



Named Prizes – a brief history

This document seeks to illuminate the School's ethos of celebrating achievement in a variety of fields of endeavour. It provides a background to many of the named prizes, illustrating the lengthy traditions of the excellence which the School strives at all times to promote.

In 2015 the decision was taken that gender-specific prizes had become out of touch with modern reality and that henceforth the awards for academic excellence must be those of Dux and Proxime Accessit regardless of gender. Approval having been gained from the traceable relatives of those who donated them, the F1 – F5 Dux awards were reassigned; the older prize is now awarded for Dux and that of more recent standing for Proxime Accessit. Prizes for sporting endeavour are unaffected by this change.

There follows a list of the named prizes, in the order in which they are given out at the prizegiving ceremony. The annual reading out of these awards, traditionally undertaken by the Deputy Rector and the Head of the Junior School, contributes to the sense of pride and continuity of purpose within the High School community. Some of these prizes have been awarded for over a century; others have been donated by recent benefactors. The history which follows is illustrative of the length of the School's traditions in this regard and the sense of family we thereby strive to promote.

We have in the following pages made our best attempt to provide the history behind as many of the named prizes as possible. The comments are offered in good faith as being correct; the editors would be delighted to receive corrections and updates at enquiries@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

Particular thanks for the extensive research they have undertaken to assist with this publication are offered to Mr G C Stewart, who took up post in the History and Geography departments in 1959, was Head of History 1965-75, and Deputy Rector 1975-98, and Mr Nigel Stewart, who began teaching Physics in 1960 and was Head of Department 1975-2000.

Several entries make reference to articles in the (School) Magazine which furnish greater detail. An archive of Magazines is held in the Development Office and may be consulted on request. The Bazaar magazine was published in 1896 on the occasion of the fundraising Bazaar organised by Dundee High School Athletics Union 'to aid in acquiring a field at Dalnacraig for the pupils of the High School of Dundee'.

Nomenclature adopted throughout:

- The abbreviation HSD in accordance with the Royal Charter of 1859 granted to the High School of Dundee
- The Board signifying the Board of Directors of the High School of Dundee
- The OBs and OGs Old Boys' and Old Girls' Clubs
- Jessie Norrie author of *Memories of the Old High School*, published 1924, in which she reminisced about the 'Grand Old Masters'.

Year	Name of Prize	First awarded	Information at our disposal
6	Harris Gold Medal for Dux of School	c1885	The William Harris Endowment in 1882 established the 'modern' HSD. Mr Harris died in 1883 leaving monies for a Girls' School, which his sister handed directly to the Directors. See Magazine 1963 and Bazaar Magazine 1896.
6	David Gray Book Prize for Dux of School	1965	Aileen Gray, Lady Superintendent 1960-75, probably funded this in the name of her father David W Gray (died 1960) and/or her brother David (Ghurkha Regiment) who died 1958.
6	Vannet Prize for Proxime Accessit	2018	Donated by Alf Vannet and Val Vannet in memory of W P Vannet, former Head of Art and Assistant Rector 1947-80, and John Vannet, Head Boy 1971-72, who was the first President of the reconstituted Former Pupils' Association.
6	Erskine Prize for Head of School (Boys)	1970	Donated by D W Erskine who was Rector 1955-70 and was responsible for the much-needed reconstruction of 1956. See Magazine 1970.
6	Lowson Prize for Head of School (Girls)	1970	Mr Erskine's wife's maiden name was Lowson. The two prizes were presented as 'a matching pair'
6	Dr John M Morgan Prizes for Service to School (Boys)	1963	Dr John Morgan was senior physician at DRI. The prizes were funded by his son, Prof H Gemmel Morgan, an FP who was in charge of Clinical Biochemistry at DRI from 1952.
6	Bain Prizes for Service to School (Girls)	1974	Donated by Ian M Bain, Rector 1932-55 during demanding times of war, social revolution and educational change for HSD, where the roll rose from 720 in 1932, to 940 in 1955. See Magazine 1955.
6	D Arnot Shepherd Travel Scholarships	1997	Donated by J and E Shepherd to mark the retirement of David Arnot Shepherd (Senior Partner) who was Chairman of the Board 1971-87.
6	J Torrington Bell Prize for Dux in Art	1983	Donated by the family of James Torrington Bell, the renowned artist from Carnoustie. His daughters were Mrs Pamela Richterich and Miss Evelyn Bell. Pamela was a pupil at HSD, became a member of staff in the 1960s and met and married Dan Richterich of the German dept. She died in her early 40s from multiple sclerosis.
6	Brian McNeill Prize for Dux in Biology	1963	Brian McNeill was an FP, born in Dundee in 1942. After early education at Daniel Stewart's he entered L7 in 1954. His favourite pastime was walking the Scottish hills. Having embarked on his medical studies at St. Andrews he became seriously ill during his first year and died the following February, aged 19. His two younger brothers became doctors, as did a nephew and a niece. He was the uncle of the McNeills who were pupils; Rebecca, Mary, Gregor and Louise.
6	T S Murray Prize for Dux in Chemistry		Dr Tom S Murray was an FP who returned to teach Chemistry and after a long career retired as Head Master of Science in 1933.
6	W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Computing W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Economics W E Crichton Prize for Dux in Spanish	1970	W E Crichton was Treasurer of the school 1920s-1970. His former apprentices at Mackay, Irons & Co decided to raise money as a testimonial in recognition of his services to the accountancy profession.
6	Graeme Adamson Prize for Dux in Drama	1994	Donated by Graeme Adamson who was Head Boy 1977-78. He followed a career in the media before becoming a doctor in the family tradition.
6	Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in English Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in French Armitstead Trust Prize for Dux in German	19 th c	George Armitstead, 1 st Baron Armitstead, 1824-1915. MP for Dundee 1868-73 and 1880-1885. Senior partner in shipping line and jute business, who died without issue and left a number of benevolent bequests to Dundee institutions.

6	Sibbald Prize for Dux in Geography	1968	Donated by Greig Sibbald of Graham and Sibbald, Chartered Surveyors and estate agents, who was an FP of Junior School.
6	Sir John Leng Trust Prize for Dux in History		Sir John Leng was Liberal MP for Dundee 1889-1906 and founded the publishing empire which included the Courier & Advertiser. A prize was given to each secondary school in Dundee for the best pupil in English or Science.
6	Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Mathematics Dott Memorial Prize for Dux in Music	1907	George Dott was a St Andrews graduate in Maths and Philosophy who was Head of Mathematics from the 1850s until his retirement in 1889. On his death in 1907 his daughter made a gift which the Directors used to fund numerous medals and prizes: Maths, Greek, German, Drawing, Sewing and Music. See Jessie Norrie.
6	William More Prize for Dux in Applied Mathematics	1972	William More was Head of Mathematics 1937-68. The prize was given in his memory by his widow. See Magazine 1968.
6	Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Dux in Modern Studies		The club was founded in 1840 with the aim of encouraging friendly relations among the members and the advancement of education in Angus. As well as donating prizes to every school in Angus, every two years the club also finances a Strathmore Cobb Scholarship, worth £200, tenable at either St Andrews or Edinburgh University.
6	Dallas Allardice Cup and Prize for Outstanding Performance in Physical Education – Boys	1984	Dallas Allardice was Head of PE 1959-79 and Assistant Rector 1980-84. He was a rugby internationalist 1945-47. During WW2 he saw very active service as a Commando in Norway, the Western Desert and Italy. See <i>Friendship in Time of War</i> , published to raise funds for the Mayfield Sports Centre, and the 1984 Magazine.
6	Mhairi Henderson Cup and Prize for Outstanding Performance in Physical Education – Girls	1980	Mhairi was girls' hockey captain in 1977 and played for the Scottish Schools XI. She was also a gold medallist in Scottish Schools athletics. Her mother, Alison Hogg, worked in the HSD PE department in the 1950s and her brother Calum ran for Scotland in the Commonwealth Games. Like Eric Liddell (<i>Chariots of Fire</i>) he would not compete on a Sunday.
6	Jacuk Prize for Dux in Physics Jacuk Prize for Investigation at AH Physics	1976	Josef Jacuk was a Polish officer who settled in Dundee post-war, took an Honours degree at University College Dundee and joined HSD in 1958. He was Head of Physics 1963-75 and CO of the CCF in the 60s and 70s. He died in post in 1975. See Magazine 1975. These prizes replaced the Cunningham Prize, which dated from c1930 and had been donated by a former Head of Science.
6	Anderson Prize for Investigation at AH Biology	1985	Donated by Dr J Anderson, a former school doctor, in recognition of the education received in the 70s and 80s by his family; John, Elaine (who was Dux in Biology in 1985) and Robert.
6	James Smart Prize for Investigation at AH Chemistry	1990	Donated by James Smart, who joined the staff in 1954 and was Head of Chemistry 1970-90. He was a Principal Examiner with the Scottish Examinations Board. See Magazine 1990.
6	William Laird Prizes for Scottish Studies	1965	William Laird joined the staff in 1921 and was Head of English c1940-1956. He was responsible for the Magazine of 1934. See Magazine 1956.
6	Frank Young Prize for Excellence in Natural Sciences (Biology / Chemistry / Physics)	1972	Frank D Young was Principal of Dundee Technical College and a Director of HSD in the 1950s. His father Frank W Young was Head of Science at HSD 1877-1900; he resigned in 1900 to save the school money and moved on to promote the development of science in Scottish education. One of Jessie Norrie's 'Grand Old Masters'.
6	Simon Newton Memorial Trophy for Commitment in Music and Sport	1998	Simon was a pupil who died in a tragic road accident when he was in Form 6. The trophy was donated by his parents in his memory.
6/5	Baker Trade of Dundee		Donated by the Baker Trade of the 'Nine Trades'

6/5	Caird Prize for Higher Business Management	1929	Sir James Caird (1837-1916), industrialist (jute), entrepreneur and philanthropist, was a great benefactor to Dundee. He donated the Caird Hall and Caird Park to the city and financed Shackleton's <i>Endurance</i> expedition to the Antarctic, 1914-16. This prize was first awarded for commercial subjects.
6/5	Illsley Trophy for Outstanding Performance in Drama	2013	Donated by Doris and the Illsley family to record their long connection with the School: Robin Illsley (pupil 1962-73); Dr Bill Illsley (Director 1965-98); and Roger Illsley, who was a pupil 1960-68; teacher of English 1973-78; APT English 1978-80; the first Head of Drama & Media Studies 1988-2006, Deputy Head 2006-11 and Senior Deputy Head 2011-12.

5	Dennis J Paterson Prize for Dux of Form 5	1994	D J Paterson of Carnoustie was a member of the Board 1981-88 and Chairman 1988-93. He was President of the OBs in 1978. On his death in 1993 the family presented the trophy to mark their long and active association with HSD. His three sons, Cameron, David and Graham, all attended school in the 1970s-80s; David was an outstanding debater and public speaker. This prize was originally awarded for Dux of F5 Boys.
5	Caroline S Low Memorial Prize for Proxime Accessit of Form 5	1999	Caroline was Dux of F5 in 1994. She was killed in a cycling accident in 1998, aged 21, when she was a medical student at Edinburgh University. The prize, originally awarded for Dux of F5 Girls, was established by her parents and grandparents in her memory following generous donations from friends and family. A Caroline Low memorial prize was also created at Edinburgh University and is awarded each year to the best medical student on the Neuroscience Honours programme. Caroline undertook an extra academic year as part of her studies and received a BSc in Neuroscience just prior to her untimely death.
5	Isabella Hunter Award for Higher Art	1970	Donated by George N Hunter as a memorial to his wife who died in 1963. Their sons George and David were, respectively, Head Boy 1958-59 and Dux in Maths and Sciences.
5	Glenday Award for Higher Biology	1978	Prize funded by parents in memory of their daughter who died of appendicitis while a pupil in Form 2. Her brother David studied Art and Biology in F6 in 1978.
5	Sandy Wardlaw Memorial Trophy and Book Prize for Higher Chemistry	1998	Sandy Wardlaw taught at HSD 1933-70, apart from his war service, as the rear gunner of a Lancaster in Bomber Command. He was Head of Chemistry 1963-70. He was very much involved with rugby, cricket, the 'Lit' and the CCF and was housemaster of Wallace. His children and grandchildren (Stevensons, Anstruther) are recent pupils and FPs.
5	E M Stewart Prize for Higher English	1978	Donated by E M Stewart, who was Head of English 1956-66, then promoted to Depute and was Rector 1970-77. He established the Trust Fund 1975-76, to assist with the School's transition to independent status. Dux of School in the 20s, he was President of the OBs in 1968. See Magazine 1977.
5	Robert Biggar Prize for Higher Geography	1971	Donated in memory of Bob Biggar, the first separate Head of Geography 1956-70, who died in post. See Magazine 1970.
5	Edinburgh Angus Club Prize for Higher History		See under F6 on previous page.
5	Dennis F Collins Prize for Higher Latin	2018	In memory of Dennis Collins, late former pupil, and parent and grandparent of HSD pupils.
5	J B Meiklejohn Prize for Higher Mathematics	1930	J B Meiklejohn was Head of Mathematics c1910-37. See Magazine 1937.

5	James Stevenson Prize for Higher French James Stevenson Prize for Higher German	1980	James (Jock) Stevenson graduated in French and German in 1939 and spent World War 2 serving in the Intelligence Corps. He joined the staff in 1950 and retired as Head of French in 1979. President of the Cricket Club for 28 years, he was also a form master, CCF instructor, President of the Literary and Debating Society and a member of the Stamp Club.
5/6	Armitstead Trust Prize for Higher Modern Studies		See Dux in English F6
5/6	Graeme Matheson-Bruce Prize for Higher Music	1994	Graeme was an FP who was a professional singer of some repute on the continent. A contemporary of Ronald F Cochrane (Head of Music 1978-2001) he was also an accomplished violinist and pianist. On his death at a young age the award was financed by his friends and colleagues.
5	Christopher and Philip Daft Prize for Higher Physics	1983	The brothers Christopher and Philip were pupils at HSD in 1980s and were particularly able in this subject. They were founder members of the Radio and Electronics Club in the early 80s.
5	Spankie Quaich for Higher Engineering Science	1993	David Spankie was an FP of the school who died in the 1970s and the brother of Jimmy Spankie the former Grampian television presenter. The prize was donated by his widow. Their father, C C Spankie, was a member of the Board 1951-68 and President of the OBs.

4	Armistead Trust Prize for Dux of Form 4	19 th c	See under F6
4	R S L Macpherson Prize for Proxime Accessit of Form 4	1959	A Lt R S L McPherson of the Royal Highlanders was invalided home from the front in 1918. An FP, he became an investment manager with the Alliance Trust and was a member of the Board 1960-67.
4	David Mathers Trophy and Prize for Mathematics in Forms 3 and 4	2012	David Mathers was an FP (class of 1951) and was a member of the well-known Mathers family who attended the school from the early 1900s right up until the present day. His grandparents built the Mathers Hotel, now reincarnated as the Malmaison. David was resident at the hotel when he attended school. He served in the RAF after leaving school and then taught Mathematics in Tayside until his retirement.
4	Jane Ray Prize for Home Economics	1980	Jane is an FP who excelled in Fashion and Fabric during the 1970s. She attended the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels and made a successful career in the industry.

3	Jane Spiller Prizes for Dux and Proxime Accessit of Form 3	c1914	Jane L S Spiller or Spillar was enrolled as a pupil aged 10 in the HSD Art class of 1873. A 'teacher of languages' in 1901, she was living in South Tay St with her father William, a retired grocer. By 1911 she had become a 'retired teacher' and died a spinster in 1913, at the age of 50.
3	Chris Rea Prizes for Games in Form 3	1976	Chris Rea is an FP who was an outstanding games player. He played for Scottish Schoolboys, Scottish Universities and British Universities, was capped 13 times for Scotland 1968-71 and toured with the British Lions in 1971. A freelance sports writer and broadcaster, he was secretary to the MCC and undertook PR and marketing for the International Rugby Board.

2	R S L Macpherson prizes for Dux and Proxime Accessit of Form 2	1959	See Dux of Form 4
2	Neil Fraser Cup and Prize for All-Round Ability in Form 2 Boys	1981	Neil J Fraser from Glenrothes died aged 14. The prize was donated by his family.
2	Betty Sword Prize for Academic Improvement	2013	Donated by her husband Bill and family in memory of Betty Sword. Betty had a long association with the school, of which she was an enthusiastic supporter. Three of her children, June, Lynne and Keir, attended the school and four of her grandchildren - Rhea Thomson, and Betty, Pippa and Alice Henderson - are recent or current pupils.
2	Andrew K Paton Memorial Trophy for All-Round Sporting Ability in Form 2 Boys	1998	Andrew was a pupil who died tragically as a result of a road accident in 1997, while on holiday in Jersey, in the summer between F1 and F2. He was particularly interested in all sport. His parents Ross and Glenys were both FPs and Ross was President of the OBs in 1985.
2	Maggie Stewart Memorial Salver for All-Round Sporting Ability in Form 2 Girls	2015	Maggie Stewart joined the OGs on leaving school, was appointed to be their Treasurer and held this post for the following 46 years. A Chartered Accountant by profession, she was a hugely enthusiastic tennis player throughout her life. She was one of the initial 8 Trustees of the Trust Appeal Fund, established in 1971, and her 20 years as Chair of the Fund came to a close only with her untimely death in 2013. The prize has been instituted by the OGs to mark Maggie's outstanding service and commitment to the School.

1	Florence Whytock Memorial Prize for Dux of Form 1	1970	Miss Whytock joined the PE staff in 1927 and was Lady Superintendent 1940-60. She was much involved with the Guides and senior hockey. See Magazine 1960. This prize was originally awarded for Dux of F1 Girls.
1	Robertson Prize for Proxime Accessit of Form 1	1971	Donated by Ian M S Robertson, a well-known Dundee lawyer with Ferguson, Robertson & Norrie. He was an FP and President of the OBs in 1969. His two sons, John and James, were pupils in the 1970s. This prize was originally awarded for Dux of F1 Boys.
1	Alexander Mill White Prize for All-Round Ability in Form 1		Donated by Dr Oswald Taylor Brown whose father-in-law was Alexander Mill-White, a former Dux of HSD.
1	Betty Sword Prize for Academic Improvement	2013	See under F2.

654	G H Philip Prizes for Reading and Public Speaking	1957	Instituted by the FP Sheriff Sir Randall Philip who attended the first competition in Jan 1957. The prize is a memorial to his brother G Harold Philip (died 1956) who served with the Royal Field Artillery 1914-18.
654	London-Angus Association Trophy for Reading and Public Speaking		
4321	Dvořák Prize for Musical Ensemble	2018	Donated by Dr Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, Director of Music from 2012, in memory of his father Robert, a former President of the Dundee Chamber Music Club and a devotee of Dvořák's chamber music.
321	A S Drummond Prizes for Reading and Public Speaking in Forms 1-3	1972	Alex Drummond was a member of the Board 1952-78, latterly serving as Chairman. He was President of the OBs 1946-48.

321	Tom Durrheim Memorial Quaich for (Burns poetry) Recitation	2013	Tom F W Durrheim taught English at HSD for over 25 years. An erudite man and a Robert Burns enthusiast, he was a popular teacher with pupils, was held in great regard and affection by his colleagues and was well known for his recitation of Burns' poetry.
	Rorie Trophy for the Inter-House Debating Competition	1965	Mr and Mrs J H K Rorie presented the trophy – awarded to the winning House - to mark the Rorie family's long and active association with the School. He was President of the OBs 1967. Their sons Neil and David are FPs who have been strongly supportive of HSD.

Any	Dennis J Paterson Prize and Trophy for the Best Speaker in the Inter-House Debates	1994	See Dux of F5
Any	Cambridge Gavel for outstanding contribution to Debating	1991	The trophy was bought with the prize money awarded to Paul Nimmo as Best Speaker in the final of the Cambridge Union schools tournament in November 1990. It was originally awarded for Best Speaker in the House debate, as above.
Any	Block Prize for Creative Writing	1986	Donated by the parents of Rose and Jennifer - pupils in the late 1970s - for creative writing in the School Magazine. Their father Joe Block was Head of Neurology at Ninewells and a member of the Board 1975-77.
Any	Larg Prize for Bagpipes Larg Prize for Pipe-Band Drumming Larg Prize for Brass (Grade 7 and above) Larg Prize for Percussion (Grade 7 and above) Larg Prize for Piano (Grade 7 and above) Larg Prize for Strings (Grade 7 and above) Larg Prize for Vocal (Grade 7 and above) Larg Prize for Woodwind (Grade 7 and above)	1958	Eric Larg was a Director of Larg & Son (Dundee) Ltd which sold pianos and music in Whitehall Street. He and his sister Margaret, who was a Captain in the school Guide company, took a great interest in the music of the School, which he also extended to the school Cadets in which he was an honorary Colonel. He was a member of the Board 1959-76 and President of the OBs in 1948, and became a very generous benefactor to HSD. He used to arrive to visit cadet camp in his black and yellow Rolls Royce, dressed in uniform.
Any	Leng Medals for Singing – Gold and Silver		See under Dux in History.
Any	Southgate Prize for Musical Ensemble	1977	The Southgate family were pupils in the 60s and had a great interest in orchestral music. Dr Southgate lectured in the History department at the University of Dundee.
Any	Beckingham Trophy and Chess Club Prize	1958	Mr Beckingham was a member of Dundee Chess Club who, along with Mrs Nancy Elder of the HSD Music department, instructed the school chess club and presented the prize for the club champion. Latterly a token was given by Mr T F W Durrheim of the English department (died 2011) to supplement the prize fund.
Any	P Gordon Grant Trophy for Contribution to School Sport	1972	Gordon was a pupil who died in his teens from a serious illness. His father Dr Peter Grant donated the trophy in his memory. His brother Richard was Head Boy 1974-75.

JY	E M Stewart Prize for Dux of Junior Years	1978	See under Prize for Higher English.
JY	John McLennan prize for Proxime Accessit L7	1932	Rector of HSD 1903-32. His subject was Classics; his nickname was Moses. See Magazine 1934.
JY	Dr Rita Forrest prize for Art in L7	1988	Dr Forrest was President of the OGs in 1987 at the time of the 750 th Anniversary and was the grandmother of Andy and Sarah Boyle. She died prematurely that same year.
JY	Walter Smith Memorial Prize for Drama in L7	1977	Walter Smith was Head of the Junior Department, taking over from Miss Turnbull in 1957. He died in August 1974 whilst still Head of Department.
JY	Hutton prize for Environmental Studies in L7	1963	Hutton was the maiden name of Margaret Thomson, who taught in the Prep department 1949-63. She was a member of the Board 1977-91 and President of the OGs in 1963. Her three sons attended HSD. This prize was originally for Dux of L3.
JY	Woodman Trophy for Maths in L7	2005	Donated on her retiral by Maggie Woodman, former Head of Junior School 1994-2005 and the first to be styled Assistant Rector.
JY	Marshall prizes for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descant recorder • Recorder / Treble recorder 	1985	W L Marshall was Head of Science 1932-63 and Second Master (Depute) 1945-63. He directed the creation of the new science labs 1955-56. The prize was donated by his son Dr David Marshall. His grandchildren all attended HSD in the 1980s and his wife taught L2 in the 1930s and 40s. See Magazine 1963.
JY	Leng Silver Medals		See under Dux in History.
JY	Robbie Prize for Public Speaking	1963	Gordon J Robbie was an FP, a member of the Board 1960-67 and both secretary and solicitor to the Board 1967-92. Serving with the Black Watch, he was captured at St Valéry and spent the remainder of the war as a PoW. He undertook the revision of the school's constitution after the abolition of the Direct Grant scheme in the 1990s. This prize was originally for Dux of L3.
JY	Russell Trophy for Chess	1959	Mr Russell was honorary vice-president of HSD Chess Club 1958. He was a member of Dundee Chess Club who instructed HSD pupils and presented the prize for beginners.
JY	Stark Cup for Public Speaking	1970	Donated by Jack and Elizabeth Stark, on their retiral after 34 years of faithful service to the school.