



Paul Wyeth/RYA

High School sailor claims British title

A talented High School of Dundee sailor left the opposition in her wake to score the biggest prize of her blossoming career.

The wind was in the sails of F5 pupil Anna Sturrock as she and helm Bella Fellows steered their boat to victory in the girls 29er class event at the RYA British Youth National Championships at Hayling Island in Hampshire in May.

The title was a just reward for some serious hard work, coming as it did after a demanding series of 18 races over five days which culminated in a title-deciding final race in which the pair crossed the line without knowing if they had done enough to seal the overall win.

Once their victory was confirmed, Anna said, "It was a pretty exciting feeling after a pretty full-on week! I didn't really believe it for a while!"

The 16-year-old had previously enjoyed great success in single-person boats, winning a number of national titles, earning Scottish and UK squad call-ups and taking part in World Championships in both Topper and Laser class.

However, after deciding that she would have to move to a double-handed boat to further her sailing, the Royal Tay Yacht Club member joined forces with Bella, with whom she had previously sailed as part of the British Topper Junior squad.

With Bella based in Plymouth, and Anna in Letham, the logistics of their pairing wouldn't typically be classed as plain sailing.

But with both girls now members of the British Youth 29er squad and the Scottish 29er squad, the duo have been able to use training meet-ups to make their long distance partnership work!

As a result of their win the pair also earned a spot in the British squad for the 29er European Championships which took place at Quiberon, France, during the summer.

"It will be a great experience," said Anna ahead of the event.



Pupils on same wavelength as Einstein
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Seussical the Musical wows crowds!
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Scotland call-up for High School sports star
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Arts Centre update

By the time you read this we hope you will have received the link to our new fly-through Campaign Video for the Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, which brings to life our vision for the transformation of the former Head Post Office on Meadowside into a flagship facility for our pupils and the wider Dundee and Tayside community.

If you haven't seen the film, you can find it on the School website at: www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/campaign_2015_2020/fundraising_video

Fundraising for this once-in-a-century opportunity is continuing and, at the time of going to press, the tendering process for the appointment of a building contractor is currently in process.

For more information on the project, or if you'd like to help us meet our fundraising target, please contact the School's Office of Development. Tel: 01382 202921
E-mail: development@highschoolofdundee.org.uk



Rector's introduction



Welcome to another edition of the Pillars, which I hope you enjoy reading. Welcome also to the 779th year of the High School of Dundee!

The current crop of pupils and staff are equal to any in the school's long history, as I hope the contents reveal. We are proud of all of our young people and hope they feel encouraged and emboldened to aspire to be the best they

can be. Academically it has been a remarkable year, with outstanding SQA results. One of our pupils secured the top marks in Scotland in two Advanced Higher subjects, Mathematics and Physics, and another pupil was top equal with her in Advanced Higher Physics! In addition, four F4 pupils scored 100% in N5 French and one in N5 Italian, whilst five also scored 100% in N5 Maths, thereby also being top pupils in Scotland. Remarkably, 84 exams were passed with scores of 95% or more. This success has led to aspirational destinations, with every single pupil who applied to UCAS this year receiving at least one offer. And our medics have been hugely successful, with all 15 applicants securing offers of place, a first in my time at the school. Nationally, 75,000 applications were made for approximately 8,000 places...!

I firmly believe that this academic success is grounded in our Integrated Curriculum, developing the whole child, by linking the academic with the co-curriculum and backed up by an outstanding guidance set-up. These pages certainly provide ample evidence of that! Enjoy!

Dr John D Halliday Rector

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Integrated Curriculum

Pupils on same wavelength as Einstein

A group of High School pupils have shown they're on the same wavelength as Einstein after winning a national school Physics competition.



The team of Ivan Kapelyukh, Oran McNair, Elle Wyatt (all F6) and Luke Wyatt (F4) had to work hard to keep their feet on the ground after being announced as the winners of the S4-S6 category in the Institute of Physics Scotland's annual poster competition, which this year challenged participants to display their knowledge of gravity.

As well as demonstrating their understanding of that subject though, the pupils had to show their grasp of the very recent discovery of gravitational waves (ripples in the fabric of spacetime) that Einstein had predicted but which have taken nearly 100 years to prove.

Showing that the complex subject had a pull on them, the High School quartet also met the challenge of backing up their poster with an essay on the underlying physics of LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory), the device used to detect gravity waves.

And the talented team members weren't finished there. Whilst attending the Celebration of Science and Engineering at Glasgow Science Centre to receive their award, the pupils also took part in and won the senior school category in a special STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) competition which ran as part of the event.

Diary of Events

For details of all upcoming school events, please go to:
highschoolofdundee.org.uk/latest/calendar

SQA results 2017

High School of Dundee pupils celebrated another record-breaking set of SQA exam results in August. And as this edition goes to press, news is coming in that a number of our pupils have achieved the top marks in Scotland in several subjects. More on this in the next issue!

F6 pupils attained a remarkable pass rate of 95.5% at Advanced Higher, with 63% passed at A grade, a school record. Almost a quarter of the year group (23.5%) secured at least 3 A grades at Advanced Higher, another record, with 7 pupils achieving 4 As.

The Rector was delighted with the results, and what they mean for this year's F6 year group.

"Every single one of our pupils who applied to university has received an offer, including all 15 of our medical applicants, and all three of our Oxbridge candidates achieved the grades needed; remarkable achievements," he commented.

Pupils in F4 achieved a record N5 pass rate of 96.3%, with an impressive 72% passed at A grade. In addition, just under a third of the cohort (32.8%) attained 8 straight As, compared to 30% last year.

Dr Halliday said, "We feel strongly that pupils should be challenged at this level and so we continue with 8 subjects up to the end of 4th Year. This is so important for breadth as well as depth in Scottish education."

In 5th Year, High School candidates achieved an average of more than 4 Higher passes each. The year group scored a Higher pass rate of 93%, with 53% of those passes graded A, and over a fifth of the cohort secured a set of at least 5 A grades at Higher.

"It is very gratifying to see how well our young people have done," said Dr Halliday. "Nurtured and inspired by our teachers they have worked hard for their success."

"We are of course proud of our high achievers, but what is remarkable, and very pleasing, is how well those who are not straight A candidates have done."

He added, "Schools are about preparation for the future and this group can face the future with confidence."



Signing Choir performs at international conference

A special High School of Dundee choir has enjoyed the honour of being invited to perform at an international conference.

The School's nine-strong Signing Choir had the privilege of taking to the stage in front of delegates from all over the world at Dundee University's Promoting Inclusion, Transforming Lives Conference in June.

The pupils, who are all in F1, were invited to make their appearance by Professor Divya Jindal-Snape, Professor of Education, Inclusion and Life Transitions at the University, who had been impressed by a moving performance they had given at one of the institution's graduation ceremonies two years earlier.

On that occasion, their singing and signing rendition of Can You Hear Me, by Bob Chilcott, had also drawn praise from Justin Fletcher, aka Mr Tumble, who had been present to receive an honorary doctorate from the University for services to education, and in particular his work with signing for deaf children.

And at this year's conference, the youngsters, who repeated their performance of Can You Hear Me and also sang Auld Lang Syne, Loch Lomond, Will ye no' come back again, and the Skye Boat Song, received a similarly positive reaction, with Professor Snape thanking the Choir for "a fantastic performance" which had been "extremely well received".

Choir Director, music teacher Elaine Stevenson, said, "By using a collection of hand gestures and symbols the children were able to relate what they were singing to bridge the gap between those who can hear and those who cannot.

"The international conference was an ideal forum, enabling our youngsters to use their creativity whilst increasing empathy and understanding across cultures."



Pupils put in a sterling environmental effort

Some pupils in the Senior Years have been doing their bit to help protect the environment.

Working with Scottish Natural Heritage as part of the John Muir Trust Award, in the spring term a team of F5 pupils completed a litter-clearing exercise at Tentsmuir.

The School's Outdoor Education Instructor, Gordon Ross, said, "The pupils were able to see for themselves how much rubbish can make its way into our coastal environments."

The John Muir Trust Award aims to help people discover, protect and maintain Scotland's wild places.

High School pupil is a multilingual word wizard!

A magical display has earned an F1 pupil 2nd place in a Scotland-wide modern languages competition.

In May, Sneha Sripada took the runner-up spot in Scotland's National Centre for Languages, SCILT's, 2017 Word Wizard event, a multilingual spelling contest open to S1-S3 pupils from across the country.

Participating in the beginners' French category at the final at the Scottish Parliament, Sneha's spellbinding grammar skills saw her overcome competition from four other top young linguists to seal her podium place and a trophy.

French teacher Heather Yellowley, said, "Sneha showed excellent motivation and perseverance to learn 225 words in French and was able to translate, pronounce and spell correctly almost 20 words in one minute."





An Evening of Drama

As the summer term drew towards a close, pupils in F5 and F6 gave the High School community the chance to celebrate the end of the school year in uproarious fashion.

An Evening of Drama saw talented performers from both year groups take to the stage of Trinity Hall to deliver an extravaganza of light-hearted entertainment in the form of a series of comedy sketches.

Taking inspiration from a variety of sources, ranging from Euripedes and Beckett to Monty Python, the cabaret-style show brought smiles and laughter to the face of parents, staff and pupils alike!



Record charity total raised

A year of phenomenal fundraising by the High School of Dundee has generated an amazing £41,413.67 for charity!

The figure – the most ever raised by the school in a single academic year – was the result of a variety of initiatives and events organised and staged by pupils and staff in session 2016/17.

Those ranged from the School's participation in the Oor Wullie Bucket Trail, money donated at school events such as musical concerts and the Early Years Nativity performances, and the proceeds from a staff Christmas card, to charity events run by the School's Interact and Rotakids groups, participation in Red Nose Day, and money raised through a whole host of enterprise events.

A mixture of more than 30 local and national charities have already, or will shortly have, received cheques from the School for various amounts, including Dundee Disabled Children's Association, Orkidstudio, Literacy in a



Box, The Yard Dundee, Combat Stress, Tourette Scotland, UNICEF, Cancer Research UK, Maggie's Centre Dundee and Children 1st.

Claire Reid, Teacher and Charities and Community Outreach Coordinator at the School, said, "I'd like to thank all pupils, parents, staff and extended family members for their efforts. It is wonderful to have the support of our School community to allow us to generate such a fantastic total.

"It is quite often the pupils who identify a cause that they would like to support and I'm thrilled that they have been able to help such a varied range of charities."

Rotakids and Interact

Among those to play significant parts in raising the record amount were two pupil-led charities committees.

Over the course of the session, the School's Junior Years Rotakids Team and Senior Years Interact Committee, which are both supported by and work with the Rotary Club of Dundee, were busy packing in a whole host of fundraising activities and initiatives.

The Rotakids generated a fantastic total of over £5,400 by selling poppies, red noses and framed Oor Wullie prints; organising pyjama days and sparkle days; taking part in a World Book Day 'readathon'; creating a yearbook for L7 pupils; and much much more!

Meanwhile the Interact Club raised more than £3,300 through Senior School Halloween parties; running a bespoke candy cane delivery service and a stall at



the Christmas Fair; organising a dazzling staff Christmas pantomime; and via their keystone event of the year, a glamorous F5/6 1920s ball.

Each year the members of both groups choose to donate to various charities from the proceeds of their various events, but they also select organisations to support throughout the year. In 2016/17 the Rotakids chose Orkidstudio, The Yard Dundee, and Maggie's, while the Interact Committee chose Dundee Disabled Children's association as their local charity and the English Speaking Union as their international charity.

Max's win makes it a tasty treble



Serving up a delectable dish earned a budding chef a top prize, and the School a tasty treble!

F1 pupil Max Cruickshank was awarded the title of Dundee Junior Baker of the Year at Dundee and Angus College in June after his Blueberry Scone, served with Blueberry Jam, went down a treat with the judges, who also commended the youngster for his calm demeanour in the heat of kitchen-based competition from pupils from seven other Dundee and Angus schools.

Max's victory means the competition has now been won by pupils from the High School for three years in succession.

Fuel for the day and for the future



The first meal of the day took on extra significance for some High School pupils in March.

Pupils in F5 and F6 gained sustenance not only for the day ahead but also their careers when they took part in a special Futures Breakfast.

Around 60 youngsters gathered bright and early in Trinity Hall for the chance to meet with a range of people working in careers and professions in which they are interested.

Organised by a committee of pupils, the annual event saw around 40 professionals from backgrounds ranging

from Engineering, Accountancy, Law and Medicine to IT, Psychology, Policing and Teaching, share their experiences, offer advice and answer questions.

And providing an insight into a truly inspirational line of work was guest speaker Dr Gareth Inman, Reader and Group Leader in the Division of Cancer Research at Dundee University's School of Medicine.

Teacher of Business Education Neil Higgins, said, "Being able to ask people about their work and experiences really helps the pupils to make informed decisions about their futures."



Children help bears have an eggcellent Easter!

Children at the High School of Dundee Nursery helped to stage a bearilliant Easter activity!

To ensure that the bears of Camperdown Wildlife Centre didn't feel left out of the celebrations, youngsters at the Arbroath Road facility made and decorated some large papier-mâché Easter eggs which wildlife centre staff filled with treats and set out for Star, Brumm, Maja and Brumma to find and enjoy.

According to Bradly Yule, Network Manager at the wildlife centre, the four bears really enjoyed getting their teeth into the eggs!

He said, "The bears loved hunting for them and then tearing them to bits! I'm sure they are grateful to the Nursery children for thinking of them."

School unveils Scotland's first ever Rainworks installation



In June, the High School of Dundee became Scotland's first ever participant in an art project which aims to make rainy days something to look forward to.

Every raincloud now does have a silver lining after the School installed in its playground a series of Rainworks, pieces of positive street spray art which appear only when they get wet.

With Scotland enjoying its usual mixed weather in recent months, the pupils have already had more than a few opportunities to witness messages like, 'Be happy', 'Shine like the stars', 'Smile' and 'Dream big' come out of hiding to provide inspiration.

Art teacher Michelle Angus organised the School's installation as part of a wider F2 focus on mental health.

She said, "The purpose of Rainworks is to give people a reason to smile on rainy days. We had been looking to do a mental health project within the Art department for some time and it ties in very well with the work we have been doing on promoting positivity and wellbeing."

Pupils in the F2 year group created the design stencils that were used when spraying the artworks into place and also made short films, which were shown at assemblies, documenting the project and promoting mental health awareness.

"I knew it was something that would really engage our pupils' creativity and carry a strong positive message," said Michelle. "The response from both pupils and staff has been tremendous and it's fantastic to have Scotland's first ever installation here at the school."

You can find out more about Rainworks at <https://rain.works/> and you can find the School on the worldwide installations map at <https://rain.works/where/>

CCF in 'superb form'

Cadets at the High School of Dundee can stand at ease after receiving a glowing commendation in an official Army inspection report.

In June the School received the report on the biennial inspection of its Combined Cadet Force (CCF), which was conducted by Lt Colonel RSJ Hedderwick, Commanding Officer of the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, in March.

The report, which was based on Lt Colonel Hedderwick's observations of the group taking part in a range of activities and competitive disciplines, including in the field at Barry Buddon, states that, "the CFF is in superb form and a shining example of what is possible".

Lt Colonel Hedderwick adds, "The organisation is well led, well attended and thriving.

"The standard of cadet was impressive; those I spoke to were eloquent and committed. I was left in no doubt that they were enjoying the CCF and valued the opportunities it afforded them."



Pair accomplish impressive feat

Some extra special congratulations were due to two pupils at the end of the summer term as they celebrated an impressive High School feat.

Alex Smith and Elle Wyatt pulled off the rather noteworthy accomplishment of having been Dux and Proxime Accessit, respectively, of both the Senior Years (in 2017) and the Junior Years (in 2011)!





Pupils inspired by Post Exam Programme

Pupils in the Senior Years had Olympic athletes, polar bears, far-off galaxies and comic books on the brain as the summer holidays drew close.

Far from being an indication of wandering minds though, those were just some of the subjects thrown up by the School's annual, end-of-year Post Exam lecture series, a collection of diverse and stimulating talks which aims to expose pupils to new ideas and inspire creativity beyond the exam-focused curriculum.

This year pupils in F4-F6 had the chance to learn about Dr Niall Elliot's experiences looking after Britain's top athletes through his role as Chief Medical Officer of the GB Olympic team; find out about the work and goals of the ARCHIE Foundation from its Chief Executive David Cunningham; and examine Dundee's pivotal place in the history of comic book production with Dundee University's Professor Christopher Murray.

The pupils also received guidance from Professor Divya Jindal-Snape, Dundee University, on making a successful transition to university life; and examined what galaxies are and how they form and develop, with the help of Dr Anne-Marie Weijmans of St Andrews University.

In addition, the series featured lectures by three former pupils. Kirsty Black talked about her experiences living on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard; Dr Fergus Neville (pictured) of St Andrews University discussed the theory and practice of crowd psychology; and Mark Beaumont spoke about his, at the time, upcoming attempt to cycle around the world in a record-breaking 80 days.

As part of the overall Post Exam Programme, pupils in F5 and F6 were also offered the chance to take part in a range of engaging activities including a team-building trip to Lendrick Muir, Personal Effectiveness seminars, leadership workshops, volunteer work opportunities, university taster days and special classroom-based sessions on subjects including Forensics, Ancient Medicine and more.

The Rector said, "The Post Exam Programme is something that we look forward to every year. It gives us the chance to let our pupils hear from external expert speakers on a diverse range of fascinating subjects, and to work on key skills like leadership and teamwork.

"We hope the programme allows our pupils to uncover new interests and skills and gives them the launch pad they need to take them on and pursue them further."

FP Mark Beaumont tells of incredible World Record attempt

The Post Exam lecture series brought adventurer and broadcaster Mark Beaumont back to his alma mater to share some of the details about his incredible attempt to cycle 18,000 miles around the world in just 80 days.

Mark revealed that, while the youngsters were on their summer holidays, he would be attempting to cycle a phenomenal 240 miles per day. As well as shaving 43 days off the current circumnavigation record, sticking to that pace would enable the 34-year-old to smash his own previous world record mark of 194 days, which he set in 2008.

He also spoke anecdotally about some of the big expeditions he had been on over the past decade, including his experiences of capsizing mid-Atlantic and of breaking numerous cycling World Records.

"Successes are great but if you are consistently ambitious, there will be setbacks along the way, and actually, you learn more about yourself from those," he said.

"It doesn't feel like that long since I was here sitting where you are, and I didn't have the opportunity to come to events like this, so I hope you enjoy hearing my story and that of other FPs and guest speakers."

After talking to the pupils, Mark was presented with a cheque for £750 for Orkidstudio – which his latest adventure was fundraising for – that was generated by the School's Rotakids group.



Pupils play part in frighteningly good show

The spring term saw a quartet of Senior School pupils play their part in an ambitious professional stage production.

In April Freya Purdie, Olivia Russell, Anjini Snape (all F3) and Kirsten Ellis (F4) appeared in *Monstrous Bodies* (Chasing Mary Shelley Down Peep O'Day Lane) at Dundee Rep.

The well-received show featured a dual narrative intertwining the tale of Frankenstein author Mary Shelley finding her imagination in Dundee in the early 1800s, with the story of Roxanne – a 14-year-old in modern-day Dundee dealing with the aftermath of an unfortunate social media incident.

Freya, Olivia, Anjini and Kirsten were part of a 15-strong company of teenage performers who, together with acting ensembles from the Rep and Poorboy Theatre, helped bring the exciting tale to life.



Photo: Jane Hobson; *Monstrous Bodies* Costumer and Set Designer: Natasha Jenkins; *Monstrous Bodies* Lighting Designer: Mike Robertson

Competition win sees singer Ruairidh follow in family footsteps

In April a talented singer scooped a prestigious musical prize to keep a proud run going for the High School of Dundee – and earn himself current bragging rights in his own household!

Ruairidh Cowieson was named the winner of 2017 boys Gold Leng Medal contest after overcoming competition from five other participants at Bell Street Music Centre.

As well as becoming the third High School pupil in a row, and the fourth in five years, to win the boys event, when he struck gold the F4 pupil was following in the footsteps of his mother Colette who herself was a Gold contest winner in 1982.

Ruairidh, who had wowed the judges with his performance of *The Mist Covered Mountains of Home*, said,

“My mum is a previous winner of the Gold contest so to match her achievement felt really good! It has led to a bit of friendly banter!

“I had taken part in the Gold competition three times before and not quite got there. This was the last time I could take part, so it felt like a bit of a relief to win after working towards it for so long.”

Four other High School pupils also took part in the Gold competition: in the boys, Cameron Fish (L7) and Matthew Rawcliffe (F4); in the girls, Rebecca Bonnyman (L7) and Emily McLean (F4).

The Leng Medal contest is organised by the Sir John Leng Trust, which was set up by Sir John Leng in 1901, to encourage the singing of Scots songs.



Prize-giving 2017



The School marked the end of another academic year in traditional fashion with its annual prize-giving ceremony at the Caird Hall.

The event saw pupils from L3 upwards recognised for their efforts and achievements in a range of subjects, as members of the F6 year group bade their official farewell to the School.

The School was privileged to welcome as Guest of Honour, Professor Dame Sue Black of Dundee University, who presented the prizes and, in an inspirational speech, provided some words of wisdom for the pupils, especially the F6 leavers as they prepared to move on to universities and other destinations across Scotland and beyond.

She said, "Your teachers are bursting with pride at what you have achieved.

"You have one life. Live it to the full. Don't find a job: find a passion. Do something that makes you happy and make a difference."

Speaking to the audience of pupils, staff, family members and guests, Rector Dr John Halliday reflected on some of the highlights from another busy session.

These included pupils from the School having scored the top marks in Scotland in six different SQA subjects across three different levels; every pupil who applied for a university place having received an offer, including all 15 medical applicants; a record total of more than £41K having been raised for charity by the School; and a range of individual achievements.

"It has been an incredibly busy year, full of highlights, enthusiasm and energy," he said. "Our pupils are achieving at the highest level and that's down to the environment in which they are working and the support which they receive."

After thanking the staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year, the Rector provided an update on the School's redevelopment of Dundee's former Head Post Office into a Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, a project whose goals he said chimed very well with the aspirations of the wider cultural regeneration of the city.

F3 pupil wins university languages prize

A High School of Dundee pupil has translated her love of languages into a university prize.

At the age of just 15, budding linguist Olivia Russell was awarded an A grade Certificate in Modern Languages for the Stage 1 Russian course which she studied for as part of Dundee University's Languages for All Programme.

Perhaps even more impressively though, the F3 pupil's efforts also earned her the University's Ruth Cave prize for having recorded the best performance among around 350 other participants – all of whom were adults – in the programme this year.

Olivia said, "I was very pleased to win the award. It was a very nice surprise!

"I'm interested in learning other languages so when my mum told me about the Languages for All programme, we went along to see if I could study Russian."

Olivia attended weekly evening classes at the University from September until March before sitting assessments and submitting a portfolio.

Completing the course gave her 20 university credits, while winning the Ruth Cave prize entitles Olivia to free tuition for the Intermediate Russian stage which she was hoping to begin in September 2017.

"I enjoy doing Russian as a hobby and I know that learning languages will provide me with opportunities in the future," she said.

Véronique Malcolm, Convener for Languages at the University, said, "Olivia's award is the mark of rare success and this shows in both her motivation and determination to not only complete the year-long course but also to have excelled in it."





Visitor shines light on South Africa

World affairs were on the agenda for High School of Dundee pupils as they received an expert insight into the sociopolitical situation in South Africa.

Dr Matt Graham, a specialist in South African History and Politics at Dundee University, met with pupils studying Higher and Advanced Higher Modern Studies to discuss political and social issues in the country, as well as the nation's current international relations.

Advanced Higher pupils had the chance to delve deeper into those subjects when Dr Graham answered questions relating to their dissertation research topics, which included the role of social media in South African politics and elections, and the impact of Proportional Representation on the outcome of the country's elections.

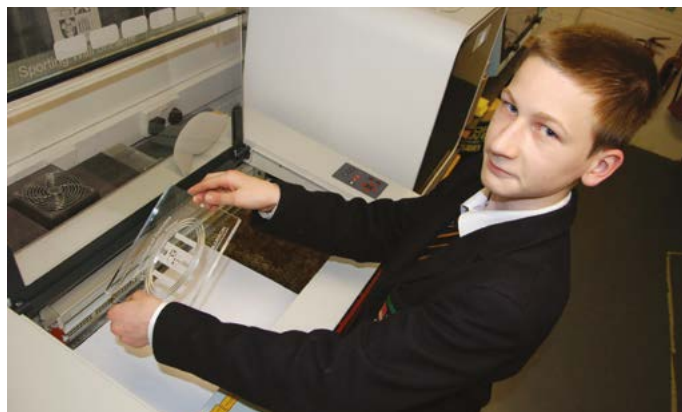
Departments combine to gain School a top sports award

Some exemplary cross-departmental teamwork resulted in a top sports prize for the High School of Dundee!

Ahead of the School's Sports Awards Dinner, which was organised by the PE department, the Technology department ran a competition which set Form 2 pupils the challenge of designing the Sports Personality of the Year prize.

Once all the entries had been received, a joint Technology and PE judging panel declared the winner to be Jed Barron, whose design – based on a combination of a running track and the School's iconic Pillars – was then manufactured within the Technology department into the pristine finished article which was presented to swimmer Eilidh Grant at the gala event at the Apex Hotel.

The other prizes presented at the event were also manufactured by the Technology department.



Nursery Sports Days

Forget the two-week-long Olympic Games; children at the High School of Dundee Nursery needed only two days to stage a top-quality sports extravaganza!

In May, pupils at the Mary Lily Walker Building made the short dash to the surrounding Mayfield playing fields to take part in their annual Sports Days, with the Ante Pre-school cohort going first, followed by the Pre-school group 24 hours later.

Spurred on by the support of a large crowd of proud parents, grandparents and friends on both days, the enthusiastic youngsters demonstrated impressive energy and agility as they tackled a series of fun-filled activities, which included hurdles, egg and spoon, hoop and running races.

The School's PE staff, with whom the children have regular games sessions, were also on hand to offer the sports stars of the future some helpful hints.

Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said, "We had two cracking afternoons of fun-filled sporting activity and it was great to have so many family members here to cheer the children on."

Artists' works feature in RSA exhibition

A talent for drawing inspiration from the little things in life earned a trio of High School pupils recognition on a national scale.



In March, F6 pupils Emily Norman, Holli Halford-McGuff and Holly McKendry were announced as runners-up in the Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy, Schools Art Award Chairman's Challenge, a competition open to all S5 and S6 pupils in Scotland who are taking Art & Design courses.

This year's contest required pupils to produce postcard-sized monochrome artworks on the theme of 'minutiae' and having impressed the judges with their attention to fine detail

in their portraiture entries, Emily, Holli and Holly had their compositions displayed at the RSA annual exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh.

Art teacher Michelle Angus said, "To be included in such a prestigious exhibition, which is in its 191st year, at Scotland's best-known gallery, is a major achievement and a wonderful opportunity for these young artists."

Girls go to great lengths

Going to great lengths for some good causes earned a team of Senior Years swimmers an award to be proud of – and a tidy sum for charity!

By virtue of raising more than £1,100 for the Literacy in a Box Trust and the Rotary End Polio Now campaign in the 2017 Rotary Swimarathon, the six-strong 'Dippies' squad of Rachel Flack, Lorna Husband, Anna Findlay, Stephanie Mitchell, Eleanor Anderson and Janey Speed scooped the prize for the most money generated by a school team at the event.

And Rachel Flack had further cause to celebrate after discovering that the figure she had raised personally had netted her the prize for the second highest individual amount.

As always, the annual relay event challenged squads of six swimmers to raise money for both their own charities and Rotary causes by completing as many 25m lengths of Dundee's Olympia training pool as possible in 25 minutes. 250 swimmers participated, generating more than £30,000 in total.

The Dippies have been taking part in the event since its inception four years ago and this year's efforts pushed the total amount they have raised since then to more than £3,000.



Piano-playing talent showcased

Pupils throughout the School have been showing off their love of piano playing.

More than 110 pupils from L3 to F6 took part in the Senior Years and Junior Years Piano Days, annual extravaganzas which saw pianists perform on the School's grand piano in front of audiences of pupils, parents and staff in Trinity Hall.

The events, which took place in March and April, included a series of informal, individual performances during the day, followed by impressive recital concerts in the evening.

With participants ranging from beginners to a number who are working towards coveted grade 8 ABRSM exams, Piano Day – as always – provided an opportunity for any pupil with a love for the instrument to take to the stage and share it, according to the event's organisers, piano teachers Stephen Armstrong and Avril Evans.

Stephen said, "Our Piano Days are very exciting, special, magical and rather different music department occasions as the event is purely piano. We are all there because we all share a love for the piano."



Photographers focus on coveted award

Photography enthusiasts across the School had their sights set on a coveted award as the summer term wound towards a close.

In June, snap-happy Junior and Senior pupils, as well as staff and parents, entered their most inspiring images into the School's keenly-contested annual photography competition.

In all 90 stunning shots, covering subjects ranging from landscapes and amazing architecture, to pets and picturesque places were submitted and went on display in the library before pupil voting took place to establish the overall winner (Zara Barron L6).

DC Thomson photographer Kim Cessford then had the challenging honour of selecting the winners of the other categories: Junior (Daniel Youssef L6); Senior (Amy Macandrew F5); Pet (Alex Rouse F1); Staff (Helen Brian) and Parent (Mrs Judy Robertson).

Competition organiser, Computing Science teacher Allan Wilson, said, "As ever, the standard of photography was very high indeed and I'd like to pass on my thanks to Kim Cessford for casting his expert eye over the entries and picking the category winners."

High School author pens prizewinning story

In March, putting pen to paper won a High School of Dundee pupil a city-wide literary contest.

Emily Baxter, F3, was named as the winner of the Burgess Short Story Competition for her composition, 'Bridge Beyond the Grave', a tale which inventively combined murder mystery with the Tay Bridge disaster.

Open to S3 pupils from high schools in Dundee, the annual contest aims to identify the city's most talented teenage short story authors.



Pupils show their support

In the spring term, members of the School's Interact Committee showed their support for former pupil Nic Vinogradov-Wouters and his campaign to raise money for cancer research.

In February 2015, Nic was diagnosed with brain cancer. Following intensive bouts of chemotherapy, several brain surgeries and proton beam therapy, it was thought he had beaten the disease but not long after joining the School in August 2015 alongside his twin brother Alex, he was given the devastating news that cancerous cells had spread to his spine.

Nic became one of the first people in the UK to undergo a treatment programme under the GemPOx protocol developed under a trial at UCLA by a world renowned expert in the field of paediatric brain tumours, Dr Jonathan Finlay. Following a gruelling year of intensive therapies (high dose chemotherapy, stem cell transplant and radiotherapy), in January 2017 Nic finally received the all clear.

Determined to try to help others and to give something back, right from his initial diagnosis Nic has been fundraising to aid research and support for families facing paediatric brain



tumours. In March he returned to the School to receive a cheque for £727.70 which the 2015/16 Interact Committee had generated through a number of events. Most grateful for this generosity, Nic recognised the incredible support he had received from HSD students, noting that their many efforts would go a long way to helping others.

Amazingly, through all his treatment, Nic managed to complete his school studies and at the time of going to press he was getting ready to begin a degree in Finance and Management at Strathclyde University.

So far Nic has raised more than £7,000 for brain cancer research and you can donate and find out more about his story at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/nicvw>.

Aspiring chefs rise to a challenge

Some aspiring High School chefs satisfied their own creative urges as well as the appetites of fellow pupils through a special Health and Food Technology project.

In conjunction with the School's caterers Chartwells, pupils in F2 took part in the third annual Design a Lunch challenge, in which they were asked to create a health conscious dish and then produce and serve up 200 platefuls in the Dining Hall for pupils in F1-F2 to enjoy and judge.

The winning groups were Angus Neville, Ben McKenna, Lewis McLennan and Findlay McLean for their tasty offering of Chicken Kebabs with roasted tomato salsa and guacamole, and Adam Flynn, Sam Hargreaves, Christina Kennedy, Sophie Mason and Hannah Forrester for their sumptuous BBQ chicken wraps.



Young historians visit Kraków

In the summer term, a group of High School pupils explored one of Europe's most beautiful cities, and the harrowing WW2 events which befell it.

In June, 38 pupils took part in a history department trip to Kraków in which they had the chance to take in the city's famed architecture and visit the sights of its UNESCO World Heritage listed centre.

These included Wawel Castle and Cathedral, the Rynek Główny – the largest medieval market square in Europe – the fire-breathing Wawel dragon, the bustling Kazimierz district, and, travelling a little further, the Wieliczka salt mine.

But the trip also allowed the pupils to glimpse into the horrors of the Nazi regime, as they visited the Podgorze (the Jewish ghetto of WW2), the Galicia Jewish Museum where they were given a talk from a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp, Oskar Schindler's factory, and, the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps.

Head of History Gordon Fyall said, "The trip was an incredibly moving one for the pupils. Hearing from a survivor of Auschwitz and visiting the concentration camp itself had a noticeable impact on the entire group.

"But the trip was also a fantastic opportunity to absorb the culture of the beautiful city of Kraków."



National Engineering award for Hamish

An enlightened way of producing electricity has won a High School of Dundee pupil a prestigious engineering prize.

F1 pupil Hamish Doig was the winner of the S1 category in the Scottish Engineering Leaders Award, an annual contest which asks primary and secondary pupils to consider, 'If you were an engineer, what would you do,' by identifying a problem and then designing and submitting a solution to it.

Putting his mind to the challenge of enabling safe, affordable electricity to be available to people in all corners of the globe, 12-year-old Hamish fixed upon the impressive idea of filling hexagonal tubes with bioluminescent bacteria mixed in a nutrient gel in order to create light, which is then converted to electrical energy using photovoltaic cells surrounding the tubes.

After coming up with his novel plan, like the 12,000 other pupils who entered this year's various age categories, Hamish had to write a pitch letter to persuade, or rather, illuminate, the judging panel about its merits.

Hamish, who was presented with a trophy at the competition awards ceremony in Glasgow, said, "When I was about 8, I remember thinking about how to make an underground city, and wondering how you would power it. For the competition I worked on some of the ideas I'd had back then, developing them to make the process more efficient."

The competition is part of the Primary Engineer programme, which, as well as promoting the values of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths – subjects, seeks to raise the profile of practical engineering in schools by putting engineers into the classroom.

As a consequence, prior to submitting their entries, F1 pupils had the chance to interview and hear a talk from Naval Architect and Technical Director with IMRANDD, David Elder.

Head of Technology at the High School, Forbes Walker, said, "The competition is a fantastic opportunity for pupils at the High School to produce innovative ideas of their own and interact with engineers who are at the cutting edge of technology.

"Hamish should be very proud of his winning concept."



Nursery garden party

F6 pupils weren't the only ones concluding a significant phase in their lives when the summer term drew to a close.

In June, children in the Pre-school year at the High School of Dundee Nursery marked the end of their nursery days with a garden party at the Mary Lily Walker Building.

The special celebration saw the youngsters sing a series of songs for the proud parents and family members in attendance, enjoy a piece of a specially prepared 'graduation' cake, and, as a cuddly memento of their Pre-School days, receive their very own Nursery bears to keep.

Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said, "It's always a day of mixed emotions for us as we are sad to see the children move on, but delighted to reflect upon the growth we've witnessed in them."



Major successes for musicians

High School pupils returned from a major music competition in March with a clutch of prizes and commendations to their names.

At the Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition District final in Perth, Charlotte Jennings (F5) won the vocal category, and the Mary Leslie Cup for best female singer, while Robert Zhan (F6), came second in the instrumental section and was awarded the Bill Leslie Cup for best male performer.

Also in fine voice on the night were Kirsty McRobbie (F5), who took the runner-up spot in the vocal competition, and Finlay McKillop, who was one of only two singers to be highly commended. And also performing with distinction was Abhisri Chaudhuri (F5), who too was highly commended in the instrumental contest.

Dr Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, Director of Music at the High School, said, "For one school to be awarded three of the four numbered places in the District Competition is likely to be a rare event, if not unique."

Debaters finish on a high

F6 pupils Ivan Kapelyukh and Steven Roy ended their High School debating careers at the very top with an appearance at the World Schools Championships.

In August the duo travelled to Bali as part of a five-strong Scotland team that lined up against over 60 countries to debate a range of social, moral and political issues.

Both pupils did themselves proud, with Steven enjoying the honour of finishing as the top Scottish speaker on the tab. According to Ivan though, the event was about far more than the heat of the debating battles.

He said, "We were able to gain invaluable insights not only into Indonesian culture, but also into a global range of perspectives on many political, economic and social issues; we had the chance to discuss how theocratic beliefs in society affected gender equality with students from Team Kuwait; and to chat over a card game with Israeli delegates who were about to be conscripted into the IDF."

Their participation in the World Championships followed on from some impressive results achieved closer to home in recent months.

Following their sixth-place finish in the Oxford Union's UK Schools Competition, the boys went one better at Durham Schools where they earned a place in the final.

Within Scotland meanwhile, the pair won through three rounds and semis in the Mace and the Law Society tournaments to reach both national finals. The Law Society contest gave the boys the opportunity to speak in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament and, inspired, they came home as runners-up.



Photograph courtesy of Scottish Parliament

Complex study is crystal clear to pupils

During the spring term, some Senior Years pupils gained a crystal clear understanding of a complex scientific study.

In March, Dr Daniel Price from Glasgow University visited to help a group of F3-F5 pupils get started with the Schools Collaboration Crystal Chemistry Project, a research venture which ultimately aims for participants to uncover brand-new compounds in their classrooms.

Running throughout this year and into 2018, the co-curricular activity involves pupils measuring the conditions under which crystals are obtained from mixed solutions, in order to provide a map of crystallisation which will indicate if a new 'double salt' is likely to form. They will also look out for new crystal forms, which indicate either the presence of a double salt or a new polymorph of an existing compound.



The pupils will record their results and then write a report, which will allow them to qualify for a British Association CREST Award.

Acting Head of Chemistry, Dr Phil Taylor, said, "It's wonderful for the pupils to be able to contribute to scientific understanding by taking part in a bone fide research project."

Hockey players enjoy unforgettable adventure

A group of High School hockey players were in united states of excitement this summer as they experienced an unforgettable sporting and cultural adventure.

In July, 33 girls in F3-F5 plus staff embarked on a tour of the East coast of America, combining the chance to pit their wits against US opposition with visits to some of the country's most famous sights.

The tourists kicked off their Stateside stay by checking out the frighteningly good facilities on offer at Spooky Nook, North America's largest indoor sports complex and 'the home of USA hockey'. There, as well as training and taking part in matches against a local team, the group had the chance to watch the National Club Championships get under way.

Moving on to Washington DC and then Philadelphia, the girls mixed further training sessions and three more fixtures with excursions to the likes of the White House and the Smithsonian Zoo.

Rounding the transatlantic trip off in style, the pupils were able to start spreading the news of a visit to New York when they spent their final two days in the heart of the Big Apple, taking in the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Memorial site, the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, a boat trip on the Hudson and more!

Trip leader, PE teacher Jude McMullan, said, "The girls thrived in a highly competitive environment on the hockey pitch and soaked up the atmosphere of American life off it.

"It was an unforgettable experience and hopefully the girls can put what they learned to good use on home turf."



Junior Years

A blooming good time!

Some keen young gardeners have been enjoying a blooming good time at the High School of Dundee!

The summer term saw members of the L4 Gardening Club reap the rewards of the planting, watering and potting which they'd been doing in the Junior Years courtyard throughout the year.



Club offers enlightening experience

Children at the High School of Dundee are now well and truly enlightened about some key scientific concepts thanks to their participation in a special club.

In the spring term, almost 40 pupils in L6 and L7 made weekly visits to the Senior School Science labs to focus on Physics and Light as part of the Junior Years Science Club.

Allowing the pupils to use scientific experiments to develop the theory they have been learning in the classroom, the club gave the inquisitive youngsters the chance to examine how sunscreen works, look at colour mixing and conduct experiments on the persistence of vision.

And with their interest in all things intergalactic piqued, or rather, Peaked by the exploits of a certain British space traveller, the children were also fascinated to be able to find out about the materials that protect astronauts from UV light.

Run by Junior Years teacher Catherine Powrie and Acting Head of Chemistry Dr Phil Taylor, with help from Physics teacher Dr Duncan Brown, the club is an extension of the High School's 'Transition Science' programme, which aims to share and use resources and expertise across the whole school.

Junior Years pupils become Digital Leaders

Some conscientious Junior Years pupils are leading the way when it comes to sharing digital knowledge.

A group of 15 children in Years L5-L7 have been passing on their expertise on a range of IT matters to fellow pupils, staff and even parents as part of a special co-curricular activity, the Digital Leaders programme.

Run by the company iTeach, the scheme aims to develop teams of pupils whose role is to support the use of, and help to further enhance, digital learning within their schools.

With that in mind, the young IT-enthusiasts ran a co-curricular L3 movie-making club; held workshops for parents on online safety, in line with Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools Award; and gave tutorials for the School's Board of Directors covering various aspects of their own digital learning.



In addition, the group members ran further parental workshops and pupil drop-in sessions on using iPads and iPad applications.

L6 teacher Lisa Carrie, who ran the Digital Leaders group, said, "Digital Leaders is truly a pupil-led team. Their enthusiasm has been infectious and we are looking forward to further developing their skills and ideas next session."



Pirates descend on Junior Years!

The month of June saw a band of pirates descend on the Junior Years courtyard garden!

But there was no cause for alarm as, rather than seafaring scallywags, the visitors proved merely to be excellently disguised L4 pupils, who were simply looking for a stretch of water in which to sail boats which they had been designing and making from junk as part of a special Pirate Day!



Public speakers impress

The month of May saw children in the Junior Years projecting themselves with purpose as they competed for an annual school prize.

There were poised, polished and passionate performances aplenty as nine pupils vied to impress the judge Michelle Sloane in the final of the L4-L7 Public Speaking Competition in Margaret Harris Hall.

As well as reciting a poem that was known to them, and one set by the judge, the finalists had to deliver a short speech from topics which were only given to them on the night.

With the competitors excelling, Michelle – a former teacher in the Junior Years and now a children’s author – had a tough job on her hands in declaring the winner, in the end awarding 1st place, and the Stark Cup, to Emily Macdonald (L5); 2nd place, and the Robbie Prize, to Cameron Fish (L7); with a special mention being given to Cameron Brown (L5).

The adjudicator was clearly impressed by what she had seen, taking to Twitter afterwards to describe the standard as having been “incredible”.



Seussical the Musical

In June, audiences at the Gardyne Theatre were mesmerised by a preposterously entertaining Junior Years production!

Venturing into a colourful imaginary world, the L6/L7 show, ‘Seussical the Musical’, told the captivating tale of an elephant named Horton’s quest to protect a dust-sized planet of people from the angry jungle creatures of Nool.

Sung through with a series of frighteningly catchy tunes, dazzling dancing and some endearingly eccentric characters, over the course of its four-night run, the production delivered spectacular fun for all the family.

The shows were performed with the permission of Josef Weinberger Limited.



Pupils win mock court case award

A pair of High School of Dundee pupils have proved themselves to be legal eagles at a youthful age!

L7 duo Iona Kennedy and Rebecca Bonnyman were adjudged to be the best lawyers from Tayside in the Scottish Mock Court Case after scooping the Advocacy award for the region in the grand final at Edinburgh's Central Hall in March.

The annual competition challenges teams of P7 pupils to take on the roles of lawyers, witnesses, researchers, court artists, robe makers and journalists as a hypothetical trial plays out in court. Points are awarded for various associated tasks such as the performance of the lawyers and witnesses and the production of newspaper reports.

Iona and Rebecca, who were part of the School's Defenders team which had earned a spot in the overall final by winning their section in the Tayside heat, impressed the judging panel with their legal arguments as to why an elderly lady shouldn't have to pay her phone bill!

L2 teacher Jillian Wallace, who runs the Young Speakers Club of which all the High School pupils who participated are members, said, "The competition is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to build confidence in various aspects of the curriculum, particularly in public speaking."

In preparation for the competition, which is organised by the legal firm Chamberlain McBain and entered by schools from all over Scotland, the High School pupils received some invaluable expert advice from solicitors Mike Kemp and Ellenore Foulis, and Law student Kirsty Malloch.



L7 London trip



In March, 65 L7 pupils travelled down to London for four days of culture, fun and education.

Visits to the Imperial War Museum and the British Science Museum gave the youngsters the chance to consolidate recent History and Science lessons, whilst a musical workshop at the world-famous Pineapple Dance Studio allowed them to make a real song and dance.

Magic was in the air when the children took a tour of the Harry Potter studios, and there was a sprinkling of stardust as the group encountered the famous faces at Madame Tussauds.

A flight on the London Eye and a coach tour of the sights, meanwhile, enabled the pupils to sample more of what the famous city has to offer tourists.

Sadly, due to the tragic incident which occurred at the Houses of Parliament while the trip was taking place, a scheduled visit to the theatre to watch 'Matilda' couldn't go ahead; however, a cinema visit to watch the newly released 'Beauty and the Beast' was arranged in its place.

Healthy Eating Week

Children in the Early Years had their appetite for healthy eating whetted by a special event in June.

As part of the British Nutrition Foundation's Healthy Eating Week, pupils in L1-L3 learned about the importance of having five-a-day, drinking plenty, eating breakfast, and getting active.

The youngsters had the chance to put some of these key messages into practice by sampling a variety of different healthy food options which were available in the Early Years Lunch Hall, ranging from sumptuous smoothies to a fantastic array of fruit and veg.

And, not forgetting the goal of trying something new, the event even gave the pupils the chance to experience having breakfast in their classrooms!



Former Pupil News



Cadets return as CCF centenary approaches

A pair of former pupils have enjoyed the chance to relive some proud moments from their past.

As they returned to their alma mater in April to help with research into the history of the School's CCF ahead of its centenary year in 2018, former cadets Innes Duffus and Dominic Wedderburn were given the opportunity to relift trophies which they had won in their school days.

Innes was reunited with the Lord Provost Urquhart Trophy, awarded for best shot, which he had won in 1945 and 1946, while Dominic again held aloft the Oakley Trophy, awarded for the best beginners' shot, which he had won in 1986.



FPs lend support to a good cause

Some former pupils of the High School of Dundee have been busy getting behind a good cause.

FPs Kasia Thomson, Marysia Thomson, Jennifer Lothian, Connor McCollam and Ben Mowle were part of a team of 15 people that in May raised more than £2,000 for the charity Educate the Kids by climbing Ben Nevis.

In total Kasia (class of 2011), has helped to raise around £4,000 for the organisation – which runs an orphanage and three schools for underprivileged children in the area of Utange, Kenya – through the Educate the Kids Society

which she set up at Dundee University, where she has recently completed a law degree.

Children from the schools and orphanage sing and dance in the UK every September to raise money to help cover running costs and at the time of going to press, Kasia had just arranged for the High School to become a stop on the 2017 tour. You will be able to read more about this in the next issue of the magazine!

You can find out more about Educate the Kids at: www.educatethekids.com



FP called into Scotland squad

Former pupil Matthew Fagerson was celebrating in August after being called up to join the senior Scotland rugby squad for the first time.

Matthew was invited to join his brother, and fellow High School FP, Zander in the team training camp in St Andrews after impressing head coach Gregor Townsend with his displays in the back row for Glasgow Warriors and the Scottish U20 side.

Scottish Rugby/SNS Group

Parents' Association News



Update from the Chair

This year is proving another full and active one for the Parents' Association.

We have steadily built a network of Parent Year Reps throughout each year of the Nursery and Junior Years who have an informal role in liaising with parents in their year, allowing the PA to disseminate information through them to parents on matters affecting us all. The success of this initiative is such that we have now introduced parent reps into both F1 and F2 in the Senior Years. We have a list of parent volunteers who offer to help at PA events. All of this helps in building the parent community, spread as it is across a substantial area of Tayside and Fife. If anyone is interested in becoming a Parent Rep or registering for the Volunteer List then please contact us via our dedicated email address parents@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

We have continued hosting a number of Junior Years parties, introduced the Bikeability scheme and held various other social events.

Our Treasurer is delighted to report that income in the year to 30 April 2017 was £8,631 (2016: £8,021) with expenditure of £6,856 (2016: £4,128). This results in a surplus of £1,775 for the year (2016: £3,893). Included in expenditure for the year is a donation made to the Office of Development of £2,500 in respect of fundraising for the Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts.

We continue to liaise with the School Senior Leadership Team on a range of matters. We also issue newsletters and we aim to keep our page on the School website updated with minutes of our meetings and details of forthcoming events, which are also posted on the School Facebook page.

May we take this opportunity to thank all parents who continue to support the PA and encourage you to join us in building a strong HSD parent community.

Don't forget you can keep up to date with the latest news from the PA at: www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/parent_area/parent_information/parents_association

Bikeability

At the End of April a group of eight volunteer parents successfully launched a Cycling Proficiency scheme for the Junior Years.

All of our parent volunteers received training from Cycling Scotland so that they can deliver Level 1 & 2 Cycling Proficiency. Twenty L6/7 pupils successfully completed Level 1 over two weekend sessions. Nicholson's Cycles of Dundee supported the training by

attending the event and checking every pupil's bicycle on the day. They also gifted each participant a £10 voucher for their shop.

Our next program is due in October 2017 for Level 2 and again next Easter for a repeat of Level 1. If you would like to be part of this parent-led initiative and become a trainer, please just contact the PA.



High Impact Award

For the last two years at our annual Ceilidh we have held an auction of a small number of generously donated prizes.

From the funds raised we decided to liaise with the SLT of the School in order to establish a suitable PA prize for pupils. After much debate, we are delighted to announce the launch of the HSD Parents' Association Citizenship Award, or High Impact Award as it has been provisionally named. Its aim is to value the contribution of HSD senior pupils to the community and to the lives of others. The first presentation of this award is planned in 2018. More details will follow in due course.

PA Ceilidh

Jings, Crivens an' help ma' Boab... The annual HSD Parents' Association Ceilidh was a huge success and raised an amazing £1,975!!!

Over 100 guests danced their socks off in February during this year's HSD PA Ceilidh Extravaganza at the Invercarse Hotel. The tasty food, the great ceilidh band and lots of happy faces made for a really enjoyable evening. In addition £1,340 was raised from the auction for the new Citizenship Award fund. There was a special guest appearance from Oor Wullie too. The 2018 Ceilidh will take place on Saturday 27th January so pop that date in your diary!

Sport

Celebrating sporting achievement



Sun-soaked Mayfield hosts scintillating Sports Day

Pupils from throughout the Junior and Senior Years provided an afternoon of amazing athletic activity at the School's annual Sports Day.

With the sun shining on Mayfield, parents, family members and friends of the School gathered to give the youngsters plenty of encouragement as they competed in a series of events,

ranging from sprints, sack races, the long jump and skipping for the Junior Years, to the high jump, 1500m, tug of war and shot put for the Senior Years. And many more besides!

The event was rounded off in traditional, and exciting, fashion with the whole school, inter house relay, which this year was won by Lindores.

Titles for Junior rugby teams

The L6 and L7 rugby sides were in fine form in the spring term.

The L6 side proved their mettle in the face of fierce competition by taking the runners-up spot in the Merchiston 7s tournament.

A victory against Boroughmuir and draws against Dollar and Merchiston Castle in the group phase, followed by a semi-final win over Edinburgh Academy, meant the team reached the final with an impressive undefeated record in hand.

In the decider, the boys put in a gutsy performance before eventually being defeated by their opponents from George Watson's College.

Coach Phil Godman said, "Playing against all the top junior school sides in Scotland, the boys showed incredible grit and determination to finish as runners-up."



Meanwhile, the L7 team won the Bowl competition at the Erskine Stewart's Melville P7 tournament in Edinburgh after defeating George Heriot's 1-0 in a hard-fought final.

Phil Godman said, "It was a very competitive competition and the boys saved their best till last with a couple of cracking victories to earn their medals."



Athletes thrive in Aquathlon

Some High School of Dundee pupils used an event in April to show off their athletic ability on two fronts.

Five energetic youngsters demonstrated they could make a splash in swimming and keep up with the pace in middle-distance running when they took part in the Scotland Schools Aquathlon Championships at Stirling University.

Holding her own in the S3 category, which involved a 400m swim and a 3km run, was Emily Baxter, while rising to the challenge of covering 300m in the pool and then 2km on foot in the S1 competition were Reese Brown, Lucy Timney, Alex Douglas and Rhona Byers.

More than 240 pupils from 50 schools competed in the event.

Hockey players ready to take charge

A group of Senior Years hockey players are ready to take charge on the pitch.

In June, five F4 pupils – Anna Hudson, Katie Joss, Mairi McAdam, Rachel Rose and Charlotte Sharpe – travelled through to the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow to complete their Scottish Hockey Youth Umpire Award.

Having already passed the theory section, the quintet demonstrated outstanding knowledge of the game to negotiate the practical element and earn the award, and with it, the right to umpire youth level matches.



Sports Awards Dinner 2017

In March, High School of Dundee pupils came together to celebrate their sporting achievements in style.



Goals scored, tries converted, scintillating swims and a whole host of other success stories from a range of sports over the previous 12 months were to the fore as the PE department staged the School's second annual Sports Awards Dinner, at the Apex Hotel.

After enjoying a meal and hearing the reflections of PE staff and the various sports team captains on the past year's action, pupils in F4-F6 waited with bated breath to learn who would be announced as the winners of a number of prizes in swimming, athletics, netball, hockey, football and rugby.

A series of awards, including the coveted Sports Personality of the Year (swimmer Eilidh Grant) and Outstanding Sporting Potential prizes*, were also handed out to pupils for an array of outstanding individual accomplishments, whilst the

Team of the Year (U18 football) was also announced.

And adding even more inspiration to the evening were guest speakers Austin MacPhee, Hearts FC and Northern Ireland Assistant coach, and Becky Merchant, Scotland women's hockey co-captain, who both also presented the awards.

Head of PE Ewan Jack said of the event, the success of which owed much to the organisational efforts of PE teacher Christy O'Donnell, "It was a wonderful opportunity to reward and pay tribute to our various teams and individuals for the outstanding commitment, effort and ability which they have shown."

* Dino Leddie, football; Rachel Strachan, hockey; Shona Campbell, netball; Sarah McKenzie gymnastics; Angus Fraser, rugby.



Sailors pass stern test

High School pupils passed a stern test of their sailing abilities to secure a title and medals at a national competition.

At the Scottish Schools Sailing Championship Brown Cup at Loch Earn, the squad of Ross Mauritzen (F1) in an RS Tera boat, Tom Mitchell (F1) in a Topper, and James Gifford (F1) in an Optimist, swept the opposition aside to win the team silver medal.

And there was further reward for Tom and James as they secured individual medals within their classes.

Topping the June event off in style, sailing individually for the School, Rory Gifford (L6) scooped the title for Lead Junior School Pupil after earning himself a 2nd place finish in the Optimist class.

Footballers reach national final



The spring term saw the High School of Dundee football team come tantalisingly close to creating a bit of sporting history.

In April, the School aimed to win the Scottish Independent Schools Football Association U18 Championship for the first time when its 1st XI side took on Stewart's Melville College in the

competition final at Stenhousemuir FC's Ochilview Park.

A 100% record had already propelled the team to the SISFA Northern Region league title; however, in spite of a valiant effort by the boys in front of a large High School support, it was Stewart's Melville who ran out 5-1 winners.

Pupil and staff aim for glory

F4 pupil Rachel Strachan lined up alongside some of her teachers as a Dundee hockey club took a shot at glory in a major European hockey competition.

Rachel joined High School hockey coaches Linda Clement and Jude McMullan as part of the Grove Menzieshill ladies squad which competed in the EuroHockey Club Trophy tournament in Munich in June.

Having at the time only recently turned 16, goalkeeper Rachel was only just old enough to have been selected for the competition, the level of which is the highest a Scottish ladies club team has competed at.

High School coach Charlotte Jones was also present as part of the squad's management team.

Scotland rugby call-up is latest recognition for multitalented sports star



A High School of Dundee pupil has achieved the rare feat of gaining international recognition at not one, but two sports!

In March, Shona Campbell, F4, was called up to the Scottish U18 Touch Rugby squad for the Junior Touch European Championships which took place in Dublin in August.

The 15-year-old's progression to international recognition in the touch form of the game has been a fast one. Although she'd been playing rugby since the age of 5, firstly in mixed form for Montrose, and then in girls rugby for Angus Girls, Shona only switched her attention away from the full contact version of the sport this season.

However, after quickly getting to grips with Touch and then impressing the squad selectors in a series of trials, the wing earned her spot for the showpiece tournament.

Shona said, "I'm really excited to have been selected for Scotland.

"The touch rugby is really good and it's very competitive. It's fast and it's good

fun and there's more skill to it than people sometimes think."

Remarkably, with Shona also already a member of the Scotland U17 netball training squad, the multitalented pupil has now been picked for her country at two different sports.

And ironically, Shona's rugby call-up came as a result of her attempting to protect her netball career!

She said, "I've been playing netball as well since I was tiny and I was delighted to get a place in the national training squad this year. I stopped playing full contact rugby because of the risk of getting injured for netball, but I was desperate to keep playing so I turned to Touch instead."

As if excelling at those two sports didn't keep her busy enough, Shona is also a keen, and successful, hockey player, having been a member of the Midlands U16 squad for 2016/17.

She said, "I've been told before that I should pick one sport but don't want to give any of them up because I love playing all of them."

Athletes enjoy run of success

High School pupils have been enjoying a tremendous run of success in athletics, at both local and national level.

At the Scottish Schools Track and Field Championships at Grangemouth in June, Laurence Petty (F2) raced his way to a silver medal in the boys 'D' group 800m event, while Anna Dalglish (F2) won a bronze medal in the girls 'D' group 800m race.

Meanwhile, at the Dundee Secondary Schools Athletics Championships at Caird Park, High School pupils earned themselves a remarkable haul of 55 medals in total, including gold in each of the four girls relay races.

And back in March, pupils in the Senior Years recorded a series of impressive results at the Dundee Secondary Schools Cross Country Championships.

Going up against seven other Dundee schools on a challenging course at Baxter Park, six of the High School's teams earned podium place finishes, with a number of pupils also winning individual medals.



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