



above: Caitlin Mitchell, Ivan Kapelyukh and Alice Raitt scored 100% in a total of five subjects
right: Alex Smith

Top exam marks in Scotland for High School pupils

High School of Dundee pupils record the top marks in the country in six subjects and score 100% not once, but five times in 2016 SQA exams

A group of High School pupils were celebrating after discovering that they had earned a series of impressive distinctions in the 2016 SQA exams.

Leading the way by virtue of an incredible scientific double, was Alex Smith, who recorded the top mark in Scotland not only in Higher Biology, but also in Higher Chemistry. The F6 pupil

was presented with awards for both subjects at the Science in Parliament day in Edinburgh in November.

Also achieving the highest mark in the country, in Advanced Higher Modern Studies, was Ciara Mitchell, who left school in June and is now studying for a degree in Social Policy and Sociology at the London School of Economics.

Meanwhile, another three High School pupils also achieved the top marks in the land by virtue of scoring 100% in a total of five subjects!

Thanks to their outstanding efforts across a range of National 5 and Higher subjects, Caitlin Mitchell (F5), Ivan Kapelyukh (F6) and Alice Raitt (F5) were delighted to become part of a



High School pupil nominated for award for cancer research
See page 4



Chinese New Year roars into life!
See page 12



Footballers net league title with 100% record
See page 24



Ciara Mitchell

tiny minority of pupils to gain full marks in national exams this year.

Remarkably, Caitlin achieved the feat not just once, but three times, after turning in faultless performances in N5 Maths, N5 Spanish and N5 Geography. With fewer than 0.3% of candidates, 1.1% of candidates and 0.5% of candidates nationally in those respective individual exams gaining 100%, Caitlin's accomplishment in pulling it off across all three is notable to say the least!

Ivan gained the maximum score in Higher Maths, while Alice achieved 100% in N5 Spanish.

The Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, said, "We celebrate success at all levels and in all areas of the school. However, the successes of these pupils are remarkable.

"They have achieved the very best marks in the country at three different levels of SQA exams, and in six different subjects. Phenomenal by anyone's standards!

"It is wonderful to see the years of perspiration and inspiration rewarded in this way."

Individual achievements such as these contributed to another impressive set of overall results for the School. The highlights saw Form 5 pupils achieve a record pass rate of 96% in their Higher exams, with a record 63% of those passes graded A. In addition, overall 55 subjects were passed with scores of 95% or more at N5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Rector's introduction



Academic excellence is something we all aspire too – and to see **five** of our pupils achieve the top mark in Scotland in **six** different subjects at **three** levels – National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher – is quite remarkable. To date I have not heard of another Scottish school that has achieved this level of success. But excellence is relative to the individual and for me it is equally uplifting to see pupils at all levels, ages and stages achieving their best.

And yet (apologies to my English teacher who exhorted me never to start a sentence with a conjunction...) my firm belief is that these results do not come out of a focus on academic studies alone. Developing the whole person through our programme of co-curricular involvement, and supported by our outstanding guidance structure, is the overriding priority. I firmly believe that the dynamic triangular relationship between the academic, the co-curricular and the pastoral is crucial to pupil wellbeing, and to success, not just in SQA exams but also, I suggest, in life. Creativity and imagination underpin success.

Reading through The Pillars I am always bowled over by the wealth of talent, dedication and aspiration in this school, amongst staff and pupils alike, and this edition once again bears testimony to that. And (apologies again, Mr Owen...!) which other single school in this country could perform the full edition of Beethoven's astonishing 5th Symphony, as we did in November...?

Enjoy the read!

Dr John D Halliday Rector

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Arts Centre project gathers pace



The School's project to transform Dundee's former Head Post Office into a cutting-edge performing and visual arts centre for the School and the wider Tayside community continues to gather pace.

The project is set to cost just over £15m and, as well as having a combination of existing cash resources and bank funding already all but assured, we are now more than halfway towards our fundraising target of £5m, making this the most successful fundraising campaign in the School's history.

Completion of the conversion of this iconic building into a flagship centre of excellence, with inspiring facilities for Art, Drama, Music and Culinary Arts, as well as new dining and catering facilities and a 300+ seat auditorium, is now therefore well and truly within grasp.

And there's more exciting news! With the School looking to appoint a contractor in the summer, and a build period of around 18 months, the estimated completion date is late 2018/early 2019. That means the centre will be open for the vast majority of our current pupils – all those up to our current F3, and possibly F4!

Reflecting this, the detailed planning process has now progressed to the point where fixtures and finishes are being chosen. Planning permission for this once in a century opportunity has already been secured from Dundee City Council.

Rector Dr John Halliday said, "This is one of the most important developments in the history of the High School, and one which will be significant for the wider Dundee and Tayside community.

"We believe in the importance of encouraging creativity in young people and see at firsthand how it can transform lives. It will not only benefit the current generation; it will be a wonderful legacy for many generations to come. With your help it will all happen even sooner."

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

Diary of Events

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

Integrated Curriculum

High School pupil nominated for major award for cancer research

Maria's incredible research uncovers new possibilities of preventing some cancers



A cancer research project carried out by a High School of Dundee pupil at the University of Dundee has won a place in the final of a prestigious contest.

Maria Pisliakova, F6, has been selected to present her findings at the Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition which was scheduled to take place at Birmingham NEC in March.

The 17-year-old, who conducted her research in the lab of Professor Victoria Cowling in the University's School of Life Sciences, has discovered new possibilities of preventing some cancers by inhibiting the 'mRNA capping' of the c-Myc, an oncogene present in 50 per cent of all cancer cases in either a mutated or over-expressed form.

Maria's research, carried out over five weeks last summer through a Nuffield Research Placement, suggests that by stopping the production of the c-Myc protein in a cell (the 'mRNA capping' process), it could be possible to prevent the generation of c-Myc.

She said, "I entered my project into the Big Bang competition and when I got the email to let me know that I'd made it to the final I was really thrilled. I hadn't anticipated it at all as the research was quite complex and therefore quite challenging to explain."

Speaking of her amazement when she realised that she was engaged in brand-

new research, Maria said, "I thought I was working on something that other people had done already. But when I was told that the experiments hadn't been done by anyone else, and that I was looking at novel research results it was an amazing feeling."

Described by the pharmaceutical industry as a "target of unmet need", c-Myc controls 10 per cent of our genome, including genes which drive cell growth and division, and has to date been resistant to many traditional therapeutic approaches.

Professor Cowling said, "Maria made a brilliant contribution to the lab and her research is on a par with the best PhD students – quite an achievement for a school pupil who hasn't yet done an undergraduate degree."

"Her results have contributed to our knowledge of how the capping enzyme regulates c-Myc oncogene. Her data suggests that by targeting the capping enzyme we could suppress c-Myc in cancers, which has not been pursued previously. As such this research is a valuable contribution to our collaborative work with the Drug Discovery Unit here at the University."

"Maria handled the trials of research science brilliantly; she was always smiling and a pleasure to work with."

'Best Practice' honour for School's teaching of German



The School has been recognised for its teaching of German by Germany's official cultural body, the Goethe Institute.

The Institute, Germany's flagship cultural association which is active worldwide promoting the study of German and encouraging international cultural exchange, has featured the High School within the Best Practice section of its website for the School's innovative use of German language fairy tale productions as a learning tool.

In the past few years, thanks to Modern Languages teacher John Nolan, pupils at the High School have brought colourful stories such as Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears to the stage in German. Using well-known melodies, John has written German lyrics to provide five or six songs in every fairy tale with the compositions, sung chorally and by cast members, accompanying the development of the story.

John's use of German drama as a curricular aid actually stretches back over 30 years, during which time three of his plays have been published. And although he has no plans to stop adapting famous fables, the accolade could certainly be said to represent a happy ending!

He said, "I'm delighted that the Goethe Institute contacted me to find out more about our German fairy tale productions."

"The main challenge for the group is usually to master the text in German. Often they actually adlib a phrase or two in German, which for me as a German specialist, is particularly pleasing."

You can see the feature at:

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/de/spr/unt/kum/dfj/tbp.html>

A Midsummer Night's Dream

In the midst of the cold of winter, High School of Dundee pupils succeeded in warming hearts with a summer story!

In February pupils in F2 and F3 brought colour, comedy and drama to Trinity Hall when they performed A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The retelling of Shakespeare's famous play, which was directed by Drama teacher Ellie Ashton, saw the venue's stage transformed into an enchanted forest fit for the fairies Puck, Titania and Oberon, and the star-crossed young lovers who become entangled in the web they weave.

With F2 and F3 pupils also manning the production team – organising everything from costume to lighting – and the School's Director of Music Dr Lionel Steuart Fotheringham providing original music, there was undoubtedly a distinct High School stamp on the performances.

Ellie said, "Watching pupils from two different year groups coming together as one unified cast was especially rewarding.

"They all put a huge amount of effort in and it was wonderful for them to be able to show their family, friends and fellow pupils what they had been working so hard on."

You can see more photos of the production at www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk



Elusive creature spotted at the Nursery!

In October children at the Nursery were joined by pupils in L1 on a quest to track down an elusive creature!

Having heard rumours of a Gruffalo sighting at Mayfield, the youngsters set off in groups

on a hunt for the famous children's character in the woods surrounding the playing fields.

Learning about the autumn environment and encountering other characters from the story as they went, with the help of nursery staff the children were soon able to capture the cuddly critter and take him inside to join them for Gruffalo-themed activities and a snack.

Lisa Yule, Deputy Manager at the Nursery, said, "The children all had great fun searching for the Gruffalo within the grounds here at Mayfield."



Pipe Band helps graduates celebrate in style

High School pupils helped Dundee University students round off their Winter Graduation ceremonies in style!

Over the course of two days in November, more than 1000 students who received degrees, diplomas and other awards at the Caird Hall were piped out into City Square and beyond by the School's Pipe Band.

This is the third year in succession that the band has been asked to perform at the ceremonies.



High School Wullie comes home!



After an anxious wait, in October the School celebrated the return of a much loved member of its community – High School Wullie!

Whilst pupils and staff were gathered together in the playground, Rector Dr John Halliday surprised them by unveiling the colourful statue, which had not been seen since the Oor Wullie Bucket Trail auction in mid-September.

Wullie was then given a hero's welcome as, accompanied by pipers and cheering, he was carried up on to the school Pillars before being presented with a School blazer and scarf!

The School-sponsored statue had originally been on display in front of the school gates throughout July and August. Along with the 69 other Wullies that made up the hugely popular, summer-long Bucket Trail, the sculpture was then auctioned at Dundee Rep to help the ARCHIE Foundation raise £2m to create a new twin operating theatre suite in Tayside Children's Hospital.

Despite a valiant effort by the School community to raise enough money to give the cheeky chap a permanent home, the sculpture was sold to an unknown buyer, leaving the High School family guessing about where its renowned rogue might end up.

His whereabouts remained unknown until former pupil Graham Paterson stepped forward to reveal himself as the mystery buyer and generously offered to return Wullie to the School on long-term loan!

The Rector said, "We are extremely grateful to Mr Paterson for so generously bringing the sculpture back to the School.

"We were absolutely thrilled that, through High School Wullie, we were able to contribute to a project which genuinely captured the imagination of people across Dundee and beyond and raised such a wonderful amount of money for ARCHIE."

Wullie was later delighted to be in attendance as a cheque for the £4,511.93 which had been raised by the school community for the Bucket Trail auction bid, was presented to the ARCHIE Foundation.



Pupils quiz politicians during Parliament visit

A group of F4 pupils went in search of answers to some of the big questions of the day during a trip to the Scottish Parliament.

In a pre-arranged meeting with Liam Kerr, North East region MSP, and Joe Fitzpatrick, MSP for Dundee West, F4 Modern Studies pupils seized on the chance to grill their local representatives on topics ranging from Brexit, independence and the renewal of Trident to voting behaviour and the effect of the media on elections.

During their visit to Holyrood the youngsters also participated in an interactive learning project which examined the Parliament and the work it does in Scotland.



A warm welcome from the School Office!



Pamela Braid



Kim Wellburn, Tanya Robertson, Elizabeth Heenan, Helen Allan, Pat Duncan

Most parents will at one point or another come into contact with the School Office. Whether you're notifying the School of an absence, have a question about school transport, or want to make a general enquiry, the office is your friendly first port of call!

Leading the team in the Senior School is School Secretary Pat Duncan. Pat, who has been with the School for 18 years, 16 as Assistant School Secretary and two as School Secretary, assists the Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff with reporting, timetabling, staff cover and a range of other duties.

Assistant School Secretary Kim Wellburn joined the team in January. Her main duties include all aspects of attendance, referrals/database administration and correspondence from the School.

More often than not, when you phone or visit the School the friendly greeting you receive will be provided by Receptionists Tanya Robertson or Helen Allan, who job share. Tanya, who has been with the School for nine years, and Helen, who has

been here for five, provide a warm welcome at Reception and deal with an array of tasks including assisting pupils with lost property, lockers, timetables etc, and generally helping to solve all manner of issues which come their way.

When it comes to school transport matters, it's School Transport Coordinator Elizabeth Heenan who will help you. Liz, who has been at the High School for seven years and is based in the School Office in the mornings and at Mayfield in the afternoons, is responsible for all transport enquiries – dedicated school buses, Mayfield and school trips.

Parents of children in L1-L7 meanwhile, can count upon the assistance of Junior Years Administrator Pamela Braid when they contact the School.

Pamela has been with the School for ten years, providing administrative, secretarial and reception services in the Margaret Harris Building. Working alongside the Junior Years Senior Leadership Team, she is a constant hands-on presence and that initial welcoming contact for pupils and their families.



Fair provides festive fun

As the countdown to Christmas got underway, the School was delighted to offer up a cracker of an event!

The School's annual Charities Christmas Fair gave members of the public and the HSD community the chance to soak up some seasonal cheer, grab some early Christmas bargains and raise money for worthy causes.

Delivering a sackful of fun for all the family, the event, which took place in Trinity and Baxter Halls, featured a range of stalls run by charities, local traders and pupils selling goodies such as crafts, art, cards, jewellery, festive items, homeware and more.

An elves grotto featuring face-painting and other fun activities provided yuletide magic for younger visitors, while refreshments and tasty home baking were also on offer, along with a raffle.

As always, profits from the Fair went to good causes and the event also acted as a drop-off point for donations to the 'Bring a Smile for Christmas' appeal.

The School's Charities and Community Outreach Co-ordinator, teacher Claire Reid, said, "The Fair is always a wonderful opportunity for us to kick off the festive season, reduce the Christmas shopping list and benefit many worthwhile causes at the same time."

A bumper donation!

The High School community has come together to make a bumper donation to a good cause.

In November, members of the School's Justice Society organised a collection of goods for Togs to Tots to Teens, a social enterprise organisation which collects and distributes essential clothing and equipment for children and teens who are in need throughout Tayside and Fife.

Eager to answer the call, pupils, parents and staff quickly came forward with a huge number of items ranging from clothes and toys to beds and mattresses.

Justice Society member Lewis Keddie, F6 (S6), said, "We have been looking at issues in society, including poverty, and we wanted to do something at a local level. Instead of asking for money, we wanted to do something different and ask people for things that they don't use any more.

"We have been overwhelmed by the volume and range of donations which we have received."

Jordan Butler, who runs Togs for Tots to Teens, came in to the School to talk to Higher Modern Studies pupils as part of their work on social inequality.

Jordan said, "We are really grateful for this donation which includes so much brilliant stuff which will now be distributed to families in the local area."

Talented musicians scoop Rotary titles

High School of Dundee pupils scooped both the Instrumental and Vocal titles in the 2016 Dundee Rotary Young Musician competitions.

In the finals of the annual contest, which were held at Dundee University's Chaplaincy Centre, pianist Robert Zhan (F6) was adjudged the winner of the Instrumental section, while Lynden Nicely (F6) took the honours in the vocal category.

Their victories earned the talented duo spots in the subsequent district round, where they were joined by Abhisri Chaudhuri (F5; instrumental), vocalists Kirsty McRobbie (F5), Charlotte Jennings (F5) and Finlay McKillop (F6), whose performances also impressed the judges.



Real life engineering experience now in full flow

A supply of real life engineering experience is now flowing at the High School of Dundee, thanks to the donation of a piece of equipment straight from the oil and gas sector.

TechnipFMC, a leading supplier of equipment and services for the energy industry, has provided the School's Technology department with a gate valve, a complex high-pressure component that is typically used to control the movement of oil or gas on an oilrig or on land.

After James Robb and Ross Orkney from TechnipFMC visited to deliver the valve and give training to the School's Head of Technology Forbes Walker on dismantling and assembling it, pupils studying Engineering Science and Graphic Communication have already begun taking full advantage of the chance to get to grips with a bona fide piece of real world, high-level equipment.

Forbes Walker, Head of Technology at the School, said, "Having access to the valve provides our pupils with a wonderful opportunity to gain experience of working with a complex bit of kit that plays a vital role in the oil and gas industry.

"Being able to take the valve apart, examine its various parts and reassemble them gives the pupils a great insight into engineering and design in the real world."

James Robb, Global Product Delivery Manager at TechnipFMC, said that the donation of the equipment was part of the company's work to promote engineering in local schools.

He said, "We work hard to promote engineering, manufacturing and design in schools in Scotland to encourage confidence in engineering and manufacturing as career opportunities.

"We are delighted to have been able to donate the valve to the School so that the pupils can see engineering in a real life context."

In the coming months, the School and TechnipFMC will be working together to launch an exciting competition which will challenge pupils to construct replicas of the valve using the School's 3D printer.



School marks Remembrance

The High School marked Remembrance with its traditional Armistice Parade and Service.

To remember the fallen, the Combined Cadet Force completed a parade in front of the school watched by pupils, staff, members of the public and guests, including military and civilian Service personnel.



The ceremony concluded with a wreath being placed in front of the school war memorial by Head Boy Joshua Rawcliffe and Deputy Head Girl Mariam Alijani, assisted by Junior School pupils Andrew Loveday and Ellie Reid.

As the School continues to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, a poignant moment of the proceedings saw Joshua and Mariam read out the names of the 36 former pupils who lost their lives in WW1 between November 1915 and November 1916. 23 of that number were killed during the Battle of the Somme.

A prayer was also delivered by Rev Dr Janet Foggie of St Andrews Church.

Decisions, decisions, decisions!

Pupils in the Senior Years had some tough decisions to make after attending the School's Co-curricular Fair in September!

As ever, the annual event gave pupils the chance to get a taste of all the exciting activities they can get stuck into outside of their timetabled lessons, by bringing together under one roof the School's extensive array of co-curricular clubs and societies.

But with demonstrations and information from a whole host of inspiring clubs, ranging from archery, ukulele and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, to photography, model boat building and the CCF, as well as a full range of musical and sports activities, the pupils were faced with the unenviable task of having to narrow down their choices to a manageable number!



Prestigious award for High School teacher

The Autumn term saw a High School of Dundee teacher recognised for her career-long efforts to help Geography teachers map the way ahead in their subject.

Val Vannet, now former Geography teacher and Deputy Rector at the High School, was awarded the Royal Scottish Geographical

Society's (RSGS) Tivy Medal, a prestigious honour which is given for exemplary, outstanding and inspirational teaching, policy or work in education.

Val, who retired in October after 40 years as a Geography teacher, including 16 at the High School, received the award – the Society's highest for education – in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the inspirational teaching of Geography in the classroom.

It recognised her sharing of knowledge with fellow teachers, across the UK; her innovative use of technology in teaching the subject; her motivational leadership of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers (SAGT); and her commitment to



fieldwork which, in the course of her career, saw her take literally thousands of pupils on expeditions at home and abroad, as well as lead Geography teacher fieldwork trips to Iceland and Morocco.

Erica Caldwell, Board Member and Educational Convener of the RSGS, said, "She saw the huge potential of using IT in teaching Geography at an early stage, developing some of the first Geography blogs, contributing her excellent photographs to geograph.org, becoming enthusiastically involved in the ground-breaking Staffordshire Learning Network, and pioneering the use of SMART Boards in producing creative, innovative virtual fieldwork.

"Being Val, as she'd done throughout her teaching career, she shared her knowledge, her expertise and her enthusiasm," she added.

Mike Robinson, Chief Executive of the RSGS, said, "She led, as ever, by example, and her passion for Geography teaching in schools and for the importance of fieldwork has inspired many others."

Val, who had previously received the Royal Geographical Society's (RGS) Ordnance Survey Award and Fellowships from both the RSGS and the RGS, said, "I'm honoured and thrilled to receive the Tivy Medal from the RSGS.

"Reaching the position of Deputy Rector would probably be seen as the pinnacle of my career, but in actual fact, while I am very proud of having fulfilled that role, the thing I am most proud of is having been able to make a contribution to the teaching of Geography."

Duo debate their way into Scotland team



A pair of High School of Dundee pupils have earned themselves spots in the Scottish team for the 2017 World Schools Debating Championships.

At the start of August, Steven Roy and Ivan Kapelyukh, both F6, will spend ten days in Bali, Indonesia, as members of the 5-strong squad which is set to line up against over 60 nations from across the globe to debate a range of social, moral and political issues.

As well as being outstanding achievements in their own right, the selections of Ivan and Steven – which came after they

impressed in trials – continue the School's proud record of helping Team Scotland make its point at the Championships.

Scotland have won the annual tournament four times in its 29-year history; on three of those occasions there has been a High School pupil in the team. What is more, twelve out of the last nineteen teams have contained a High School debater.

However, this is only the second occasion on which the School has provided two pupils in the same year to the national side, an accomplishment that is not lost on High School of Dundee senior debating coach, Irene McGrath.

She said, "We are very proud of these two fine young men. Not only have they devoted a huge amount of time and effort to making themselves the best they can be in debating, but their modest and engaging manner makes them excellent ambassadors for the School as they participate in tournaments around the country."

At the time of going to press, the duo had also reached the semi-finals of the ongoing ESU (English Speaking Union) Mace competition, represented Scotland at the finals of the Cambridge Union's UK-wide schools tournament, and were shortly due to compete in the final of the Oxford Union's UK schools competition.

Inspired charity product lets children make their mark on Scotland

A group of F6 pupils have been giving Nursery and Junior Years children the chance to make their mark on Scotland by getting behind a good cause.

In support of their efforts to raise funds for the Children 1st Dragons' Glen Challenge, members of the School's F6 Enterprise team created and sold an early reader colouring book, called Tim Travels to Scotland, featuring images of some of the country's most iconic landmarks.

Aimed at boys and girls aged 4-7, the publication invites its young readers to add some colour to the famous sights and places Tim visits as he makes his way around Scotland, including Loch Ness, Edinburgh Zoo, Glenshee, St Andrews and more.

Members of the Enterprise group illustrated the book and also came up with rhymes which accompany each image and bring the story, and the locations, to life.



Dragons' Glen team member Cameron Todd said, "We wanted to make a children's product that was as accessible as possible.

"We'd like to raise as much as we can for Children 1st and we hope that children enjoy having the chance to be creative while learning about Scotland and developing their reading skills at the same time."

The annual Dragons' Glen competition sees businesses from all over Scotland attempt to turn an initial £500 investment into £5000 or more for Children 1st, through a range of fundraising initiatives, with mentoring from some of Scotland's leading business figures who act as the 'dragons'.



MSP provides insight into democracy

Pupils in F5 and F6 have enjoyed a visit from somebody well placed to help them examine democracy – one of their elected representatives!

In November pupils studying Higher and Advanced Higher Modern Studies were joined in the classroom by Dundee City West MSP Joe Fitzpatrick who stopped by to discuss their course on democracy in Scotland and the UK, and to answer their questions on political issues generally.

Head of History and Modern Studies Gordon Fyall said, "We are extremely grateful to Mr Fitzpatrick for giving up his time to share his experiences as an MSP with our pupils and also for answering questions from our Form 4 pupils during their recent visit to the Scottish Parliament."

Chinese New Year roars into life!

January saw the Chinese New Year roar into life at the High School!

To mark the occasion, thanks to Mandarin teacher Yunchao Murdoch, a traditional celebratory Chinese lion prowled and danced its way through the School!

The colourful creature, which only features in special festivities such as those marking the New Year, first paid a visit to Mayfield to wow children at the Nursery, before pupils in F3 used the costume to perform lion dances in a series of special assemblies in which the L5W class also joined Senior Years pupils from the Chinese Lunch Club to sing two songs in Mandarin Chinese.

Yunchao, who also spoke to the pupils about the history and tradition of the lion costume in Mandarin classes, said, "I wanted to give the pupils the chance to see it and to learn more about what the lion symbolises in Chinese culture and celebrations."

Meanwhile, in September one of China's largest festivals was illuminated for High School pupils and staff.

To mark the Chinese Moon Festival, which takes place each year when the moon is at its brightest, Yunchao organised a special celebration to give those in attendance an authentic taste of what the event is all about.



Pupils had the chance to find out about the history, origins and significance of the festival, sample moon cakes and fortune cookies which are traditionally eaten as part of the festivities, hear some traditional poems read by pupils, and learn the story of Chang E and Hou Yi, whose tale inspired the celebration.

Yunchao said, "Although it's the second biggest festival in China after New Year, the Moon Festival, which is also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, is one that maybe people don't know as much about. It was fantastic to welcome so many pupils and staff along to the event to learn more about it."

School raises over £1,000 for Tourette Scotland

The School has presented a cheque for £1014 to Tourette Scotland.

Ruth Smith and Mark Lincoln from the charity came into the school to receive the funds from School Secretary Pat Duncan, classroom assistant Laura Duncan, who is Pat's daughter, and Laura's daughter Chloe Burns, who is a P5 pupil at Ardler Primary School and suffers from this condition.

The money was raised via donations at the School's Early Years Nativity performances, with Chloe, Laura and Pat generating a further £515 for the organisation through a stall which they ran at the School's Christmas Fair and online through a Just Giving Page.

Mark, who is trustee and trainer for Tourette Scotland, said, "We'd like to say a big thank you to the School, to Chloe and to everyone who has been involved in raising this magnificent total.

"All the money raised will go towards supporting people, mainly children, with Tourette Syndrome and, more particularly, will help to fund the setting up of a local support group in Tayside."



School serves up tasty publication

If you still haven't made a New Year's resolution, the School can suggest one that will have you licking your lips!

You can achieve the goal of getting more creative in the kitchen and adding some new dishes to your repertoire in 2017 with the help of 'The HSD Cookbook', a sumptuous electronic collection of recipes put together by Head of Health and Food Technology, Lesley Ross.

Aimed at cooks of all abilities, the iBook features over 70 delicious dishes which have been tried, tested and trusted by the School's pupils in the department's kitchens in recent years, with a light sprinkling of a few of Lesley's own personal favourites added to the mix for good measure.

From Coconut Pork with Crispy Noodles and Beef Massaman Curry, to Rhubarb and Ginger Fools and White Chocolate & Raspberry Tartlets, the culinary compilation offers something for everyone!

Lesley said, "Over the years I've had a number of requests from former pupils looking for the recipes of dishes which they had prepared – and presumably enjoyed! – during their time at the School.



"I thought an iBook was a great way to do it as it makes the recipes easy to refer to whilst cooking, or to browse away from the kitchen."

The book, which costs £4.99, can be bought for yourself or sent to another person as a gift at: goo.gl/8YGfE1

All of the proceeds from sales will be donated to the School's campaign for transforming Dundee's former Head Post Office on Meadowside into a landmark centre of excellence for performing and visual arts.

Action-packed Alpine adventure

Just before the Christmas holidays, a group of 45 F3 pupils and six members of staff headed for the Aosta Valley in the Italian Alps to enjoy five days of skiing in the shadow of Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn.

Making the most of the spectacular location and perfect conditions on the pistes, the youngsters, who ranged in ability from beginners to experienced skiers, honed their skills by taking part in five hours of lessons each day.

Trip leader and Head of PE, Ewan Jack, said, "We were lucky enough to have two beautiful days of sunshine and three days when fresh snow fell, so the conditions were first class.

"Everyone made huge progress and we all returned safely to Dundee tired out but having had a fantastic time."



Nursery makes donation

In November, children from the Nursery visited the Dundee Foodbank to deliver a donation which they hoped would help make a difference at Christmas.

Accompanied by Nursery staff, some pupils made the trip to the Constitution Street centre to present a huge range of food and essential items, which parents and children had been collecting since the October holidays, to Dundee Foodbank Manager Ken Linton.

Included in the donation were over 100 advent calendars, which Ken had previously advised were always a very welcome item.

Nursery Deputy Manager Lisa Yule said, "I'd like to thank all our parents and children for contributing so generously. After we discussed with the pupils the fact that some children might not have advent calendars this year, they were especially keen to donate them."

Sixth Formers celebrate Robert Burns



Pupils in F5 and F6 celebrated Burns Night by joining together for a memorable Burns Supper in the School Dining Hall.

All the traditional elements were present and correct, with a variety of tartans on display to add to the authentic Scottish flavour of the occasion.

Highland dancers kicked off proceedings with a pacy performance, before the haggis was expertly piped in by Emily Wilson- Pearce (F6), allowing Marcus Brown (F6) to deliver a hilarious rendition of 'Address to a Haggis'.

After the meal, the Chamber Orchestra had the attendees jigging and reeling as they performed McMozart with foot-tapping flair. Josh Rawcliffe's (F6) exquisite singing awed all the guests into stunned silence, and then almighty applause, before Verity Brown's (F6) jazzy performance of a Norah Jones song added a modern twist to the music.

Steven Roy's (F6) entertaining delivery of 'The Immortal Memory' toast was followed by Bruce Pattullo's (F6) 'Toast to the Lassies', which did not spare their blushes! However, Hannah Cowieson's (F5) 'Reply', a witty speech delivered in verse, put Bruce in his place!

Head of English Jasmine Cortazzi, who organised the event, said, "Our guests revelled in the opportunity to ceilidh dance to a live, very accomplished band and used every second they had to kick up their heels and celebrate Burns.

"All in all, it was a fun, musical, celebratory night and one that none of us will forget for many years to come."

The Burns Night celebrations followed on from the visit of Chris Whatley, OBE, Professor of Scottish History at Dundee University, who came to the School in October to talk to an audience of F5 and F6 English pupils about the National Bard's legacy.

Professor Whatley discussed the status to which Burns ascended from working-class origins and the way he encouraged renewed national pride by putting Scots back on the map at a time when Scottish people were being encouraged to use Standard English.

He also spoke to the pupils about the poetry of Burns and his political influence, in particular his support for the working classes.

Competition honours both Bard and former teacher

Senior Years pupils paid tribute to more than one inspirational figure when they took part in the School's Burns recitation competition.

Pupils in F1-F3 celebrated the memory of High School English teacher Tom Durrheim by participating in the annual contest which was set up in Tom's honour following his death in August 2011.

Those taking part were challenged to learn one of the national bard's poems, from a choice of four, before reciting it to fellow contestants and a panel of judges which included Tom's close friend, and former High School Computing Teacher, Colin Stuart.

The winner, for Up in the Morning Early, was Sneha Sripada (F1), with Zoe Faloon (F1) the runner-up for A Man's a Man for A' That.

English teacher Morven Ovenstone-Jones said, "Tom was a passionate fan of Robert Burns and I think he would have thoroughly enjoyed the competition, which we try to keep informal and intimate, much in the spirit of a Burns Supper.

"It's a fantastic way to honour Tom's memory."

Sneha and Zoe are photographed in front of a bookcase in the school library which was dedicated to Tom's memory in 2013.



Autumn Concert



Talented young musicians from throughout the Junior and Senior Years took to the stage of the Caird Hall to offer up an eclectic mix of top quality music at the School's Autumn Concert.

The diverse programme included contemporary numbers by Coldplay and Amy Winehouse, and a number of classical compositions, including a superb performance of the full edition of Beethoven's astonishing 5th Symphony.

The annual event raised money for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

School seeks descendants of Serbian FPs

The High School is appealing for help as it seeks to mark a First World War anniversary of special significance to both the School and the city of Dundee.

Friday 20th January 1917 was the 100th anniversary of the arrival in Dundee of the first contingent of a group of refugees from Serbia for whom the city was to become home until after WW1 had ended.

In 1917, with Serbia having been occupied and ravaged by Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian forces, hundreds of thousands of Serbs had to flee for their lives. The Dundee community responded enthusiastically to an appeal by the Serbian Relief Fund to come to the aid of the country's children. Boys were particularly at risk and so the city agreed to welcome in total 32. Thanks to the generosity of local magnate George Bonar, they were housed in Fernbrae, Perth Road, which had for this purpose been transformed into a hostel.



Standing—Philipovitch, Stevovitch, Matitch, Yevanovitch.
Sitting—Stamenkovitch, Grovitch, Dimitryovitch, Borjakovitch, Brkitch.

The boys, who were aged 15-18, were able to complete their education before the hostel was closed down in June 1919. They were given free places at two schools, with 14 attending the High School of Dundee and 18 attending Harris Academy. They entered fully into the lives of the schools and Dundee, with the Courier newspaper reflecting, at the time the hostel closed down, on the affection with which the boys had come to be held in their adopted city.

Although the centenary of their initial arrival in Dundee has now passed, the

High School is eager to track down descendants of Dundee's Serbs.

Rector Dr John Halliday said, "This was a little known yet quite remarkable episode in the history of Dundee during the First World War and we would be thrilled to hear from any of the relations or descendants of our Serbian boys, or indeed from anyone in Dundee who can shed further light on the subject.

"We know what a number of them did immediately after leaving Dundee. However, the trail ran cold before World War 2. It would therefore be wonderful to learn what all of the boys, not just the ones who attended the High School, went on to do after their Dundee school days, and we would like to invite any relations and descendants to Dundee for a proper commemoration."

If you have any information that can help, please contact pressoffice@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

The chemistry of art

The appliance of science has enabled a pair of sixth form pupils to literally paint a picture of the chemistry of art.

In August, Elle Wyatt and Alex Smith (both F6) received the British Science Association's CREST Gold Award for a year-long investigation into the chemical make-up of paint which had culminated in the girls creating a piece of art with egg tempera paint – used by famous painters such as Michelangelo – which they had made themselves.

The inspiration for the duo's final painting was wildlife artist Derek Robertson, with whom the pair met up to discuss ideas.

Alex said, "The project involved 70 hours of work over lunchtimes, so it was nice to finally receive the award!

"It was a fantastic opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Advanced Higher lab and to explore an area of Chemistry not covered by the curriculum."



Pipe Band to follow lead of world champion

Members of the High School of Dundee's Pipe Band are hoping to steal a march on the opposition by following the lead of someone who knows a thing or two about reeling in titles.

In August, the School appointed twice World Pipe Band Championships winner, and double Champion of Champions winner, David Wilton as Pipe Major of its Pipes and Drums.

With David having also won a number of other national piping titles in his career, piped for the Queen and Prince Charles, and led his own band – Lomond and Clyde – to third place in the World Championships at grade 2 level, the youngsters don't have far to look for inspiration as they aim to perfect their Strathspeys and Slow Airs.

David said, "I'm really looking forward to getting started with the band and introducing a new programme which aims to get the pupils competing on a national level."

"I want to see just how far we can take them."

As well as being one of Scotland's leading pipers, David is also one of the most successful Scottish Highland dancers in history, having won an incredible 192 major championship titles including 7 World Championships, 10 Commonwealth and 13 British Championships. He retired from dancing as the reigning World Champion and remarkably was only beaten three times in his entire senior career, finishing second each time.



School donates to Foodbank

In September the School handed over a 376kg donation to the Dundee Foodbank.

The colossal collection, which was made up of contributions from pupils, staff and parents from the Nursery, Junior Years and Senior Years, was organised by the History and Modern Studies department in collaboration with the School's Charities Committee.

Dundee Foodbank Manager Ken Linton, who came in to the school to receive the donation, said, "We are truly grateful to the pupils, parents and staff for their very generous donation to the Foodbank.

"This will go a long way to providing a nutritionally based emergency three-day food parcel for people in poverty within Dundee."

During his visit Ken also spoke to Higher Modern Studies pupils about the work of foodbanks.



History and Modern Studies teacher Karlene Douglas, who helped organise the collection, said, "We are delighted to have been able to make a donation to the Foodbank and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed so generously.

"A number of our F6 pupils help out at the Foodbank every week. They are already very familiar with its work and it was great for our Higher Modern Studies pupils, who are currently examining social inequality as part of their course, to learn more from Ken."

High School pupil wins Arkwright Scholarship

F5 pupil Jack Davies has won a prestigious engineering scholarship.

Jack has been identified as a future leader in the field after receiving a 2016 Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, a highly sought-after award granted to the most talented STEM* students in UK schools to ensure they stay engaged in the engineering careers pipeline.

The scholarships, which are open to pupils in S5 and S6 across the UK, are highly respected by university admission tutors and industry recruiters and are regarded as one of the most prestigious accolades that a sixth form student can receive.

In all, just over 400 scholarships were awarded in 2016 to applicants who successfully demonstrated they have the skills and potential to become leaders in the industry by coming through a



rigorous selection process involving an assessed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and a university-based interview.

The awards scheme is supported by almost 200 sponsoring organisations who help to develop each scholar's experience of engineering in a real-world context by providing mentoring and industry visits. As well as receiving such enrichment activities from Pearson Engineering, under the scholarship Jack will also receive £300 in 2016 and 2017 to assist with his development as an engineer.

* Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

Junior Years

Author makes a spellbinding visit

Some Junior Years pupils – and staff – were left spellbound by an enchanting author visit.

With Halloween on the horizon, former pupil Sibéal Pounder – writer of the popular ‘Witch Wars’ series of books – returned to the school to conjure up a spooktacular literary session for children in L4 and L5.

After giving the youngsters an insight into the inspiration behind her work and the life of an author, Sibéal offered the

pupils the chance to create and bring to life their own story, culminating in a tale in which unfortunate L5 teacher Linda Docherty was transformed into a witch named Marge Dumppling!

During her visit to the School, Sibéal, whose other works include the ‘Bad Mermaids’ series which will be published this year, also held a workshop with F1 pupils in which she spoke about her experiences as a writer and answered questions.



L5 children celebrate Burns Day

‘There is no such uncertainty as a sure thing,’ said Robert Burns. The School wouldn’t want to take issue with Scotland’s national bard, but one sure thing that is a certainty is that High School pupils will use Burns Day to celebrate the icon’s life and works!

This year was no different as children in L5 seized upon the chance to embrace Burns, and Scottish culture generally.

Starting the day with a series of classroom activities, the youngsters made their own Scottish bonnets and brooches,

used Burns’ poem ‘My Luve is like a Red Red Rose’ to inspire some colourful pieces of artwork, and took part in a quiz based on Scottish words, geography and history.

The children then sat down to their own traditional Burns Supper – complete with a recital of ‘Address to a Haggis’ by former Deputy Rector Val Vannet – preceded by Scottish dancing and recitals and performances of some of the bard’s songs and poems.

Early Years children help Mr Humbug see the light!



Some ghostly goings-on at the High School ensured that the Christmas spirit was embraced by even the most Scrooge-like of characters!

Pupils in L1-L3 offered up a sleigh full of festive fun to parents, fellow pupils and friends through their Nativity play, 'Mr Humbug Sees the Light' (by Andrew Oxspring).

A modern reworking of the Dickens classic 'A Christmas Carol', the production transported the story to St Ebenezer's School where Headteacher Mr Humbug had lived up to his name by banning all yuletide celebrations, including the staging of a nativity play. With the children devastated, it was left to some ghostly visitors to persuade Mr Humbug that Christmas really is the season to be jolly!

Deputy Head Junior Years, Claire Proudfoot, said, "This year's Nativity play had a fun spooky theme to it, with skeletons and ghosts all trying to help Mr Humbug see the light. There were over 100 children on the stage; it was an amazing spectacle!"

More than £2,000 was raised at the shows for Tourette Scotland and Barnardo's.

The Nativity was just one highlight of a busy festive period for the whole school, which also featured the annual year group Christmas parties, a colourful charity Christmas Jumper Day, a successful charity shoebox appeal, and an entertaining staff panto in aid of Interact charities.



Oor Wullie has been framed!

In December some enterprising Junior Years pupils framed a renowned troublemaker – but it was all for a good cause!

To raise money for charity, the L7 (P7) Rotakids group sold framed copies of an amazing image of the School's very own loveable rascal, High School Wullie, taken by photographer Ben Hirst.

After coming up with the idea for the product themselves, the children set to work conducting market research and designing advertising posters. And once Ben had kindly granted permission for his photograph to be used, the youngsters were able to fit the prints into the frames ready to be offered up at the School's Charities Christmas Fair.

L5 teacher Linda Docherty, who is one of the organisers of the Rotakids group, said, "The pupils really seized the initiative to come up with the product and we are extremely grateful to Ben Hirst for allowing the children to use the fantastic photo which he took of High School Wullie during the Bucket Trail."

The 12-strong Rotakids team raised further funds for good causes by organising a sale of Christmas goods featuring pupil designs, and selling cards, fudge and cup-cakes at the Christmas Fair, where they also ran a 'Guess Oor Wullie's birthday' competition and took donations in return for Elfie Selfies with Wullie.

You can see more examples of Ben Hirst's work at the Tayside in Pictures Facebook page – www.facebook.com/TaysideInPictures



Food super heroes pay a flying visit

A pair of food super heroes have given children in the Junior Years fresh inspiration to eat their greens!

As pupils in the Early Years dining hall sat down for lunch in February, they were joined by Casey the Carrot and Sadie Sweetcorn, who paid a flying visit to spread the word about their nutritional powers.

The duo, who also visited children in the Nursery, are members of school caterers Chartwells' cast of 'food super heroes' who help to get messages about the importance of healthy eating across to pupils at an early age.

Seussical the Musical

The High School of Dundee would like to warn parents of a bizarre turn of events that is due to hit the Junior Years in the summer term. The good news is though, it's all in the name of entertainment!

In June, the Gardyne Theatre will be overrun by a collection of fantastically fanciful characters when children in L6 and L7 perform their production of 'Seussical the Musical'.

Transporting the audience into an imaginary world, the shows will tell the captivating tale of an elephant named Horton's quest to protect a dust-sized planet of people from the angry jungle creatures of Nool, encountering a Sour Kangaroo, a pair of birds called Gertrude McFuzz and Mayzie La Bird, the Cat in the Hat, and many more endearingly eccentric creatures as he goes!



Sung through with a series of frighteningly catchy tunes and packed full of dazzling dancing, the shows promise spectacular fun for all the family.

The production runs from June 13th to 16th. Keep an eye on the website for ticket details.

The shows are being performed with the permission of Josef Weinberger Limited.



Former Pupil News

Double Olympian returns to inspire pupils

When it comes to role models, they don't get much more inspiring than double Olympians!

In October the School was delighted to welcome back former pupil Eilish McColgan to talk to current pupils and share her experiences of competing in top level sport, including her participation in the London and Rio Olympics.

The middle-distance athlete held a question-and-answer session in Trinity Hall with pupils in F1-F4, before heading up to Mayfield to pass on advice to aspiring sportsmen and sportswomen in F5 and F6.



Eilish, who also competed at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, said, "It was nice to be back and to be able to give the pupils an insight into the life of an athlete and what it takes to make the jump into top-level sport."

"Some of them are already competing to a very high level. The potential they have is amazing and there's no reason why they can't go on to be the Olympians of the future."

Rector Dr John Halliday, said, "It's truly inspiring for our pupils to hear from someone who was in their shoes and has gone on to reach the very pinnacle of top-level sport."

Aspiring rugby players meet Scotland star

Some of the School's aspiring young rugby players have met with one of the Scottish national side's own rising stars.

In November, boys in L6 and L7 were thrilled when Scotland prop and former High School pupil Zander Fagerson dropped in to talk to them, sign some autographs and even join in the odd selfie!



The Glasgow Warriors player, who at the time of going to press was lining up for Scotland in the 6 Nations, said, "It's always nice to come back to Mayfield. It was great to get such a warm welcome from the boys and I really enjoyed talking to them."



FP seals top engineering scholarship

Zhenteng Shen, class of 2016, has been recognised as one of the UK's most promising young engineers with the award of a prestigious scholarship.

In September, Zhenteng, who is currently in the first year of a Mechanical Engineering degree at Imperial College, was named as the winner of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Land Rover Spen King Sustainability Award.

As well as providing £2,000 per year for the duration of his undergraduate course, the scholarship includes a much sought-after placement with Jaguar Land Rover.

To secure the award, which is available to those with a particular interest in sustainability, Zhenteng had to come through a competitive application process involving an interview at the IMechE headquarters in London.

FP takes on Major role at Edinburgh Tattoo

Former pupil Jack Hamilton has enjoyed the honour of playing a major part in one of Scotland's most famous and celebrated events.

In September last year, at the age of just 20, Jack performed the role of Pipe Major for the Combined Scottish University Officer Training Corps Pipes and Drums at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Jack, who is believed to have become the youngest person ever to be appointed Pipe Major of a British Army band for the Tattoo, was responsible for directing, managing and turning around 30 pipers and drummers over the course of 35 separate sold-out shows at Edinburgh Castle.



He had previously performed at tattoos in Sweden and Switzerland with the Aberdeen UOTC Drums and Pipes, which he joined when he began studying Law at Aberdeen University in September 2014.

Sport

Celebrating sporting achievement



Pupils and parents are being invited to help build a visual celebration of the sporting successes of High School of Dundee pupils.

Visitors to Mayfield may have noticed that a brand-new Sporting Wall of Fame has begun to take shape within the main corridor of the Sports Centre.

And now, to enable the display to be brought to life brick by brick, or rather, achievement by achievement, Head of PE Ewan Jack is asking for details of the many athletic accomplishments of High School pupils.

Ewan explains, "We know that the School has many talented sportsmen and sportswomen, from the Junior Years right through to F6, and the purpose of the Wall is to enable us to celebrate the many sporting successes which they have achieved, both within and outwith school.

"Examples might be; selection for a district or national squad, winning a school competition, medalling at regional championships, success in a national cup competition etc.

"If this is you, or if you are a parent and this is your son or daughter, then please email me an action photo and some details about the achievement. Whatever it is, we want to hear about it!"

In the manner of some of the greatest achievements in sport, the wall itself is a team effort, with the School's Technology department having produced the display's striking plaque with the help of its laser cutter.

You can contact Ewan at edjack@highschoolofdundee.org.uk



Swimmer makes a splash at Scottish championships

F6 pupil Eilidh Grant swam her way to a pair of medals at the Brodies Scottish Schools Championships at the Dollan Aqua Centre in East Kilbride at the end of January.

Going up against talented young swimmers from across the country, Eilidh won Gold in the Girls age 17-19 200m freestyle and silver in the Girls 400m freestyle.



Curling quartet come up trumps

A team of High School curlers have come up trumps in a competition with extra significance.

In December, at Forfar Ice Arena, Alex MacKintosh, Caitlin Jones, Jamie Meade and Freddie Wilson became the first team of juniors to win the Alan Dargie Memorial Competition.

The event, which was established in 2003, is run annually by Flo and Sam Dargie to remember their son Alan who attended the High School and was a member of Dundee Junior Curling Club.

Impressive start for netball team

The girls of the L7 netball team achieved a third place finish in their first competitive outing.

Five victories from five matches in the group stages of the Dundee District Primary Schools' Netball Association Winter League won the squad a place in the finals at Ward Road Gym in December.

There, a draw in their first match, against Fintry, followed by a narrow, 4-6 defeat in their next match against Eastern, saw the girls end the tournament in the bronze position.

Junior Years teacher and coach Kirstin Reith said, "The girls were up against some tough opposition in what was their first competition together, so to finish third was a great success for the team."



Pupils race to podium places

High School of Dundee pupils celebrated podium places at the Scottish Schools Road Race Championships.

At the event in Falkirk in October, Anna Dalglish (F2) overcame some of the best young runners from across Scotland to win an individual bronze medal in the S1/S2 girls race.

The trio of Laurence Petty (F2), Ethan McColgan (F2) and Matthew Lowdon (F1) were also rewarded for their own impressive individual runs with team bronze in the S1/S2 boys event.



Elite rugby squad place for Angus

F6 pupil Angus Fraser has been recognised as one of the country's most promising rugby players in his age group with his selection for a national programme.

In October, Angus was named in the BT Sport Scottish Rugby Academy for season 2016/17, a development squad of fewer than 100 of the most talented young players from across Scottish Rugby's four regional academy centres.

Having earned his call up to stage 1 and 2 of the academy, Angus, who previously impressed for the Caledonia region, will receive specialist guidance and coaching in areas including rugby skills, athletic capacity and high performance behaviours.

Duo take part in major school sports event

F4 pupils Sarah McKenzie and Alfie George had the honour of representing Scotland in the 2016 UK School Games at Loughborough University in September.

Sarah competed in gymnastics and Alfie in cycling at the elite multi-sports event which featured 1600 of the UK's top school-age sports stars. Both had won their spots in the respective squads on the back of a series of impressive individual performances and previous results in local and national competitions.



Trio help Caledonia to victory



At the beginning of the Autumn term, a trio of High School rugby players received a just reward for some hard work they'd put in over the course of the summer.

Angus Fraser, Sean Gauld and Angus Campbell (all F6) were part of the Caledonia squad which won the BT U18 Regional Rugby Championship title with a 32-8 victory over The Borders & East Lothian at Murrayfield.

The trio's appearance at the national stadium came after they played their part as the Caledonia squad – which is one of four regional academy teams set up by Scottish Rugby to develop Scotland's top young rugby players – sealed a place in the decider by winning all three of its group stage matches against the Borders, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Those qualifying matches came on the back of the boys putting in some hard graft over the course of three, two-day training camps which took place in Aberdeen, Perth and Dunblane during the summer holidays.

The pupils had earned themselves spots in the training squad, which is made up of 30 of the top young players from across the north of Scotland, after impressing in trials.

Angus Fraser and Sean were both later named in the BT Sport 'West' U18 select team for a double-header against their 'East' counterparts.

Call-ups continue!

High School of Dundee pupils have continued to receive national and regional squad call-ups.

In netball, after excelling for the Perth & Kinross district netball team, F3 pupils Fiona McKechnie and Isla McRobbie were selected for the Scotland Development squad trials.

Meanwhile, on the hockey field Jamie Golden (F3) and Rachel Strachan (F4) have again been picked for the boys and girls, respectively, Scotland U16 training squads. In October, Rachel was also part of the first-ever Scottish side to take part in the Futures Cup, a prestigious competition played in front of GB selectors in St Albans.

Both Jamie and Rachel had earned their first call-ups to the squad a number of years ahead of schedule, and following in their footsteps, in September goalkeeper Matthew Joss was picked for the Midlands U16 side for an inter-district tournament at the age of just 12!



After impressing the selectors during trials, also making the Midlands U16 girls squad for interdistrict fixtures were Hannah Alijani and Shona Campbell (both F4) and Corrie Hay and Isla McRobbie (both F3). Heidi Sampson (F5) and Mhairi Millar (F6) won places in the U18 squad.

Away from dry land, Tom Mitchell and Anna Sturrock continue to make waves in sailing.

Tom, F1, finished as 2nd boy in the Topper class at the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Home Countries Youth Zone Championships at Largs, receiving his silver medal from Charlotte Dobson and Luke Patience of the GB Rio Olympic Sailing Squad who had flown north to attend the event.

Performances like these have won Tom a place in the 2016/17 Scottish Topper Development Team.

Anna, meanwhile, signed off on her Laser class career by finishing as 1st youth girl in her final event, a UK competition at South Shields.

The F5 pupil has switched to two-person boat sailing with instant success, winning a place in the Scottish squad for the 29er vessel by virtue of finishing as second all-girls' boat, with helm Bella Fellows, at the national qualification event at Rutland.

100% record nets footballers league title

The High School of Dundee football team have well and truly met their goals after netting a league title in spectacular fashion!

In February, with a game to spare, the School's U18 squad were crowned the winners of the SISFA (Scottish Independent Schools Football Association) Northern Region league, courtesy of a perfect record of six wins from their opening six matches of the campaign. As a consequence, the boys had also already qualified for the subsequent national knock-out stages, giving them the chance to compete for the overall Scottish title.

As if this wasn't enough, the team's 100% start was achieved with a goal difference of +35, and a healthy squad rotation policy which saw a total of 28 players, from F3 through to F6, receive game time.

Perhaps just as impressively though, with their opening win coming in a match in which they had found themselves a goal down after one minute, and 3-1 down at half-time, the boys demonstrated an ability to mix admirable resolve and determination with their undoubted talent.

Adam Kerr, Head of Art, who coaches the team alongside Scott McBride, Head of Computing, said, "This is the first

time the School has played in the SISFA league for almost a decade and we are really proud of the way the boys have risen to the challenge.

"I'm particularly pleased that the boys have shown an ability to adapt to different systems and changes of personnel from one match to the next. It says a lot about the inclusive nature of the team, the sense of parity within the squad and the boys' willingness to learn.

"We're now looking forwards to the quarter-final of the cup competition, and we'll continue working hard to prepare for that."



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