club, as such, but pupils know where the games are and pull them out to use them as they wish. Sometimes, they use them at the end of their English class visits, if they have been given permission by their teacher (permission only given when they're completely caught up with written work).



Higher Modern Studies students researching inequality in US politics and Advanced Higher English students give serious consideration to their choice of texts (above).



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Scottish Schools Athletics, Mrs Robertson

Our Balfon High School athletics team have once again achieved some incredible results in an exciting weekend of athletics. Eight relay teams took part in the Scottish Schools Relay Championships on Friday in Glasgow. Competing against the best schools in Scotland, our Under 14 team were the winners, in a championship best- ever time! For this achievement, they were awarded a trophy for the best girls relay team performance to bring home two trophies!



Scotland's best team were: Katie Burr, Briagha Cook, Emily Corrigan and Cosima Schwahn. This was an amazing achievement, girls, and we are so proud of you!

Two other teams came home with medals. Our 15-17 boys and girls teams both won bronze medals. Team members were: Anna Cameron, Rebekah Cowan, Laura McKenzie and Esther Ross, Callum Adolphus, Alex Cullen, Alan Murray and Will Price. Congratulations to all eight.

We are sorry to be losing Alan Murray and Cosima Schwahn who are moving on to new





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schools.

On Saturday, four of our athletes took part in the Scottish Schools Pentathlon Championships at Grangemouth. They produced some fantastic performances with an abundance of personal bests.

Briagha Cook won the Girls Under 14 silver medal - an achievement which suggests she has an exciting future ahead in athletics. Katie Burr, with another year left in this age-group, showed that she, too, is a very exciting prospect, finishing in fifth place. These were fantastic results for both girls. Unfortunately, Amy Kirkpatrick had to withdraw injured.

Esther Ross, in her first multi-event championship, finished in an excellent 7th place in the 15-17 age-group, and can be very proud of her performances against more experienced athletes.



Scottish Schools Athletics – Saturday 11 June

In a demonstration of faultless hurdling, Briagha Cook smashed the championship record to win the event. Briagha was also awarded a trophy for the best female hurdle performance in the championships. Briagha is following in her mum's footsteps as Rhona McLeod won the same event at the same age. Briagha followed this achievement with a long jump win too – what an exceptionally talented young athlete!





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Hockey Festival



On Thursday 2nd June, 9 pupils from Balfon went to Glasgow national hockey centre to volunteer as umpires at a primary school event. All 9 pupils have been working to achieve the Hockey Youth Umpire Award and this event was used as the final assessment for the group. Here is an excerpt from Scottish Hockey's report on the event:

"The 2016 NASUWT National Primary Festival saw over 450 pupils, teachers and volunteers descend upon the Glasgow National Hockey Centre to take part on Thursday 2nd June. The event included 38 teams from 20 local authorities taking part, the highest level of participation since the event began. Designed for girls and boys of primary 6 and 7 ages, the day offered a fantastic opportunity for young players to come along and play in a fun environment at the Commonwealth venue while honing their hockey skills. We also saw 20 volunteers give their time to the event, including 10 senior pupils from Balfon High School who used this opportunity to finalise their youth umpire award."

The format of the festival saw the schools divided into pools based on their ability (experienced or inexperienced) and playing in a round robin format. No scores were officially kept with main focus being fun and participation.

The Glasgow National Hockey Centre was a hive of activity, with eight games being played at any one time. With so many pupils making the most of their time on the pitch, they also took to playing on our inflatable hockey pitch during some down time in between games. The enthusiasm and excitement displayed by many of the children and volunteers just goes to show how important an event like this is in encouraging and developing youth level hockey."

The pupils were all a credit to the school, interacting brilliantly with all the primary school pupils and contributing to the enthusiastic atmosphere around the event. The umpiring standard was good and well done to the whole group for passing their practical assessment. The pupils involved were; Kirsty Kay and Emelia Conner (recent leavers), Katie Biggart and Liam Cassidy, Callum Adolphus, Niamh Doyle and Jemma Whyte, Eva Mailer and Emma Wilkes.

Well done everyone and we hope to see our youth umpires continuing to be involved in Hockey at Balfon next year!





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Junior Games

Well done to all the S1-3 pupils who took part in the Junior games this year. It was a great event encompassing Football, Volleyball, Badminton and Swimming. The teams had a great day and enjoyed lots of success.





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Read on adrenaline junkies! Miss MacPhee



The spectacular slopes of Aonach Mor and the Nevis Range welcomed the return of the Fort William Downhill Mountain Bike World Cup for its 15th year. The 9th highest mountain in the UK requires physical strength, quick reflexes, superb bike control and an unerring eye for the right line from the riders (and a lot of bottle!), as they speed down the 2.8km long course at a blistering pace, reaching 60-70kph. This year marked the last competitive appearance of former Downhill World Champion and mountain bike legend, Steve Peat. Amongst the celebrations, there was also sorrow around the arena for 26 year old Stevie Smith (nicknamed Chainsaw) who had tragically passed away in a motocross accident just a few weeks prior and whose name was on the start list.

12 pupils were fortunate to witness the set-up and practice sessions on the Friday, before 20,000 spectators descended on the mountain side over the weekend. The day began with a wander around the team areas, where pupils bartered for kit and souvenirs from the team mechanics. Glances of some of the top professionals as they prepared their bikes for practice were sending ripples of excitement through the pupils. It was then a quick gondola trip up to the top lift station to experience the track descent on foot. This was made even better by the glorious weather and midgie free haven! After witnessing the sheer steep nature of the track and speed of the athletes, it was a journey back down the gondola to mingle with the riders coming through the finish line. The pupils were lucky to capture some selfies with some of their favourite riders and have a quick chat with them. Miss MacPhee



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was on hand to embarrass the pupils when her phone storage ran out mid-photo, which then caused a queue as she furiously deleted through her phone in anticipation. The day went by in a flash and it was an absolute pleasure to have pupils with such enthusiasm and awe for the event on the trip. Maybe at some point in the future it could be one of them flying down the hillside to the sound of cheers and cowbells!



Some of the boys with Danny MacAskill



Miss MacPhee with Josh Bryceland & Brendan Fairclough



Miss MacPhee with the legendary Steve Peat



The finish line...



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Balfon High School Golfers

Lachlan Reynolds, Martin Munro and John Paterson were the winning team at the Stirling Schools Golf Competition this month. John won the championship overall with a score of +1. John is moving to St Andrews for his S6 – we wish him every success in the future.





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Rowing Success



Balfon High School had fantastic success in this year's Scottish Rowing Championships held at Strathclyde Park. Lily Young (3C3) and Martha Coombes (3E3) won gold in the Scottish Schools Junior Girls aged 14 Double Sculls. The pair continued their success in the Scottish Schools Junior Girls aged 14 Quad Sculls where they teamed up with Innes Dunlop (3C2), Lucy Steele (3E3) and coxed by Alex Clark (3E1) to take gold yet again. Lily Young won bronze by herself in the Scottish Schools Single Sculls before joining Laura McKenzie (4L2) where the pair took gold in the Scottish Schools aged 16 Double Sculls. Laura McKenzie capped off a fantastic weekends rowing for Balfon with a Bronze in the Women's Novice Singles. The girls should be very proud of their achievements and it is certain that Balfon High had a bright future in rowing.





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Lewis Stewart, 6L3



Congratulations to Lewis – he heads to UCI Junior Track World Championships shortly!

<https://t.co/jfEKi3r5fU>

Callum Byrne, 2E3



On Sunday 5th June it was the Stirling Triathlon. It was a really nice day and it was sunny and warm. I came 3rd, I was really happy with that because I had a really big race the day before. In my age group, 13-14yr, I have a 300 meter swim before getting on to my bike and cycling 6 km. After that I went on to doing a 2.7km run where it was a sprint between 2nd and 3rd. I was just beaten at the line but overall I was still happy about my race.



Balftron Highlights

www.balftronhigh.org.uk

Balftron High School Sports Day

Sports Day 2016 was a chance for the new House captains to do their duties for the first time. They and the pupils had a great day with the weather just about holding up. It was great to see the S1 classes running their stalls and the 'Race your mates' was as popular as ever. In the end it was Endrick who came out on top.

Well done to everyone who took part.





Balford Highlights

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Balford High House Captains for the new session rallied the troops for an excellent start to the inter-house.

Campsie House Captains are Katie Biggart, Kirsty Maitland, Connor Park, Orla Gerrard, Ruaridh Shaw

Endrick House Captains are Helen Barrett, Rory Kay, Rachel Cairns, Emma Pretorius, Emily Shaw

Lomond House Captains are Euan Hayward, Sophie Howie, Molly Rowley, Lewis Stewart, Jamie Wastling



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Balfon High School Internationalists

This year we added 10 more pupils to the Hall of Fame. These are pupils who have represented Scotland or Great Britain over the last year.

Some of our recent additions to the internationalist board and hall of fame:



Meghan Davies (Skiing), Anna Cameron (Athletics), John Paterson (Golf)



Gabiella Whitehouse-Middleton (Tae Kwon Do), Ava Bowers (Karate), Matt Chandler (Athletics)



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Alistair Mitchell (Tae Kwon Do), Rosie Eckersley (Cross Country), Nicola Carroll (Tae Kwon Do)



Scott Forbes (Sailing)



Christie Anne Shannon (Ice Skating)
& Sports Personality of the Year



Balford Highlights

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Sports Awards 2016

A massive thank you to Rhona Mcleod, Judy Murray, Sterling Davis and Colin Gregor for giving us their time and wisdom at our annual sports awards. A special well done goes to Niamh Doyle and Angus Brownlie, our young ambassadors, who did a fantastic job of hosting the event.





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Uniform at Balfron High School

We take a huge pride in uniform at Balfron High School. All young people are expected to wear school uniform. This includes:

- white shirt and school tie
- tailored trousers or skirt
- school blazer
- black shoes

This year we have introduced a school jumper and cardigan, modelled by Alice and Ross (right)



Uniform is available from the Trutex shop on 35B Argyle Street (between St Enoch Centre and back of Argyle Street train station) or their on-line site www.border-embroideries.co.uk

Prices:

Boys Blazer	from £23.50	School tie	£6	(school office)
Girls fitted blazer	from £27.75	Prefect tie	£8	(school office)
V Neck with badge	£14	Tailored skirt	£15.99	
Cardigan with badge	£14	Girls trousers	£15.99	



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Dates for your Diary

9 August	SQA Exam results
10 August	Senior staff in school for pupils post-exam support
22 August	In-service Day for Staff
23 August	Pupils return
29 August	HE Convention (Stirling University)
30 August	Parent Council Meeting, 7pm (Strathendrick Suite)
7 September	S5/6 UCAS, College and Apprenticeship Evening for parents (tbc)
8 September	AH Geography Arran Field Trip
12 September	S1 Residential
29 September	French Exchange

If you are interested in having a flavour of the day in the life of the school, why not follow us on twitter - **@balfonhigh**

