

## High School of Dundee pupil named Scotland's top performer in SQA exams

**Elle Wyatt wins SQA's 2017 Academic Excellence award as High School pupils score the top marks in the land in six subjects**

A pupil from the High School of Dundee has been recognised as Scotland's top-performing student in the 2017 SQA exams.

Elle Wyatt was named as the winner of the SQA's Academic Excellence award at the qualification authority's 2017 Star Awards ceremony in Edinburgh.

Presented annually in respect of outstanding achievement in National Qualifications, the prestigious accolade was granted to Elle following her superb set of Advanced Higher level results. As well as gaining A band 1 passes in each subject she took – Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics of Mechanics – at an average of 97%, Elle's performance in Physics earned her the joint top mark in Scotland (shared with another HSD pupil, Ivan Kapelyukh!), while in Mathematics she was also joint top in the country, courtesy of a perfect score of 100%.

Elle, who left the High School at the end of F6 and is now studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, said, "It's an enormous privilege to have received this award!

"Obviously, I couldn't make it to the awards ceremony, but my parents attended and Head of Physics Mr Darby collected the prize on my behalf."

The 17-year-old, who also achieved five A band 1 Highers last year, said she felt the key to her success had been working hard and doing subjects that she enjoyed.



Elle Wyatt

She added, "Some of my teachers have been fabulous. I think I owe a lot to them – I couldn't have achieved as much without them."

Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, said, "We encourage all our pupils to be the best they can be and for Elle this has meant coming out on top in the whole country; a fantastic achievement.

"Encouraged by her teachers, she has worked so hard for this success, showing flair and imagination as well as grit. What really pleases me also is that this success comes in the STEM subjects."

Elle's award completed a remarkable set of SQA distinctions for the High School this year, with its pupils having recorded the top, or joint top, results in three separate Advanced Higher subjects; Chemistry (Alex Smith), Mathematics (Elle Wyatt) and Physics (shared by Elle Wyatt and Ivan Kapelyukh).

What is more, for Alex Smith, scoring the best mark in the land completed an amazing Chemistry double as, 12 months previously, she had achieved the same distinction in the same subject at Higher level. And as she had also recorded the



**Combined Cadet Force  
celebrates centenary**  
[See page 3](#)



**Junior Years on right  
path for Unicef award**  
[See page 15](#)



**Innovative sports  
programme launched**  
[See page 24](#)

best score in Scotland in Higher Biology in 2016, this year's achievement meant Alex had earned a hat-trick of top Scientific marks!

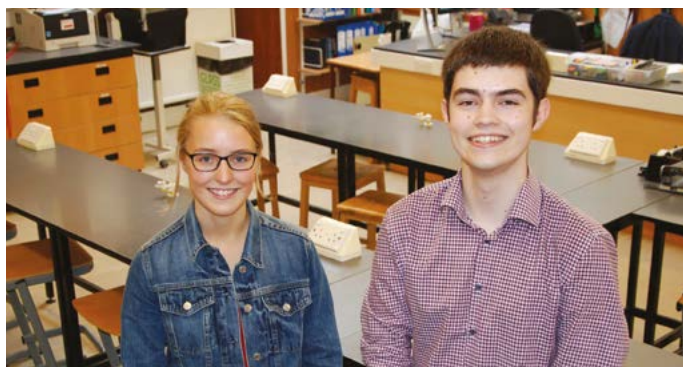
Furthermore, in 2017 High School of Dundee pupils gained the top, or joint top, marks in Scotland in three N5 subjects by virtue of 100% scores, with four (Joshua Cargill, Robert Connolly Brown, Elena Cotroneo and Amy Johnstone) obtaining the distinction in French, one (Elena Cotroneo) in Italian and five (Hannah Alijani, Anna Hudson, Tasnim Kouli, Caitlin Jones and Siddharth Sripada) in Mathematics.

Dr Halliday added, "To have three pupils who have achieved the top marks in Scotland in three different Advanced Higher subjects in one year is unprecedented at the High School – perhaps even in Scotland. It is so rewarding to see their efforts recognised and all the staff – teachers and support staff – are very proud of their successes.

"I am absolutely thrilled for the pupils. They all deserve this and it shows what can be done when young people are given the fantastic combination of nurture and challenge that we aspire to provide at the School."



Alex Smith



Elle Wyatt and Ivan Kapelyukh

## Rector's introduction



**We live in rather unsettling times. Education in schools nationally is under pressure, with a perceived fall in standards and teacher shortages. Universities and colleges also do not have their troubles to seek.**

Uncertainties surrounding Brexit and will there, won't there be Indyref 2 all contribute to the shifting sands of the age. The proposed abolition of charitable rates relief on business

rates has raised the stakes and threatens to make our life more difficult, unnecessarily. However, our school has gone through many challenges in its 779-year history and we will come through these latest storms fighting fit once again. In fact, as soon as you open the pages of this edition of the Pillars, the incredible range and quality of our pupils' achievements, their energy, creativity, enterprise imagination, courage and sense of social responsibility, pours off every page, inspiring and reminding us in the most vivid manner that our school has within it a highly talented, aspirational pupil body nurtured by a dedicated and professional team of staff.

Meanwhile our aspirational project, the Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, in the old post office, continues to progress. We are in close discussion with our preferred contractor and the architects and will keep you informed at every stage.

Finally I thank my colleagues, and of course all the pupils, who have made this edition of the Pillars so special. I hope you enjoy it!

Dr John D Halliday Rector

**Keep up-to-date with all the latest news from the School**



Twitter  
@HSofDundee



Facebook  
facebook.com/highschoolofdundee



# Integrated Curriculum

## Combined Cadet Force celebrates centenary



**The High School of Dundee has celebrated a very special anniversary for its Combined Cadet Force (CCF).**

On 16th February 1918, the first contingent of the Dundee High School CCF met for its very first parade, at the Douglas Street Drill Hall under the command of Capt JB Swan. As the Courier newspaper reported at the time, 'Over 40 cadets paraded and the lads showed great keenness and aptitude.'

To mark the 100th anniversary of that first parade for the – at the time – fledgling group, the School staged a special CCF Centenary Parade.

The parade in the School playground involved the whole 100+ current contingent of cadets, who were inspected by the Guest of Honour, one of the most senior Army officers in Scotland; Colonel Stephanie Jackman MBE TD, Assistant Commander 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland.

The championship-winning Drill Team displayed their skills and the Pipe Band performed in front of an audience that included parents, pupils, former pupils, former CCF members and guests associated with the group, and friends of the School.

Rector Dr John Halliday, said, "The idea of a cadet corps for the High School was first mooted during the Boer War of 1900, where a number of FPs saw active service.

"However, it was the First World War that provided the final motivation to set it up, and since then it has been a regular feature of the school, reflecting the social and educational changes of the subsequent century.

"Around 30 years ago the first girls were admitted and now it is a completely gender-mixed unit, modern and go-ahead, whilst adhering to the important traditional values of self-discipline, courage and respect. Here's to the next 100 years!"

Col Jackman said, "I feel very honoured and privileged to be here today. I think it's tremendous that the School can celebrate such an occasion.

"The cadets have done everybody proud, they were extremely well turned out and a credit to the School.

"Speaking to the cadets, they clearly thoroughly enjoy being part of the CCF. The cadet movement is all about maximising potential and that's a fantastic value to develop in any youngster."



Following its establishment in 1918, membership of the DHS CCF quickly grew and the contingent soon received rifles and uniforms. Since then, the CCF, along with the Pipes and Drums, has developed and evolved as an uninterrupted and high-profile feature in the life of both the school and, through participation in various public events, the wider community.

Today's cadets have the chance to develop, by means of a varied training programme, not only leadership but also the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, self-confidence, resourcefulness, endurance, perseverance, teamwork and effective communication, as well as enhancing their personal and social development.

Lt Col Colin McAdam, Contingent Commander, said, "One hundred years on and the contingent is thriving, rising to challenges and developing team players and leaders as well as resilient, robust and confident individuals. I take great pride in my involvement in the past 25 years of DHSCCF."

Following the parade, those in attendance were invited to view an exhibition of CCF-related memorabilia and artefacts in Trinity Hall which, as well as providing a fascinating insight into the history of the group through the years, gave former members the chance to reminisce about their own time in the contingent.

"It was wonderful to have so many former CCF members join us for the occasion and to hear some of their treasured memories," added Dr Halliday.

The parade and the exhibition, which the School hopes to add to in the coming months, are the first in a number of events that the School is planning in commemoration of the centenary of the WW1 Armistice in November 2018.

### Diary of Events

For details of all upcoming school events, please go to:  
[highschoolofdundee.org.uk](https://highschoolofdundee.org.uk)



## Happy ending for High School writer

**Adding an unexpected twist to a well-known story has led to a happy ending for a talented Senior Years writer, but not for the tale's protagonist!**

F6 pupil Hannah Cowieson's dark but humorous continuation of the story of Cinderella has been included in the SQA's Write Times 2, a brand-new publication show-casing the best creative writing produced by students from across Scotland who have completed English courses over the past year.

Hannah's Higher English creative folio piece, 'Gone Mad', tells the tale of the unfortunate events which befall Cinderella after she comes clean to Prince Charming about the manufactured circumstances of their meeting, and is one of just three compositions which were chosen to be illustrated by an artist.

And the story literally took centre stage at the launch event for the publication, which was held at Glasgow's Contemporary Arts Centre, when Hannah was – again one of only three authors – asked to read her piece to an audience that included Deputy First Minister, and Cabinet Secretary for Education, John Swinney MSP.

Hannah said, "This wasn't something I was expecting but I was really happy when I found out my story was being included. Seeing my name in print will be very strange!"

The new book features more than 30 pieces – essays, prose, poetry, and drama – written by SQA candidates as part of their English courses at National, Higher, and Advanced Higher level, and also includes selected work from students who have achieved the Creative Industries: Media and Communication Higher National Certificate at college.

Copies of the publication will be sent to every school and college across the country and a free e-book version is also available to download at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)

## School embraces Safer Internet Day

**February saw the School embrace a global event aimed at making the internet a safer environment for all.**

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, which promotes the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, pupils throughout the Junior and Senior Years took part in a range of activities emphasising best practice in online activity.

PC Scott Menmuir, from Police Scotland and Dundee Community Safety Division, visited the school to talk to pupils in F1 and F2 assembly about a range of online issues, including the importance of staying safe and respecting themselves and others, and being careful about sharing personal information.

Pupils in F3-F6 meanwhile, worked together in the classroom to examine similar themes. In the Junior Years pupils from L1 through to L7 also received guidance on staying safe online, while, by acting out scenarios they might encounter online, some classes also explored the topic of what good internet practice entails.

Deputy Rector Lise Hudson said of the event, which is celebrated annually in around 130 countries across the globe, "We are delighted to support and endorse Safer Internet Day 2018.

"Our pupils receive regular guidance on how to stay safe online and use the internet and social media responsibly. With the lines increasingly blurred between real world and virtual world communication though, it is essential that we engage our young people in active and open dialogue and foster an environment where they can learn from their mistakes and use digital technology wisely in all aspects of their lives."





## Pipers provide stirring finale



**Members of the School's Pipe Band were thrilled to be asked to provide a stirring finale to the University of Dundee Winter Graduation Ceremonies!**

For the fourth year in a row, the pupils helped the graduating students celebrate their big day by piping them out of the Caird Hall and into their exciting futures.

## Emil and the Detectives



**Drama unfolded at the High School of Dundee when a team of determined young super sleuths sought to bring a pair of dastardly criminals to justice!**

During the spring term, pupils in F1 and F2 brought their production of Eric Kästner's classic children-versus-adults tale, *Emil and the Detectives*, to the stage of Trinity Hall.

The show transported the audience to 1920s Berlin, to tell the story of a group of resourceful children tracking down and apprehending the evil Mr and Mrs Snow who have stolen young Emil's money, which he is taking to his grandmother.

Director of the show, Drama teacher Ellie Ashton, said, "The presence of streetwise city kids, and a hard-working single mother gives the story a relevancy for a modern-day audience.

"It's a story that explores the numerous grey spaces between the normal black and white worlds that children's stories normally inhabit. It dares to ask the difficult questions; 'How do we find our friends in the world?', 'How can we work together to defeat evil?', and 'Can children ever win against adults?'"

Despite the original performance dates being postponed due to the snow at the end of February, the cast pulled together to present a heart-warming and energy filled three nights of fun. Ellie said, "They acted like real professionals in the face of adversity, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts."



# Pipers perform with André Rieu!

**Some High School pipers have performed with one of the world's most famous musicians!**

In December, Robbie Coupar (F5), Rory Grant (F2), Tom Dalglish (F4), and Craig Gunn (F4) had the privilege of sharing the stage with superstar violinist and conductor, André Rieu, during his sold-out concert at the SSE Hydro in Glasgow.

The quartet were given the amazing opportunity by the School's Pipe Major, and piping instructor, David Wilton, whose own band, the British, United Kingdom and Scottish Championship-winning Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band, had been asked to perform with the Dutch maestro.

Having been invited by David to join the band for the occasion, the pupils played their part in rousing performances of Highland Cathedral, Amazing Grace and Scotland the Brave, for which they were accompanied by André Rieu's orchestra.

David Wilton said, "The boys were over the moon to be able to perform alongside one of the world's most famous musicians at a packed-out arena.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and they received high praise for their performances from the other band members."



## Pupils enthralled by theatre show

**High School of Dundee pupils learned how to win back a kingdom's stolen crown, track down a magical object and even defeat monsters in combat, all in the space of 60 action-packed minutes!**

More than 230 pupils in L7 and F1 were treated to an entertaining, high-energy performance of Jason and the Argonauts when the Visible Fictions theatre company visited the School as part of the Theatre in Schools Scotland 2017 tour in November.

Head of Drama Lindsay Drummond, said, "The pupils were enthralled as the story unfolded in front of their eyes.

"With just two actors and one rather impressive piece of set the company told the classic tale of the hero's quest to overthrow his evil uncle by locating the iconic Golden Fleece, uniting his people, and overcoming a selection of mythical creatures and even a pair of infamous clashing rocks!"



## Hogwarts comes to the High School

**The School Library has taken the concept of opening up new worlds to another level!**

Throughout February, visitors to the Library had the chance to enter into the magical realm of Hogwarts by stepping inside a bewitching re-creation of Hagrid's Hut, which was built by assistant librarian Julie Hutton.

The enchanting attraction, which was part of a celebration by the Library of the Harry Potter books, proved a big hit with children in the Junior Years who, like the famous bespectacled boy wizard, were keen to discover the mysterious objects that lie within.





## School community rallies round



**The School community rallied round for a good cause in November.**

Senior School pupils, parents and staff contributed a huge volume of food, toiletries and clothing to a collection for the Eagles Wings Trust, which operates a Bell Street-based mobile soup kitchen, and provides support, advice, and essential items to people in Dundee who are homeless, addicted or in the process of recovery.

Before the bumper donation was handed over to the charity, Alison McDevitt and Kirsty Watt from the Eagles Wings Trust spoke to F5 Higher Modern Studies pupils about the work that they do and the subject of social inequality, which the pupils are investigating as part of their course.

History and Modern Studies teacher Karlene Douglas organised the collection and the talk. She said, "I am overwhelmed at the support from the school. Senior School pupils, parents and staff all donated and the picture doesn't do justice to the huge volume of donations!

"I was so impressed, as were Alison and Mike Cordiner, who came in to collect it. It didn't all fit in their van and the school janitors had to follow behind in a van as there was so much! Amazing!"

## Spectroscopy in a Suitcase

**In January, a team of university students unpacked a fascinating branch of science for some Senior Years pupils.**



Postgraduates from the University of Edinburgh visited the School to deliver a workshop for Advanced Higher Chemistry pupils as part of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Spectroscopy in a Suitcase programme.

The session gave the pupils the opportunity to learn about spectroscopy and spectroscopic techniques by giving them hands-on experience of the use of state-of-the-art analytical equipment. It also allowed them to find out about the application of the techniques in real-life contexts, including the investigation of murder.

Head of Chemistry, Dr Phil Taylor, said, "Spectroscopy is an important part of the Advanced Higher course but the equipment is too expensive to be available in schools.

"This workshop also gave our pupils experience of running infra-red spectra and, since the University has very kindly loaned us the equipment for a week, the pupils will be able to analyse their own samples. That gives our Advanced Higher Chemistry pupils a fantastic opportunity as although many of them have synthesised compounds as part of their Investigation, they would not usually be able to generate their own infra-red spectra."

The workshop for the pupils was followed by a staff training session. Having opened this up to other local schools, Dr Taylor was delighted that chemistry teachers from both Dundee and Angus schools were able to attend.



## Global outlook in evidence

**October saw some Senior Years pupils show that they were true internationalists as they turned their attention to diplomacy and world peace.**

12 pupils travelled through to James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh to take part in a Model United Nations Conference in which they rose to the challenge of representing their allotted countries in a series of globally-themed debates, committees and votes.

In recognition of the statesmanlike skill she demonstrated while representing Turkey in the politics committee, Anoushay Okhai, F6, was awarded the

prize for Best Delegate, and with it, the committee chair's gavel.

In addition, James Shearer, F6, who represented India, and Callum Paterson, F6, who represented Saudi Arabia, were nominated as Highly Commended delegates for their efforts in the economic/science/culture committees and the politics committee respectively.

History and Modern Studies teacher Craig Melia, said, "It's a great achievement for the pupils who have worked hard, researching and practising discussing issues every Monday lunchtime since the start of term."

# Maths Week Scotland



**In September, High School pupils tried sum thing a bit different in the Maths department.**

As part of the Scottish Government's first-ever Maths Week Scotland event, pupils across the Senior Years added a number of special activities to their lessons.

While F1 and F2 classes were busy taking part in the Mangahigh.com online maths competition, pupils in various year groups completed the challenges which made up the national 'Maths wi nae Borders' contest.

Pupils in F5 and F6 meanwhile had the chance to take some inspirational insight away from a Dundee University lecture in which mathematicians explained their love for mathematics and showcased its power to help make sense of the complex world around us.



## Pupils make Chinese connection

**In January, a group of Senior Years pupils used their lunch break to attend a meeting with fellow students more than 9,000km away!**

Taking advantage of the power of video calling, High School pupils were able to make a face-to-face connection with counterparts from the Jiang Xi Jiu Jiang Number One middle school in Jiangxi Province, China.

An eight-hour time difference meant that the Chinese pupils were in the middle of their evening classes, but the two groups soon found they had plenty in common.

After High School of Dundee Mandarin Teacher, Yunchao Murdoch, who organised the event, had introduced the High School to the pupils in China, Mrs Zhang in Jiang Xi took the opportunity to do the same for her school for the Dundee pupils. High School pupils Isla Hutchinson (F1) and Zoe Faloon (F2) then made a fantastic speech in Mandarin, before the two groups took it in turns to ask each other questions on subjects ranging from hobbies and school life to Christmas and computer games.

Yunchao said, "The pupils really enjoyed the experience and hopefully we will run the video conference more often in the future."

## Big say for School's smallest children!



**A group of Junior Years pupils have ensured that the School's smallest children can have a big say.**

In January, members of the Pupil Voice team paid a visit to the High School of Dundee Nursery to involve children there in the pupil-led committee's discussions on a range of matters relating to school life.

The session was organised as part of the work the Pupil Voice Group has been putting into the Junior School's attempts to achieve Level 1 stage of Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools Award, for

which a demonstration of commitment to article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – the right to voice your opinions and have them taken seriously – is crucial.

With that in mind, the Junior Years pupils ran a card-sorting activity about needs and wants, then had a look at the Unicef Child Rights Launchpad game and considered the right to an education which develops talents and skills. As a final activity, the children created pictures featuring themselves and their own talents and skills.



## Pupil takes runner-up spot in prestigious writing contest

**High School pupil Anoushay Okhai has been named as joint runner-up in one of Scotland's most highly-regarded school literary competitions.**

Anoushay, F6, earned the distinction in the Scottish Schools' Young Writer of the Year award, an annual nationwide contest which challenges 15 to 18-year-old pupils to write a non-fiction piece on a contemporary issue for an intelligent magazine or serious newspaper.

The 17-year-old's entry, *The Taste of Success*, which addresses colonialism and how we are not taught enough about it, was one of only four entries to make the final shortlist for the title. And although Anoushay lost out at the final hurdle, her piece drew praise from the adjudicators, with one describing it as being a 'Brilliant piece of writing with lucid arguments supported by relevant and often devastating facts.'

Anoushay said, "What inspired me was that the theme of colonialism kept coming up in the news and as a background of things I was studying, and I didn't know anything about it."



"I've always liked writing and wanted to integrate it into my studies and career. This was completely unexpected. I was really pleased about it and it's given me a lot of confidence."

The competition was organised by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland (ICS), in association with the Young Programme charity, and featured on the Scottish Review website.



## Piping-hot performances rewarded

**High School of Dundee pipers enjoyed success at a national level during the autumn term.**

A ten-strong High School contingent travelled through to Fettes College in Edinburgh in November to compete against groups from all the other main independent schools in the 2017 Scottish CCF Pipes and Drums Committee's annual Trios and Quartets Competition.

Rising to the challenge, the team of Craig Gunn (F4), Tom Dalglish (F4) and Ross Mauritzen (F2) earned themselves 3rd place in the Trios section, and with it a shield for their efforts.

Recent times have also seen High School pupils rewarded for some piping-hot performances in local competitions.

One result of particular note was Alan Cunningham's victory in the Novice Piping 12-&-Under category at the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band Junior Competition in Pitlochry in January. The L6 pupil's win means that he will no longer be able to compete as a novice; at the age of ten he has already progressed to U15 competitions!

## Nursery children demonstrate model craftsmanship

**Children at the High School of Dundee Nursery were celebrating after some model craftsmanship won them an award at the Dundee Flower and Food Festival!**

The pupils' fantastic miniature representation of Camperdown Wildlife Centre won them 1st prize in the P1-age-and-under competition to create a model of a historical Dundee scene.



---

## The High School remembers

**In November, the School paid tribute to the fallen with its traditional Armistice Parade and Service.**

To remember all those members of the High School community and beyond who have died in all armed conflicts, the School's Combined Cadet Force completed a parade in front of the school.

The ceremony, which was watched by pupils, staff, members of the public and guests, concluded with a wreath being placed in front of the School's war memorial by Head Boy Nicoll Butter and Head Girl Caitlin Mitchell, assisted by Junior Years pupils Angus Brown and Ava Newton.

Since 2014, during the annual ceremony, the School has poignantly been marking the centenary of the First World War by commemorating those members of the school community who were killed in the conflict.

This year the names of 30 former pupils and one member of staff who lost their lives in WW1 between November 1916 and November 1917, many of them at the infamous Battle of Passchendaele, were read out by Nicoll and Caitlin.

A prayer was also delivered by The Provost of St Paul's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Jeremy Auld.



---

## Cadets win inaugural national drill competition



**Some serious hard work and dedication has netted the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) a national title.**

During the autumn term, a 13-strong drill team from the High School defeated eight other squads from across the country to win the inaugural 51 Infantry Brigade Army Cadet Force (ACF) Drill and Turnout Competition at Glencorse Barracks in Penicuik.

The contest saw the teams perform a number of precise military drill sequences in front of the 51 Infantry Brigade Cadet Training Team, which organised the event.

Having been earned in competition against not just school CCFs, but also some of the typically much larger ACFs, the victory was a just reward for the special training which the pupils had been putting in since April, both in the course of their weekly CCF training days and the CCF Central Camp held at Wathgill over the summer.

WO2 Willie Nichol, who coached the squad, said, "The drill team have been training very hard since April, instructed by F6 pupils Sandy Neville, Max Strachan, Sam Strachan and Morven Wright, and their performance was of a very high standard.

"All three judges were very impressed by the drill they witnessed, with one commenting that the team's standard was at a level you would expect from top recruits coming out of Sandhurst."

---

## Tina McGuff talks to pupils

**In November, Tina McGuff, author of *Seconds to Snap*, and a passionate campaigner for mental health, spoke to F3 pupils during Personal, Social and Health Education lessons about her experience with eating disorders.**

Paula Spowart, PT Guidance (Aystree), said the talk tied in with topics the pupils had been covering in class on Healthy Eating and Body Dysmorphic Disorder in Young Adults.

She added, "The pupils will always engage with an outside speaker who can connect with them and speak knowledgeably about a subject.

"They now have a greater understanding of eating disorders and the connection to mental health issues and feel more confident to talk about this subject."







## Enchanting event

**It may have been freezing outside, but inside St Paul's Cathedral there was an enchanting warmth in the air as the School's annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place just before Christmas.**

There were polished performances aplenty as a number of the School's choirs, bands, musical ensembles and individuals performed a range of seasonal favourites, traditional pieces of music and readings.

Following the Service, the evening continued with a mulled wine and mince pie reception in Trinity Hall.

## Expert individual helps pupils examine group psychology



**High School of Dundee pupils have been examining group psychology with the help of an expert individual!**

In November, F5 and F6 pupils who take Psychology as an enrichment class welcomed back to the School former pupil Dr Fergus Neville, who is now a social psychologist with the University of St Andrews.

Fergus discussed with the youngsters a research experiment he has been working on – 'Beyond Contagion' – which examines the social and psychological processes underpinning the spread of emotion, ideas and behaviour within and across crowd events.

After giving the pupils the chance to participate in the experiment, which has been running at the British Science Museum in London, he discussed the findings of his research.

History and Modern Studies teacher Karlene Douglas, who teaches the Psychology enrichment class, said, "The pupils were fascinated to learn more about Fergus's research and the subject of crowd psychology more generally.

"As a former pupil, he was a fantastic role model for our pupils who are considering a career in, or further study of, Psychology."

## Vocalist sings at international festival

**In October, F6 pupil Charlotte Jennings demonstrated her vocal talents at an international festival.**

The singer was one of only four members of the Junior Conservatoire of Scotland who were invited to perform at the Leeds International Concert Season.

Charlotte, who in the process became the first vocalist from the Conservatoire to appear at the festival in four years, took to the stage of Leeds College of Music, to sing Violon (Poulenc), Se Tu M'ami (Pergolesi), Heart we will forget him (Copland) and As when the dove (Handel), in a recital.



## MSP grilled!



**Some Senior Years pupils have enjoyed putting a politician on the spot!**

After giving MSP for Angus South, Graeme Dey, a warm welcome to their classroom, F3 Modern Studies pupils proceeded to grill the SNP parliamentarian on a host of matters, ranging from his career highs and lows and why he felt he was a good MSP for his constituency, to why he wasn't on Twitter!

Mr Dey visited the class after pupils, and Angus South constituents, Jessica Slingsby and Finlay Yorke, emailed him to ask some questions relating to their N5 Modern Studies course. The F3 class members were joined by F6 Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils who also jumped at the chance to ask the MSP some questions relating to their dissertations.

He said, "I very much enjoyed my visit and chatting to both S3 and S6 pupils. The questions posed were well considered and thoughtful. I hope my answers were helpful to the students in their work."

## Pupil-penned page-turner published

**The works of talented wordsmiths at the High School of Dundee have been brought together to form a page-turner of a compendium.**

The latest edition of The Kwyll, the English department's collection of some of the best creative writing pieces produced by pupils in class and at home in the past year, is out now.

Packed with compositions from across F1-F6, including a number which were competition winning, the publication covers a diverse range of subjects which provide an insight into the themes and issues which inspired the young writers.

Teacher of English, Morven Ovenstone-Jones, who edited the collection, says, "This year our pupils have explored war and brutality, the natural world, and human experience. The collated pieces are varied in style and genre, but each one tackles the larger issues affecting society and individuals, revealing the human capacity for suffering and endurance.

"As a department, we continue to promote writing in all its forms and encourage all of our pupils to submit work for consideration in future editions of Kwyll."

You can read the latest edition of The Kwyll on the school website.

*"The Kwyll"*



## School welcomes Strowan Scholar

**After travelling more than 11,000 miles to get here, there's no doubt a special visitor to the School had well and truly earned an opportunity to perform on the Pillars!**

Each year two pupils from St Andrews College, Strowan, in Christchurch, New Zealand, are selected by highly-competitive interview to be the Strowan Scholars for the academic session.

The award takes the form of a fully-funded three-week visit to Scotland, where the Scholars are hosted by a

group of independent schools which includes the High School of Dundee.

As a result, in October the School was delighted to welcome Louis Newman for a five-day visit during which he stayed with a High School host family, attended lessons and enjoyed an introduction to Dundee and the surrounding area.

And Pipe Major David Wilton and host pupil Robbie Coupar (who is Pupil Pipe Major) were delighted to help Louis indulge his passion for the pipes in his new surroundings!







## The Great High School of Dundee Bake Off

**Fans of the Great British Bake Off had something else to whet their appetite when the School's very own version kicked off in September.**

A brand new chapter in High School culinary contests got off to a sumptuous start with an inventive Signature round in which the creative contestants had to produce story-themed cupcakes.

Seven pupils progressed to a deliciously challenging Technical round in which they were given the task of making a Swiss Roll, using the same ingredients and method but with no timing given for the baking!

Shaista Okhai (F6), Melissa Mitchell (F3) and Rebecca McConnachie (F3) proved that their instincts were spot on as their perfect puddings earned the favour of the judges and won them places in the grand final.

In the end it was Melissa who was in baking wonderland after her Mad Hatter's Tea Party inspired entry into the story-book-themed Show Stopper round earned her the much sought-after title.

Lesley Ross, Head of Health and Food Technology, said, "We were delighted by the extremely high standard on display throughout the competition; the participants demonstrated real creativity and imagination."

## Concert marks momentous events

**In late November, the School marked a pair of momentous historical events with a momentous musical one!**

Musicians from throughout the Junior and Senior Years took to the stage of the Caird Hall to deliver their annual Autumn Concert, which this year took its inspiration from the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Featuring ensembles such as the Symphonic, Concert and Big Bands, Sinfonia, the Symphony Orchestra and a range of choirs, the stirring event included performances of pieces ranging from Martin Luther's own Reformation Hymn 'Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,' and extracts from the ballet 'Spartacus' by Soviet composer Khachaturian, to the Beatles' famous composition 'Revolution'.

Donations from this year's proceeds were given to the Teenage Cancer Trust.



## Pupil's engineering potential recognised



**A Senior Years pupil's engineering potential has been recognised with the award of a highly sought-after scholarship.**

During the autumn term, Luke Wyatt received an Arkwright Scholarship, an award which aims to inspire and nurture high-calibre school-age students to be the country's future leaders of the Engineering profession.

Granted following a rigorous selection process that began in F4 and involved an application, a problem-solving aptitude test and then a university-based panel interview, the two-year scholarship will provide Luke with £300 this year and next to assist with his development as an engineer.

The scheme also matches recipients up with sponsor organisations who help to develop each scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context via the likes of mentoring

and industry visits, and the F5 pupil will benefit from such support from the Eranda Rothschild Foundation.

Open to pupils in S5 and S6 across the UK who display talent in STEM\* subjects, the scholarships are highly respected by university admissions tutors and industry recruiters and are regarded as one of the most prestigious accolades that a sixth-form student can receive.

Luke, who is currently taking Higher Engineering Science, received guidance on meeting the challenges of the selection process from Technology teacher Dave Preston.

2017 is the third year in succession that a pupil from the High School of Dundee has won an Arkwright Scholarship.

\* Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

## Spot the fundraisers!

**In November, pupils and staff at the High School were spotted raising more than £390 for Children in Need!**

Throughout the Nursery, Junior and Senior Years, spotty attire was to the fore as the School showed its spots to raise lots.

Children in the Junior Years also showed their support for Pudsey Bear's annual appeal by bringing in their own furry friends.





# Junior Years

## Junior Years on right path for Unicef award

**The Junior School is officially on the right path as it works towards achieving a Unicef award.**

During the autumn term, children and staff in the Junior Years were granted Recognition of Commitment for the Rights Respecting Schools Award, a programme which aims to place children's rights at the heart of schools in the UK by ensuring pupils are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive.

The Recognition, the first stage of the award, acknowledges a variety of steps that pupils and teachers have taken to demonstrate their commitment to the programme's goals.

These have included auditing the existing knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child within the school; using that to form an action plan, and holding Pupil Voice and staff steering group meetings to gather thoughts, ideas and feedback.

As part of the initial work, every class in the Junior Years also now has its own charter on display, based upon the Rights



of the Child Convention and setting out the shared values which pupils and staff aim to adopt in the classroom.

L6 teacher Lisa Carrie, who is leading the project, was delighted to see the pupils recognised for the effort that they have put in so far.

She said, "Achieving Recognition of Commitment status is a fantastic achievement which reflects the hard work of the Pupil Voice group in driving forward a project they immediately recognised would have a positive impact on the ethos of the school. Their confidence in sharing their vision with staff and pupils has been a pleasure to see."

Pupils and staff are now working towards achieving the next stage, the Level 1 Award, which, following assessment by a Unicef UK representative, is granted to schools which show good progress towards embedding children's rights in their policies, practices and ethos.

## The Roman is coming!



**All roads led to Ancient Rome for some High School pupils as they welcomed a very special guest into their classroom.**

Children in L4 were given a fascinating insight into life within the much-feared armies of the famous empire when they were visited by none other than a fully-armoured Roman soldier – otherwise known as Head of Classics Edmund Faulkes, who is a member of the Roman re-enactment group, the Antonine Guard!

But the youngsters needn't have feared that they were crossing the Rubicon by inviting a spear and shield-wielding warrior into their midst, with their imposing-looking visitor instead only too happy to help as the pupils launched their own campaign to learn as much as possible about the Roman civilization, which they had been studying as part of a class project.

As a result, as well as showing the children weapons from the time and discussing the organisation and tactics which Rome's military put to use to such devastating effect, Mr Faulkes was also on hand to answer a huge array of questions on various aspects of Roman life!

L4 teacher Shona Fish said, "The children were thrilled to have a visit from such a knowledgeable Roman soldier and it really helped to bring our topic alive for the whole year group."

## Catriona's charity haircut

**October saw Junior Years pupil Catriona Skea have a haircut with a difference.**

Catriona had her long locks trimmed so that she could donate them to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs free of charge to children across the UK and Ireland who have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

With each wig costing up to £500 to make, the L6 pupil also decided to seek sponsorship for her selfless endeavour, in the end raising a fantastic total of over £670 for the charity through a mixture of online donations and a sponsorship box which she took into school.



## Opal Parle!

**As the title of the L7 trip to the Opal Coast in France would suggest, this was a week for improving French speaking skills.**

In addition, the trip was packed with interesting visits and activities. La Coupole and Planetarium provided an opportunity to look back at the history of WW2, look out into the Solar System and look forward to scientific advances of the future.

There was also a time for reflection at Etaples Cemetery, where thousands of WW1 graves lie.

Our Art Workshop visit showed off creative skills and ensured that everybody brought home a souvenir from the trip.

Teamwork and exercise were the order of the day on La Rando Rail where pupils had to pedal four-seater chariots along a disused railway – a perfect way to admire the French countryside.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time in Nausicaa, Sealife Centre and were entertained there by the feeding of the sea lions.

Competition and fun were provided in equal measure by French quizzes and bingo as well as swimming and ten-pin bowling.

Of course a trip to France would not be complete without a heavy emphasis on food! The Market Mission gave pupils the opportunity to shop for their lunch at a traditional French market while visits to a crêperie and a chocolate factory introduced the delights of pancake and chocolate making and eating! Snails, cheese and some delicious French cooking helped to make this a trip to remember.



## Children embrace yoga

**Children in the Early Years are, very serenely, jumping at the chance to stretch their bodies and their minds!**

As part of its efforts to develop children's resilience and mindfulness, the School has started a highly popular yoga class for pupils in L1-L3.

Run by experienced yoga teacher Lindsey Scott, the co-curricular activity sees the enthusiastic youngsters use yoga poses and postures and develop breathing techniques through story telling.

Junior Years teacher Audrey Davie, who is co-ordinating the activity, says.



"Yoga increases flexibility and improves strength and co-ordination. It also helps develop concentration and focus and gives children the skills required to help support them in moments of stress and anxiety."

## School overrun by Christmas-loving creepy crawlies!

**In December, the School was infested by a collection of creepy crawlies – of the Christmas-loving kind!**

Trinity Hall was well and truly bursting with bugs as children in L1-L3 entertained parents and fellow pupils with their Nativity show 'Creepy Crawly Christmas', by Craig Hawes.

The seasonal spectacular told the tale of a star falling from the sky and landing on the school's silliest caterpillar, Connie, giving her the perfect chance to prove herself by uncovering the truth about the star and returning it to where it came from. Of course though, at that time of year it could only be one star!

Via her encounters with a host of colourful creepy crawlies, enchanted audiences were able to watch Connie succeed in her quest and earn her wings as a butterfly. And, just as importantly, they were able to see the true meaning of Christmas emerge and take flight!



Deputy Head Junior Years, Claire Proudfoot, said of the production, in which every child in the year groups played a part, "The children have been wonderful and it's very easy to forget that they are our youngest pupils. I am so proud... it's a very special moment for them and of course for their parents."

More than £2,200 was raised at the shows for Maggie's and the Mashimoni School in Nairobi.





# Former Pupil News

## School welcomes the Singing Children of Africa



**Contemporary and traditional African music and dance came to the School during the autumn term, thanks to the efforts of a former pupil.**

In September, the School welcomed the Singing Children of Africa, a group of talented singers and performers from the Jolaurabi School in Kenya, to Trinity Hall to give a public concert.

The show was part of the Singing Children of Africa 2017 UK tour which saw the group, whose members are aged 9-14, perform at a number of venues in Scotland and the north of England to raise money for the charity Educate the Kids.

The High School stop was arranged by former pupil Kasia Thomson, class of 2011, who has helped to raise around £4000 for the charity through the Educate the Kids Society which she set up at Dundee University while she was completing a Law degree.

Following a well-received show in the city 12 months previously, this was the second year in a row that the group had visited Dundee, and according to Kasia, they were delighted to be returning.

She said, "Last year the group visited Dundee, which rolled out

the red carpet for them. The children loved it and are so excited to have another chance to visit and perform.

"Many of the group who came last year are returning and it is wonderful to hear the experienced members tell the newbies about the places they are looking forward to going back to ... Dundee was on that list!"

Founded by Scottish couple Maureen and Ian McIntyre in 1998, Educate the Kids runs the Jolaurabi School, which includes an orphanage and three schools for underprivileged children in the Utange area of the country.

Each year, children from Jolaurabi put on a series of entertaining shows in the UK to raise money to help cover running costs and to expand the school provision, meaning education for even more children.

The group, who also performed to children in the Junior Years at a special assembly, took part in a number of activities during their stay in the city, including a tour of the Discovery, a visit to Dundee University, and a trip to Tannadice Park to take in a Dundee United game.

You can find out more about Educate the Kids at: [www.educatethekids.com](http://www.educatethekids.com)

## FPs honoured

**The 2018 New Year's Honours list brought with it awards for two High School FPs.**

Adventurer, broadcaster and world-record-breaking round-the-world cyclist Mark Beaumont was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to sport, broadcasting and charity.

Dr Jane Bruce, Clinical Director, Out of Hours Service, NHS Tayside was awarded an MBE for services to General Practice and Primary Care Services in Tayside.

Congratulations to both!



## Rugby player lands coveted scholarship



**A High School of Dundee former pupil has embarked upon a life-changing rugby experience in South Africa as part of a prestigious scholarship programme.**

Angus Fraser, class of 2017, is one of three BT Sport Scottish Rugby Academy players who are currently spending five months immersed in the nation's renowned rugby culture at the high-performance training facility at Stellenbosch University, after being awarded the coveted John Macphail Rugby Scholarship for 2017.

Angus, who began playing mini rugby with Dundee Eagles, before representing the High School, the FP club side and Scotland U18, is understandably thrilled.

He said, "The call totally came out of the blue that I had been put forward and accepted to go South Africa for five months as part of the scholarship. I phoned my mum and dad straight away as I was shaking with excitement.

"It's absolutely outstanding, I can't wait to get out there and make the most of the opportunity to really work on developing my rugby."

The Scholarship programme aims to send some of Scotland's most promising young players to other parts of the world to further their development in new environments, with different coaches, fresh challenges and at world-class facilities.

With previous recipients having included the current Scotland captain John Barclay, previous national skipper Grant Gilchrist, and current internationalists Jonny Gray, Finn Russell and Adam Ashe, hooker Angus will be following in some notable footsteps.

Head of Rugby and Elite Sports Development at the High School of Dundee, Phil Godman, was delighted for Angus. He said, "You only have to look at some of the previous players, who have received this award, to realise what an achievement it is. I am sure Angus will grab the opportunity with both hands and everyone at the High School of Dundee looks forward to seeing how he gets on."

## Lifetime ambition achieved

**We are always delighted to hear from former pupils and former members of staff. So it was doubly pleasing to receive news during the autumn term from somebody who is both!**

Well done to former Head Girl, not to mention former Head of Geography and former Deputy Rector, Val Vannet, who in December achieved a life's ambition by setting foot on her seventh and last continent – Antarctica!





# Parents' Association News

**I am writing this article for The Pillars acutely aware that this is likely to be one of the last opportunities I have to promote the work of the High School of Dundee Parents' Association before I retire from the committee later this year, having completed my constitutional term of six years on the committee.**

I believe a satisfactory measure of the success of any organisation is if you feel you leave it stronger than you when you joined. With the support and hard work of my fellow committee members, the support of other parents and members of the school's senior management team, I believe that the PA has achieved much since I first became associated with it in 2012.

And it's more than satisfying to be able to leave it with an ongoing legacy.

## The High School of Dundee Parents' Association High Impact Award

**The inaugural award later this year of the High School of Dundee Parents' Association High Impact Award will recognise and value the contribution made by pupils of the school to the community.**



The award will champion those who make a real difference to the lives of others, whether this is through innovation, enterprise, charity, care, compassion, bravery or other impactful public-spirited activity.

Each year the High Impact Award will go to the pupil or team of pupils who are recognised by others to have made the most outstanding contribution during the past year.

We chose the name High Impact Award to reflect the wish to focus on 'making a real difference' to others. The criteria used to judge the award are:

- The award will go to a current pupil or team of pupils from the High School of Dundee.
- Pupils/teams can be proposed by a parent, other pupil(s), a teacher or an external body.
- Both the impact of the activity and the motivation underpinning it will be assessed.
- The criteria will be linked to core school values and can cover a wide range of activities/initiatives. The primary considerations will be achieving a positive impact on others and the nature of the motivation of those involved.

By the time you read this the nominations for this year's award will have closed, and the next step in the process will be for the award panel to shortlist entries and then meet shortlisted nominees. At the time of going to press though, I can say that we very much look forward to receiving the entries and presenting the inaugural award and £250 donation to the winning cause, which will then be championed during the end-of-year prize giving ceremony.

More information about the award is available on the School website.



## Business As Usual

**Over the last six months we have continued running a number of fundraising events including discos and parties for a number of the Junior School year groups.**

In August we hosted a coffee afternoon for new F1 Parents while their children were getting to grips with their first afternoon in the Senior School. We met many potential new school parents when we took up position in Trinity on the successful school Open Day in September. We again organised and ran a coffee and mince pies event during the school nativity. We have assisted the school's senior management team on a number of focus-group initiatives and look forward to contributing to others. Finally we had great pleasure, for the second successive year, in donating a further cheque for £2500 to the Centre of Excellence in Performing Arts fund.

I would like to close by thanking the whole school community for their ongoing support of the Parents' Association, and would encourage parents to continue to get involved in attending and helping out with events.

**David Cheape, PA Chair**

# Sport

## Celebrating sporting achievement

### Aspiring sports stars hear from former world champion



**Aspiring sports stars at the High School of Dundee have learned about the importance of not giving up from a former world champion athlete.**

Members of the School's High Performance Sports Development Programme had the chance to gain an insight into top-level sporting competition when they were visited by former World, European and Commonwealth Games 4x400m relay gold medallist, Derek Redmond.

As well as sharing some stories from his career, Derek called upon his experience at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics – when

he won universal admiration for crossing the finish line in his 400m semi-final, arm in arm with his father, after having collapsed mid-race with a torn hamstring – to illustrate the importance of determination.

He said, "I wanted to give the pupils some motivation about not giving up.

"One of the key things in sport is expecting the unexpected; always being prepared to handle what's put in front of you. You've got to deal with things as they happen and have the determination to keep going and never give up."

### Alexander wins Scottish title

**High School pupil Alexander Berg well and truly made his point at a national fencing tournament.**

In November, the F6 pupil returned from the 2017 Scottish Schools Individual Fencing Championships at Linlithgow Academy with the 16-and-over Sabre title to his name, after edging a nail-biting final 15-14.

Alexander, who is a member of the School's fencing club, and also fences with Wallace Fencing Academy, also won the bronze medal in the Epée event.



### Hockey squad head for Northern Ireland

**The autumn term saw a High School of Dundee hockey team enjoy its very first overseas tour.**

During the October holidays the F2 girls squad travelled to Belfast to combine matches against three local sides with training, teambuilding, and sightseeing.

Head of Hockey, Linda Anderson, who led the tour, said, "The girls had a great time. They improved with each game of the tour and they had the chance to experience some of the culture and sights of Belfast as well."



### Curlers into national final

**A pair of High School curling teams have earned themselves places in a national final.**

In December, the quartets of Alex Mackintosh, Caitlin Jones, Jamie Meade and Calum Skea; and Innes Chalmers, Freddie Wilson, Iain Chalmers and Hamish Doig, won through to the finals of the Scottish Schools Curling Championships courtesy of impressive undefeated records in the Dundee qualifying heat.

The finals were due to take place at Braehead in March.





# Gymnast makes successful vault to senior level

**A High School of Dundee gymnast has made the vault into the senior ranks in medal-winning fashion.**

Representing her country for the first time as a senior, Sarah McKenzie was part of the five-strong Scotland squad that won team Bronze at the Northern European Championships in the Faroe Islands in November.

Competing against teams from Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and the host nation in floor, bars, beam and vault competitions, the Scottish quintet performed strongly to take third spot, just behind Norway and Iceland.

And the F5 pupil had further cause for celebration as her own impressive solo performances saw her end the competition as Scotland's top points scorer; a new personal best of 48.58 earned Sarah sixth place in the individual standings.

Adding to her achievements, Sarah also scored personal bests on the vault and on the beam, with the latter performance gaining her the second qualifying spot for the finals, ahead of 39 other competitors.

Sarah, who competes for City of Glasgow Gymnastics Club and is a member of the Scottish Commonwealth Games preparation squad, said, "I am always so proud to represent my country but this



was very special for me as it was my first time competing as a senior.

"We were delighted as a team to win the Bronze medal and an extra bonus was that I achieved the two qualifying scores for phase 2 of 2018 Commonwealth Games selection process. This means that I can now be put forward for selection.

"I know that I have a long way to go but I will continue to work hard in the hope that I can add more qualifying scores to my name which will improve my chances of selection."

---

## High School pair represent Scotland

**Jamie Golden, F4, and Rachel Strachan, F5, were thrilled to be selected to represent their country at a major sporting event during the autumn term.**

Jamie and Rachel travelled down to Loughborough University in September to line up for the Scotland boys and girls hockey squads, respectively, at the 2017 UK School Games, a prestigious multi-sports competition featuring the UK's finest school-aged sports stars.



## Sailor makes waves on global stage

**A High School of Dundee pupil has taken her sailing talents to the global stage.**

In December, Anna Sturrock travelled to China to represent Great Britain in the Youth Sailing World Championships.

The F6 pupil was part of a 14-strong GB team which did battle with over 380 of the world's best under-19-year-old sailors, from 62 nations, across nine events in Sanya.

RYA Scotland Elite Squad member Anna, who at 17 was the youngest member of Team GB, competed in the women's 29er fleet, in which she continued her existing partnership with helm Bella Fellows. And after finishing sixth out of 20 teams, the duo can be proud of their efforts.

Their call-up followed an impressive first full season together in which they won their class at the British Youth National Championships, achieved top girls placing at the UK 29er Inlands Championships, and ended the UK 29er grand prix series as top girls overall.

Selection for the World Championships had been the girls' main aim since they teamed up together. And with it being the first time the pair had competed in an Olympic-style event where only one boat from each class is selected to represent a country, it's fair to say that going to China was not only a fantastic way to end the year, but also the highlight of their sailing careers to date!

The girls had a late call up to the event due to an injury in the initial team and while they were disappointed for the team which couldn't compete, they were over the moon to have been selected.



## High School pupils are Midlands mainstay!

**High School hockey players have been out in force representing their region.**

A total of nine pupils from the School were selected for the various Midlands district teams which took part in the Interdistrict Hockey tournament at Glasgow National Hockey Centre in October.

Jamie Golden played a key role in the U18 boys side, captaining the team to a third-place finish. Meanwhile, in the girls events, Heidi Sampson, Holly Duval, Rachel Strachan and Shona Campbell helped the U18 side win their competition with an undefeated record and the loss of only one goal, while Isla McRobbie, Ailsa Millar, Joanna Johnston and Reave Kilcullen played their part as the U16 team secured third place.

And with members of the High School's PE teaching staff Linda Anderson,



Jude McMullan and Charlotte Jones also taking on coaching roles for the Midlands, the School's overall representation at the event was an impressive 12!

High School of Dundee Head of Hockey, Linda Anderson, said, "It was fantastic to have such a large representation of High School of Dundee pupils participating, and performing so well!"

## Impressive results for swimmers



**High School of Dundee swimmers have been in regional medal-winning form in recent times.**

At the Midlands Schools Swimming Championships at Dundee Olympia, in the girls relay event the B team of Eve Hewitt (F2), Emily Baxter (F4), Lucy Robertson (F4) and Lucy Clarke (F1) won bronze, while the A team of Anya Wilson

(F4), Blythe Brown (F3), Hannah Murray (F3) and Martha Reeves (F1) won gold!

Meanwhile, at the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships, also at Dundee Olympia, High School pupils had plenty to celebrate after winning a total of 17 medals across various individual and team events!





## Chess title for Charvi

**F4 pupil Charvi Kanodia outmanoeuvred opponents from across the country to win a chess title.**

In December, Charvi, who is a member of Castlehill Chess Club, won the Junior and Intermediate girls competition at the NEJCA Albyn Tournament after defeating all five of her opponents.

The event was open to all girls in Scotland graded below 750.

## Pupil helps Scotland win European Championships

**A High School of Dundee sports star is now a European champion!**

F5 pupil Shona Campbell was part of the Scotland team that won the U18 mixed title at the European Junior Touch Rugby Championships in Dublin during the autumn term.

Winger Shona scored four tries as the side won every match during the three-day tournament, with victories over Wales, France, Guernsey, Jersey, the Netherlands, Middle East, England and Ireland in the pool stages, followed by a convincing 5-2 triumph over Wales in the final.

Shona said, "In the run-up, during training our coach had been telling us that we should be aiming to win the competition. Our first game was against Wales, who had beaten us in the final in



last year's Championships, so when we won that match it gave us real confidence for the rest of the tournament.

"It was a pretty amazing feeling to win the title and to go through the whole tournament undefeated."

## Rugby 1st XV try Barcelona



**October half-term saw the rugby 1st XV squad head to Barcelona for a mini tour that combined competitive game time with team building.**

On the field, the boys won both their matches, running out comfortable winners against local side Tarragona RC, before producing some of their best rugby of the season to overcome English side Kingham School 38-24.

Off the field, there was plenty of opportunity for the pupils to develop team spirit as they experienced the

culture of the Catalan capital through a series of activities which included a tour of Barcelona Football Club's famous Nou Camp stadium and a trip to the bustling Las Ramblas area.

Head of Rugby and Elite Sport Development at the School, Phil Godman, led the tour. He said, "It was an ideal opportunity for the boys to learn from the experience of playing in a new environment against some different teams. It was a fantastic trip for all involved."

## Pupils score Scotland call-ups

**F6 pupil Caitlin Mitchell had the honour of representing her country at football in February.**

The central midfielder lined up for the Scottish Independent Schools Football Association U18 girls side which took on fierce rivals England at Peffermill in Edinburgh.

Although the Scotland team lost the match 3-0, Caitlin was delighted to have taken part.

"The game was a really good experience, and a tough challenge against a well-organised team," she said.

Meanwhile, in boys football, Cameron Dow (F4), Cameron Murray (F5) and Mackenzie Lemon (F4) have all been called up to the SISFA U18 boys squad in recent months.



# Innovative sports programme launched



**The High School of Dundee has launched a brand-new programme with the goal of enabling its talented young sports stars to reach their full potential.**

The School has established its own High Performance Sports Development Programme, an innovative scheme which will give pupils who are performing at a high standard expert guidance and support to help them go as far as they possibly can in their chosen sport.

Under the programme, which has been set up by the School's Head of Elite Sport, former Scotland rugby internationalist, Phil Godman, pupils who participate at national or district level, or have the potential to do so, can receive bespoke timetabled plans which draw on a host of specialist inputs and resources.

As well as being provided with specially-devised training sessions, strength and conditioning programmes and physiotherapy and rehab, the pupils will also benefit from fitness testing, the latest sports science and sports nutrition insight and the use of video analysis.

Further key aspects of the scheme, which has been designed to accommodate

any high-performing athlete, regardless of their given sport, include access to a full-time sports psychologist, one-on-one mentoring, and inspiration from guest speakers.

Phil Godman says, "We are very fortunate at the High School to have a number of boys and girls performing at a high level in a variety of different sports. The aim of the programme is to nurture, enhance and develop these athletes as well as increase the overall standard of sport within the school.

"Getting the right balance is crucial and the programme ensures pupils get the optimum mix of training, academic work and rest time.

"Being able to give our pupils access to sports science, to video analysis and sports psychology – a huge factor in the success of top athletes around the world today – is immensely exciting for the PE staff and we are really looking forward to seeing the impact the programme will have on our pupils."

A number of youngsters have already been drafted into the programme's initial intake, including pupils who have

represented their country at sports including hockey, football, rugby, tennis, gymnastics and sailing.

But from session 2018/19, the programme will be offered as an option within the subject preference process for those currently in F2, F4 and F5, therefore making it available for more pupils who have the ambition to follow in the footsteps of former pupils like double Olympian Eilish McColgan, and Scotland rugby internationalists Zander Fagerson, Richie Vernon and Alasdair Dickinson.

The Rector said, "We are committed to the physical wellbeing of all our pupils and have a highly-developed and progressive sport-for-all programme from nursery right through to Sixth Year.

"However, it is important that we cater for those at the top of their particular sports and enable them to perform at the highest level possible. Whether it is in academic exams, in music, drama or sport, we seek to provide opportunities for our pupils to excel. This is something we feel passionately about at the High School."



Euclid Crescent  
Dundee DD1 1HU  
Tel: 01382 202921  
[highschoolofdundee.org.uk](http://highschoolofdundee.org.uk)  
Registered Charity SC011522

Contact the Editor

If you would like to suggest an article for The Pillars, contact us on [magazine@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:magazine@highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

To download past editions of The Pillars, please visit [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk)