

## WW1 Centenary Armistice: HSD Remembers



Photo: Point One Photography

**In November, the High School marked the centenary of the end of the First World War with a special programme of events.**

In addition to the School's traditional Armistice Parade, a series of poignant exhibitions and performances was organised as the School reflected on the four years that changed the world: 1914-1918.

The centrepiece of the commemorative events was a unique art installation, designed by the School's Head of Art, Adam Kerr, which saw the School's Pillars decorated with more than 2,000 jute poppies in memory of those who fell in the conflict.

After pupils had helped to attach the symbolic flowers to the Pillars, the display remained in place throughout November, becoming even more striking in appearance when it was illuminated in red over Armistice weekend.

Jute was chosen as the material for the poppies in recognition of its association with Dundee, and of the vital contribution of the city's women to the war effort, with the fabric having been used within Dundee's mills to manufacture the sandbags which lined the Allied trenches of the Western Front.

Identical poppies were sold by the High School in order to raise money for Poppy Scotland, and the School was thrilled when,



**Pupils embrace  
Mental Health project**  
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**Children help Bash  
Street Kids celebrate  
special anniversary!**  
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**School reaches U16  
Scottish Cup Rugby  
Final for first time**  
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in separate news, the charity announced the installation as the winner of its poppy display competition for Dundee.

Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, said at the time, "We hope that what we have planned will be a suitable testimony to our ongoing debt of gratitude to those whose lives were changed forever by the First World War and give us cause to reflect on how we can learn from the lessons of history."

You can read more about the Centenary Armistice programme on pages 3–5.



## Rector's introduction



**Reading through these pages of the latest Pillars I am struck as always by the range, depth and quality of the talents that populate our school and enrich our daily lives.**

Of course, there is always a huge amount that does not make these pages – and of course they cannot include the spontaneous acts of kindness and generosity, the wit and humour that make me laugh, the friendly warmth of welcome, or the uplifting, moving courage shown in adversity or grief. But perhaps these pages hint at some of that. It has been a remarkable time. The FWW Centenary commemorations were particularly striking and affecting, but we fundamentally live in the now whilst looking forward to tomorrow. The countless day to day examples of aspiration and excellence are celebrated here and we rejoice in the good fortune of being part of such a vibrant and dynamic and supportive community! Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Halliday".

Dr John D Halliday Rector

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# HSD Remembers

A programme of events to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War



## Armistice Parade

**On 9th November 2018, the School held its traditional Remembrance Parade and Service, which was watched by pupils, staff, parents, former pupils, members of the public and guests.**

In memory of the fallen, the CCF completed a parade in front of the striking backdrop of the School's Pillars, which had been decorated with more than 2,000 jute poppies in honour of the special anniversary.

In a continuation of a poignant custom which the School began in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of World War 1, Head Boy Sid Sripada and Head Girl Katie Anderson read out the names of the 37 former pupils who lost their lives between November 1917 and 1920 as a result of the conflict.

A wreath was placed in front of the School's war memorial by the Head Boy and Head Girl, assisted by Junior School pupils Charlie Lilley and Moya Craig, before, in a moving addition to the School's traditional annual ceremony, The Last Post was played by trumpeter Catriona Taylor (F4). Flowers o' the Forest was also played, by Pupil Pipe Major Robbie Coupar (F6).

A prayer was delivered by the Bishop of Brechin, the Very Rev Andrew Swift.

The Rector said, "We remember in particular those who served, were wounded or who suffered, and of course those who died in the First World War. Nearly 40,000 Dundonians served in the First World War. Over 4,000 lost their lives. Of those were 785 Former Pupils of the High School who served, including a number of intrepid women, and 136 who died.

"We therefore wish to remember the suffering and sacrifice that this lost generation endured, in the hope that generations of today and tomorrow will learn the lessons of yesterday."

## Exhibition reveals impact of WW1 on FP and his family

**During November, the impact of the First World War on a High School of Dundee former pupil and his family was revealed in a fascinating exhibition.**

A High School Family and the Great War told the story of the tragic death of Lieutenant Dan Stalker, former Harris Gold Medal winner for Dux of the School, the heartbreak with which the news was communicated and received, and the involvement in the War of his three brothers – also FPs – James, Ken and Philip.

The exhibition revealed that Dan died from wounds received whilst tending to his injured men at Gentelles near Amiens, just two days before his first wedding anniversary and four months before his daughter Mary was born.

Brought to life through a series of letters sent to his widow Gladys and his parents, photographs, cuttings, artefacts and a video, the display also outlined the roles which his sisters Alice, Elsie and Hope, performed during the War.

The material was provided by Dan's great-niece, Morag Stalker, who is also a former pupil.

Morag, who was assisted in putting the exhibition together by Chemistry teacher Dr Kate Pepper, said, "There are four Stalker brothers, including my grandfather, James, named on the School's War Memorial as having served. When I was growing up I knew that Dan was killed in the last year of the War and had had a posthumous child, but I discovered and learned so much more as I was looking through all the material.

"It's wonderful to see all the items on display. They shouldn't be sitting in a box in a cupboard so it was a privilege to be able to share the material with the School and I hope people enjoy the exhibition."



## Diary of Events

For details of all upcoming school events, please visit the school website: [highschoolofdundee.org.uk](http://highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

# Portraits shine light on inspiring and moving WW1 stories

As part of the Centenary commemorations, the School unveiled its Great War Portrait Exhibition, a collection of eight pieces of thought-provoking, original artwork produced by pupils in F6.

Having been asked to contemplate how their lives would have been different had they been teenagers during the time of WW1, the young artists came up with the idea of creating portraits which represented individuals or themes which they had come across in their research.

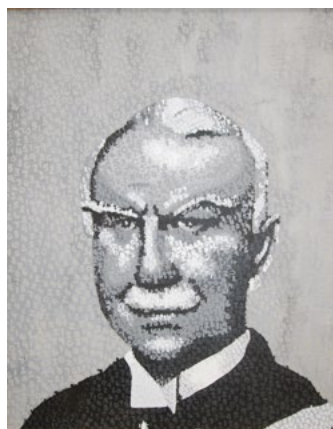
As a result, current High School pupils were depicted on canvas in representations of: soldiers in the Allied trenches (which were lined with sandbags manufactured from jute made in Dundee); Canary Girls (women whose work in munitions factories turned their skin yellow); and the stigma of being accused of cowardice.

In addition, the striking artworks also brought to light the wartime advertising promotion of makeup to the female community; the almost celebrity status enjoyed by 'Air Aces'; and the huge contribution made by the city of Dundee to the war effort.

Also represented were former pupils Sir James Alfred Ewing, who played a key role in the decoding of the Zimmermann Telegram which brought America into the War on the side of the Allies, and Annette Pattullo, who was awarded five medals on account of her outstanding military service throughout the Great War and, later, Mesopotamia.

Head of Art, Adam Kerr, said, "The initial focus for the project was to prompt the pupils to consider how different things would have been for them if they had been around at the time of the First World War.

"Using pupils to sit as the subjects of most of the portraits helped to reinforce that it could have been them in the very situations and stories which they wanted to draw attention to, if they been around back then."







## Musical commemoration

**As the centenary of the first Armistice approached, the School held an inspiring musical remembrance.**

Taking place in Trinity Hall, The WW1 Commemorative Concert – 1918: One Hundred Years, provided a stirring commemoration of the nine major battles fought on the Western Front in the final year of the Great War.

The event took its lead from readings of soldiers' diary extracts, letters and poems, which were delivered by pupils from the Junior and Senior Years, including members of the CCF. As Head of Music Dr Steuart Fotheringham announced the battles, the Chamber Orchestra, members of the Pipes and Drums,

clarsach players and singers performed a series of pieces of music, each one fitting the particular battle scene in question.

The impact was heightened by accompanying displays of powerful images of soldiers, nurses and children from the countries impacted by the battles, and by drama performances by pupils, which were also based on diary extracts and wartime correspondence.

The Concert's Artistic and Musical Director Gill Simpson, said, "It was wonderful for the students to bring to life through music and words, the incredible bravery of men, women and children, who suffered in one of the deadliest conflicts in history."

## Written word inspires Drama performance

**The importance of the written word during the First World War provided the inspiration for a poignant original drama production by Senior Years pupils.**

A group of 24 Drama pupils from F3 to F6 took to the stage of Trinity Hall to perform a piece which brought to life in powerful fashion the contents of wartime correspondence, poetry and recollections.

Head of Drama, Lindsay Drummond, said of the performances, which were given during assemblies, at the Commemorative Music Concert and at a reception for guests following the Remembrance Parade, "During my research, the importance of letters, telegrams, poetry and personal recollections during WW1 became hugely apparent. Providing a moving connection to real people and places makes performing a dramatic production far more meaningful.

"In addition, for us to be able to revisit real events, which happened to people from within our school community,



provided a powerful basis for our ideas. So armed with a focus for our planning, the cast were able to experiment and devise pieces for performance. Much of the content is due to their creative ideas, which are filled with the spirit and energy shown by those young soldiers marching to war all those years ago."

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# Integrated Curriculum

## Stock market-savvy pupils thrive in major investment contest

**The stock of some High School of Dundee pupils is on the rise after they outperformed the market, and thousands of opponents, in the UK's premier investment contest for students.**



Two share-savvy squads from the School made it through to the semi-final of the London Institute of Banking & Finance, Student Investor Challenge, an annual competition which this year attracted more than 5,600 teams.

Given a virtual £100,000 to invest in an Active Investor Portfolio and in a Strategic Investor Portfolio, and with a requirement to continually trade in order to avoid taxes, the participating teams of 14-19-year-olds had to buy low and sell high in order to make as much profit as possible.

Proving they know their bulls from their bears, the School's 'Dundee Wolves' team of Lewis McLennan, Steven Chen, Ethan McColgan and Ikechukwu Charles-Ibe (all F4), managed to seal

a hugely impressive 2nd place in the overall league table for the qualifying stage, courtesy of a whopping return of £125,776.09 on their combined original investment.

Fellow HSD team 'Minor Investments' – Ross Clark, Jonathan Lang, Craig Gunn and Fraser Coupar (all F5) – also demonstrated sound stock market strategy to qualify for the next stage, courtesy of the performance of their Active Investor Portfolio.

The semi-final will see 500 teams from UK schools compete online over 4 weeks for a place in the final and the chance to win an educational trip to New York.

Neil Higgins, Teacher of Business Education, said, "The teams have been brilliant.

"Their enthusiasm is clear to see and they have had to work closely as a team to monitor different sectors of the stock market. Additionally, they have had to listen respectfully to each other's opinions and be resilient when they have made losses because it is very easy to take greater and greater risks to recoup a loss.

"Finally, for the F4 team to come second in the league table out of over 5,000 teams is a phenomenal achievement. What is more, the skills and knowledge they have gained will stand them in good stead during their study of Economics."

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## Pupils create Mental Health resources

**Pupils at the High School of Dundee have been finding creative ways to embrace the topic of Mental Health.**

In January, as part of an Art & Design Department project on Health & Wellbeing, pupils in Form 2 created a series

of documents, booklets and posters examining and providing guidance about issues such as body image, bullying, LGBTQ+, mindfulness and stress & anxiety.

Art & Design teacher Andrea Ross, who led the project, explained, "Our goal was to create resources which would help young people in our school or wider community to access engaging, yet practical advice about their mental health and wellbeing.

"This year the topic was added to the Form 2 Department curriculum, which meant that every pupil in the year group



embraced the topic in his or her own creative way. We were delighted to see our pupils approach this project with inspirational maturity."

The materials which were produced for the project, which was supported by the School's Guidance Team and Form 6 Wellbeing Prefects, went on display at the School. A booklet featuring some of the artwork the pupils created was also sold to raise funds for the local charity, Feeling Strong.

Founded by Brook Marshall, Feeling Strong's goal is to make sure every young person in Dundee who has experienced a mental health challenge is supported to reach his or her full potential.

Brook, who came in to school to talk to the pupils about mental health and wellbeing, said, "I think it's a tremendous opportunity for young people to engage with the subject in a very empowering way.

"Embedding mental health in the curriculum is a great opportunity to get young people engaging with the subject matter in a way that's more real and less abstract. I'm happy to lend Feeling Strong's support to such a positive and hands-on project."



## Wee Sleep Out makes big impact



**74 pupils and 7 members of staff generated a fantastic sum of money for charity by taking part in their own Wee Sleep Out.**

Equipped with only sleeping bags, foam mats and survival bags for protection, the group members slept under the stars at Mayfield on Saturday November 10th, braving the rain and the cold in order to raise awareness of homelessness and £6,159 for Social Bite's campaign to eradicate it.

The money raised at the HSD event, which was one of a series taking place across the country on the night, will go towards the charity's major Housing First initiative, which seeks to take 800 rough sleepers off the streets of Scotland by 2020.

Karlene Douglas, the School's Charities and Community Outreach Co-ordinator, said, "Our initial target was £3,000 so to have raised over £5,000 is fantastic!

"Taking part enabled the pupils and staff to reflect on the challenges faced by homeless people every night and it was very rewarding to be able to raise awareness of homelessness and funds to help tackle the problem."

Following the event, in recognition of his contribution to its success, F6 pupil Robbie Coupar received a Creative Star Award from Social Bite.

As a result, accompanied by Mairi McAdam (F6), who also helped organise the HSD Sleep Out, Robbie had the honour of being invited to take to the stage at the Big Sleep Out in Slessor Gardens in December to speak to the crowd about the School's event and what young people can do to make a difference to the issue of homelessness.

## Cadets win national competition

**During the Autumn term, the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) celebrated winning a major national competition for the second year in succession.**

In October, a 15-strong drill team retained the 51 Infantry Brigade Army Cadet Force (ACF) Drill and Turnout title for the School, courtesy of an outstanding display at Glencorse Barracks in Penicuik.

The entry of several of the country's ACF Battalions – each of which draws cadets from across its local community, rather than just from a single school, and who have dominated the drill scene for many years – was enough to put off all but two of Scotland's school CCFs from taking part.

But the High School cadets, who ranged from F3 to F6, were undaunted, rising to the challenge to score a hugely impressive total of 93 out of 100 as they performed a series of precise military drill sequences.

WO2 Willie Nichol, who coached the team, said, "Our Cadets have been working extremely hard, mostly in their own time, since April.

"Shona MacTavish (Commander), Ailsa MacDonald and Rachel Strachan (Assisting Instructors) committed many hours practising and preparing the team for the competition.

"The cadets were rewarded for their effort, diligence and commitment, finishing well ahead of the second and third placed teams. The team was simply awesome on the day."



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# School flies the flag for Maths Week Scotland

**To celebrate Maths Week Scotland, a national event which aimed to showcase the involvement and impact of Maths in our everyday lives and enable people to engage with the subject in exciting new ways, pupils throughout the school took part in a range of inspiring activities.**

For the duration of the week, the School's iconic Pillars sported a new addition in the form of the HSD Big Number Line, a puzzle which invited pupils and staff to work out the meaning and origin of a series of numbers.

Meanwhile, Maths teacher Kevin Hodgson proved he had the formula for an entertaining start to the day as Senior Years assemblies played host to his Early Early Show, in which pupil and staff guests took to a chat show sofa to share their comments and views about Maths.

Junior Years pupils also had a perfect opportunity to put their numerical skills to good use when they tackled the Maths problems on the actual flags which were used at the Scottish Men's and Women's Open Golf Championships, while Nursery children came up with their own creative number line.



To round things off after multiple additional activities, there took place an NHS Ethical Data Hack, hosted by NHS staff and data scientists. This resulted in a number of commendable suggestions, made by F2 and F3 pupils, for the redesign of A&E services.

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## Pupil awarded Arkwright Scholarship

**High School pupil Lewis Byers has engineered a fantastic opportunity for himself after picking up a much sought-after scholarship.**

Lewis was one of only 30 pupils in Scotland in 2018 to have been selected to receive an Arkwright Scholarship, a prestigious award which aims to inspire and nurture high-calibre school-age students to be the UK's future leaders of the Engineering profession.

As a result, the F5 pupil will receive guidance and real-world, industry insight from a mentor who works in the Mechanical Engineering sector – in which Lewis hopes to pursue a career – as well as £600 over two years to assist with his development as an engineer.

Lewis was awarded his scholarship after coming through a rigorous selection process which began while he was in F4 and included a detailed application, a problem-solving aptitude test, and finally a panel interview at Heriot-Watt University.

He said, "When I received the email to confirm that I'd been awarded a scholarship, it was an amazing feeling. I was really overwhelmed because the competition was so strong. This year, over 1600 people across the UK applied.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the Technology Department, especially Mr Preston who helped me a lot with advice about the selection process."

2018 is the fourth year in succession that a pupil from the High School has won an Arkwright Scholarship.





# School welcomes Scottish Minister

**High School of Dundee pupils have been sharing their digital expertise with a member of the Scottish Government.**

Children from the Junior Years Digital Leaders group were delighted to be able to talk to Kate Forbes, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy, about the work they have been doing to promote and enhance digital learning, when she visited the school in November.

After meeting the young IT enthusiasts, the MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch also spent time in the Senior Years Maths and Computing departments.

Miss Forbes' visit was part of a coordinated programme organised by the High School, NCR, the Data Lab, Waracle, Ninja Kiwi, Abertay University and the V&A Dundee, to showcase Dundee's digital, design and technology industries and the talent within them.

The day's events saw Miss Forbes spend time at each of the organisations, enabling her to observe the close connectivity of education and business in the city.

Maths teacher Kevin Hodgson, who organised the School's involvement in the event, said, "The pupils were a great credit to the School and staff in promoting our digital learning.

"We were delighted the Minister made the visit and she embraced the warmth and engagement of our school community."



## Pupils lend their voices to BBC1 Christmas celebration

**As the festive holidays began, a group of High School pupils still had one more item on their to-do list: appearing in a national TV Christmas celebration!**

Nine Senior Years pupils gave readings for BBC1 Scotland's Christmas Eve service, which this year came from St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.

The youngsters, who had the option to read their texts but instead, impressively chose to memorise them, were recorded in the Cathedral, where they were joined by Drama teacher Lynsey Sangster, who also gave a reading.

The broadcast also featured pupil Ailsa Macdonald (F6) – who sang the solo verse in Once in Royal David's City – as well as other singers from the School performing as part of the NYCOS (National Youth Choirs of Scotland) Dundee Area Choir and the St Paul's Cathedral Choir.

The pupil readers were: Jonah Phillipson-Masters (F2), Malavikha Sudarshan (F4), Ryan Kilburn (F3), Sophia Kapelyukh (F1), Jack Sandilands (F2), Isla Hutchinson (F2), Inez Spence (F4), Emily Baxter (F5) and Leon McNair (F5).

## Nursery Nativity

**Following on from the Early Years Christmas shows, High School of Dundee Nursery children were delighted to take their own turn to spread some seasonal cheer!**

Pupils at the Mary Lily Walker Building at Mayfield entertained proud family members and staff as they brought the nativity story to life in magical fashion.





## We've p-p-picked up a penguin!

**During the Autumn term, the School was delighted to have been able to help raise a fantastic sum of money for Maggie's Dundee by giving a much-loved member of the High School family a permanent home!**

After he'd spent eight weeks of the summer perched on Euclid Crescent, it was no surprise the School community had grown rather fond of Blue Planet Penguin, the colourful penguin which the School sponsored as part of Maggie's Penguin Parade.

So when in September the colourful character and the 79 other 5ft tall statues which were part of the charity public art trail, waddled over to the V&A to be auctioned off to raise the £540,000 which it costs to run Maggie's Dundee for one year, the School made a bid to Bring Back Blue.

And thanks to generous support and contributions from the School community, that bid was successful, raising £6,000 for the charity and meaning the School could p-p-pick up its penguin!

The statue was painted by (F6 at the time) artists Morven Wright, Joanna Brunton and Lily Bircham, using an amazing design by Rebecca Hamilton (F2 at the time). Inspired by the BBC series Blue Planet II, Rebecca's artwork attracted the backing of none other than Sir David Attenborough, who wrote to her to express how impressed he was.

Karlene Douglas, the School's Charities and Community Outreach Co-ordinator, said, "I'm thrilled that, thanks to the kind support of all those who contributed to the bid, we were able to bring Blue back to the School!"

"Raising money for Maggie's was of course the most important thing, and it was fantastic to be able to support such a wonderful cause."

## Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**December saw St Paul's Cathedral play host to a keenly-anticipated highlight in the School's Christmas Calendar.**

The Cathedral was filled with parents, pupils and friends of the School, holding lit candles, as pupils from L6-F6 sang and performed a series of seasonal favourites and traditional pieces of music, with a number of readings also being given, at the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

After an atmospheric introduction from the Chamber Orchestra, playing an Albinoni Concerto, the congregation heard the uplifting singing of Cantabile from the back of the Cathedral in Martin Luther's 'Von Himmel Hoch'.

The tradition of an L7 soloist singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' was continued impressively by Nathan Ogston, following on from Rachel Fagerson who had sung the solo beautifully the previous year.

The Girls' Choir, the Boys' Choir and the L6-7 choir performed a number of favourite carols, often joined by the congregation and embellished by descant lines from the school's brass players.

An acclaimed highlight of the event was the performance of 'O Holy Night', in which Cantabile and the Chamber Orchestra supported the beautiful solo voice of Laura Murphy (F6).

Each lesson was read by a pupil from a different year, culminating in the ninth lesson being read by the Rector, before those in attendance were invited to round the evening off in suitably seasonal style with a mulled wine and mince pie reception in Trinity Hall.





# Safer Internet Day marked

**In February, the School played its part in a global initiative to make the internet a better place.**

To mark Safer Internet Day, an annual event which aims to empower young people to take control of their online lives and harness the power of the internet positively, Senior Years pupils examined 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 about the importance of staying safe and respecting themselves and others online, and being wary of sharing personal information.

During their PSE lessons, pupils throughout the Senior Years also considered and discussed the safe and positive use of digital technology.

Teacher of Guidance and PE, Chris Allan, said, "We work hard to educate our young people about the pitfalls of poor online behaviour and look to empower them in a positive and proactive way, so they are able to make well informed and good decisions."



"We work closely with our young people and have examined many areas of online life such as time spent online, use of devices, online interactions and digital footprint. It is also most encouraging to hear the opinions and views of our pupils in return."

You can find out more about Safer Internet Day at: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2019)

## Battle's Over

**Away from the School's own Armistice events, two Senior Years pupils helped a local community mark Remembrance Day.**

Andrew Lothian (F4) and Tegan Ellis (F1) had the honour of being asked to perform at Longforgan War Memorial as part of the town's participation in the Battle's Over commemorations.

At 6am, Andrew was one of over 1000 lone pipers across various individual locations throughout the UK and overseas to play Battle's O'er, a traditional Scottish air played after a battle, while in the evening, Tegan was one of over 1000 lone trumpeters/buglers to play the Last Post.



# Action-packed trip for F1

**Form 1 pupils had the chance to make the most of their spirit of adventure when they took part in an exciting residential trip.**

In September, the entire year group travelled north for a four-day stay at the Abernethy Adventure Centre at Nethybridge in the Cairngorms National Park, during which they took on a series of hands-on outdoor activities, including mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, gorge walking, climbing and zip wire, not to mention team challenges, field studies and camping.

The trip, which is organised annually for pupils in F1, saw the youngsters split into the pastoral groups, or houses, which they will be in for the next six years. The aim is to develop teamwork and enable the pupils to have fun together and get to know the pupils and Guidance staff in their house.

Deputy Head Senior Years, David Brett, said, "The F1 pupils will never forget the Nethybridge Residential. Their shared experiences allowed them to build relationships, with peers and staff alike, that will carry them through their school days and beyond."



"Whether the personal challenge was climbing a rock face or finding a dry pair of socks, every pupil had an opportunity to develop resilience while becoming part of a team with their new house group."

## Young music maestros perform



**Trinity Hall was alive with the sound of music in February as talented young performers took to the stage for the Junior Years Music Competition.**

More than 80 pupils from L3 through to L7 took part in the annual event, entertaining an enchanted audience of parents and family members with renditions of pieces ranging from classical and traditional to contemporary.

And with the instruments in use including violin, viola, violoncello, recorder, flute, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, piano, drumkit, clàrsach, guitar, voice, horn, trumpet and trombone, the variety wasn't restricted to the style of music!

Director of Music, Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, said, "It was a fantastic day of performances by our Junior Years pupils."

"They had clearly worked hard to achieve the consistently high standards on show, and were able to present themselves confidently on stage. My thanks go to my colleagues in the Music Department for their teaching and accompanying of the pupils, as well as to parents for their support at home."

## A must-read for literary lovers

**If you're a fan of fantastic fiction, prodigious poetry and excellent essays, Senior Years pupils have produced a publication which is write up your street.**

The newest edition of The Kwyll, the English department's collection of some of the best writing penned by pupils in class and at home in the past year, is available to read on the School website now.

Featuring compositions by pupils from F1 to F6, including a number which were competition winning, the cracking compendium covers a huge range of topics, ensuring an eclectically entertaining read for all.

Teacher of English, Jane Fulton, who edited the collection, said, "The publication is a great example of the breadth and variety of writing that is being produced by our pupils and I hope everyone enjoys reading the pieces."

You can find the publication at:  
[www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/news-and-events/publications/the-kwyll](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/news-and-events/publications/the-kwyll)





## Geological secrets unearthed



**F4 Chemistry pupils had the chance to dig deeper into the subject of Geology when they welcomed a special visitor into their laboratory.**

In November, Tony Clarke, a final year Geology student from the University of St Andrews, gave a lesson on the extraction of metals from ores as part of the Undergraduate Ambassador Scheme.

During the session, the pupils also had the chance to examine samples of ores from the University's Geology department collection.



## Pipers bag impressive results

**In January, a group of High School pipers were celebrating after bagging some impressive results at a regional competition.**

A contingent of 11 pupils from the Junior and Senior Years took part in the Vale of Atholl Solo Piping Championships in Pitlochry, where they competed against around 40 other entrants in the pipes and chanter categories.

Proving they were in tune with the demands of the contest, the High School pipers earned themselves a total of 11 prize placings, with pride of place going to Liam Brown, F3, after he was crowned age 15-18 Champion of the Day.

Meanwhile, there was also success for High School pipers at the RSPBA, Dundee Perth and Angus Branch, solo competition, with a highlight being first place for Ruairaidh Watson (F3) in the 14-18 years Novice Drumming category.

## Fantastic fundraising!

**Back in the summer of 2017, a leavers party was organised for the entire departing L7 year group to celebrate the end of their time in the Junior Years.**

The event also aimed to fundraise for the campaign for the School's Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, and to try to raise enough money to buy a seat in the auditorium for the year group in order to leave a legacy for them.

As a result, 80 children descended on the garden of Angus Clark, or rather Angus Clark's parents, where a fantastic time was had by all.

After one of the parents had created a video of the party which was made available to the pupils and parents to buy – both to bolster the funds and to provide a fitting memento – the target was reached and in early autumn 2018 the School was delighted and extremely grateful to receive a cheque for £1,500!



## Success for High School debaters

**Some High School of Dundee pupils have been making prize-winning contributions to Scottish Parliamentary debate!**

In early December, Ksenia Kapelyukh (F3), Alex Fish (F5) and Dominic Westwood (F4) were invited to Holyrood to take part in the annual St Andrew's Day Debating Championships, which saw pupils from schools from across Scotland paired together in two-person teams to tackle a range of subjects.

The High School trio rose to the challenge. Ksenia finished as the top speaker in the individual category and both her and Alex's teams made it through to the last four, where, in the impressive surroundings of the main Debating Chamber, Alex and his teammate were unanimously declared the winners.

Some other High School pupils have also been winning their arguments on the debating floor.

The duo of Sneha Sripada (F3) and Sahar Jafferbhoy (F2) are one of only four teams from Scotland to have qualified

to compete at the Cambridge Union in the final of the International Competition for Young Debaters, which takes place in April.

Meanwhile, at the time of going to press, Bogdan Kapelyukh (F6) and Alex Fish were one of five Scottish teams who were shortly due to compete in the final of the Oxford Union's international senior competition.



## Pupils master the art of transfiguration



**Pupils at the High School of Dundee have been trying their hand at a magical activity after falling under the spell of a well-known wizard!**

As part of a special Harry Potter Week, pupils in the Junior and Senior Years had the chance to practise the enchanting art of transfiguration – turning one thing into another.

Armed with wands, their transfiguration material and a good dose of imagination, the youngsters were able to transform dragons into wands, the Ravenclaw diadem into a frog, Moaning Myrtle's toilet into a crystal ball, and much much more!

School Librarian, Iona McFarlane, said, "Every year we try to show pupils that even if they have seen the films, reading the books is still a magical experience! Focusing on one detail from the books, this year transfiguration, helps to bring the books to life."

## Pupils recognised for Economics work

**In December, some Senior Years pupils were recognised for their efforts in a global economics competition.**

Nine pupils from F4-F6 came together to form a team to enter the CORE Schools Economics Challenge (in collaboration with the Financial Times), which tasked them with researching and producing a video on the theme of 'Ten years on from the Global Financial Crisis'.

Having created an impressive three-minute piece on the dramatic fall in UK employment which the crisis caused, the group members were awarded with certificates.





# Junior Years

## Bash Street Kids are 65 years young!



**During the spring term, the High School of Dundee was delighted to join in the Happy Birthday wishes for the Bash Street Kids!**

February marked 65 years since, inspired by HSD children playing in the School's adjacent playground, cartoonists at DC Thomson introduced the characters of Danny, Fatty, Plug, Sidney, Toots, Smiffy, Spotty, Wilfred and 'Erbert to the world.

Since then the Beano's band of mischievous school kids have gone on to

find widespread fame, or infamy, as 'the class every teacher dreads'!

The School is very proud of its association with the much-loved comic strip characters and when STV filmed a piece to celebrate the special anniversary, some of our current pupils were delighted to be part of it!

You can watch the clip in the news section of the School website.



## Right of the month

**Some children in the Junior Years have embarked on a significant awareness-raising drive.**

Members of the Pupil Voice group have recently begun their Right of the Month campaign, a project which seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of the various rights in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Each month, pupils in the group will unpick one of the 54 articles within the Convention, to show more clearly, via displays and classroom discussions, what it feels, looks and sounds like when that particular right is being respected.

Kicking things off, in February rights surrounding the best interests of the child and parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities were examined.

Lisa Carrie, who leads the School's Rights Respecting Schools work, said, "The Right of the Month initiative is a great way for the children to explore specific articles of the UNCRC. Our PV reps were very keen to show what each right means to them and have been eager to work collaboratively to develop greater understanding of the UNCRC within the school community."

The Junior Years achieved the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award in May last year in recognition of the efforts it has undertaken to embed the Convention in its practices, policies and ethos, and the Right of the Month initiative is part of the work being undertaken for the Gold Award.

## Foodbank Donation

**Some Junior Years pupils were thrilled to hand over a donation to Dundee Foodbank.**

Children in L2, and their parents, contributed a huge range of items to a collection for the charity which was organised as part of a harvest-themed classroom project.

The youngsters were delighted when Dundee Foodbank Manager Ken Linton then paid a visit to receive the donation and talk to them about the work of the organisation.

L2 teachers Margaret Cardno and Jillian Wallace organised the collection.



Margaret said, "We have been trying to encourage the pupils to consider people less fortunate than themselves with respect to food and the children were very pleased to be able to give the donation to Mr Linton."



# Pupils piece together the Christmas puzzle



## Children at the High School of Dundee have succeeded in a mission to piece together the true meaning of Christmas!

Pupils in L1, L2 and L3 took parents, staff and fellow pupils on a fun-filled festive adventure when they performed their Nativity show, 'The Magical Christmas Box', by Craig Hawes.

Beginning on Christmas Eve, the tale told the story of brother and sister Andrew and Sarah's quest to collect the pieces from a magical Christmas Box, in order to learn about all of the things that make the festive season so special.

With the clock ticking towards December 25th, the young duo were in a race against time. But with the help of the Box's Keepers and a number of colourful characters including Christmas trees, chefs, snowmen, snowflakes, some elves, Santa Claus and Rudolf, the siblings were able to start gathering together the pieces of the puzzle. The last piece was to be found under a special manger in Bethlehem and as luck would have it, Andrew and Sarah were able to collect it and complete their mission before the break of Christmas Day!

Deputy Head Junior Years, Claire Proudfoot, said of the production, in which every child in the year groups played a part, "This was a magical show, most definitely one of my favourites! Many congratulations to all of our pupils in L1, L2 and L3 on their wonderful performances!"

Money raised at the shows will go to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (SSPCC) the Edinburgh Children's Hospital and the Suswa Girls Rescue Centre in Kenya.



## Pupils take part in WW1 research project

As HSD commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of the conflict, some pupils in the Junior Years used their research skills to deepen their connection to the First World War.

Focusing on the Battle of Loos (1915), which had a devastating impact on the city of Dundee, children

in L7 visited the School's War Memorial to discuss what it showed, why it was there and to identify the names of former pupils and members of staff who had lost their lives in that battle.

In the classroom, the youngsters then used the British Newspaper Archive to download copies of the Dundee Courier from the first day of the battle until its conclusion, charting the progress from initial success to the reality of failure and massive loss of life.

As the pupils looked at the accounts, they were able to read the stories of real lives, following names that they recognised from the War Memorial, with photographs, addresses and names of parents, brothers and sisters.



Teacher Niall Joss, said, "I saw the names on our War Memorial come 'alive' for the children. They were inspired to find out more, and question what they already knew.

"More than this, we were able to read the whole newspaper, and see the football results, adverts, weather forecast and so on. We were also able to head into a discussion about 'Fake News' inspired by the fact that all information from the Front Line was coming direct from the military.

"On 25th September, the beacon from Dundee Law commemorates the Battle of Loos every year, and this year there were definitely more children who recognised the significance."

## The appliance of Science starts early at HSD!



**Some High School of Dundee pupils have seized the chance to grasp the appliance of Science from a young age!**

Members of the L3 Science Club have been meeting after school to look at a range of subjects covering Chemistry, Biology and Physics, both in their classroom and in the Senior Years labs too.

Displaying an inspiring quest for knowledge, the budding Scientists have looked at density layers of liquids (linking it to their classroom project on the River Tay), examined how sound travels through water and air, the construction of a water clock and the science of bubbles. As the weather improves plans are afoot to investigate some outside spaces and the creatures that inhabit them.

L3 teacher Catherine Taylor, who runs the Club, said, "Encouraging an interest in Science begins at a very early stage in our Nursery Years. Experiencing awe and wonder at the world around them is at the heart of the Science curriculum for our pupils. Not to mention lots of fun!"

## A royal encounter

**In January, three High School of Dundee pupils enjoyed the honour of meeting none other than the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge!**

After the royal couple had officially opened the V&A Dundee, Junior Years pupils Hannah McLaren, Ben McLaren and Caris Hamilton were thrilled to be able to enjoy a quick chat with them, and to present the Countess of Strathearn with some special mementos for Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis.



# Former Pupil News

## Winter Olympic Skier delivers a piste of inspiration

**Pupils in the Senior Years were treated to a fantastic piste of inspiration when a Winter Olympic skier made a return visit.**

The School was delighted to welcome back former pupil Charlie Guest in September to share some sporting advice and wisdom with current pupils and talk to them about her experiences in top-level alpine skiing, including her Winter Olympics debut earlier this year.

Speaking about the PyeongChang Games, the four-time British Ladies Slalom champion revealed that competing had been “surreal and emotional” as a result of the pride she’d felt in being part of the “Olympic bubble”. She also shared with the youngsters the inspiring story of her comeback from four broken vertebrae, which she sustained in a 2014 training crash, emphasising the importance of mental as well as physical recovery.

Charlie said, “It was fantastic to be back at my old school and great to meet the pupils.

“My advice to them was that if you truly love something, like a sport, keep at it and give it 100% effort, as I’ve found hard work brings the best results. A lot of these pupils will undoubtedly have talent, and that combined with determination could get them very far.”



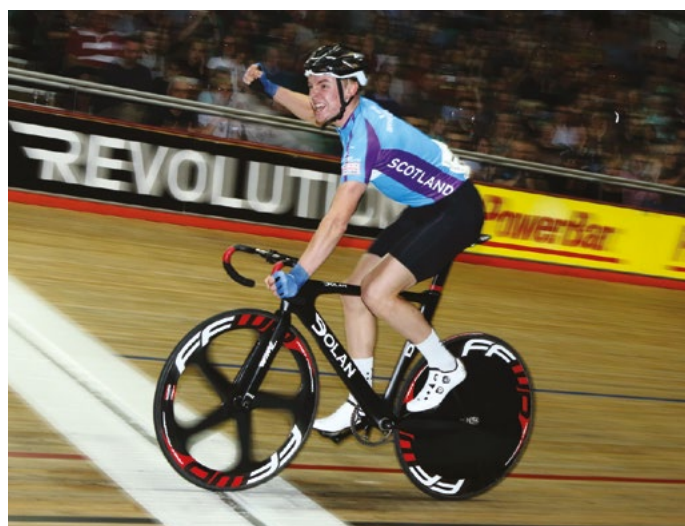
## FPs earn call-ups

**Two former pupils have been continuing to enjoy success on the sporting front.**

Following some impressive club form for Glasgow Hawks, Angus Fraser, class of 2017, was called up to the Scotland squad for the U20 Six Nations Rugby Championship.

Angus’s selection follows his progression through the Fosroc Scottish Rugby Academy, which aims to accelerate the development of the nation’s most promising young players, and five months which he spent in South Africa in 2018 as a recipient of Scottish Rugby’s prestigious John McPhail Scholarship.

Meanwhile, the wheels of progress keep turning for Alfie George, who, having left the School in 2017 to pursue a career in cycling, was selected to compete for Great Britain in the Junior Road Race at the World Road Championships in Austria in September.



## FP invited to perform special role

**In November, a High School of Dundee former pupil was granted a very special honour.**

Jack Hamilton is a member of Aberdeen Universities Officers Training Corps Drums and Pipes and was part of the band when they visited Belgium in support of the Gordon Highlanders’ Association, which was invited to commemorate the centenary of the liberation of Chièvres by the Gordon Highlanders on the 18th of November 1918.

As well as playing at the town, the band played at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres as a part of the daily ‘Last Post’ ceremony and Jack then had the privilege of being selected to return to play, solo, the lament – Flowers of the Forest – along with the buglers the following day.

Jack said, “There are certain opportunities that only come around once in a lifetime. Playing the lament at the last post ceremony under the Menin Gate, shortly after the centenary of the Armistice, is definitely one of those.”





# Parents' Association News

## Introduction from the Chair

I am writing this article for The Pillars for the first time as Chair. My role firstly is to promote the work of the High School of Dundee Parents' Association. Over the years we had built a network of parents from widespread year groups to become members of the PA. Steadily as their children have got older their time within the committee has stopped. We are currently recruiting members to our association, in particular senior school parents.

If anyone is interested in joining then you can email us on our dedicated email address [parents@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:parents@highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

Our primary aim in conjunction with the Class Representative System is to feedback and have a voice to ensure that school policies work for parents and pupils. We have bi-monthly meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team for this purpose.

We also host events to provide children with the opportunity to attend parties with their peers. These have always been well attended and have had excellent feedback from parents and pupils alike. Events that we have held over the past year have included an Easter Party for L1 pupils, a Halloween Party for L2 and L3 pupils and a Onesie Party for L4 and L5 children. Over the past few years we have held a coffee and mince pie morning after the Nativity to include the wider school community of Parents and Grandparents.



## Future

All monies raised from these events are donated back to the school in a number of ways. After the recent success of the High School of Dundee High Impact Award, we are working on a couple of similar initiatives in liaison with the Senior Leadership Team in the Junior Years.

Shilpi Szwejkowska, PA Chair

## High Impact Award update

The High Impact Award was created in conjunction with the School to recognise and value the contributions made by pupils of the High School of Dundee to their community. The Award was created to champion those who have made a real difference in the lives of others.

In the High Impact Award's inaugural year there were three exceptional applicants, each of whom surpassed expectations. The applications illustrated how pupils at the High School were undertaking voluntary work, which had made a real difference in our community. Those pupils were Lucie Kelly, Rachel Flack and Eleanor Gunaratna – all Form 6 pupils. These three pupils secured high praise from the judging panel (the Rector, Deputy Rector and Subcommittee of the PA) for their applications and their presentations. As result of their individual success, they were each able to provide a charitable donation of £250 to their charities as well receiving a trophy which was presented to them at the School prize-giving in June 2018.

Given the success of the High Impact Award 2018, the award has been extended this year to include Forms 3 – 6. The High School of Dundee Parents' Association are immensely privileged to be part of this award.

Savita Sharma and David Tonks (High Impact Award Subcommittee)

## Autumn Ball

This year our Signature event is an Autumn Ball to welcome everyone back after the Summer Break. Watch this space as tickets will be limited as we predict this will be an immensely popular event.



# Sport

## Celebrating sporting achievement



### Junior Years team net runners-up spot

**The Junior Years L7 netball team were rewarded for some impressive form during the autumn term with the runners-up spot in a city-wide competition.**

After winning all three of their group stage matches in the Dundee District Primary Schools' Netball Association Winter League, the girls qualified for the championship final at Ward Road Gym.

There they met Eastern, and although they lost out in a hard-fought encounter, the squad members should be very proud of their efforts, according to Junior Years teacher and coach Kirstin Reith.

She said, "This was the team's first tournament so to take the runners-up spot was a terrific achievement and a great reward for all the hard work which the girls put in."

### Sprinter Jamie surges ahead



**A talented High School sprinter has been surging ahead in record-breaking fashion.**

F6 pupil Jamie Reid earned Scotland recognition in the course of an impressive athletics season which saw him scoop medals at a series of prestigious events and break some decades-old marks in the process.

Jamie's run began at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championships at Grangemouth during the summer, where he won the boys B U17 100m title.

That led to his selection for the Scottish boys U17 4x100m relay team which took to the track at the SIAB (Schools International Athletic Board) international event, again at Grangemouth. In competition against opponents from England, Wales and Ireland, Jamie helped the Scotland quartet win the bronze medal. But perhaps even more impressively, in finishing 5th in the individual 100m in a time of 11.17sec, Hawkhill Harrier Jamie broke his club's U17 100m record which had stood since the early 1980s.

Following that, in August the 16-year-old helped the Scottish U18 4x100m relay team to 2nd place at the Celtic Games, which were also held at Grangemouth.

Just a fortnight later, Jamie was back in record-breaking form at the Scottish National U20 Track and Field Championships at Aberdeen Sports Village, where, by crossing the finish line in the mens 200m final in a time of 22.68sec, he smashed the Hawkhill boys U17 200m mark which had stood since 1975.

Impressive performances such as these led to Jamie's selection for the Scotland squad for the UK School Games at Loughborough University in September. Running in the boys U17 100m at the event – a prestigious multi-sports competition featuring the UK's finest school-age sports stars – he secured the bronze medal with a time of 11.27sec.

But he wasn't done there! Just weeks later, Jamie rounded off his season in style by breaking another Hawkhill record, this time for the 300m, at the Grangemouth Open Graded meet.

Jamie said, "When I found out about the first record, it was quite a nice feeling.

"It's been a pretty good season. I didn't compete at all last season because of injury, so to come back and be able to run well enough to be selected to run for Scotland has been great."



## Footballer nets Scotland debut

**A talented Senior Years footballer has netted a Scotland debut.**

Alix Saddler made her first appearance for her country when she lined up for the Scottish Independent Schools Football Association U16 side which took on England at St George's Park in Staffordshire in December.

The midfielder was, impressively, one of only three S2-aged girls to make it through to the final squad from the national trials, with the rest coming from S3 and S4.

Alix, who plays club football for Forfar Farmington, said, "I was delighted and honoured to represent my country as this was the next step in my football career. I really enjoyed the experience and would love to do it again."



## Future is bright for hockey duo



**A pair of High School hockey players have enjoyed success at a major tournament.**

Billed as England Hockey's showcase event for young hockey talent, the Futures Cup saw six regional sides from England, Wales and Scotland, battle it out in U15 and U17 boys and girls competitions at Oaklands College, St Albans.

Rachel Strachan (F6) helped the Scottish select team, the Caledonian Cougars, win the bronze medal in the girls U17 section, courtesy of a hard-fought 1-0 victory over the Pennine Pumas in the 3rd/4th place play-off.

Meanwhile, also representing the Caledonian Cougars, Jamie Golden (F5) was named U17 Boys Player of the Tournament. Just a week later, Jamie

also had the honour of captaining the Scotland boys team at the UK School Games at Loughborough University.





## Multiple medals for High School gymnast



Photo: BC Gymphotos

**A talented High School of Dundee gymnast has leapt into the new year with a spring in her step after a golden end to 2018!**

Sarah McKenzie earned herself multiple individual and team gold medals after embarking on an impressive run of form spanning a series of major events.

The F6 pupil's exploits began at the Women's Artistic Adrian Stan Team Championships in Guildford where she overcame around 60 other gymnasts to win individual Gold in the Senior AA (All Around) non-GB squad contest.

At the same event she also helped the City of Glasgow Gymnastics Club – where she trains five times a week – become the first Scottish team to win Gold (the non-GB squad title) at a British team event.

Sarah followed that up with more success at the Sandra Clarke Invitational in Nottingham, where she scooped the individual Senior AA Gold medal, as well as finishing in 1st place on Vault and 3rd place on Beam. Mirroring her success in Guildford, she also played a key role in a strong team performance, helping

the six-strong Scotland squad take 2nd place in the international contest which featured France, England, two regional teams and two other top British teams.

And Sarah completed a hat-trick of individual gold medal-winning performances by taking 1st place in the AA overall section – as well as 1st on Bars, 2nd on Beam and Floor and 3rd on Vault – at the Scottish Gymnastics Gordon Forster Team Competition. At the Perth event, she also played her part as the City of Glasgow Club won the overall title for the second year in a row.

Sarah, who is a member of the Scottish Gymnastics National Performance Programme, said, "I was really happy coming in first place in the last three competitions. It shows that hard work really does pay off!

"It has also given me a great confidence boost after injury ruled me out of selection for Commonwealth Games 2018. My aim now is to upgrade my skills in time for the Scottish Championships in February and the British Championships in March, which are the highlights in the gymnastics calendar."

## Pupils selected for hockey series

**In September, a trio of High School hockey players took to the field in a brand-new tournament showcasing Scotland's best young talent.**

Joanna Johnston (F5), Isla McRobbie (F5) and Rachel Strachan (F6) represented Dundee Devils at the inaugural Scottish Hockey Development Series which took place at the Glasgow National Hockey Centre.

Part of the first-ever Women's Super Series, the competition brought together Scotland's top emerging talent to line up for three regional teams – Dundee Devils, Edinburgh Lightning and Glasgow Thunder – in round robin competition.

The three pupils weren't the only HSD representatives at the event, with Hockey coach Iain Strachan also part of the coaching team for both the Senior Super Series and the Development Dundee Devils teams.

For Joanna, Isla and Rachel – who all play club hockey for Grove Menzieshill – participation in the Development Series followed on from selection at national level, with Joanna and Isla having been named in the Scotland U18 Development Squad and Rachel called up to the full U18 Scottish squad.





## Ross wins windsurfing title

**In October, Ross Mauritzen was riding on a wave of success after winning a major windsurfing title.**

The F3 pupil was crowned the Tiree Wave Classic Youth Competition champion after turning in an impressive performance in suitably wild and windy conditions off the coast of the inner Hebridean island.

With the contest open to entrants up to the age of 17, the victory was even more notable as, aged just 14, Ross had seen

off opposition from talented windsurfers from across the country who were up to three years older than he is.

Ross, who has been windsurfing since the age of 7, said, "The Tiree Wave Classic is a professional wave sailing competition and there were 30 youths at the event taking part in a wave camp.

"The top seven were allowed to compete in the youth section of the competition and I was really pleased to win as I was the youngest of the seven."



## HSD pupil to represent Scotland at World Cup Finals



**A High School of Dundee pupil is getting ready to touch down in Malaysia after earning herself a World Cup Finals call-up.**

At the age of just 17, Shona Campbell is the youngest player to have been named in the Scottish mixed open adult squad for the Touch Rugby World Cup, which gets underway in Kuala Lumpur in April.

The F6 pupil was selected to be part of the World's premier Touch tournament after impressing for Scotland in the senior European Championships in Nottingham last July, where, in the

process of helping her country to the title – courtesy of a thrilling extra-time victory over Wales – she was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the competition.

Shona had been asked to try out for the adult squad after a series of impressive performances for the national junior team. And when she returned to those ranks in Stirling in August for the junior European Championships, she impressively proved that lightning can strike twice, by again taking the

MVP honour as the Scottish side were crowned champions.

Shona, who plays club Touch Rugby for Six Pack in Edinburgh, said of her World Cup call up, "I've just booked my flights and I'm really excited!

"It will be challenging because we'll be playing against different teams from all over the world. But it's a great opportunity for our team to show what we can do against the likes of Australia and New Zealand. Hopefully we can compete with them."

# School reaches U16 Scottish Cup Final for first time



**Cup final fever was in the air as a High School of Dundee rugby squad prepared for the chance to create a bit of sporting history.**

During the autumn term, the School was gripped by excitement as the U16A rugby team readied themselves to line up against George Watson's College in HSD's first-ever appearance in the U16 Scottish Schools Cup Final.

More than 450 High School pupils, plus staff, parents and former pupils, headed through to BT Murrayfield on a cold December evening to cheer on the boys as they sought to win the title for the School for the first time.

And the boys did themselves proud, pushing their opponents all the way in an absorbing encounter.

After HSD had established a 5-0 lead after just three minutes, courtesy of a try from prop Malachy Keough, George Watson's responded to level things up. Both sides battled to establish superiority and it wasn't until the second half that the Edinburgh team were able to

establish a lead of 15-5, which, in spite of a valiant effort from the High School side, they were able to hold on to.

The squad had reached the final via an impressive sequence of victories over Preston Lodge, Linlithgow Academy, Edinburgh Academy and then, in the semi-final, Fettes.

Their results and performances caught the eye of none other than former Scotland captain and former pupil Andy Nicol, who visited the School the day before the final to talk to the squad and hand out the match shirts to the starting

XV, before cheering on the boys himself at Murrayfield.

Head Coach Christy O'Donnell said, "The boys gave a very good account of themselves and can be very proud of their efforts against very strong opposition.

"It's a great achievement to make the final. We had a fantastic support on the night and I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who travelled through to Murrayfield to give the team such wonderful backing."



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