

## Campaign for landmark arts centre goes public in spectacular style

**The High School of Dundee's campaign to create a world-class centre of excellence for performing and visual arts kicked off in spectacular style as the new school year got under way.**

To mark the launch of the most ambitious capital campaign ever embarked upon by a UK independent school, which aims to redevelop Dundee's prominent former Head Post Office into a flagship, multi-million-pound arts centre, the High School was transformed for an afternoon

into a carnival of colour, sound and celebration.

Waving flags, the School's 1025 Junior and Senior pupils were piped from the playground through a torch-lit processional display and across a glamorous red carpet to the adjacent Post Office building.

There the youngsters were given a tantalising glimpse of the inspiring future that lies ahead as they took part in a series of engaging activities and

demonstrations by the departments which will be housed in the redeveloped facility.

As they toured the various themed areas, the pupils attended musical and dramatic performances by their peers, and contributed to the creation of a giant commemorative artwork of the iconic school Pillars which will be displayed in the lobby of the new building.

The School rescued the former Head Post Office, which dates from 1898 and



*Continued on page 2*



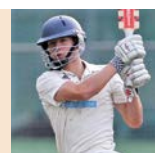
**High School kickstarts Lorraine Kelly's charity challenge**

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## Campaign for landmark arts centre goes public in spectacular style

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which had previously lain unused for a number of years, in 2013 and the plans for the redevelopment, by renowned architects Page\Park, are currently awaiting approval from Dundee City Council. The goal is to sensitively adapt and enhance the building to provide first-class learning and teaching facilities for Art, Drama, Music and Culinary Arts, as well as a main school auditorium, a new dining hall and further administrative and social spaces for pupils and staff. The centre will also be available for wider community use and for conferences.

During the event, flanked by torch-bearing pupils and joined by guests and dignitaries, the Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, gave a speech in which he outlined his vision for the exciting project.

He said, "Creativity lies at the heart of all excellent education. This once-in-a-century development ensures our pupils will be able to develop an intellectual spirit of adventure, a sense of initiative

and enterprise through learning and teaching in the performing and visual arts for generations to come. It is also a true privilege for our School community to participate in the preservation and renewal of a treasured Dundee landmark."

In combination with a gala dinner at the Palace of Westminster in June, which was attended by actor Richard Wilson OBE, the day's events marked the beginning of a five-year drive to raise funds for the campaign.

To find out more about the campaign and the project, or if you would like to donate to the campaign, 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@](mailto:development@highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

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



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## Rector's Introduction



Looking beyond the Pillars to the situation out there in the world – on the one hand the continued wonder at the ability of mankind to advance technologically and scientifically, our ability to heal and resolve, on the other dismay at mankind's ability to cause misery and destruction, it is somehow all the more important to share in and celebrate the joys, achievements and aspirations of our young people and colleagues. Once again the pages of this magazine reflect at least a proportion of what goes on here on a daily basis in this very special community. Whilst the former Post Office development has paused for breath as we await planning permission from Dundee City Council, creativity, imagination, initiative and enterprise are all alive and well. Our pupils inspire and affirm. The High School never seems to sleep! Enjoy the read!

**Dr John D Halliday** Rector



# Integrated Curriculum



## High School kids kickstart Lorraine Kelly's charity challenge!

**In September, the School helped put a spring in the step of Lorraine Kelly as she began a marathon charity ceilidh challenge!**

To kickstart Kelly's Ceilidh, which saw the TV star dance her way around as many fund-raising ceilidhs across Scotland as possible in 24 hours, in aid of the 2015 STV Children's Appeal, Lorraine joined Junior and Senior pupils at the School for a lively jig and an energetic reel!

Speaking after what would prove to be the first of many Dashing White Sergeants and Strip the Willows, Lorraine said, "I'm absolutely delighted to kick it all off in Dundee. The High School of Dundee kids were amazing, they really threw themselves into it and I think they knew the steps better than me!"

"It's been a great way to get the challenge started and it's especially nice to do it in Dundee."

Performing a special Appeal dance along the way – Kelly's Kaper – and accompanied by her friend Maxine Jones, the host of ITV's Lorraine helped the 2015 Appeal raise almost £3m for children living in poverty across Scotland.

You can find out more about the STV Appeal by going to:  
<http://www.stv.tv/appeal/>



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# Well-drilled cadets lift trophy again

**A well-drilled High School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit is now truly well practised in winning a UK competition!**

During a week-long residential training camp at Penally in Pembrokeshire, the School's 22-strong drill team defeated six other schools from across Britain to lift the Central Camp drill title for the third time in succession.

The annual competition saw the teams perform a number of precise military drill sequences in front of commanding

officers from Cadet Training Team Wales, which oversaw the week's activities. The pupils' achievement was even more impressive given that, with a range of military and adventure training exercises taking part during the day, they had only the evenings to prepare themselves for the contest.

Major PA McClellan, the officer commanding Cadet Training Team Wales, said, "The High School of Dundee drill team were head and shoulders above all the other drill teams in the competition. The contingent was by far the best in camp and it was a pleasure hosting such an outstanding group."

In all, more than 50 cadets from the High School attended the camp.



## Diary of Events

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

## Glowing official report for Nursery



**The High School of Dundee Nursery has received a glowing report from the Care Inspectorate.**

The Nursery, which opened its doors in August 2014, earned the second highest possible rating in each of the four areas which were under review as part of its first official inspection visit.

In their report, inspectors ranked the quality of care and support, the quality of environment, the quality of staffing, and the quality of management and leadership as 'very good'.

They added that, 'Sensitive, caring and respectful staff interaction, healthy meals and snacks, quality resources and purpose-built accommodation supported every child to feel nurtured to thrive,' and that, 'Children were engaged, motivated and excited about their play and learning experiences.'

In addition, staff were found to be 'Sensitive, caring and responsive, which gave children the confidence to communicate openly with staff and to feel secure as they tried new activities and learned from their experience.'

As part of the inspection, a survey of the thoughts of parents was also carried out, with one commenting, "I cannot

praise the service provided by High School of Dundee highly enough. I have a happy child who loves going to nursery and is thriving in this caring, nurturing environment. The staff are wonderful and have built a strong relationship with my child, which gives me confidence and reassurance. An excellent facility."

Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said, "We've had a very busy first year and I cannot praise our amazing team enough for all of their hard work and dedication. They really have poured their hearts and souls into our new nursery and into building relationships with our children and families."

The full Care Inspectorate report can be viewed at: <http://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/member-of-the-public>

For more information about the Nursery, please go to: [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/nursery](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/nursery)

# Pupil wins Arkwright Scholarship

**Logan Thomson, F5, has been identified as a future leader in the world of engineering after picking up a highly sought-after scholarship.**

Logan was one of only 400 pupils from across the UK to have been selected to receive a 2015 Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, a prestigious award granted to the most talented STEM\* students in schools in order to inspire and nurture them in Engineering and Technical Design.

Applicants have to demonstrate they possess the skills and potential to become leaders in the industry by progressing through a rigorous selection process involving an assessed application form, a two-hour aptitude exam and a university-based interview.

More than 1500 pupils applied in 2015 and, having been successful, Logan will now receive £300 this year and next to help with his studies in STEM subjects. He will also benefit from enrichment activities such as mentoring and industry visits to enhance his experience of engineering in a real-world context.

Logan, who attended the annual awards ceremony in Glasgow in October, said, "I'm interested in engineering as a potential career and I hope that the scholarship will help me develop my knowledge and experience."

The scholarships, which are open to pupils in S5 and S6 across the UK, are highly respected by university admission tutors and industry recruiters.

\* Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths



## Pupils excel in computing challenge



**In December, a perfect score in a UK-wide computing challenge earned a High School of Dundee pupil an invitation to Oxford University!**

Cosmo Bobak, F2, was one of only 15 participants out of more than 27,000 in his age category to get full marks in the Beaver Challenge, an Oxford University-organised problem-solving contest which introduces pupils to computer science.

Cosmo's result placed him in the top 0.055% of students across the UK who sat the Intermediate test, and led to him winning through to the second round which is scheduled to take place at Oxford University in the spring.

The Challenge, which tests computational and logical thinking, ultimately aims to inspire excitement about computing. More than 56,000 students took part this year, with High School pupils also turning in strong performances in some of the event's other five categories.

In the Kits category, Junior School pupils Ian Anderson, Finlay Scrimgeour, Lewis Smith and Edward Walker (all L2) all also gained top marks, whilst in the Senior category, Joshua Small (F4) joined Cosmo Bobak on the Hall of Fame board after falling just one question shy of also achieving a perfect score.

Head of Computing, Scott McBride, who organised the School's participation along with Audrey Davie in the Junior School, said, "More than 870 of our pupils from L2 to F6 participated in the Challenge and the School as a whole did extremely well.

"To get full marks in the Intermediate assessment is a tremendous achievement of which Cosmo can be very proud."



## I hay by declare you husband and wife



**In November, the High School of Dundee Nursery played host to a rather unique event – the marriage of two scarecrows!**

Pupils at the Nursery made the long-held dreams of Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay, the leading characters from the popular children's book the Scarecrows' Wedding, come true by organising for them their own suitably rustically themed wedding ceremony and reception!

The sacred scarecrow dress code of checked shirt and straw hat was respectfully observed by the young guests who watched excitedly as the scarebride and scaregroom exchanged rings and were joined in matrimony by the Rev Dr Janet Foggie who, perhaps unsurprisingly, was presiding over her very first scarecrow wedding.

Rev Foggie said, "I am delighted to have been able to marry Betty O'Barley

and Harry O'Hay. These are the first scarecrows I have ever married!

"All the children helped the scarecrows make their promises and I couldn't have done the service without them. It was a pleasure to share in their special day."

The event was inspired by the children's love of the book, the Scarecrows' Wedding, which they read as part of their harvest topic. After being moved to make their very own Harry and Betty, which they stuffed and dressed themselves, the youngsters set upon the idea of planning the wedding which the characters yearn for in the story.

Nursery Manager, Sarah Tosh, said, "The children have had a very busy few weeks organising the wedding, it was an amazing day and lots of fun was had by all!"

## Battle of Loos commemorated

**In September, the School commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Loos, the First World War conflict which had a devastating impact on the city of Dundee and the High School community itself.**

An estimated 7000 Scottish soldiers lost their lives in the Western front battle, which began on September 25 1915. The 4th Battalion of the Black Watch, known as Dundee's Own, had shrunk to 423 men by the beginning of the conflict. Only 180 survived the day. Of the 20 officers who led their men over the top, 19 were killed. Eight of these were High School former pupils.

To mark the centenary, the School's CCF drill team and chamber choir Cantabile took part in the televised National Battle of Loos Commemoration Parade and Service at Dundee's City Square, which was also attended by Prince Charles and the First Minister.

Special assemblies, in which pupils learned more about the battle and its consequences from Head of History Gordon Fyall and



History teacher Ryan Welsh, also took place.

The Rector said, "Alongside the bloodshed we also remember with pride the leadership, courage, and integrity of the High School FPs who served in the Black Watch and led their men from the front, by example."

Ryan Welsh has written an article focusing on the involvement of a number of the School's former pupils, which you can read at [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk)

In April, as part of a history expedition to the WW1 battlefields of France and Belgium, a group of F4-F6 pupils visited the Pas de Calais Cemetery, the site of the battle, where they were able to find the names of some of the men immortalised on the School's own First World War memorial. The trip itself was one of a series of events organised by the School to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1.

## Frighteningly good flash fiction hits High School at Halloween!

**Pupils in the Senior Years have demonstrated a truly terrifying talent for scripting scary stories!**

To mark Halloween, High School Librarian Iona McFarlane set fright-loving youngsters the task of drafting despicable tales with the petrifying power to send a shiver up the spine of even the most fearless reader – in less than 100 words!

After surviving the nerve-shredding challenge of reading the bloodcurdling batch of fiendish flash fiction, which included terror-inducing tales of vampires, werewolves, ghouls and more, Iona declared the winner to be Inez Spence (F1), with Georgia McLaggan (F4) named as runner-up.



## Joe cycles length of Britain for charity



**High School pupil Joe Carstairs, F4, has gone to great lengths to raise money for a good cause – all the way from Land's End to John O'Groats!**

Joe was part of a cycling team that generated more than £5000 for the charity YMPA Perth and Kinross by completing the iconic 950 mile journey during the summer.

With the cycling squad consisting of Joe, his parents Mungo and Sarah, his two brothers Jamie and Harry (who is a former pupil of the High School) and one of his cousins, Markus Dell,

the challenge was very much a family affair.

But it was no ordinary cycling challenge as the team members not only rode their own standard bikes, but also took it in turns to pedal a tandem along with Joe's brother Jamie, who has Down's Syndrome.

The inspiration behind the epic adventure was also out of the ordinary, as Joe explained.

"My dad just sort of sat down one day and said, 'why don't we cycle the length of the country?'" he said.

"We told him he was mad! But then we thought about it, and realised it would be an interesting challenge. So we made some plans and, before we knew it, we were in Cornwall to start the journey!"

With the purpose of YMPA Perth and Kinross - to raise funds to subsidise Instrumental Music Service Music Camp places for children who, for family financial reasons, are unable to attend - striking a chord with tuba-playing Jamie, Joe and his family were delighted to be able to raise such a fantastic sum of money for the charity.

Indeed Jamie, who plays tuba with a number of bands around Perth, demonstrated his love of the instrument at the 'finish line' by giving an impromptu, celebratory solo performance, much to the delight of the John O'Groats locals!

"We don't actually know whether Jamie is the first person with Down's Syndrome to ride a tandem from Land's End to John O'Groats and then play the tuba," said Joe. "But we are going to go out on a limb and claim that he is!"

You can read much more about the experiences of Joe and his family, and also see videos clips put together by Markus, who captured the entire adventure on film, by visiting <http://tandemandtuba.blogspot.co.uk>



# Amazing adventures



**The autumn term offers the chance to look forward to another exciting school year. However, it also provides an opportunity to catch up on the amazing adventures which High School pupils have embarked upon over the summer holidays. This year proved no different as pupils returned from trips north and south with tales of volcanoes, safaris, geysers, penguins and much, much more to share!**

In August, a group of 40 F3, F4 and F5 pupils travelled to Iceland to experience the legendary landscapes and geological phenomena of the land of fire and ice.

The young adventurers began their four-day Geography trip with a visit to a truly captivating natural wonder. At Þingvellir national park, as well as observing the site where the oldest existing parliament in the world first assembled (in 930 AD), the pupils were able not only to witness continental drift but actually walk through it as they made their way along a canyon formed by the movement of the Eurasian and North American continental plates.

The spectacular scenery and once-in-a-lifetime experiences kept on coming over the course of the next two days as the group watched the Great Geysir hurl water up to 70 metres into the air; visited awe-inspiring waterfalls like the 32-metre Gullfoss Falls; stepped into

the Visitor Centre at Eyjafjallajökull to learn more about the volcanic eruptions which caused such disruption to air travel across Europe in 2010; and observed a corrie glacier and tarn.

“The pupils are often lost for words by the stunning scenery, perhaps unsurprisingly being able to offer little more than a ‘Wow!’ as they witness it for themselves.”



The pupils also made the most of the chance to witness the amazing hexagonal basalt columns at the black beach of Reynishverfi; enjoy a dip in one of the country's famed hot springs; and, as you do in Iceland, take a bus journey through lava fields and past active volcanoes!

Head of Geography, Jenni Stewart, said, “I am always awe-struck by the devastatingly beautiful, yet potentially destructive landscapes found in Iceland.

While the geographers were setting off for a country on the edge of the Arctic Circle, another group of High School pupils were already busy enjoying the sporting – and cultural – experience of a lifetime in the Southern hemisphere.

In July, 88 intrepid F4 – F6 sportsmen and sportswomen made the long journey to South Africa for an unforgettable two-week tour featuring sports matches against local sides and visits to some of the country's famous attractions.



On the sports front, rugby, hockey and netball fixtures in Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Tsitsikamma and Cape Town gave the respective teams the invaluable chance to test their mettle against a range of opponents within a completely new environment. And the pupils made the most of the experience, earning a number of hard-fought victories and, perhaps just as importantly, embracing the welcoming hospitality of the host teams.



Away from the sporting arena, the travelling party also seized upon the chance to learn more about South Africa, its history and its culture as they visited the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, took an eye-opening tour of Robben Island, and enjoyed trips to the iconic Table Mountain and some of the country's majestic natural sights.

In addition, in an undoubted highlight of the trip, the pupils were lucky enough

to experience thrilling close, yet safe(!), encounters with wildlife including lions, giraffes, rhinos, antelopes, monkeys, zebras, impalas and elephants, when they spent time at the Kariega Game Reserve, Addo Elephant Park and Tsitsikamma National Park. Being proud Scotsmen and women, the pupils were delighted to be able to share some Scottish culture with the staff at Kariega by attempting to teach them the Dashing White Sergeant in response to their renditions of traditional African songs!

And, as if all that were not enough, within a packed itinerary, the group also found time to fit in an exhilarating tree canopy tour and one final wildlife expedition, this time to a beach to get close to African penguins.

Head of PE, Ewan Jack, said, "Touring South Africa is certainly not something the pupils and staff will forget in a hurry."

"Immersed in a sports-daft nation, competing well against talented and hospitable opponents, all the while surrounded by breathtaking scenery and wildlife; it really was the experience of a lifetime."





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## A sticky situation!

**Some enterprising F5 pupils were delighted to get themselves into a sticky situation as the new school year began!**

In September the team of Susannah Butter, Malcolm Campbell, Hannah Levin, Logan Thomson and Alice Inman took part in the final of the Mackays' Jamathon, a business competition which challenged schools from Tayside to take a current flavour from the Mackays jam range and completely rebrand it.

Having spread their skills over a range of associated tasks, including market research, budgeting and marketing, the pupils came up with a new strawberry and champagne flavour under the luxury brand, Tava Conserves.

After pitching their mouth-watering idea to a board of industry experts, the quintet won their place in the grand final at Dundee's Food and Flower Festival at

Camperdown Park, where they attempted to sell as many jars of their product as possible for the benefit of charity.



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## Star turn wins talent contest crown



**A High School of Dundee singer has performed a star turn to win a Dundee-wide talent contest.**

Finlay McKillop, F5, beat off competition from 150 entrants to be crowned the winner of Dundee Channel's Talent TV 2015 with his rousing rendition of the song Stars from Les Misérables.

After first being announced as the winner of the age 12-17 category in the internet TV challenge, Finlay, along with the winners of the other three categories (5-11, 18-25 and 26+), then progressed to a grand final where a public vote saw him crowned the overall series champion!

This isn't the first time that Finlay has found success with Stars either, the song having also secured him the part of Javert in the High School's production of Les Misérables which will take place in June 2016 (see page 16).

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## High School (of Dundee!) Musical

**F6 pupils raised the roof – and a tidy sum for a good cause – with their very own performance of High School Musical!**

To mark the festive season, the year group took to the stage of Trinity Hall to entertain fellow pupils and staff with a rousing performance of the teen comedy musical, in the process raising £400 for Dundee Disabled Children's Association.

The light-hearted parody, which was organised by the School's Interact Club, saw the action relocated to the High School of Dundee, enabling the enthusiastic cast to make a number of well-received in-jokes. And, in spite of being staged after only two days of rehearsals, the production contained more singalong anthems than you could shake a Christmas tree at!





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# Making an impact!



**The High School of Dundee was well represented in the Courier newspaper's spotlight on inspiring and influential people, the Courier Impact 100 Countdown.**

No fewer than ten members of the School Community were featured in the list, with perhaps the most impressive entry belonging to pupil Sandy Mitchell who motored his way into the number 37 spot by virtue of an outstanding season in motor racing (see page 23). Not bad going for a 15-year-old!

Former pupils Professor Dame Anne Glover and Richie Vernon made the

countdown at numbers 33 and 21 respectively, with member of the Board of Directors, Chris van der Kuyl, positioned at number 40.

Placed at 67, 69 and 72 were former pupils Mark Beaumont, AL Kennedy and Jim Pettigrew, just ahead of the Rector of the High School of Dundee, Dr John Halliday, who appeared at number 78.

Not to be outdone, former pupils Ricky Ross, number 99, and Charlie Guest, number 90, were also featured!

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# Armistice Parade



**The School remembered the fallen with its traditional Armistice Parade and Service.**

Guests, including the Lord Provost Bob Duncan, military and civilian service personnel, the Principal of Abertay University, Nigel Seaton, and others attended as the Combined Cadet Force completed a parade in front of the Pillars.

The ceremony, which was observed by pupils, staff and members of the public,

concluded with a wreath being placed in front of the school's war memorial by Head Boy Nathan Moorjani and Deputy Head Girl Taskeen Bailwal, assisted by Junior School pupils Victoria Scott and Angus Porter.

In a particularly poignant moment of the proceedings, Nathan and Taskeen read out the names of the 29 former pupils who lost their lives in WW1 between August 1914 and November 1915.

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

The Rector said, "The Armistice Parade is a powerful chance for the School to remember the sacrifices of former pupils and all of those who have given their lives in the First World War and subsequent conflicts.

"However, in this centenary year, we remember particularly those who lost their lives between August 1914 and November 1915."

# Master musician puts pupils through their paces

**High School singers hit the high notes when they were put through their paces by a master of the low notes!**

October saw eight pupils take part in a masterclass in Trinity Hall with one of Britain's most distinguished and widely known baritones, Stephen Varcoe.

After receiving one-to-one tuition from Stephen, the pupils went on to perform a number of classical pieces to an audience of parents and other interested parties.



The masterclass session followed on from a recital concert held in Trinity Hall the previous evening, during which Stephen performed with concert pianist and former pupil, Christina Lawrie. Featuring a wide selection of pieces including French songs, older English art songs, German Lieder and some Scottish numbers, the concert – which was organised by the Friends of the High School of Dundee, in partnership with the Office of Development – raised over £800 for the campaign to create a centre of excellence for performing and visual arts.

# Nursery makes foodbank donation



**November saw children from the Nursery hand over a bumper donation to the Dundee Foodbank.**

Pupils, and their parents, began collecting items in October to tie in with their harvest topic and after all the goods were packed up and loaded into the minibus, there was only enough room for four youngsters to make the trip to the Constitution Street centre to present them to Dundee Foodbank Manager, Ken Linton!

After thanking them for the donation, Ken gave the children a tour of the centre and told them a little bit about the work of the Foodbank.

Ken said, "We are absolutely delighted to receive this donation.

"Currently around 150 people a week in Dundee receive food parcels from the Foodbank and we couldn't carry out this work for people in crisis situations without donations such as these."

High School of Dundee Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh said, "We were thrilled to be able to make a donation to the Foodbank and I'd like to thank all our parents for contributing so generously."

## Singers record a classic!

**A quartet of talented High School singers are celebrating after becoming bona fide classical recording artists!**

Ailsa Macdonald (F3), Charlotte Jennings (F3) and sisters Laura (F3) and Catriona Murphy (F5) lent their voices to the National Youth Choir of Scotland's National Girls Choir album, *Only a Singing Bird*, which went on sale to the public in January.

In addition to the vocal talents of the prestigious musical youth collective, the album features world renowned mezzo soprano, and patron of the National Girls Choir, Karen Cargill, as well as Christopher Bell on conducting duty.

Director of Music at the High School, Dr Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, says the girls can be very proud of their efforts.

He said, "Taking part in a professional recording session with experienced

technicians and performers has been enormously valuable to the girls, giving them an inspirational insight into the life of working musicians. In addition, they now have a permanent record of their time in National Girls Choir that they and their families can treasure for a very long time."

The NYCOS National Girls Choir is made up of talented 12-16 year old singers from across Scotland, with the highly sought-after places awarded following annual auditions.



## HMIE Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement Visit



**The School has received a strong official endorsement of its ability to ensure continued improvement in the quality of education which it provides for its pupils.**

In November the School welcomed inspectors from HMIE for a Quality Improvement and Professional Engagement (QUIPE) visit, in which the School's capacity for evaluating its own work and for making improvements which have a direct impact on the quality of experiences for its pupils was examined.

The report by HMIE, which is now part of Education Scotland, was put together by the inspectors following discussions, feedback and work with staff, parents

and pupils throughout the School, from Nursery to F6.

Among its findings were that, 'there is strong leadership of change and improvement' at the School, with the success of this 'due to the strategic vision of the Rector together with the Board of Directors and their sustained focus on continually improving the educational provision.'

The report also states that overall 'children and young people are benefitting from high-quality learning experiences in the nursery, junior and senior stages,' that they are 'motivated and engage well in their learning' and that 'their relationships with staff are very positive.'

The Rector said, "I am very pleased with this report from HMIE, which reflects all the hard work that my colleagues have put in to ensuring that our pupils have the best possible education."

You can download a copy of the full report at: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)



# The Board of Directors

**You may well be aware of the existence of the School's Board of Directors, but do you know what the Directors do, their particular areas of expertise and how they are involved?**

Having taken over as Chairman of the Board of Directors from Adrian Stewart in August 2015, Iain Bett is keen to provide some insight into the Board and its operation.

He says, "I am conscious that many of those associated with the School may be unaware of the composition and work of the Board of Directors and so I would like to take the opportunity to address this through a series of short articles in this and forthcoming editions of the Pillars.

"Legally speaking, the composition of the Board and its operation is established within the School's governing document, the High School of Dundee Scheme 1987, which falls under the Education (Scotland) Act of 1980.

"The Board's 17 members are elected by bodies within the school community (The Parents' Association, The Friends of the High School of Dundee, The Old Boys' Club, and The Old Girls' Club), and within the business community (The Guildry of Dundee, The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee). In addition, the Directors can co-opt up to six members to bring specific knowledge or expertise to the Board. Finally, there are two Ex-Officio positions: Lord Dean of Guild and Minister of Dundee Parish Church, St Mary's. Directors are unpaid and give their time to the School voluntarily. The Bursar is Secretary to the Board.

"When they come to nominate members, the various bodies are provided with guidance on the experience and qualities that the School seeks from its directors as their purpose is not to represent the nominating body but to assist the Board in achieving its objectives by contributing their own particular skills.



"The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the School, its educational provision, financial security and stability, and its ongoing development as it strives for excellence in all that it offers to its pupils. The Board is responsible for the appointment of the Rector and the Bursar who, along with the Deputy Rectors, form the Executive of the School. The Board is responsible for strategic direction, but the School Executive is responsible for all operational matters.

"In seeking to meet these responsibilities, the full Board convenes once each school term and much of the business is undertaken by the five committees which underpin it. The committees – Chairman's Executive, Education, Finance, Estates and Awards – meet at least once per term and also, where appropriate, operate small working groups such as Health and Safety, Pupil Welfare, Investment Review etc.

"In addition to ongoing developments within the School's educational provision, as well as the physical environment of the School, some of the issues with which the Board has been concerning itself in recent times include the introduction of the Nursery, the project to create a centre of excellence for performing and visual

arts, the introduction of iPads into the School's classrooms, the Curriculum for Excellence, changes to the SQA exam system, the HMIE QUIPE visit (see page 12), and the impact for the School of the Scottish Government's GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) approach.

"The Directors are able to bring to bear an intimate knowledge of and passion for the School, with a number being former pupils and current parents. As a group, we take a keen interest in the life of the School. Directors are regular attendees at the School's musical shows, sports fixtures at Mayfield/Dalnacraig, concerts and drama productions, as well as more formal events such as Prizegiving and the Armistice Parade. In addition, we get an important insight into the school in action through regular organised visits on a school day to the various Senior School departments, the Junior School and the Nursery.

"I hope that this has provided you with a useful insight into the function and composition of the Board and I look forward to sharing with you more about the makeup and role of the various committees in subsequent editions. In the meantime, to see the up-to-date list of Board members, please visit: [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/about/school\\_structure](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/about/school_structure)"

# Pupils escape the classroom!



**F1 pupils got the new school year, and their secondary school careers, off to the perfect start – by escaping the classroom!**

In August, the entire year group headed for Nethybridge in the Cairngorm National Park to take part in a four-day residential trip in which they tried their hand at a series of exciting activities including mountain biking, canoeing, camping, rock climbing, and various team challenges.

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

Deputy Head Senior School, David Brett, said "The trip is always a great way for all of our F1 pupils – both those who are new to the School and those who have moved up from L7 – to get to know each other, have fun together and develop their teamwork skills."

## Pupils debate their way to success



**High School of Dundee debaters have been making their case rather successfully during the autumn and spring terms!**

The team of Ciara Mitchell (F6), Ivan Kapelyukh and Steven Roy (both F5) kicked off the debating season in style by winning the West Coast Worlds at St Columba's School in Kilmacolm. Ciara finished the day as top speaker as the team came through three rounds to reach the final, in which they defeated Stewart's Melville College.

At the Northern Junior Debating Championships in Newcastle, Ivan also enjoyed the distinction of ending the event as top speaker (out of 96) as he and Sandy Neville (F4) made their way, undefeated, through to the final.

Ciara and Ivan then again teamed up to great effect to be crowned the winners of the Glasgow University Union annual schools debating tournament, which featured 32 teams from across Scotland. The duo also enjoyed success on an individual level with Ciara again finishing the day as top speaker, just ahead of runner-up Ivan.

Further success came at the 48-team, St Andrews University debating contest, where Ciara and, this time, Steven took home the top prize, with Ciara – yet again! - ending top of the individual pile.

Most recently, in another 48-team tournament, Ciara and Ivan brought home the Edinburgh rose bowl, with Ivan finishing as second top speaker and Ciara third. This means that as the season draws to a close, the High School holds more trophies than any other Scottish school!

High School of Dundee 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. We're very pleased."



## Band graduates to major performance

**As if being awarded their degrees and diplomas wasn't enough, students taking part in this year's Dundee University Winter Graduation ceremonies were also bestowed with the honour of being piped out into City Square by the High School of Dundee Pipe Band!**

More than 1000 students who were having their academic achievements recognised at the Caird Hall were treated to performances by the pupils, as were guests and dignitaries who were attending the World Cultural Committee Awards which formed part of the graduation celebrations.



## Games guru delivers talk

**Pupils in F2 were able to mine a rich source of inspiration as they sought to craft their own computer apps!**



Chris van der Kuyl, chairman of 4J Studios – the company responsible for the hugely successful Minecraft video game – came in to talk to the year group

about the future of technology and applications development generally.

Chris was also present to act as an Expert under the Apps for Good programme, seeking to bring the real world into the classroom as the pupils experienced the development of smartphone and web applications from concept to fully working prototype.

Under the programme, the pupils have to generate an idea for an application that can help to solve a problem, then produce mock-ups, and market, implement and present their idea, which could potentially then be put into full development and appear in the Google Play Store.

## Major music award for High School pupil

**High School pupil Ellie Scott's musical talent proved instrumental as she scooped a major prize.**

Violinist Ellie, F6, was named Dundee Instrumental Young Musician of the Year after hitting the right note with the judges in the Monifieth and Dundee Rotary Clubs' contest at Dundee University's Chaplaincy centre in late November.

Ellie's impressive recitals of 'Allegretto' from Edvard Grieg's 'Sonata in F major', and 'Ballade' by Malcolm Arnold, also secured her a place in the next stage of the National Rotary Young Musician competition, the District Final for the north of Scotland, which was due to take place at the end of February.

There she was to be joined by Robert Zhan (F5, cello) and Colette Colman (F6, trumpet), and Finlay McKillop (F5, voice) and Charlotte Jennings (F4, voice), who also won through after finishing in the top five of the Monifieth and Dundee instrumental and vocal categories respectively.



## Autumn Concert

Talented High School of Dundee musicians made the Autumn Concert an event to remember.

This year's concert saw around 350 Senior School and Junior School pupils perform classical pieces by Mozart and Sibelius among others, as well as a range of contemporary compositions, film scores and

traditional pieces too. The School's Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Sinfonia, and its five choirs all played their part in what proved to be an inspiring celebration of music!

More than £800 was raised for charity through the event (see page 16).

## A perfect piste of winter sports action!

**F3 pupils enjoyed some winter sports fun just before the Christmas holidays.**

More than 50 members of the year group took to the slopes of the Aosta Valley in the Italian Alps in December to spend five days skiing in glorious sunshine.

By day the youngsters, who ranged in ability from beginner to advanced, made the most of lessons on some of Europe's premier pistes, before the evenings saw them wind down with activities such as ice skating, exploring the historic Roman walled town of Aosta, and sampling bona fide Italian pizza!



Head of Art Adam Kerr, who led the trip, said, "The pupils had so much fun, it was a pleasure to watch them progress.

"Their confidence and ability levels got to astonishing levels by the end of the week. The ski resort did an incredible job of making so many runs available, even though they were faced with the 'problem' of glorious sunshine every day!"

## Les Misérables set to delight!

**High School pupils are getting set to bring one of the world's most famous and popular musicals to the stage.**

Tickets are now on sale for the School's production of Les Misérables which will open at the Gardyne Theatre in June.

Featuring one of the largest casts (60) ever to perform in a High School show, it will tell the inspiring story of peasant Jean Valjean's 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 has been seen by more than 70 million people in 44 countries and played in 22 languages around the world. Recently celebrating its 30th anniversary, it is the world's longest-running musical.

Head of Drama Lindsay Drummond said, "Les Misérables is an enthralling story of broken dreams, unrequited love, honour, passion, sacrifice and redemption. It's a real showcase for our talented performers and they are hugely excited to be performing in this iconic musical. Featuring the songs I Dreamed a Dream, Stars and One Day More, it is the show of all shows!"

The production runs nightly at 7.30pm from Wednesday 22 June until Saturday 25 June, with a matinee performance (2pm) on the Saturday.

Tickets (£15) are available now from Dundee Box Office.

## Writers commended in national challenge



**A pair of talented F1 writers have made short work of a national literary challenge.**

Ethan McColgan and Jenny Shang were awarded special commendations for their entries in Aberdeen University's Special Collections' Centre's Flash Fiction 2015 competition.

The contest challenged pupils aged 8-13 to select one of four pictures and use this as an inspiration for a tale of no more than 500 words.

Demonstrating impressively concise writing, Ethan and Jenny's stories, 'The Lost Life of Nathaniel E. Grant' and 'The Fall of the Pinici Tribe' respectively, caught the eye of the judges, with Ethan's entry declared the overall runner-up.

Head of English at the High School, Jasmine Cortazzi, said, "Given that there were over one hundred stories entered from the length and breadth of Scotland, this is a very fine achievement."

## The sound of the Senior Music Competition

**The School was alive with the sound of music in early November when the Senior Music Competition took place in Trinity Hall.**

The annual event saw two full days of impressive performances take place across a range of categories, including strings, woodwind, piano, brass, voice, clàrsach, guitar and percussion.

The proceedings were rounded off in style with an evening concert which featured the contests for the Southgate Prize for Chamber Music, which was won by saxophone quartet Simon Allen (F5), Abhisri Chaudhuri (F4), Sarah Elgin (F4), and Sandy Taylor (F5), performing "Fidanzata avventurosa" from Verdi's

opera "Oberto", and the Premier Quaich, which was won by Ellie Scott (F6) for her piano and violin renditions of pieces by Turina, Chopin, Grieg and Malcolm Arnold.



## A hive of fundraising activity!

**As always, the High School has been busy raising money for a number of good causes.**

In September, a donation of £357.49 was brewed up for Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning through a pupil-run tuck shop and a cake sale organised by staff.

Meanwhile, as a result of numerous fundraising activities in 2014/15, pupils

from the School's Interact Club were able to present cheques of £500 to the Terrence Higgins Trust and Age Concern Dundee.

And fundraising by High School pupils proved to be music to the ears of Scottish Autism, for whom £800 was generated through the Autumn Concert.

In December, the ever-popular Charities Christmas Fair raised over £3,500 for a number of causes.



# Junior Years



## No place like an Iron Age home!

**Pupils in the Junior Years discovered there really is no place like an Iron Age home when they visited the Scottish Crannog Centre!**

To tie in with their classroom studies on the Celts, children in L4 travelled to Loch Tay to set foot inside a crannog, an artificial island dwelling built upon

lochs or lakes, which was popular at the time of the civilisation, some 2500 years ago.

As well as giving the pupils a fascinating feel for what life within the wooden, roundhouse structures would have been like, the trip enabled them to watch and try out many of the

methods and tools used during the Iron Age for activities such as drilling, grinding flour and starting a fire.

They also had the chance to examine primary evidence which has been found at or near the site in recent times.

## Hour of Code

**Junior School children were working in code as they embraced a global event.**

In December, pupils in the Junior Years took part in the Hour of Code, an international project which aims to get people engaged with computing science and programming by giving them an introductory lesson in coding.

With a selection of tutorials available, offering the chance to build a Star Wars game, create an adventure in Minecraft or develop an Angry Birds game, there was certainly no lack of enthusiasm for the initiative from the pupils!



## Pupils mark Children in Need

**Pupils in L7W got the Junior Years ready for Children in Need by hosting a special, Pudsey-themed assembly!**

Ahead of the 35th staging of the annual charity appeal, the youngsters looked at

the history of the event, its aims, where the money raised goes and how the pupils could get involved in fundraising themselves!



## Enterprise on show in Junior Years

**Business-savvy pupils in the Junior Years have been demonstrating entrepreneurial skills that even Lord Sugar would be impressed by!**

Members of the L6 Young Enterprise Group brought a high quality product – striking, framed prints of tartan-clad iconic Scottish emblems – to market at the Charities Christmas Fair after developing the idea from scratch.

The project saw the youngsters combine good old fashioned hard work with the latest technology, as they assembled the artwork themselves after, with the help of Head of Technology Forbes Walker, using the Senior School's laser cutter to produce the emblems.

Profits from the venture will go to the SSPCA.

Meanwhile, L7 Enterprise Group members put every grain of effort into creating a Christmas present with a difference.

The team came up with the idea of putting together tantalising rice gift bags, containing 1kg of Kilombero



rice and a copy of the 'L7 Enterprise Rice and Curry Recipe Book', as part of their participation in the JTS Rice Challenge, a charity campaign which asks people to try to sell 90kg of rice to enable a Malawian farmer to pay for a year's basic secondary education for one child.

## An out-of-this-world nativity!

**Thanks to children at the High School of Dundee, the Christmas message has reached the final frontier!**

For three days in December, pupils in L1-L3 embarked on a daily mission to spread seasonal cheer to parents, guests, fellow pupils, and even little green men, by performing their intergalactic Nativity play, 'An Out-of-this-World Christmas'.

Featuring a sackful of catchy tunes, the uplifting production told the tale of four brave astronauts who set off on an adventure to the far reaches of space, only to crash-land on a distant planet! Faced with the prospect of not being able to return home by December 25, the plucky astral explorers have to teach the strange planet's alien inhabitants all about the joy of Christmas and its true meaning in order to win their help and make it back in time!

Deputy Head Junior Years, Claire Proudfoot, said of the performances, in which every Early Years pupil played



a part, "I am so proud of all of our children! They have worked very hard to learn the song and dance routines and to memorise their lines.

"They have been wonderful; it is a

privilege to work with such willing and enthusiastic young people and we have had so much fun together!

Money raised from the shows will go to the Blake McMillan Trust and CHAS.



## Duo run colourful gauntlet

Junior Years teachers Felicity Wilson and Katie Goldie ran the gauntlet and braved a fearful clean-up job to raise money for CLIC Sargent!

The duo generated more than £450 to support children and young people with cancer, and their families, by taking part in the charity's Rainbow Assault, a challenge which involved negotiating a 5km muddy assault course whilst under attack from rainbow colour bombs and water pistols!



## Construction Club yields impressive results!



**A group of Junior School children are turning out fully-formed buildings, vehicles, fairground rides and a whole lot more, from scratch on a weekly basis!**

Members of the Construction Club meet every Wednesday to use resources such as Lego and K'NEX to literally build upon their creative impulses and put together an array of amazing structures brick by brick, block by block and piece by piece!

Margaret Cardno, who runs the club, which is open to L5 pupils, said, "Pupils work in pairs, or individually or in small groups if they prefer."

"The members sometimes follow plans provided with the kits, but they also really enjoy working without reference to a predetermined plan. The Club lends itself to enhancing skills such as perseverance, concentration, creativity, cooperative activity and collaboration."

"There really is no limit to the imagination they show and they have created a number of eye-catching objects ranging from windmills and giant insects to fairground rides and super bridges!"

## Poppy venture blossoms

**A fundraising venture which truly blossomed allowed a Junior School brother and sister team to make a bumper donation to Poppy Scotland.**

William (L4) and Sophie-Jessica Cuthill (L5) were able to raise £170 for the Royal British Legion's charity campaign after selling 150 hand-made poppies to family members, friends, neighbours, local businesses and members of the school community.

With each poppy requiring around 180 tiny beads and taking around 15 minutes to make, the dedicated duo had to roll up their sleeves and put in the hours to meet the demand for their product.

However, it was all worthwhile according to the siblings, whose efforts earned them a certificate and a letter of appreciation from Poppy Scotland.

"I feel very happy that we raised money for Poppy Scotland to help the soldiers and people from the wars make their lives better," said William.

Sophie-Jessica added, "It felt so good to think we have helped injured soldiers and brought comfort and happiness to them and their families. We were also pleased to add our contribution to the school's collection because the teachers and pupils bought so many poppies."



# Former Pupil news

## Duo embrace challenge of a lifetime

**A pair of former pupils are embarking on the challenge of a lifetime in order to help children affected by the West Africa Ebola outbreak.**

Rebecca McKillop (class of 2008) and Vanita Nathwani (class of 2010) are gearing up to run in the Sierra Leone marathon, an event organised by the charity Street Child to raise £1million to support the 20,000 children orphaned by the virus in Sierra Leone and Liberia progress from destitution to a sustainable future.

Rebecca said, "In 2015 I went to Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar on a sort of mission to learn more about Africa and came back looking for ways I could make a contribution towards helping overcome some of the poverty and disease to be found on the Continent.

"My flatmate and good friend Vanita was also keen to do something positive, so when a friend who works at Street Child told us about the marathon we decided to sign up to do it together.

"We are keen to raise as much as possible in a bid to put an end to child suffering in this beautiful part of the world; one which has suffered such severe tragedies in recent years."

Rebecca, who is Vice President of Securities Finance New Business Development at BNY Mellon Markets Group, and Vanita, who is an Associate in Global Wealth Services at SEI, are well on their way to raising the balance to cover the cost of their trip. During their five-day stay in Sierra Leone, the duo will also spend time visiting Street Child projects in the area, finding out how the charity is working to reduce the risk of hunger, abuse and malnutrition in children and increase their access to education.

Taking place on various terrains in and around Sierra Leone's third largest city, Makeni, the race itself will take participants past some of West Africa's most beautiful scenery. However, with temperatures expected to be above 30°C and humidity at 90%+, Rebecca



and Vanita's focus at the moment is on preparing for the physical challenge which lies ahead.

Rebecca says, "Training in London where it is flat, albeit cold, has been manageable thus far, but the real challenge will come when we try to tackle the heat and humidity and unforeseeable obstacles of such an untamed landscape."

"We are so looking forward to the life changing experience of visiting Makeni, getting to know the people our funds will help and also achieving a personal physical endurance goal."

You can sponsor Rebecca and Vanita by visiting:

<https://sierraleonemarathon2016.everydayhero.com/uk/rebeccamckillop>

<https://sierraleonemarathon2016.everydayhero.com/uk/vanita>

## Awards and more for former pupil



**Former pupil Chris Hughes is making waves in the world of digital technology.**

Chris, class of 2014, won the coveted Herald Scottish Digital Business student award 2015 for the work of his company Estendio, which seeks to revolutionise the educational development of dyslexics throughout the world by delivering innovative software products and services.

This latest accolade follows on the back of the 20-year-old taking the runner-up prize in another prestigious contest, the Converge Challenge Kickstart Digital Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Chris has also been celebrating securing major seed investment from Gabriel Investment Syndicate and Scottish Investment Bank which will enable Estendio to further develop a learning support app for dyslexics, and then pilot it to 120 students at Strathclyde University.

Chris said, "Winning these prizes has given us a real credibility and validation of our business, which is key when trying to engage with reputable clients such as universities and other institutes of further education.

"I am delighted to have been given this opportunity by Gabriel Investment Syndicate and Scottish Investment

Bank, especially at such a young age. It has given the team and me the resources to take Estendio to the next level - where we are now actually developing our product."

## FPs performing on rugby's biggest stages

**Former pupils of the High School have been continuing to represent Scotland on rugby's biggest stages.**

Alasdair Dickinson and Richie Vernon both played their part as Scotland made it to the quarter final stage of the 2015 World Cup in England and Wales. Meanwhile, the 2016 Six Nations Championship saw a first ever call-up to the national team for Zander Fagerson, with Alasdair Dickinson also selected.



# Sport

## In at the deep end

**Talented F5 athlete Eilidh Grant thrived after throwing herself in at the deep end of major sporting competition!**



Swimmer Eilidh narrowly missed out on a bronze medal as she finished fourth while representing Scotland in the age-16-and-under 800m freestyle race at the Sainsbury's UK School Games in Manchester in September.

An elite multi-sports meeting featuring 1600 of the UK's top school-age sports stars, the annual event sees competitions take place in 12 sports. And with opening and closing ceremonies, a games village in which all of the competitors stay, and the use of top-class sporting venues, it very much has the look and feel of a mini Commonwealth or Olympic Games.

The 15-year-old, who is also a member of the 2015/16 Scottish Swimming Youth Development Squad, said, "I was really happy with my performance against the top swimmers in my age group from across the UK. Being a part of the Games across the whole four days was an amazing experience."



## High School pupil plays in U19 Cricket World Cup

**Rory Johnston, F5, enjoyed the sporting experience of a lifetime when he lined up for Scotland at the U19 Cricket World Cup.**

The 16-year-old batsman was the youngest member of the Scottish side that took part in the 16-team biennial tournament in Bangladesh in January, appearing in all three of the team's matches against Namibia, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Rory was selected following an outstanding 12 months at the crease, during which he recorded his first century for Scotland U17s, opened the batting for the Forfarshire side which won the Scottish U18 Cup (scoring 43 not out in the final), and played for his country again at the U17 European Championships last summer.

The call-up represented the second major accolade which Rory, who has also previously captained the Scottish U15 side, has enjoyed in recent times. Back in September BBC Sports presenter Hazel Irvine presented him with the Junior Sports Personality of the Year award at the 2015 Dundee Sportsman's Dinner.

## Girls net Scotland call-ups

**A pair of High School pupils hit the back of the net by scoring themselves international football call-ups!**

Suzanne Stirling and Kara MacRitchie, both F2, were selected for the Independent Schools Football Association Scotland U16 squad which took on England at the English Football Association's national football centre, St George's Park in Staffordshire in December.

The duo, who both play for Forfar Farmington, were picked for the match after impressing the selectors during a trial in Stirling in November. And,

as two of only seven S2-aged players to make the squad of 14, with the rest coming from S3 and S4, the girls can be doubly proud of their achievement.



# Sporting briefs

Alex Mackintosh, Caitlin Jones (both F3) and Jamie Meade (F2) were part of the Dundee Juniors curling team which won the National RCCC Skill Award competition at Perth in November.



Anna Sturrock (F4) has been continuing to steer her way to sailing success, with her latest achievement being selection for the UK Laser Radial Youth Squad. Anna, who has already begun training with the squad, was selected by virtue of her results in a series of qualifying events in October.

The High School was well represented in Midlands teams at the Scottish Inter-district Hockey Championships in Glasgow. In girls hockey, Rachel Strachan (F3), Holly Duval (F4) and Heidi Sampson (F4) helped the U16 team win their age group competition, while Mhairi Millar (F5) was a member of the U18 side which finished as runners-up. In the boys game, Jamie Golden (F2) was also selected for the Midlands U16 side for the tournament.

Representing the High School, Corrie Hay (F2) won the open class category at the inaugural Kilgraston inter-schools cross-country championship at Foresterseat.

# Impressive cup runs



**The School's sports teams have been doing themselves proud with some impressive cup runs.**

In hockey, the girls 1st XI team made it all the way to the final of the Midlands Open Cup where they put on a brave display before losing out to Strathallan.

In rugby, the School's 1st XV played their part in a thrilling U18 Scottish Schools Cup semi-final against George Watson's at Mayfield, leading 10-8 at half-time before eventually being defeated 34-17.

# Duo help Scotland to chess success

**All the pieces came together for Euan Dawson and Tom Constance when they represented their country in an international chess tournament.**

At the Liverpool Quadrangular competition, which featured teams from Scotland, England North, England Midlands and Wales, Euan (F3) was undefeated as the Scottish U16 side won their age category outright, in the process earning the right to call themselves British U16 Team Champions!

Meanwhile, Tom (F3) won 1½ points from three matches for the Scottish U14 team which finished as runners-up in their category.

Euan's impressive performance in Liverpool followed on from a strong showing in Ireland this past summer at the Glorney-Gilbert International

competition, a major event which was opened by the President of Ireland, Michael Higgins. Representing Scotland in the U14 Robinson Cup category against opponents from Ireland, England and Wales, Euan ended the tournament as equal top Scottish points scorer in his age group.





## Magical Murrayfield moment crowns Sean's rugby season



**A High School of Dundee pupil has fulfilled the dream of every Scottish rugby fan!**

As if gaining selection for the Caledonia U18 rugby side were not enough, Sean Gauld (F5) crowned that achievement by scoring a try under the posts in a final at Murrayfield after an exhilarating break from 30 metres out!

Sean's surging intervention, which had the crowd on their feet, came in the BT Sport Scottish Rugby U18 Academy decider against Borders & East Lothian, which the Caledonia side narrowly lost.

It was the undoubted highlight of a successful season in which he turned out for Caledonia - one of four regional

academy squads set up by Scottish Rugby to develop Scotland's top young rugby players - on a further three occasions.

Sean, who plays back row and has also appeared for Scotland U16s, said, "I can't remember too much about scoring the try! The ref didn't blow the whistle to award the try straight away, but when he did, I was pretty happy with myself!"

Sean's magical Murrayfield moment was captured on video and can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phbCacPCKOc>

## Sandy motors his way to impressive debut season



**Life in the fast lane is suiting a High School pupil down to the ground!**

During the autumn term, Sandy Mitchell, F4, completed his debut season in the MSA Formula Championship, finishing in an impressive seventh position overall and second-highest-placed rookie in the 30-race competition, which has been hailed as the most exciting development

in British junior motor racing for almost 50 years.

A series of full-throttle performances saw Sandy record five overall podium finishes and no fewer than 16 rookie podium placings as he went up against the best young drivers from across the globe.

The highlight of his season came in round three at Thruxton in Hampshire where Sandy recorded his first two victories, in the process reaching speeds of up to 135mph, setting a new lap record and becoming Scotland's youngest ever single-seater race winner!

The MSA Championship, for which 2015 was the inaugural season, allowed 15-year-olds to race powerful FIA-approved Ford EcoBoost-engined single-seaters in the UK for the first time.

One of the youngest drivers in the series, Sandy, who races for the Arden Motorsport team, qualified to take part after following in the footsteps of F1 stars such as Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button and David Coulthard by winning the British Super One Junior Rotax title in 2014.

## Swimmers earn impressive haul of medals

High School of Dundee pupils earned an impressive haul of 11 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze medals at the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships at Dundee's Olympia Centre in November. You can see the full list of results at: [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/latest/sports\\_results\\_fixtures](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/latest/sports_results_fixtures)

Meanwhile, at the Midlands Schools Swimming Championships, also at the Olympia, the boys' 'A' relay team of Connor Walsh, Freddie Wilson, Cameron Murray (all F3) and Kieran Forster (F4) were presented with a shield after winning their category.

The girls' 'A' team of Blythe Brown (F1), Anya Wilson (F2), Hannah Murray (F1) and Kirsten Grant (F3) can also be proud of their efforts after taking the silver spot in their event.

## Expert guidance for budding rugby stars

**While rugby fans all over the country were praying for a successful Scottish World Cup campaign, High School of Dundee pupils were gaining expert guidance on taking their own games as far as possible.**

Edinburgh captain and Scotland 7s flanker Roddy Grant paid a visit to Mayfield to give a coaching session to pupils in L6-F1, before watching them in action in practice matches and then answering their questions on all things rugby related.

Roddy was invited along by the High School's Head of Rugby and Elite Sports Development, former Scotland internationalist Phil Godman.

Roddy said, "It was great to be here and to meet the boys. I was really impressed by the skill level, the positive attitude and the determination which they showed. I think rugby here is in safe hands; there was a lot of great coaching going on and I was really impressed by the set-up."

The special coaching session coincided with the first home matches of the School's senior XV's in the Scottish Rugby Union's new schools conference competition. To mark the historic occasion, the first XV were piped on to the pitch for their match against Glenalmond, and half-time entertainment was provided by pupils in L5-L7 taking part in mini rugby matches.

The fixture also saw the launch of the School's new 'Touchline Club'. Aimed at enhancing the match-day experience and creating a real buzz to spur on the School's teams, the 'Club' sees bacon rolls and complimentary teas and coffees being served from the glass lounge or, weather permitting, outside, from 9.30am onwards on match-days.



## Pupil joins pathway to cycling glory



**Cyclist Alfie George (F3) has set the wheels turning on a journey he hopes will lead him all the way to Olympic glory.**

During the autumn term, Alfie became one of only around 100 riders in the UK to be selected to join the Great Britain Cycling Team (GBCT) apprentice programme, a pathway which aims to turn the most promising young riders

in the UK into the future stars of world and Olympic cycling.

One of only eight cyclists chosen from the Scotland and north-east England region, Alfie was identified as a 'hardworking, skilful bike racer who has the potential to develop into a successful world-class athlete in the future.'

That assessment came on the back of some outstanding race results in recent times, including arguably his most impressive achievement to date; winning the U14 section of the British Cycling Youth Circuit Series, a prestigious championship which brings together the best young riders from across the UK in a sequence of multi-stage road races.

Speaking of that victory, Alfie said, "I was overwhelmed to have won such a prestigious event against the best cyclists in Britain."

As an apprentice, he will benefit from regular training sessions with GBCT coaches, have access to the same world-class facilities as the GBCT elite cyclists and receive advice on race tactics and managing his cycling workload. His overall development will be reviewed regularly over the course of the one-to-two year programme, after which it is hoped he will progress to the next step on the pathway, the Junior Academy.

Alfie said, "I'm really excited to have been selected. It's the first step on the road towards reaching the top."