



## Did you hear the pupils sing?

**High School of Dundee pupils wowed audiences at the Gardyne Theatre with their production of one of the world's most famous and inspiring pieces of musical theatre.**

The School's five performances of Les Misérables in June drew widespread acclaim and praise, with Rector Dr John Halliday describing it as the best school musical he had seen in his 30 years as a schoolteacher!

Well over 100 pupils were involved in the production and with 60 on stage it was one of the largest casts ever to perform in a High School show. The performances told - in colourful and rousing fashion

- the inspiring story of peasant Jean Valjean's 30-year quest for redemption following 19 years of imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread, and his attempts to evade police Inspector Javert who relentlessly attempts to track him down for breaking parole.

Les Misérables, which has been seen by more than 70 million people in 44 countries and played in 22 languages around the world, recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, making it the world's longest running musical.

Head of Drama, Lindsay Drummond, said, "Les Misérables is the big one and anyone who produces shows would love

to be able to have the opportunity to do it, so I have been very lucky.

"But it is scary and you feel a huge sense of responsibility not to mess it up, to do it justice and to make the cast, crew and orchestra proud of their achievement.

"Luckily we were absolutely blessed with an amazingly talented and focussed group of pupils who felt the same way and who put every ounce of energy into the five sold-out performances. They adored the musical and it was the icing on the cake to get standing ovations from the audience at each show."



**High School gives warm welcome to renowned rascal!**  
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**Comic Book characters converge on the School**  
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**Sporting achievements celebrated**  
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## Rector's introduction

As I write, the new school session has just started in a blaze of late summer sun – along with record-breaking Higher results! The 96% pass-rate our F5 cohort achieved is 19% above the national figure and with 63% of those passes A grades, our pupils have clearly worked particularly hard. Congratulations to all our pupils on the fruits of their labours. It is always wonderful to see the school filling up again with the buzz of over 1,050 pupils and 200 staff. Over the holidays the usual round of repairs and maintenance has been going on to ensure the school is in fine fettle for the demands of the new year. In this edition of the Pillars we remind ourselves of so many highlights from the past session. The memorable performances of Les Misérables will live long in our minds, but creativity, imagination and energy pour out of every page of this edition of The Pillars. Nothing stands still, however. Our plans for the Centre for Performing and Visual Arts continue to evolve, and our Nursery is expected to have received Partner Provide status with Dundee City Council by the time you read this. It is an exciting time so good luck to all for the year!

Dr John D Halliday Rector

## Green light for flagship arts centre plans

**The High School has been given the green light to press ahead with the next stage of its plans to create a flagship, £16m arts centre.**

The School has now received planning permission from Dundee City Council for its proposals to transform the city's former Head Post Office on Meadowside into a landmark centre of excellence for performing and visual arts.

The project will see the iconic building, which dates from 1898, sensitively enhanced and developed to provide first-class learning and teaching facilities for Art, Drama, Music and Culinary Arts, as well as new dining and catering spaces and further administrative and social spaces for pupils and staff. Standout features in the designs include a 300+ seat auditorium, a range of drama and music technical and performance spaces, a recording studio, and a roof terrace which can also be used as an outdoor classroom.

Also available for wider community use and for conferences, the centre and its cutting-edge facilities will provide the

School with a unique and innovative arts resource which is second to none among UK schools.

The Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, is delighted that the ambitious plans by renowned architects Page\Park have been approved.

He said, "The transformative impact of the creative arts on lives is well documented and this building will enable us to realise the dream of widening and deepening access to music, drama and art & design."

The project will now enter a final detailed design phase which will be

followed by pre-construction reports and then ultimately a tendering process for the construction work itself. Meanwhile a five-year fundraising campaign is already under way. To find out more about the campaign, or if you would like to donate, please contact the School's Office of Development at the High School of Dundee, Euclid Crescent, Dundee, DD1 1HU. Tel: 01382 202 921.

E-mail: [development@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:development@highschoolofdundee.org.uk).

You can read more on this story and find out what other local organisations think of the project, at: <http://goo.gl/Qb8z40>



## Integrated Curriculum

### High School gives warm welcome to renowned rascal!

**The High School of Dundee was delighted to be able to give a known troublemaker a home for the summer holidays!**

Standing, or rather sitting, on proud display in front of the main school gates throughout July and August was a giant Oor Wullie statue which the School sponsored as part of Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, a public extravaganza which aimed to help the Archie Foundation raise money for a new children's theatre suite at Ninewells Hospital.

The biggest mass participation art event ever to take place in Tayside, it saw 55 individually-decorated sculptures go on display in the streets of Dundee and beyond to form an enchanting visitor trail.

And, sporting a unique outfit which was designed by the winners of a competition to determine the look of the statue (L7 pupils Rebecca Hamilton, Jennifer Bonnyman and Evie Campbell), and brought to life by F6 pupils studying Advanced Higher Art, the School's very own wee rascal took his place in the line-up.

The Bucket Trail was organised by the Archie Foundation, DC Thomson and Wild in Art to coincide with and celebrate the famous comic character's 80th birthday.

But with Wullie having surely built up more than just the odd detention over the course of his eight decades of mischief making, it seems only right that his summer holidays were spent sitting

in full view of the school! He was seldom on his own for long though as people flocked to his side on a daily basis to have their photo taken with him.



Like the other 'Wullies', after ten weeks the School's statue was to be auctioned off to help the Archie Foundation's Tayside Appeal raise £2m to create a new twin paediatric operating theatre suite for the Tayside Children's Hospital at Ninewells. Miniature renditions of the 55 full size sculptures also went on display at locations across Dundee, with the taster version of the High School's statue having been housed at the Central Library.

The Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, was delighted that the School had been able to support the Bucket Trail.

He said, "We were thrilled to sponsor one of the iconic Oor Wullie sculptures and to play a part in an event which sought both to showcase the wealth of creative talent in the local area and raise money for such a worthy cause."

You can find out more about the Bucket Trail at [www.oorwulliebuckettrail.com](http://www.oorwulliebuckettrail.com) and the Archie Foundation at [www.Archiefoundationhome.org.uk](http://www.Archiefoundationhome.org.uk)





# Prize-giving 2016



The School celebrated the end of another busy academic year with its traditional prize-giving ceremony at the Caird Hall.

At the annual event, members of the departing F6 cohort received leavers

awards as they bade their official farewells to the School, while guest speaker, former pupil and now a partner with the City law firm Logos, Ann Schmidt, presented pupils from L4 upwards with prizes in recognition of their hard work and achievements in a range of subjects.

Speaking to the audience of pupils, parents, family members and friends, the Rector ran through some of the many highlights of 2015/16.

These had included an Education Scotland inspection report which strongly endorsed the School’s ability to ensure continued improvement in the quality of its education, and recognised the quality of its nursery at Mayfield; fundraising which had generated £37k for charity; the acclaimed production of Les Misérables; and the School’s continued commitment to further developing its curriculum, as shown by the appointment of its first teacher of Mandarin.

Dr Halliday also spoke of the excitement within the School about the plans for the redevelopment of Dundee’s former Head Post Office into a Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts, which have now received planning permission; and the huge number of exciting classroom activities, trips, events and accomplishments across various fields which had taken place this session.

He said, “We are educating our pupils for change, and to have the values which will enable them to have the flexibility to cope with it.”

In addition, Dr Halliday also paid special tribute to departing staff members.

After sharing some anecdotes of her own time at the School, Ann Schmidt, said, “It’s only now that I have two young children myself, that I recognise how unique and special what you have in Dundee is. It’s a veritable launch pad for life.”

# Rare celestial event observed



The month of May saw High School pupils make the most of the chance to observe a rare celestial event.

Pupils throughout the Junior and Senior Years gathered on the Pillars to take it in turns to observe the solar system’s smallest planet, Mercury, move across the face of the sun, an event that only happens around 13 times a century.

With the help of Head of Physics Jamie Darby, and taking advantage of a telescope fitted with a filter to allow safe viewing, the youngsters were able to witness the planet – which is 3,032 miles in diameter but is 48 million miles from Earth – appear as a tiny black dot against the sun.

Jamie Darby said, “It was fantastic to see so many pupils taking advantage of the chance to witness this rare astronomical event, which was only visible for a window of a few hours.”

# School raises more than £37k for charity



The High School of Dundee raised a whopping £37,631.42 for charity in 2015/16!

The phenomenal figure was generated by pupils and staff in the course of a number of fundraising initiatives and events in the last academic year, ranging from enterprise events, the School’s annual Christmas Fair and a Comic Book Characters Day, to Edinburgh to London sponsored cycles, charity events organised by the School’s Interact club, and a school team completing the Etape Caledonia challenge.

Among the charities to benefit were Save the Children, Poppy Scotland, the Dundee Food Bank, Scottish Autism, the ARCHIE Foundation, Cancer Research, Children 1st, Marie Curie, CHAS, and the Blake McMillan Trust.

Claire Reid, teacher and Charities and Community Outreach Coordinator for

the School, said, “It is wonderful that our whole school community comes together throughout the year to take part in a variety of different events which benefit many charities.

“My thanks go to everyone who has had a part to play in fundraising this session.”

The Rector was delighted that the School had been able to raise such a significant sum, which is equivalent to each pupil generating more than £35.

He said, “Developing our role within the community is very important to us and it is a goal which we are keen to encourage even further among our pupils.

“I am delighted that the efforts of our pupils and staff, and all those who have supported their fundraising, has enabled the School to make such a remarkable donation to a variety of good causes.”

# Record-breaking SQA results

High School of Dundee pupils well and truly made the grade after recording some record-breaking SQA exam results.

Another outstanding set of results saw F5 pupils achieve a Higher pass rate of 96%, the best ever in the School’s history and, as with previous years, likely to be one of the highest in the country. In addition, 63% of those passes were A grades, another record for the School.

An impressive 63% of the year group passed 5 or more Highers, with more than a quarter (27%) achieving 5 A grades at Higher, and well over half (55%) gaining at least 3 As. Overall, F5 candidates secured an average of nearly 4.5 Higher passes each.

Meanwhile, F6 pupils achieved a superb pass rate of 93% at Advanced Higher level, with 55% of those passes graded A. With the percentage of 6th Year pupils at the School taking at least one Advanced Higher having grown steadily in recent years, 81% of this year’s cohort leave with at least one to their name.

F6 pupils are now set to reap the rewards of their hard work through places at top universities across Scotland, and beyond. As with the leavers of previous years, the class of 2016 are headed for many of the UK’s most respected universities, to study subjects including Law, Medicine, Maths, Engineering and a wide range of languages, sciences, business and arts subjects.

In this, the third year of results for the National 5 qualification, pupils in F4 demonstrated their academic abilities by achieving a pass rate of 96%, with almost two thirds (65%) of all papers graded A.

The Rector said, “It is hugely gratifying, both for myself and for the School’s hard-working teachers, to see our pupils rewarded for all their hard work with such an impressive set of results.

“Good exam grades are important for our young people, as part of their development as rounded citizens. We recognise achievement in all areas of school life, and today we congratulate them on their academic attainment.”



## Talented writer highly commended



In February, F6 pupil Ciara Mitchell was highly commended in one of Scotland’s most prestigious student literary competitions.

Ciara was one of only five pupils to receive such an accolade in the Scottish Schools’ Young Writer of the Year 2016 award, an annual contest which challenges 15 to 18-year-olds to write a non-fiction piece on a contemporary issue for a serious magazine or newspaper.

Having also earned her a spot on the final shortlist of eight for the title, Ciara’s entry – an essay on the responses to the November Paris terrorist attacks – was praised by the adjudicators as being ‘eloquent’ with ‘urgency and pace’.

Head of English, Jasmine Cortazzi, said, “Ciara richly deserves to be shortlisted for this prestigious title. Her piece takes an original angle on our response to the Paris attacks and is convincing in its argument, as well as revealing of her lively personality and spark.”

## Rebecca is Dundee Young Baker of the Year!

A High School of Dundee pupil has scone and won a prestigious baking title!



In June, Rebecca Stewart (F2), was crowned Dundee Young Baker of the Year at Dundee College after wowing the judges with a delicious offering of cheese and cranberry scones with clotted cream.

The youngster saw off competition from school pupils from throughout Tayside to ensure that a High School pupil won the coveted title for the second year in succession.

## Pupils earn multiple maths awards



A way with numbers has added up to multiple maths awards for pupils in the Senior Years.

Brian Lim (F4), Sid Sripada (F3), Alex Smith (F5), Ivan Kapelyukh (F5) and Ethan McColgan (F1) achieved gold certificates and Filip Jovanovic (F6) was awarded a silver certificate in the 2016 Scottish Mathematical Challenge, an annual contest open to S1-S6 pupils across Scotland.

Having shown their ability in a range of problem-solving tasks in two papers which they sat in their own free time, the youngsters, who took part in junior, senior or middle categories depending on their age, collected their awards at a prize-giving ceremony at St Andrews University in June.

Meanwhile, pupils in F1 and F2 were rewarded for their own numerical nous with gold, silver and bronze awards in the Junior Maths Challenge which they sat in class.

## Tennis trip takes pupils to SW19

A group of High School pupils enjoyed the tennis trip of a lifetime during the summer holidays.

35 F1 pupils travelled down to SW19 at the end of June to sample all the excitement which the sport’s most famous event could serve up.

After the customary early-morning queuing at the gates, with the advantage of Show Court tickets to their names, the youngsters made their way to Court 2 to watch the women’s number four seed Angelique Kerber defeat Carina Witthoeft, before returning to see Ekaterina Makarova knock out the two-time champion and number ten seed, Petra Kvitova.

Not even the odd rain delay could dampen the smashing experience, which was enhanced further by the traditional treat of strawberries and cream and rounded off in ace fashion with a visit to ‘Pro’s Corner’ for autographs and, thanks to the pupils’ hoodies, a fleeting appearance on TV!

PE teacher Jude McMullan, who organised the trip, said, “It was an unforgettable experience which was both fun and inspiring.”



## Nursery children show off their sporting talents

The threat of rain couldn’t cause High School of Dundee Nursery children to slip up in their quest for sporting fun!

Although an ominous weather forecast forced the annual Nursery Sports Day into the Mayfield Sports Hall, the eager youngsters couldn’t be deterred as they seized the chance to show off their enthusiasm, agility and energy in a series of friendly challenges.

Encouraged by the School’s PE staff, with whom the children have regular games sessions, and spurred on by the support of a large crowd of proud parents and grandparents, the sports stars of the future did themselves proud with whole-hearted efforts in hoop races, bean bag races, egg and spoon races and sprints.

Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said,



“We had a fantastic afternoon of fun sporting activity and it was wonderful to welcome so many family members along to cheer the children on.”

## Emily makes BBC national literary contest final



Emily Baxter, F2, discovered the power of the pen after her entry into a high profile literary contest propelled her into a grand final attended by royalty and celebrities!

Emily was one of 25 finalists in the age 10-13 section of BBC Radio 2’s 500 Words, a UK-wide children’s story-writing contest which this year attracted over 125,000 entries.

As a result, at the end of May the 13-year-old travelled down to the fitting location of the Globe Theatre in London to rub

shoulders with Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, well-known actors, and pop stars, as the final judgement was made during a gala event broadcast live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show.

The winning entries, as decided by a panel of the UK’s top children’s authors, were then read live on air by celebrities.

Emily sealed her place in the final of the annual contest, which challenges youngsters aged 5-13 to write a story on any subject in 500 words or fewer, with a thought-provoking, Suffragettes-inspired tale entitled ‘Equal Rights’.

She said, “I like to write but I hadn’t done a piece like this before. Hopefully it will give me confidence to try writing more, and also encourage other pupils to give it a go as well.”

You can read Emily’s story at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2G7pCTBt37s4fYW71R35s0Z/equal-rights>

## Setting the standard



The School’s Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is setting the standard according to an official Army inspection report.

In February the School received the final report on the findings of the biennial inspection of its CCF which took place last session.

In it, the Inspecting Officer, Lt Colonel Piers Strudwick, the commanding officer of 7 SCOTS, commented that “The High School of Dundee CCF sets the standard to which all ACFs (Army Cadet Forces) and CCFs should aspire.

“The development of Cadets is well planned and delivered, and safe. The structured personal development of cadets is clearly evident.

“I am most impressed by the fact that the CCF, including the Pipes and Drums, is led by the senior pupils. I witnessed 16 and 17-year-old pupils delivering lessons, encouraging younger pupils and supervising practical exercises.”

Lt Colonel Strudwick compiled his report after watching the group at close quarters as they took part in a range of activities and competitive disciplines.

## Diary of Events

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



# Pupils seize the day when in Rome



High School of Dundee pupils seized the day during an action-packed trip to the heart of Ancient Rome.

A group of 34 F2 and F3 pupils grabbed the chance to take in as many historic sights and soak up as much culture as they possibly could during a week-long Classics expedition to Rome and Sorrento in the Easter holidays.

When in Rome, the youngsters got a first-hand look at some of the wonders of famous civilisations when they visited the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Trevi Fountain, the Circus Maximus, St Peter's Basilica and the Pantheon.

Then, leaving the Eternal City behind, the pupils made their way south to observe the world-renowned sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Mount Vesuvius, and to visit Sorrento and the island of Capri.

You can read a full account of the trip at: [http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/senior/outside\\_the\\_classroom/school\\_trips](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/senior/outside_the_classroom/school_trips)

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award



The summer marked the end of another busy year for pupils involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In all, five Gold groups, six Silver groups and thirteen Bronze groups took part in a range of activities for the Award, culminating in practice, and then final, expeditions in locations including the Cairngorms and Great Glen, Loch Laggan, Braemar and Loch Tay.

Outdoor Activities Coordinator Gordon Ross, who leads the School's Award's activities, said, "It was a very successful expedition season with the Silver and Gold pupils enjoying particularly favourable weather but having to manage themselves in challenging midge conditions."

## Berlin brought to life

A visit to Berlin brought history to life for a group of Senior Years pupils.

A five-day trip to the German capital during the Easter holidays gave 36 F4-F6 pupils the chance to take in the scenes of some of the 20th century's most important events, covering Nazi Germany, the Cold War and much, much more.

Within a packed itinerary, the youngsters paid visits to the likes of Cecilienhof Palace - the location of the Potsdam Conference at which the leaders of the USSR, Britain and the USA met to negotiate the end to WWII -, the Jewish Museum of Berlin, the Berlin TV Tower, and the Olympic Stadium.

The pupils also glimpsed the full darkness of the Nazi regime when they stepped inside the villa at Wannsee at which the implementation of the so-called Final Solution was co-ordinated, visited the Plötzensee memorial on the site of the prison in which political opponents of the state were executed and made trips to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Topography of Terror museum.

In addition, the visitors were able to brush up on their knowledge of the Cold War period and the Berlin Wall by taking in the DDR Museum, the Berlin Wall Museum and Memorial at Bernauer



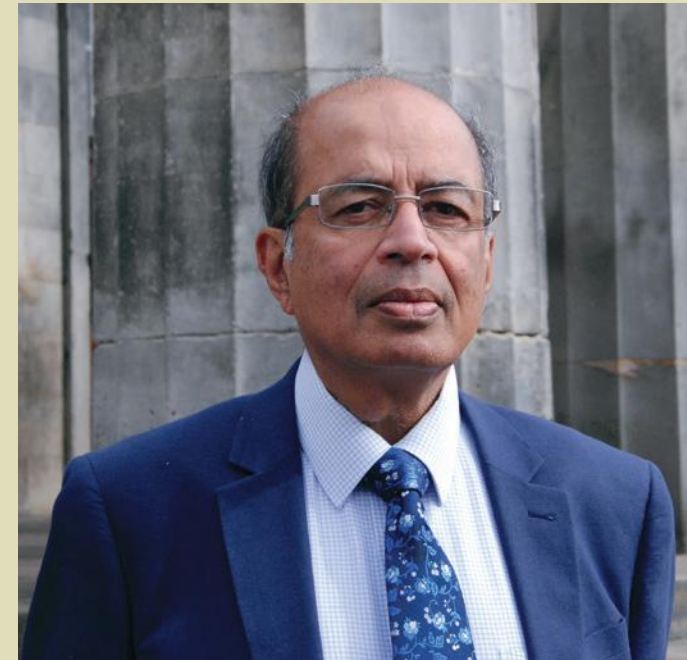
Strasse and Checkpoint Charlie.

And, summing up the pupils' capacity to absorb an abundance of historic sites, the penultimate day saw them embark on a central Berlin walking tour encompassing no less than the Reichstag, Hitler's WW2 Bunker, the Bebelplatz, the Jewish Holocaust memorial, Goering's Air Ministry and the Brandenburg Gate.

Head of History Gordon Fyall said, "Berlin is a quite extraordinary city with an extremely rich and varied history and although it has changed so much in recent years, the historical events of the 20th century remain visible on every corner.

"From the era of Bismarck to the Third Reich, from the Cold War to the reunification of Germany, the trip to Berlin offered a unique opportunity for our pupils to engage with the History that they have been studying."

# The Education Committee



In the last issue of the Pillars, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Iain Bett, provided a general overview of the function and composition of the Board, with a view to expanding upon this in subsequent editions by looking at the workings of the various committees. The Education Committee seems an appropriate place to start.

The Committee, which meets once per term, is composed of Board members and senior members of staff. The staff members on the committee are the Rector, the Deputy Rector and Assistant Rector (Junior Years). The Committee Convener is Kish Srinivasan (pictured), an economics graduate who is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, who brings wide and varied educational and managerial experience to the role (he is an ex HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) of Education; he was the last Chairman of the Board at Dundee College and effected the merger of Dundee and Angus College on behalf of the Scottish Government.) The other Board members on the Committee are John Robertson, former Rector of Dollar Academy; Andy Lothian, Chief Executive of Insights and winner of the Scottish leg of the 2016 EY UK Entrepreneur of the Year awards; Maita Crowe, who, as the member nominated by the Parents Committee provides crucial input with her knowledge and understanding of current parent views; Iain Bett in his capacity as Chairman of the Board; and Mrs Alison Paterson, a former pupil and former parent who also sits on the school's Health and Safety Working Group.

In recent times the Committee has been concerned with a range of issues, with the most significant of these being the desire to incorporate the best elements of the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence into the School's academic provision, while adhering to the School's goals of providing pupils with the maximum choice in terms of subjects. Much consideration has also been given to the effects of the recent changes within the Scottish examination system, and the transitional arrangements both in terms of the demands on staff, and the School's preparedness in phasing in the new SQA qualifications.

Most recently the Committee, along with all Board members, has undergone appropriate training in relation to the Scottish Government's initiatives on the well-being of children and the Named Person scheme, thereby ensuring that the directors are aware of their responsibilities in relation to these new developments and are satisfied the School is well placed and fully prepared as and when the proposed changes come into effect.

Looking to the future, the members will be considering the proposed Centre of Excellence for Performing and Visual Arts and how this will enhance the educational experience for the pupils as well as the opportunities that will be created from the inclusion of the catering facility and the provision of social areas for pupils.

The broad purpose of the Committee is twofold. First, it oversees all aspects of the pupil experience to ensure they receive the highest quality of service and support that the School can provide. Second, it supports and helps the senior management team and staff to deliver the School's Integrated Curriculum, which provides the basis for academic excellence, co-curriculum activity, and guidance.

In order to achieve this the Committee performs a number of functions. It maintains a strong awareness and appreciation of developments in Scottish and UK education which impact on what the School does. While the School enjoys the freedom of independent status, the Committee must ensure that Scottish Government educational priorities and imperatives are fully considered, and that, through regular contact with schools in both the independent and state sectors, best practice across Scotland and the UK is identified and adopted where this will provide clear benefits.

Each year the Committee reviews and approves the Whole School Improvement Plan that covers all stages from Nursery to Form 6, and underpins all pupil-related issues. The plan, which sets out priorities for a range of key areas including the curriculum, pupil welfare, co-curricular provision, activities and achievements for pupils, is monitored by the Committee at each of their meetings to ensure the various developments are being progressed.

A representative from the Committee is also invited to participate in the appointment of senior academic staff. And, to ensure the Committee is up to speed on what is happening on campus, the Rector provides detailed reports on school life. Furthermore, members of the academic staff are invited to give presentations on specific topics including aspects of delivery of the curriculum, the co-curricular activities, child protection etc.



# Pupils hop on board Geobus for Earth Sciences journey

Pupils in F2 have been taken on a journey of environmental discovery by St Andrews University's Geobus.

The mobile unit, which takes staff from the University's Earth & Environmental Sciences department into secondary school classrooms across Scotland to enhance pupils' understanding of Earth Sciences, made a stop at the school in May to enable the whole year group to explore climate change and a range of other geological matters.

Taking part in a workshop on Scotland's tectonic progression through time, the pupils examined how movements in the Earth's plates have affected Scotland's geographical position in the past, before

being shown how to identify different rock types, analyse tree rings and then link their findings to the climate over time.

Dr James Rae, lecturer in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at St Andrews University, said, "The workshop was about getting pupils to think about climate change and the different processes that can affect the climate.

"The changes we are currently seeing are happening at a much faster rate than during any geological time scale in the past and they are having a big impact on the climate of the planet and the species that live on it."



# Keynote event sees piano playing take centre stage



Piano playing pupils in the Senior Years have staged a true keynote event!

To showcase their love of piano playing, in March more than 60 pupils from F1 to F6 took part in the School's 11th annual Piano Day, a celebration offering the youngsters the chance to take centre stage and perform on the School's grand piano in front of an audience in Trinity Hall.

Featuring a real mixture of styles and a range of abilities, the event included a series of informal, individual

# Singing success continues!



A talented singer has become the third High School of Dundee pupil to win a

prestigious musical competition in the last four years.

In April, Alex Fish (F2) was crowned the winner of the 2016 boys Gold Leng Medal contest after seeing off the challenges of six other competitors, including fellow High School pupils Ruairidh Cowieson (F3) and Ryan Kilburn (L7), at Bell Street Music Centre.

The Gold event is open to all those who have, in the current year or previously, won medals in the 'silver' competitions which are held annually at each school in Dundee and the immediate surrounding areas for pupils from Primary 7 up to 4th year of Secondary.

Alex, who had taken part in the contest twice before, struck Gold this year with his impressive rendition of the Skye Boat Song.

Five High School pupils also took part in the girls gold competition: Abhisri Chaudhuri (F4), Hannah Cowieson (F4), Charlotte Jennings (F4), Lucie Kelly (F4) and Emily McLean (F3).

performances during the day, followed by an impressive recital concert in the evening in front of parents, staff and fellow pupils.

Piano teachers Stephen Armstrong and Avril Evans organised the event. Stephen said, "The day is designed to celebrate the piano and our young pianists who dedicate their time to piano playing. "The day was a great success culminating in an evening recital full of excitement, emotion and great music all written for this incredible instrument!"

# Pupils' career plans take flight



March saw pupils in F5 and F6 look to take care of their own future careers with the help of a high flying doctor.

Dr Brodie Paterson, Flight Physician with East Anglian Air Ambulance and Emergency Medicine Consultant with NHS Tayside, was guest speaker as around 60 pupils gathered for the School's Futures Breakfast, an annual event which allows the youngsters to meet people working in careers and professions in which they are interested.

As well as offering the pupils a fascinating insight into his own challenging work, both manning emergency helicopter missions and working in the A&E departments of hospitals, Dr Paterson shared his own advice about how to approach career decisions, emphasising the importance of making your own luck and making the most of your opportunities.

He was joined by around 30 professionals from lines of work ranging from Law, Business and Engineering to Journalism, Medicine and IT, who were also present to share their experience, offer advice and answer questions.

Teacher of Business Education Neil Higgins, said, "The aim of the event is to try to give the pupils genuine insight into the sorts of careers they are considering so that they are equipped to shape their own futures.

"The event is always organised by a committee of pupils. This year we really worked on broadening its appeal so that it is not seen as just a business breakfast, but rather a careers breakfast offering pupils the chance to meet people in the various lines of work they are interested in, develop links and potentially even organise work experience."

# Logan hits the target in national careers contest

Logan Thomson, F5, hit the bullseye in a contest aimed at identifying the brightest and most "work ready" 16-18-year-olds from across the UK.

Logan claimed the runner-up spot in the BT TARGETcareers School Leavers Challenge, a competition which began with over 1700 entrants attempting to rank as high as possible on regional leaderboards by completing two 'strengths'-based online assessments.

Having earned himself second place in the Scottish list, Logan won through to the grand final at the BT Tower in London in March, where he joined the top ten pupils from each of the ten regions to take part in a number of assessment centre-style challenges. The finalists also had the chance to gain experience of the typical exercises used by employers when selecting candidates, to learn about the school leaver and apprenticeship programmes on offer from the competition's partnering employers, to network with those companies, and to gain expert career advice.



Demonstrating possession of the kind of attributes which recruiters are on the lookout for, Logan sealed second place, and with it the prize of getting to spend a day in August networking, CV building and finding out more about areas of work in which he's interested at BT's state-of-the-art global research and development headquarters near Ipswich.

Logan was joined at the grand final by fellow High School pupils Hattie Wood (F6), who topped the Scottish qualification leaderboard, and Megan Ross (also F6).

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## Cadets put through their paces at Penally

**Members of the CCF ended their school year with a busy summer camp.**

29 pupils in F2-F4 travelled down to Penally in Pembrokeshire for the annual event which involved activities including raft building, kayaking and indoor rock climbing, as well as a number of military exercises.

A highlight of the camp saw three of the pupils receive awards for full bore shooting at distances of up to 200m - marksman, Sam Strachan (F4); 1st class, Josh Small (F4); 1st class, Jamie MacMillan (F3).

Contingent Adjutant, Captain Graham Rodger, said, "It was a very successful camp. The cadets enjoyed taking part in all of the activities and they performed really well in them too."



## Sixth Formers embrace Burns Night traditions

**The very best in Scottish tradition was on display as pupils in F5 and F6 celebrated Robert Burns.**

Around 100 tartan-clad Sixth Formers joined together in the suitably glamorised School Dining Hall, for a Burns Supper to remember, complete with pupil performances of some of the pieces which earned the national bard his fame.

All the elements of the most famous of Scottish celebrations were in place, including the ceremonial piping in of, and address to, the haggis; a 'Toast to the Lassies'; renditions of 'The Immortal Memory', 'Tam O'Shanter' and a collection of traditional Burns songs; and the coming together of the guests for the curtain-closing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

The School's Chamber Orchestra provided a selection of Scottish music which Burns himself would have been proud to hear, while a ceilidh to live music ensured that the fleet-footed youngsters had the opportunity to jig and reel to their hearts' content.

Meanwhile, discussions on the background and life of the man himself gave the pupils the chance to reflect on his legacy.

Head of English Jasmine Cortazzi, who organised the event, said, "The Burns Supper was a great success and we look forward to the next one with glee!"

## Ecuadorian adventure takes pupils on journey of discovery



**Intrepid High School of Dundee pupils travelled to South America for the adventure of a lifetime during the summer holidays.**

In June, a party of thirteen youngsters and three staff embarked on a 33-day stay in Ecuador involving volunteering, trekking, amazing cultural experiences and unforgettable encounters with a whole host of exotic wildlife.

Among the many highlights of the trip were a journey into the Amazon rain forest to, among other things, experience the Yasuni National Park and fish for piranha; a trek to the summit

of the Quilotoa Crater; visits to a butterfly farm, a cocoa farm, and the capital Quito; the chance to help construct an orchard garden as part of their volunteer work; and activities which included white-water rafting, surfing and snorkelling.

But the memory that will perhaps live longest in the memory for the young explorers was of their visit to the awe-inspiring wonder that is the Galapagos Islands, where they had the chance to witness reef sharks, giant tortoises, iguanas and various bird species in their own stunning natural environments.

Tripleader, Outdoor Activities Coordinator, Gordon Ross, said, "Ecuador was a wonderful country.

"The various geographical regions provided incredible biodiversity and we gained new experiences throughout as we immersed ourselves in one climate before moving onto the next. The people were incredibly friendly and their rich cultural heritage was fascinating.

"The pupils all had their favourite experiences but they particularly enjoyed white-water rafting in the rainforest and swimming in the sea with sea turtles and other spectacular creatures. They all gained valuable life skills as well as memories to treasure for many years to come."

## California Dreamin'



**A group of High School pupils had no need for California Dreamin' over the summer – they were enjoying the real thing!**

35 pupils from F4-F6, soaked up the sights and sounds of the Golden State as part of a cultural and educational trip focusing on the arts, computing science and technology.

The youngsters had the chance to explore the origins of, and future developments in, ICT with a visit to Silicon Valley, home to everything and anything related to the world of technology, including the Computer History Museum, Intel Museum and Googleplex.

In addition, they found out about

the use of technology and design in film-making through a tour of Warner Brothers studios, and action-packed visits to Universal Studios and Sony Pictures.

With the trip taking place in early July, while staying at the University of California's Santa Barbara campus, the pupils also enjoyed the chance to experience Independence Day celebrations on US soil, culminating in a memorable and spectacular 4th of July fireworks display at the waterfront.

And of course no trip to the famous state would be complete without taking in iconic attractions like Alcatraz, NASA's Ames Research Centre, LA's Griffith Observatory, Venice Beach and the Hollywood sign.

Head of Computing, Scott McBride - one of four teachers to accompany the pupils - said, "They had a superb time with lots of great memories to take home."

## Ciara set for World Championships as School makes its mark in debating

**The end of the school year didn't mark the end of the debating season for Ciara Mitchell.**

Impressive competition results and performances in trials throughout the previous 12 months earned the F6 pupil re-selection as a member of Team Scotland for the World Schools Debating Championship which took place in Stuttgart in July.

Having also participated in last year's event in Singapore, she headed for Germany as part of a five-strong squad which lined up against 55 nations from across the globe to debate a range of social, moral and political issues.

Ciara was part of a High School debating team which well and truly made its mark in 2015/16, in Scotland and beyond.

Victory in the Edinburgh University schools debating competition, combined with earlier wins at the West Coast Worlds event and the Glasgow University Union and St Andrews University debating contests, meant the School ended the season with more trophies than any other Scottish school.

Equally as impressive, if not more so, were the School's talented debaters' performances at a number of UK-wide tournaments run by English universities. In Durham, Ciara and Ivan Kapelyukh (F5) came 5th out of 92 teams. Meanwhile at the annual Oxford competition, which attracts an initial entry of around 1,000 teams, from which 100 qualify for the Finals Day at the world-famous Oxford Union, the same duo finished in second



place, losing out on being crowned UK champions only by virtue of a split decision in the final debate among the four top teams!

High School senior debating coach Irene McGrath, said, "These are deserved rewards for a huge amount of work on the part of the pupils over several years, reading, researching, learning how to build cases and keeping abreast of current affairs."



## STOP PRESS! There's one more Oor Wullie!



**Thanks to children at the High School of Dundee Nursery, there was one more Oor Wullie in Dundee over the summer!**

After going out on a number of trips to find as many of the 55 sculptures which make up Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail (see page 3) as they could, pupils at the nursery decided to create their own wee rascal.

With the help of staff, the youngsters built their own papier mâché homage to the renowned rogue, which went on proud display within the Mayfield building, surrounded by multiple Oor Wullie selfies.

Lisa Yule, Deputy Manager at the Nursery, said, "We have been doing an Oor Wullie and Dundee project over the summer weeks, getting out as much as possible to find as many Wullies as we could manage, and at the same time finding out about the areas where they are located.

"The children have loved taking part in the Bucket Trail. They have been taking selfies with the Nursery Wullie when they arrive in the morning and leave each night, and we've asked parents to bring in pictures of the pupils with the other Wullies which they have been finding in their own time, as well as with the Nursery."

## New ideas and new opportunities



**New ideas and new opportunities were offered to Senior Years pupils as part of an inspiring year-ending event.**

There was no gradual wind down of the summer term for pupils in F4-F6 as their imaginations were given the chance to take flight through a series of stimulating activities and horizon-broadening lectures which make up the School's annual Post Exam Programme.

This year's event, which, as with previous years aimed to inspire creativity beyond the exam-focused curriculum, saw the pupils learn about Exoplanets and the search for extra-terrestrial life (Dr Duncan Forgan, St Andrews University), and explore how digital technologies can help and hinder us as we go through life (Dr Wendy Moncur, Dundee University).

Through Roger Illsley, former Deputy Head of Senior School, they found out about the life and times of a former Dundee A-list celebrity whose remains have languished in an unmarked grave less than 200 metres from the School for over 200 years. And via Yannick Veilleux-Lepage, PhD candidate,

St Andrews University, (pictured above), they learned about the history of terrorism and some of the common myths surrounding the subject.

Away from the lecture series, the pupils took part in a range of engaging activities such as geocaching, i-Pad orienteering, meditation, mathematical murder mysteries and even an examination of how medicine started and developed in the classical world.

They also had the opportunity to undertake voluntary work for charities, participate in Personal Effectiveness seminars and, during a residential trip to Lendrick Muir, work on their leadership and teamwork skills.

High School of Dundee Rector, Dr John Halliday, said, "The Post Exam Programme allows our pupils to step outside the bounds of the exam-focused curriculum to discover new interests and ways of thinking and develop further attributes like their social awareness, creativity and teamwork."

## German spectacle has audience on their feet



**Visitors to Trinity Hall were sure of a big surprise when F3 pupils took to the stage to present a class project!**

Towards the end of the summer term, pupils in the year group who are studying German performed a high-energy, uplifting German language version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears for fellow pupils and staff.

Led by Modern Languages teacher John Nolan, who has had a number of German language fairy tale plays published, the youngsters brought the famous story to life with engaging action and a series of uproarious songs which, by the end, had the audience on their feet and joining in.

## Special celebration for Nursery children

**Children at the Nursery marked the end of their pre-school days with a special celebration!**

To wish them well as they prepare to move on to the Junior Years and other schools across Dundee after the summer holidays, a Garden Party was organised in which the pupils sang a series of songs for proud parents and family members.

The youngsters, who were joined at the event by children in the ante pre-school year, were also presented with their very own nursery lions to keep, before having the chance to enjoy a piece of celebratory cake.



## Spring Concert



**Stirring music from the silver screen was brought to the stage of the Caird Hall for the School's Spring Concert.**

Talented musicians from across the Junior and Senior Years joined together in the School's various bands, ensembles and choirs to perform a range of cinematic compositions for the annual event.

An eclectic programme included renditions of songs such as Bohemian Rhapsody from Wayne's World and O Happy Day from Sister Act 2, as

well as music from the James Bond film series, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Oliver!, and The Mission. An extract from Mozart's Requiem, as memorably featured in the film Amadeus, was performed with aplomb, along with film music from the silent era and the Golden Age of Hollywood.

And the full force of the youngsters' combined talents was in evidence as they brought the proceedings to a dramatic conclusion with a suite of music from Star Wars!



# 500 mile cycle no problem for Josh!



F5 pupil Josh Rawcliffe cycled almost 500 miles in just five days to raise over £1400 for a cause that’s close to his heart.

In May, Josh set the wheels turning on a sponsored bike ride from Edinburgh to London to generate cash for Dundee Disabled Children’s Association (DCCA).

He was inspired to take on the fundraising challenge after spending time volunteering with the charity over the course of the previous nine months and, such was his enthusiasm, he actually completed the journey a day ahead of schedule!

Josh, who was accompanied for part of the way by his dad and his brother, fellow High School pupil, Matthew (F3), said, “The DDCA is an incredible local charity giving care, support and fun to loads of children and young people with various needs.

“I get to see first-hand what they do and how important it is to so many people and their families so I wanted to make my own contribution to this organisation, which is run almost solely by donation.”



## St Anza poets visit High School

The High School was alive with couplets, refrains and rhyme when the inspirational buzz of the StAnza Poetry Festival reached pupils in F2.

Poets Ellen McAteer and Rebecca Sharp took time out from appearing at the annual St Andrews event to share some of their work with the youngsters and talk about the projects which they have been involved with.

Ellen, who lectures on the Creative Writing Masters programme at Oxford University, performed one of her songs and read a number of her poems,

reflecting on the inspiration behind her work.

Rebecca meanwhile, who featured on the Saltire 2014 list for being one of Scotland’s most outstanding women in her contributions to Scottish culture and society, also read some of her poems and talked about her background and a selection of exciting projects she had worked on.

Head of English Jasmine Cortazzi said, “This was a fabulous chance for our pupils to hear, meet and enjoy real artists at work.”

## Dragons’ Glen team gets busy for Children 1st



A group of F6 pupils demonstrated impressive inventiveness to raise over £1000 for Children 1st.

The eight-strong team ‘EvoLve’ came together to take on the charity’s Dragons’ Glen challenge, an annual competition

which sees businesses from all over Scotland attempt to turn an initial £500 investment into £5000 or more, making use of help and advice from some of Scotland’s leading business figures who act as the ‘dragons’.

After their initial plans to sell iPad covers were scuppered by suppliers letting the team down, the pupils showed they possessed the essential business skills of flexibility and determination by staging a series of successful smaller fundraising ventures, including selling mugs, offering Valentine’s Day gift bags hand delivered by Cupid, and selling lucky dip Mother’s Day cards.

# Junior Years

## Roaring trade for Fairtrade!



In March, a group of Junior Years pupils did a roaring trade on behalf of Fairtrade!

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, and to raise awareness of the movement and what it stands for, pupils in the L7 Enterprise Group held a tuck shop every day before school and during morning break.

Selling only Fairtrade products and muffins made by the Health and Food Technology Department, the pop-up venture proved a big hit with children throughout the School.

Profits from the sales were donated to the World Wide Fund for Nature.

## L5 pupils visit Bannockburn

One of the defining moments in Scottish history came to life for some Junior Years children in May.

Patriotic pupils in L5 had the chance to step into the shoes of Robert the Bruce and learn all about one of his and Scotland’s most famous, and bloodiest, clashes when they travelled to the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre.

During their visit, which was part of their Scottish Wars of Independence topic, the youngsters were able to see examples of the weaponry which was used in the battle, find out about the tactics which both sides employed and discover more about some of the key characters who were involved.

The highlight saw the pupils pitched into an interactive 3D recreation of the battle which not only allowed them to follow or recreate the actual events that transpired, but also gave them the dubious option of changing the outcome!





# Pupils get their hands on prized trophy



Pupils Angus Ledlie (L5) and Alastair Baptie (L6) made sure they employed careful handling skills when they were passed a famous rugby title!

The Guinness Pro 12 trophy made a flying stop-off at the High School in May, giving the youngsters the chance to try lifting one of the sport’s most sought-after prizes.



# Comic Book characters converge on the High School!

Fear was in the eyes of Junior Years teachers when they were confronted by not just one but countless notorious notables!

Renowned rascals like Minnie the Minx and Dennis the Menace were represented in a special Comic Book Character Day in which children from across the entire Junior School made donations to the ARCHIE Foundation in order to dress up in the flamboyant fashion of their favourite fictional figures.

However, with a team of superheroes like Batman, Superman, Wonderwoman and even Bananaman also on hand and ready to maintain order, thankfully, any fears were unfounded!

Claire Reid, teacher and Charities and Community Outreach Coordinator for the School, said, “The pupils thoroughly entered into the spirit of the event and enjoyed wearing their costumes. We had lots of fun whilst raising money for a very worthwhile cause.”

# Budding entrepreneurs earn return of 2,607%!



A team of L6 pupils were able to make bumper donations to two charities, thanks to a rather impressive entrepreneurial feat.

After being tasked with starting a business with just £5 each, the eight members of the L6 Young Enterprise team were able to turn their combined £40 into an amazing total of £1083.72 – an incredible 2,607% return on investment!

The thrifty youngsters had to demonstrate a number of key business

skills as they produced, marketed and sold products ranging from scented candles, handmade cards and character bookmarks to sunflower kits, flavoured jellies and tissue holders, as part of their ‘Building on a Fiver’ challenge.

Following the end of the project, which ran throughout the spring term, the pupils were delighted to hand over cheques for more than £540 to both Crisis UK and the British Red Cross.

# Megan maintains family’s musical name

L7 pupil Megan Cant made a name for herself, and kept the family name going, in a musical competition!

Megan won joint first place in the Scottish Solos U12 section of the annual Arbroath Musical Festival with her impressive rendition of ‘Flow Gently Sweet Afton’.

As well as being a worthy achievement in its own right, Megan’s accomplishment matched a victory in the same contest by her Aunt some years ago, ensuring that there are now not one but two Cant names on the trophy!



She received further recognition for her talents when, after earning first place and an Honours mark in the Light Popular Musical Solo U12 category singing ‘Naughty’ from Annie, she was invited back to a packed Webster Theatre by the Singing Adjudicator to perform the piece again at the event finale.

And, to cap things off, having successfully auditioned for a spot in the National Girls Choir of Scotland Training Choir late last year, during the Easter holidays Megan was invited to attend a training week with the prestigious group which culminated in a concert in the Caird Hall in Dundee.

A delighted Megan said, “I enjoyed the experience of being given the opportunity to continue the Cant family tradition of singing at the Arbroath Musical Festival where my Dad, Grandad, Uncle and two other Aunts all had successes over the years.”

# Pupils lend a hand to hygiene campaign



The month of May saw children in the Junior Years backing a campaign which aimed to get people spreading a message, rather than bugs.

Pupils in L4 took part in the Infection Prevention Society’s (IPS) Hand Hygiene Torch Tour 2016, an event in which

a torch baton made its way around the UK and Ireland to help promote the importance of hand hygiene.

After receiving the baton from Pamela Davidson, coordinator of the Scottish branch of the IPS, the youngsters explored the importance of washing their hands and found out how germs are spread.

They then had the chance to test their own hand hygiene skills by using ‘glow and tell’ boxes which, by highlighting any ‘unwashed’ areas, exposed any flaws in their technique.

Pamela Davidson, who is also Lead Nurse in Infection Control & Management at NHS Tayside, said, “The Infection Prevention Society in conjunction with NHS Tayside was delighted to engage with the School to aid awareness of hand hygiene with pupils and staff as part of the national campaign.”

# Teambuilding adventure



A trip into the great outdoors enabled a group of Junior Years pupils to develop more than just their sense of adventure.

During a weekend-long stay at Dalguise in Perthshire in April, children in L6 had the chance to hone their teamworking skills as they took part in a series of exciting activities like zip-wire, raft building, canoeing, mountain biking, a sensory trail, abseiling and a vertigo-inducing vertical challenge!

L6 teacher Ruth Leburn said of the trip, which is annual event for children in L6, “It’s about giving the children the chance to challenge themselves as individuals but also to work together as team members.

“There was great camaraderie. The undoubted highlight for the pupils was being away with their friends.”



## Former Pupil news

### FP Reunion

Former pupils of all ages were welcomed back to relive their school days on Saturday 18 June at the annual FP Reunion!

We'd like to thank all our visiting alumni who returned to enjoy a morning welcome from the Rector and a tour of the school, topped off with a fish & chip lunch in the dining hall.

Next year's reunion will take place on Saturday 17 June – we hope to see you there!



### Eilish becomes two-time Olympian



Former pupil Eilish McColgan, class of 2008, became a two-time Olympian when she competed at this summer's Rio games!

Having overcome the effects of a broken ankle (which she sustained in 2015) in order to win her place in the Great Britain team, Eilish put in a fine performance to finish in thirteenth position in the women's 5000m final.

### Mark Beaumont returns to school as new Rector!



Spring was a busy time for former pupil Mark Beaumont, (class of 2001.)

January saw the record-breaking round-the-world cyclist and broadcaster elected unopposed as the new Rector of Dundee University.

And not long afterwards, he returned to the School to inspire current pupils to set off on an adventure of their own over the summer in the form of the Martin Currie Rob Roy Challenge, a Highland Perthshire charity fundraising event of which he is an ambassador.

### FP wins prestigious golf title!

Former pupil Ailsa Summers has been crowned the Scottish Women's Amateur Golf Champion.

Ailsa, class of 2011, won the title with a 2&1 victory over her former St Andrews University team-mate Gabrielle Macdonald at West Kilbride.



# Sport

## Sporting achievements celebrated



High School pupils have celebrated their sporting achievements with the help of a former pupil who has reached the very top of his own game.

To mark the deeds and efforts of pupils in F4-F6 in a range of sports over the course of the past 12 months, in April the PE department organised the School's first ever Sports Awards Dinner, with Scotland rugby player Richie Vernon the inspirational guest speaker.

Video portraits of the pupils nominated for each award, music and swirling lights added to the sense of occasion in Trinity Hall as prizes were handed out to players in the School's hockey, netball and rugby teams, as well as to pupils in recognition of an array of individual accomplishments.

Richie, who plays for Glasgow Warriors and has earned 24 caps for his country, passed on some words of wisdom

and reflected on his own sporting experiences at the School.

He said, "I feel really fortunate to have had the sporting experiences which I enjoyed at the School and it's fair to say that some of my fondest memories took place here.

"It's a real honour to be asked to come back to help recognise and celebrate the achievements of the pupils.

"I have always been very proud of the sporting heritage of the School and it's fantastic to see that it's continuing with such a number of talented pupils across a range of sports."

Head of PE and Games Ewan Jack said, "The Dinner was an excellent chance for the pupils to come together and celebrate individual success and also the team spirit, commitment and effort which they have collectively displayed over the past year."

### Dino nets Scotland cap and Premier League trials

A talented F3 footballer has scored himself him an international call-up and Premier League trials.

At the age of just 14, centre-back Dino Leddie was the youngest member of the U18 Scotland Independent Schools Football Association side which took on England at Stenhousemuir FC's Ochilview Stadium in May.

He was drafted into the squad for the annual fixture after impressing in two previous challenge matches with the Scotland team, as well as for his club side Fife Elite in the Scottish Pro Youth League.



But Dino, who will be playing at U17 level in season 2016-17, is hoping to score himself more than just the glory of representing his country as his career develops. The youngster also has the English Premier League in his sights after attending a successful trial with Sunderland FC earlier in the year.

"I was invited down to train with the U15 and U16 sides for three days," he said. "But I also got to train with the U18s too and in the end they asked me to come back for more trials and training in six months.

"It was a great experience and a fantastic opportunity as my ultimate goal is to play in the Premier League."



# Injury can't stop talented gymnast

**Sarah McKenzie, F3, was crowned Scottish Junior Floor Champion at the Scottish Gymnastics Championships which took place in Perth in February.**

As well as securing the floor title, Sarah, who was competing for DGC2K (Dundee Gymnastics Club 2K), also won the bronze medal in the overall junior category, based on her performances across four separate gymnastic disciplines.



PSG Photography

Sarah's achievements are all the more impressive as they come less than a year after she suffered a serious anterior cruciate ligament injury to her left knee which required surgery followed by extensive rehabilitation.

And the F3 pupil suffered a further setback for the Scottish championships themselves after hurting her right knee just days before the event. As well as necessitating another trip to A&E, the injury forced Sarah to fight through a genuine pain barrier to earn her overall bronze medal in the heats on the Saturday, as well as places in all four discipline finals for the Sunday.

Although the injury forced her out of the Vault and Asymmetric Bars finals, she was rewarded for her guts, determination and of course talent, with a well-deserved floor gold medal.

# Sports Day 2016



**Junior and Senior Years pupils came together for a cracking afternoon of athletic action at the School's annual Sports Day.**

A healthy crowd of enthusiastic parents, family members and friends of the School gathered at Mayfield to cheer the pupils on as they competed in a series of events, ranging from sprints, sack races, egg and spoon races and the long jump for the Junior Years, to the high jump, 1500m, tug of war and relay races for the Senior Years.

And those in attendance enjoyed the added bonus of being able to witness a trio of records being broken as new marks were set for Intermediate Girls Javelin (Isla Archibald; 17.89m), Junior Boys 4 x 100 relay (Lindores; 53.4 seconds) and Junior Girls 4 x 100 relay (Airlie; 57.1 seconds).

Head of PE and Games Ewan Jack said, "It was great to see so many people turning out to support the pupils. And it was fantastic to see pupils across the whole school having such fun and showing tremendous sportsmanship as they competed in the various events."

# Sandy makes motor racing history



**Sandy Mitchell's motor racing career continues to pick up speed after the 16-year-old became the youngest-ever driver to win a race in the British GT Championship.**

Competing for the Black Bull Ecurie Ecosse team in a McLaren 570S car, Sandy and his team-mate Ciaran

Haggerty secured their maiden victory in the championship with a thrilling performance at Snetterton in August.

The F4 pupil had already made motor racing history by becoming the youngest-ever driver to compete in British GT, when he made his debut at Brands Hatch in April.

He said, "I've got to thank the whole team, who have put in a huge effort throughout the season, and especially here, to put us in the position to get this win."

Both Sandy and Ciaran hold the prestigious SMRC Rising Star status and have come through the Ecurie Ecosse Young Driver Initiative which was launched last year

# Harry hits the heights to earn Scotland call-up



**A High School of Dundee pupil was called up to represent his country in his chosen sport over the summer after hitting the heights in more ways than one.**

For the second year in succession, 6ft 9in Harry Morrice was chosen to play for Scotland in the U16 European Basketball Championships, which took place in Sofia in August.

While Harry's height may be an obvious advantage in the sport, and makes him the tallest pupil at his school, his selection for the 12-strong squad came as a result of the impressive form he showed on the court for his club side Tayside Musketeers and in a series of trials for the national team.

Harry, who plays either centre or power forward, said, "I'm really pleased to have been picked again for the Scotland team for the tournament."

As impressive as Harry's height is, when he lined up against Scotland's opponents in the initial group phase – Ireland, Israel, Hungary, Macedonia and England – the 16-year-old was not actually one of the tallest players in action.

"There will be a number taking part who are 7ft plus," the 16-year-old explained before the tournament.

He added, "We are hoping to improve on our performances from last year. We are confident that we can but we'll just have to see how far we can go."

Having first represented his country at U12 level, Harry says his next goal is to earn a spot in the GB U18 side.

# Three titles for netball teams



**High School of Dundee netball teams have been celebrating after winning three titles in 2016!**

There was joy on a national level for the F2 girls who are now the reigning Scottish Schools Cup S2 Bronze champions after they defeated Gordonstoun 25-12 in the final at Ravenscraig in March.

The side came through three knockout rounds to reach the decider, beating teams from all over Scotland along the way.

And the girls of the L7 team can also be proud of themselves.

Not only did they win the Dundee District Primary Schools Netball Association's Director's Trophy, with an 11-2 win over Barnhill in the final, but they also successfully defended the Dundee District Primary Schools' Netball Association Summer League championship after beating St Joseph's 7-3 in the final at Ward Road Gym.

Following on from victories over Blackness and Craigowl in the group stages, their win in the decider meant the girls also achieved the impressive feat of ending the competition undefeated.

Junior Years teacher and coach Kirstin Reith said, "The girls should be really proud of their efforts. They put in some great performances throughout the season."

# Sporting briefs

**Anna Dalglish, F1, saw off competition from school and pony club riders from across Tayside, Fife and beyond to win the individual 85cm class at the Strathallan Schools Showjumping competition in March.**

**Two High School teams made up of Iain Wallace, Sam Marshall, Jamie Meade and Innes Chalmers, and Alex Mackintosh, Caitlin Jones, Freddie Wilson and Rory Forster won through to the Scottish Schools Curling Championships, which took place at Braehead in April.**

**Over Easter, three High School pupils were called up to Scottish hockey squads. At the age of just 14, Jamie Golden (F2) was part of the U16 boys side which competed against Ireland in a series of three matches at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow. Representing the U16 girls team at the same tournament, also as a 14-year-old, was goalkeeper Rachel Strachan (F3). And, completing the hat-trick of call-ups, Holly Duval (F4) travelled to Holland to take her place in a Scotland U16 development side which competed in an international tournament in The Hague.**

**Also in hockey, Corrie Hay, Isla McRobbie, Suzanne Stirling (all F2) and Annabel Dow (F1) were part of the Midland U14 hockey team which was undefeated in winning the Scottish Inter-District tournament at the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow in May.**

**Meanwhile, in rugby, Ewan Fox (F6) featured in both matches for the Scotland U19 development squad in a double-header with Japan National Schools in Edinburgh in March.**



# Success for sailing duo



**L7 pupil Tom Mitchell left older competitors trailing in his wake after sailing into action for his country.**

At the age of just 11, Tom was selected to represent Scotland at the 30th annual Eric Twinline Home Country Championships at Rutland Sailing Club, near Leicester.

Competing against sailors up to the age of 16 in his Topper class dinghy, the youngster did himself proud, achieving a position of 38th out of almost 100 boats in one of his races.

Tom, who had his first taste of sailing aged just five, had earned what was his first call-up to the national team with a strong performance at the qualifying regatta at Largs in December 2015 and impressive showings in a series of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) academies during the winter months.

Meanwhile, Anna Sturrock, F4, was beaming with pride after finishing fourth, and top Brit, in the U17 section of the Laser Radial Youth Girls Worlds at Dun Laoghaire near Dublin in July.

Anna qualified for the competition, and also earned a spot – as the youngest member – in the UK Laser Radial summer youth squad, after finishing as fourth youth girl, and sixth overall, at the Youth Nationals at Pwllheli in North Wales over Easter.

Not content with all of those achievements, she then headed to Torbay to compete at the 29er (sailing Skiff) Nationals with Bella Fellows from Plymouth, with the pair making gold fleet in what was their first-ever event together.

## Team HSD rides a wave of success at Scottish Schools Sailing Championships!

**High School pupils sailed their way to success at the Scottish Schools Brown Cup Championships at Loch Earn in June.**

The squad of Anna Sturrock (S4, Laser Radial class), Tom Mitchell (P7, Topper 5.3), and the brother and sister pairing of Ross (P7) and Eilean Mauritzen (S2) (RS Feva XL) proved they had plenty of wind in their sails as they fought off competition from over 60 boats, representing 11 schools, to seal the team silver medal.

Scoring consistent results throughout the course of the three-race event, the youngsters ran eventual winners Dunblane High School close, pushing competition favourites Lomond High School into third place in the process.

And there was further cause for celebration when Anna scooped the runner-up medal in the handicap category.

## Gold medal and Scottish record for High School swimmer

**Rory Grant, L7, powered his way to the ultimate achievement at the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships: a gold medal and a new Scottish record!**

At the event at Tollcross International Swimming Centre in Glasgow, Rory picked up the boys 12 & Under 50 metre backstroke title after setting a new Scottish Schools record time of 34.13.