

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE NEWSLETTER



February 2009

Dear Parents, Former Pupils and Friends of the High School

2009—A Year of Anniversaries

The weather has wreaked havoc with sports fixtures, but on the positive side I suppose that has given the F4-6 pupils more time to focus on their Prelims, which are now coming to an end! 2009 is now well under way – and what a great year it promises to be. On Friday 30 January the staff and Sixth Years came together to celebrate the 250th Birthday of Robert Burns in an evening of traditional elements of a Burns Supper. Granted, the dram for the piper was Irn Bru, but the rest was true to the spirit of Burns with haggis, speeches, recitations, songs, fiddling, and all interspersed with dancing.

Nearly 100 staff, partners and Sixth Year pupils came together in a wonderful evening, with staff and pupils all contributing to the various items on the programme. Bring on the 251st!

This is not the only other anniversary we are celebrating this year however, as we will in 2009 be celebrating a number of key dates for the School. On St Valentine's Day 1239, 770 years ago, Pope Gregory issued a Bull instructing the Abbot of Lindores to open a school to educate the children of Dundee, making the High School the second oldest school in Scotland (and as far as is known, the 27th oldest in the world!). 175 years ago, in October 1834, the current main school building, known for many decades as the Boys' School, was built with the help of public

subscription, drawing together the by then three schools in the city. These were then united in October 1859, 150 years ago, and renamed the High School of Dundee in a Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria. In the same year Charles Darwin finally published his seismic volume 'The Origin of Species'. Surely just a coincidence! The High School has in its 770 years history been an institutional example of Darwin's theories. Its DNA has evolved over the centuries, adapting to circumstance and emerging the stronger for it. This Newsletter brings to you some of the latest elements of that evolutionary process. The High School double helix is in great shape and the efforts, achievements and personalities of the pupils and staff remain a source of great pride and enable us to look forward to the future with great confidence.

Pupil Achievements

F1 Biology Poster Competition

F1 were asked to produce a poster detailing information about a living organism. Winner was Laura Strachan, with honourable mentions for Hannah Arnold, Catherine Coull, Emily Culross, Natasha Kidd, Andrew Lawrie, Olivia Tait. All finalists receive 20 house points and the winner receives 50 house points and a £10 book token.

Charities

The L1-3 Nativity this year, 'Countdown to Christmas', raised just short of £1000 for charity.

As a result, Downs Syndrome Scotland and Radio Tay Cash for Kids will receive cheques for £500 each.

The Caird Hall Christmas Concert raised £5,000 profit from our Annual Christmas Concert in the Caird Hall, which has been divided equally between "Music in Hospitals, Scotland" and "Sense Scotland". Thank you to the staff and pupils who made these events so successful.

Chemistry Quiz UK Top of the Bench

The HSD team of Jory Peters (F4), Kevin Singh (F4), April Shepherd (F3), Christopher White (F3), Donald Campbell (F3), Sarah Douglas (F2) and Campbell MacLeod (F2) have been successful this term. Kevin, April, Christopher and Sarah won the Tayside final on January 20th and the team has now reached the UK national final on the 28th March in Loughborough. Approx 28 teams will be taking part. We have a good record in this, making 6th place last year and 3rd the year before. Fingers crossed!

Debating and Public Speaking

Our debaters have been very busy in recent weeks. Our senior pairs of Lauren Pringle and Scott Ralston, and Rachel McLellan and James Wood have continued to enjoy great success. As I write Lauren and Scott are in Athens with Mrs McGrath and the Scotland team at the 2009 World Schools Debating Championships.

Debating cont'd

Team manager Irene McGrath, teacher and debating coach at the High School of Dundee, said: 'Scotland has a very proud record of competing at World Schools.

Since its inception in 1988 we have won three times, reached five finals, five semi-finals and four quarter-finals, and never failed to make the last sixteen.

All of our team members have worked extremely hard to prepare for the World Championships, and they deserve to do very well."

The World Schools Debating Championships is an annual tournament that brings together 40 nations from around the globe, and attracts some of the brightest young minds on the planet. The Scottish Schools International Debating Council, in cooperation with the High School and Dundee City Council has also recently launched a bid to bring the competition to Dundee in 2011.

The Scottish Debating Team with Lauren and Scott won the Three Nations tournament defeating England and Wales in a warm-up for the world Championships in Athens from 9 February. Scott and Lauren, plus pupils from Heriot's, St Columba's and Morrison's beat England in the final on the use of International Military Action to bring about regime change in failed states."

Scott and Lauren have qualified for the finals of the respective Oxford and Cambridge University Debating Competitions. They are also joined at the Oxford finals by our 2nd pair, Rachel and James who have done very well indeed.

In a remarkable season, at the end of January Lauren and Scott also moved through to the next round of the Law Society competition.

Meanwhile our younger debaters have also been involved in various competitions.

At the ICYD Scottish qualifier at Dundee University on 31 January our two teams of April Shepherd and Joanna Tait, and Joanna Tinson and Hannah Thomson (all F3) were a great credit, competing against 14 other schools for the 5 final places in Cambridge in April. April and Joanna finished 3rd, with April best speaker; Jo Tinson was 7th best speaker and she and Hannah finished 7th overall; Our A team therefore qualified for the final, a fine achievement.

The junior teams have been very involved in the Courier Schools Competition, with all three pairs winning through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately only the F2 team of Cameron Pringle and Lewis Davie won through to the final – it must have been a close call for the other! – which is on 27 February in Lower Parliament Hall, St Andrews, but all three teams were a real credit to the school.

Music

Associated Board District Prize

Laura Lee F3 has won the Nora C Leggatt Prize for Pianoforte at Grade 7 level for the year ending 2008. The prize is awarded for the highest mark in the district achieved at Grade 7. Her name will appear in the Annual Review for the Associated Board at the end of May 2009. Laura's mark was 130 out of a possible 150. This is the second time Laura has won this prize, winning at the Grade 6 level in December 2006.

Piping

On Friday 6 February a piping trio of Hannah Robb (F3), Ben Flack (F4) and Jack Hamilton (F1) performed at the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society in Edinburgh. We believe this was the first time that High School CCF pipers have been invited to the RSPS; they were accompanied by Mrs Ann Spalding (piping tutor).

Sport

Athletics International call-up

Callum Edwards represented Scotland in the Schools' International Pentathlon event in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, in December.

Hockey

U15 Indoor Champions

The U15 team emulated the U18s in winning the recent Midlands Schools Indoor Championships at the beginning of term. Captain Jo Tait and the team played with great spirit to defeat Strathallan in the final.

U18 Inter-District Champions

Four of our current 1st XI were called up to the Midlands Indoor U18 team, playing in the inter district championships on 31 January. Vicky Emslie, Rona Leese, Lindsay Docherty and Melanie Matthew played a big part in the victorious Midlands team.

Rugby

The wintry conditions have led to many cancellations. One of the few fixtures to go ahead was the fifth round (last 16) U18 Cup match against Heriot's away. A close game saw the 1st just miss out by 13:20. Meanwhile the U15 team has reached the same stage in the U15 Plate competition and so we wish them well in their next tie once the weather relents! Meanwhile congratulations to the following on their inclusion in the various age group Caledonia Squads:

- U18 Allan Drysdale
- U17 Struan Cessford, Ruairidh Voigt
- U16 David Jones, Ben Milne, Conor McCollom, Gareth Stubbs

Skiing

GB Youth Winter Olympics Call-Up

Congratulations to Charlie Guest (F4) who has just been selected as the youngest member of the 32 strong GB team for the European Youth Winter Olympics to be held in Slask-Beskidy, Poland from 14-21 February.

After Christmas holiday training in the US she has been competing in her first FIS races and goes to Poland to compete in the Super-G, Giant Slalom and Slalom. The 2009 EYOWF will see over 1070 athletes from 45 European countries assembled to compete in nine different winter disciplines.

Meanwhile younger sister Katy Guest has been competing in age group European competitions with some success. On Jan 9th in the Anglo Scot Giant Slalom she came 6th out of 62 and in the Slalom although she missed a gate in the first run she came 5th in the 2nd run. On 21 Jan in the Welsh Alpine Championships she came 21st out of 31 in the Bass Slalom for under14s and then 4th out of 33 in the Bass Giant Slalom.

Swimming

The Gala

Many thanks to Mr Jack and the PE staff plus other staff helpers for making this such a successful and enjoyable event.

The pupils entered into the races with good spirit as ever and our congratulations go to the medallists and victorious house, Airlie, as follows:

8 & UNDER CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Susanna Porter	Aystree	1st	Glen Davie	Lindores
2nd	Mhairi Pratt	Airlie	2nd	Alfie George	Lindores
3rd	Lucy Darroch	Aystree	3rd	Thomas Jarron	Airlie

AGED 9 YEARS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Sophie Davidson	Aystree	1st	Finlay McKillop	Airlie
2nd	Lorna Husband	Airlie	2nd	Jack Sampson	Wallace
3rd	Victoria Vitale	Aystree	3rd	Malcolm Campbell	Lindores

AGED 10 YEARS CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Rachel Murie	Aystree	1st	Matthew Fagerson	Lindores
2nd	Rachel Chalmers	Airlie	2nd	Andrew Elliot	Airlie
3rd	Louise Clark	Lindores	3rd	Euan Strachan	Wallace

11 & OVER CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Olivia Ritchie	Wallace	1st	Alasdair Rennet	Airlie
2nd	Catherine Allen	Aystree	2nd	Euan Rose	Airlie
3rd	Molly Duncan	Airlie	3rd	Zac Inglis	Wallace

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Barbara Shaw	Airlie	1st=	Alex Sharpe	Airlie
2nd	Amber Merry	Wallace	1st=	Harris Brown	Wallace
3rd=	Jenna Low	Aystree	3rd	Peter Vannet	Wallace
3rd=	Jenny Allen	Aystree			

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1st=	Marianne Dobson	Airlie	1st	Josh Rowley	Aystree
1st=	Claire Dobson	Airlie	2nd	Glen Milne	Aystree
3rd	Claire Stirling	Lindores	3rd	Matthew Powrie	Airlie

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1st AIRLIE	3rd WALLACE
2nd AYSTREE	4th LINDORES

Scottish Schools Swimming Championships, Glasgow

Six HS swimmers competed, with Josh Rowley's 4th place and Marianne Dobson's 5th place the most notable results.

Full results as follows:

Alasdair Rennet	(P7) 12U 50m Backstroke	14 th
Marianne Dobson	(S6) 17/19 100m & 200m Breaststroke	8 th & 5 th
Alexander Sharpe	(S2) 13/14 200m Backstroke	14 th
Claire Dobson	(S4) 15/16 100m & 200m Freestyle	10 th & 9 th
Harris Brown	(S2) 13/14 100m Freestyle	16 th
Josh Rowley	(S6) 17/19 100m Freestyle	4 th

University Link

Each year a number of F6 pupils participate in lectures at Dundee University in order to enhance their Advanced Higher work. Congratulations to 4 of our pupils who have completed their placements at the University very successfully. James Wood, Patrick McGregor, Rachel Jones and Luisaidh McClymont will all receive certificates from the University.

Young Chef of the Year

Jamie Ford F2 and Jamie Clark F1 both competed in the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition in January. Jamie Clark won the first heat of the competition with Jamie Ford 2nd!

Jamie C will now go on to compete in the District Final at Dundee College on 1st March.

The successful winner will then compete in the Scottish Final before heading to London for the UK Final where the prize is a cooking holiday in Tuscany.

Other Events

Antiques Roadshow

The school had a cameo role on BBC TV recently, when Fiona Bruce introduced the Antiques Roadshow from Dundee. She was filmed standing in Reform Street with the High School as the backdrop. Even one of our FPs, Caroline Gibson, featured in the programme, showing a slipware bowl.

Nick Crane Visit

We were very fortunate to have Nick Crane, the Geographer and explorer of BBC fame (he with the red anorak and brolly) visiting the school Geography Department on 3 February 2009.

A passionate enthusiast for little known Britain he is best known for his work on BBC's Coast and Map Man Series as well as being a regular columnist for the Daily Telegraph. He spoke with his customary enthusiasm and expertise to a group of Form 3 pupils.

Peru Expedition 2010

Arrangements for this very exciting venture are taking shape and we now have 26 firm names for this month of trekking, community work and adventure. More anon.

Staff News

Mrs Val Vannet, Deputy Head and outgoing Head of Geography, was commissioned to write a piece on Geography teaching in the Times Educational Supplement published on 30 January. Entitled "A Country Close-Up" it can be viewed at: <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6007964>

Science

Mrs Lauren Boath has been involved in an exciting project international project to boost interest in science. Prof Jack Holbrook, President of the International Association for Science Education and Director of the international PARSEL project, visited the School on 30 January 2009 to witness first hand the work of Mrs Boath and her F3\Physics pupils. Mrs Boath's success in introducing the PARSEL - Popularity and Relevance of Science Education for Scientific Literacy – initiative has won her an invitation to present her findings to an international conference in Berlin at the beginning of March. This is a very prestigious accolade for science at the High School which will benefit staff and pupils alike.

Baby News!

Congratulations to Junior School teacher Mrs Michelle McIntyre and her husband Donald on the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Rose on 8 February.

FP News

New Year's Honours High School FP Awarded CBE for Services to Science

Congratulations to Professor Anne Glover FP who has been the Chief Scientific Adviser to Scotland since August 2006 and was awarded a CBE in this year's New Year's Honours list for services to environmental science. She is professor of molecular biology at the University of Aberdeen and is a governor of the Natural Environment Research Council.

Professor Glover graduated from Edinburgh before completing her PhD in biochemistry at Cambridge. She has been working at the University of Aberdeen since 1983 and now splits her work between Aberdeen and the Scottish Parliament.

Saltire Fellowship

Ian Stevenson FP, a computer expert and engineer from Aberdeen has been awarded a most prestigious Saltire Fellowship for nine months study in the USA. Ian (Class of 1993) is leaving his wife Ruth behind as he seeks the skills and education he believes he needs to win a leadership position in the Scottish company. The first Saltire Fellows – 12 men and two women in their 20s and 30s - have all given up well-paid jobs to spend four unpaid months at a top business school followed by an internship at a major US firm. In return, all have committed themselves to work in Scotland. Experience is not enough to become a top leader, he said. "I believe in having a solid academic foundation for whatever I do, having the right mental tools to approach the problem."

Interestingly Mark Beaumont FP is a Patron of the Saltire Foundation – another link.

Lecturer wins Theology Prize

Dr Paul Nimmo (FP - Deputy Head Boy in the 1980s) is a lecturer in theology at New College, Edinburgh University.

He has recently won recognition as one of the most promising young theologians in the world in his award of the 2009 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise for his work on the ethics of the Swiss theologian Karl Barth. Dr Nimmo, who was appointed lecturer in theology in June, will receive a prize of \$10,000. He will also receive additional funds of up to \$10,000 to pay for public lectures at universities and other educational institutions around the world.

Dr Nimmo will receive the prize at an awards ceremony at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, in May. His award was in recognition of his recent book "Being in Action: The Theological Shape of Barth's Ethical Vision", which arose out of his doctoral research carried out at Edinburgh.

Rugby International Hopes

Further to the notes in the previous Newsletter news of other rugby successes has been filtering through. Andy Dymock, who left in 2007 has been staking a claim to a place in the Scotland Under-20 squad in the home internationals this season.

Yet another FP, Anthony Kent, also 2007, who is currently a member of the Wasps Academy, has been named in the Scotland Under-19 squad ahead of matches against Italy and France.

Good luck to both players from all at the High School.

Schoolbooks for Kenya

Schoolchildren in Kenya have received a special late Christmas present, with the arrival of their newest class teacher.

High School FP Alex Ferguson has started a three-month stint teaching in the Roseve Educational Centre as part of a gap year in Kenya. She has taken with her more than 300 books donated by fellow pupils at the High School.

Alex, who will spend her time teaching basic Sciences, Maths, English and the arts, as well as taking games lessons and organizing activities for the pupils, is also hoping to learn about the customs and culture of the people she is living with.

SESSION DATES

Watch out for the new session dates which are enclosed with this newsletter.

Please ensure these are placed in your copy of the High School of Dundee Manual.



The High School of Dundee Interact Club

Presents

A Charity Fashion Show

QUANTUM OF SUMMER

An exciting evening of sophisticated catwalk fashion!!

24th and 25th March 2009

Trinity Hall, 7.00 pm

Adults £8

Children £5

Tickets available now from Luci McLeish, Rector's PA

T: 202921 E: lmcleish@dundeehigh.dundeehigh.sch.uk

Glass of wine/soft drink included in ticket price!



**SAINSBURY'S
ACTIVE KIDS 2009**

The High School is again participating in the Sainsbury's Active Kids Campaign this year.

From 11 February until 3 June 2009, you'll receive one Sainsbury's AKV for every £10 you spend at any Sainsbury's store or every £5 you spend in Sainsbury's Locals or Centrals. You can also earn AKVs at Sainsbury's petrol stations and when you shop online at sainsbury's.co.uk

You can also choose to convert your Nectar points into AKVs by visiting nectar.com

Please do collect these vouchers whenever you shop, which will help High School pupils benefit from the activity equipment that we can claim and help them to "Get more Active"!!!

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE

SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday 1st April 2009, 7.00pm

CAIRD HALL

Tickets priced £6 and £3 are available from Dundee City Box Office, City Square or at the door on the evening of the performance.

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE

Presents

THE CRUCIBLE

Arthur Miller's classic parable of mass hysteria draws a chilling parallel between the Salem witch-hunt of 1692 - one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history - and the McCarthyism which gripped America in the 1950s. The story of how the small community of Salem is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice, culminating in a violent climax, is a savage attack on the evils of mindless persecution and the terrifying power of false accusations.

11th/12th and 13th June 2009

St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee

Tickets £7 and £5

Available soon!

