

GRAEME HIGH News



Issue 21 - April 2017

AWARD WINNING ART DEPARTMENT

The Graeme High Art and Design Department has been awarded second prize in the "Inspirational Art and Design Department" category by the Friends of the Royal Scottish Academy in their Schools Art Award 2017. The Judges were impressed by the introduction of professional printmaking techniques such as Lino-cut printing and the ambitious, exciting and potentially world-record breaking project being planned for this year's G in the Park event.



Pupils from the Photography elective class also took part in a very successful field trip to Edinburgh earlier this month. Pupils are working towards their National Progress Award in photography and took the opportunity to add to their folio of work amidst Edinburgh's grand architecture and busy streets, as well as taking a trip to the Stills Photography Gallery. Photographs by Matthew Sword ST02, Alia Aslam ST08, Bader Maktabi M02.



Former Pupil Success!

Former pupil and drama student Meresha McBride has successfully completed her degree in Acting, and has now been accepted into Moray House School of Education at The University of Edinburgh to become a teacher of Drama.

Meresha left school after completing her sixth year in 2010. She sat drama qualifications whilst at Graeme High and gained A passes for these. She was a regular cast member of various school shows and played an important role in our 2009 production of 'Gregory's Girl'. Since leaving school Meresha has stayed in contact with her former teachers and gained some experience in the classroom. Meresha worked with the Dramarama club and on a Christmas concert drama

performance of 'Blingderella'. We are delighted to hear the great news that she can finally pursue her dream of becoming a drama teacher, and we wish her every success in doing so.



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Under 13 Football – SSFA Central Region League Champions 2016-17

SPORTING TRIUMPHS ON THE FIELD, ON THE COURT & ON THE FLOOR

In their first year, Graeme High's Under-13 Football Team have already made a fantastic contribution to the sporting success at the school. Having lit up a number of games with their free-flowing passing and possession based football, the team had no problem finishing in the Play-off positions in the SSFA Central Region League.

The League Play-offs were more challenging but the team were able to showcase their talents. After comfortably navigating the knock-out rounds, this culminated in a resounding 5-1 victory at Ochilview in the League Final with a performance that drew many plaudits and compliments for the eye-catching display of 'tiki-taka' football throughout.

Mr McAulay and his players involved throughout the season should be commended on their attitude, work rate and commitment to the current success of our football programme.

The under 14 football team also won the Forth Valley league championship

This is now an experienced championship side having won the Scottish Cup last year. Well done to Mr Levey and his squad.

The 13's are also in the later stages of the County Cup and have a very good chance of winning the double. The under 18's are still in their knock out competition as well.

Senior Girls Basketball team lift the Scottish Plate

Congratulations to the senior girls basketball team who showed great teamwork and determination to defeat St Roch's High School 46-34 at in the Scottish Plate Final The Oriam in Edinburgh.

Most of the team have played together for the past three years and they have shown great improvements in their knowledge and skills of the game. This will be the final year for Carmen Tran and Rebecca Shaw who



will be leaving Graeme High in the summer so it's fantastic they have been able to leave Graeme High with some silverware.

For the rest of the team the hard work will start again next year and we look forward to defending our title or progressing further in the Scottish Cup.

Well done to all the girls and their commitment this year, Mr Roberson and Mr Haldane.



Dance Club

Our Dance Club have both Senior and Junior Groups competing in The Forth Valley Dance Competition at MacRobert Arts Centre on Monday 27th March (Juniors) and Tuesday 28th March (Seniors). This is a long-established choreography competition for young people in The Forth Valley and has been running since 2003. It provides young people with a platform on which to present and perform their own choreography.

The competition is open to all 20 secondary schools in The Forth Valley and is organised and run by FVSDC committee. The Junior groups dance has been

choreographed by S3 pupils Darcy Cassells, Megan Goldie and Demi Bryce. The Senior dance has been choreographed by S4 pupil Renee Gillon. The girls have been working extremely hard on their dances and will be a credit to Graeme High School on the night. Good luck girls!



Science Does Disney

This year pupils in the science department had a brand new experience, a fully interactive lesson in one of the best classrooms around, Disneyland Paris. They were given the opportunity to experience first-hand scientific principles that had only been talked about or experimented on within the school laboratories.

It is fair to say that the pupils from across the 3 Higher Sciences all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and were a credit to the school.



Senior Language Ambassadors

This session six senior pupils have been involved in leading language lessons in each of our associated primary schools. The senior pupils, who are all studying for an SQA higher leadership award, chose to plan and deliver activities in French to support the Scottish Government's ambitious 1+2 language policy whereby all primary pupils will begin a first foreign language in P1 and a second in P5. Working at a range of stages our pupils have delivered a variety of activities including songs, games, and stories as well as supporting P7 pupils in their preparation for our Francophonie transition project. Bravo.



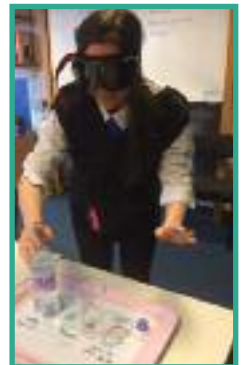
Paws for Progress

Six S1 pupils took part in our first 'Paws for Progress' Nurture Group at the start of this year. The group met on Friday mornings for 7 weeks and were joined by two lively cocker spaniels. The dogs were used as a focus to experience new surroundings and activities that built self-confidence, self-esteem and positive relationships. Callendar Park and the Helix were the settings for the lessons which included positive body language, varying the tone of your voice and building trust as well as learning basic first aid techniques. The pupils also developed their skills in teamwork as together they gradually took on all of the responsibility for the care of the dogs. Pupils responded very positively to the experience. One said "I look forward to this all week!" Another said "I didn't think I would like it but I ended up making new friends." We hope to run another group in the near future.



Early Education and Childcare

Our senior Early Education and Childcare class were recently treated to a very engaging workshop by 'Circle'. Circle is a charity based organisation who support the most disadvantaged families to improve their lives and promote their healthy development and potential. As part of their course unit on Parenting, the class were given an insightful session in to working with, and being a parent who may misuse substances. The class enjoyed hearing about a career in to this sector, reflecting on the challenges of being a parent who misuses substances and discussing case studies. The class then got the chance to experience the practical challenges parents might face if they are using substances by trying everyday tasks whilst wearing a simulated pregnancy suit and beer goggles.



STEM

S3 pupils took part in Computing Science encryption challenges with Mr Douglas, as part of the 'STEM celebration' event on February 28. The challenges involved students decoding secret messages using Caesar and Napoleon ciphers to crack combination locks. STEM is the interdisciplinary study of four subjects, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Computing Science forms an important part of STEM education with the UK government estimating that 90% of jobs require computing skills to some degree. While not every student will become a software engineer, all can still benefit from computer science, understanding how technology works, how the Internet works, and learning to solve problems with logical thinking are all skills that will assist students no matter what fields they move onto.

Mr Douglas has led a group of S2 pupils to Forth Valley College to work with computing lectures as part of the Scottish Government's 'Digital Xtra' project. The scheme is part of a £250,000 strategy that sets out to make Scotland a

The Higher Graphic Communication class have been working in partnership with Forth Valley College enhancing their skills and knowledge around architectural plans. Pupils were tasked with drawing a floor plan and the elevation of a building to a scale of 1:50 by using drawing equipment and a scale ruler. As well as developing their technical drawing skills, pupils learned how to use Autodesk Revit to create computer generated plans. Our pupils had no prior learning on using Revit, but were able to transfer skills from using Autodesk Inventor in class. FVC lecturers were very impressed with the standard and quality of their work!



"world-class digital nation" by 2020. The S2 pupils have been learning programming and software development skills by making games using Java, a programming language used in laptops, game consoles, supercomputers and mobile phones.



Mother Tongue Other Tongue Award Winners

Three of our pupils were winners in the national multi-lingual poetry competition run by Scotland's National Centre for Languages.

In the Mother Tongue section - for pupils who have a mother tongue other than English - Boglarka Balla of S4 won the Senior Phase category with her beautiful poem in Hungarian about a dream. In the Other Tongue section where pupils can submit a poem in the language they are learning at school. Simi Singh won the S2-3 category with her rhyming poem in French about school 'Mon lycée'. Advanced Higher student Rachel Cairns was highly commended for her French poem 'La fleur' in the S4 - 6 category. The girls received their prizes at a ceremony in Glasgow from Scots Makar, Jackie Kay and their poems have been published in the Mother Tongue Other Tongue anthology.



MARCH TO LITERACY!

The English department, in partnership with The Scottish Book Trust, organised a number of author events throughout the month of March to inspire our pupils in their own reading and writing. Janice Galloway came in to work with Advanced Higher pupils who have studied "The Trick is to Keep Breathing". The pupils were thrilled to have her read some of their own creative writing and offer feedback and advice. Janice was genuinely impressed by the high standard of their writing and commented on the strength of the creativity on display. It was the turn of our S1 pupils when Cathy MacPhail came in to talk about where writers get ideas and how she manages to turn her ideas into award winning novels and films. The final event in our #MarchToLiteracy series came when Alan Bissett visited some of our S4 pupils to discuss his success in turning everyday experiences growing up in Falkirk into successful novels. Alan entertained us all by reading extracts from "Boyracers" and "Adam Spark" before answering the pupils' questions about the life of an author.

Maths Go Camping!



Our Higher Maths pupils spent an action packed weekend at Fordell Firs Activity centre for Maths Camp 2017. Pupils took part in a variety of revision sessions - developing strategy skills while Speed Dating Maths-style; powering through the Differentiation Tarsia; showing determination to crack the code on the Codebreaker; sharing their knowledge with team mates during the Expert Groups session and finally bringing it all together and working on past papers to see how much progress they had made.



Acting out graph transformations during Graphical Aerobics was a sight to see! In addition, they faced their fears and pushed themselves outwith their comfort zones on the 3G swing, abseiling, crate climbing and grass sledging.

Staff wish to express their admiration at the positive attitude, hard work and determination shown by all pupils over the weekend - they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. All the staff thoroughly enjoyed working alongside such a great group of young people – we wish them all the very best on 5th May!

RMPS News

S3 pupils this session have taken part in a Holocaust Studies unit. This has involved them learning about the context and circumstances leading to the Holocaust and tackling issues of anti-Semitism, Sectarianism, Racism, Islamophobia and Homophobia today. For Holocaust Memorial Day pupils watched a documentary, 'The Children Who cheated the Nazis,' which was about the kindertransports to the UK during WW2. They also met with Henry and Ingrid Wuga, who arrived on the kinder transport as refugees from Germany. This was followed up with work in form classes throughout the school about the Holocaust and then onto the wider issue of immigration and asylum seekers and children fleeing places of conflict such as Syria. This is tied into work the school is doing on becoming a Rights Respecting School.



Pupils have also completed a Learning Wall in the RMPS corridor - we would urge you to come along and have a look at some of the outstanding reflective writings, images and poems from our S3.

Some pupils will also be visiting Poland In June 2017 as part of their studies. Lookout for more information from Mrs McGuinness about the trip and a further update on the Rights Respecting School Award soon.

Senior pupils in RMPS as part of their World religion unit on Buddhism visited Kagyu Samye Ling Tibetan Monastery in Lockerbie. Pupils were able to ask questions and take part in a Buddhist meditation workshop and see the prayer room and shrine room. They also attended a conference at Kelvinside Academy led by the philosopher Peter Vardy and took part in a series of lectures on challenging topics from genetic engineering to assisted dying and the death penalty.



Partner Primary Work

The Design and Technology department have been working with P7 pupils from Whitecross Primary School to design and Manufacture a clock. Mr Harris visited pupils at Whitecross to deliver a number of lessons on design. Pupils learned all about the design process, the factors that influence design as well as sketching and rendering techniques. The P7's have been visiting us each week to manufacture their clocks, and we are very impressed with how confident pupils have been with using tools and machinery!

Primary 7 pupils from St Margaret's also visited us to participate in a Junior Apprentice event. The event, organised by Mrs Marshall in the Business Education department, saw the pupils undertaking a variety of tasks in groups to develop and market a new brand of sugar scrub.

On the day, a local business woman, Amanda Thomson from Metal Panda in Falkirk came and spoke to the group of pupils, providing them with information on how to create sugar scrub products and important factors to consider when calculating the cost of the product. Each group created a sample sugar scrub on the day and upon their return to primary, created individual sugar scrubs.

The event was a great success and gave the Primary 7 pupils an opportunity to participate in an Enterprise transition event.



What can you buy for a Tenner?

That was the question posed to S3 Business Management pupils this term as they took part in the Tenner Challenge set by Young Enterprise Scotland. In groups the pupils decided on a company name, logo and what products they would source and sell. With only 4 weeks to turn their tenners into as much profit as possible the pupils got to work looking at possible revenue streams. With Mothers' Day and Easter just around the corner the markets were decided. Pupils were encouraged to enter weekly competitions eg best logo design and best elevator pitch and to think about the social impact of their company, perhaps in their choice of product or where their profits would go eg donated to charity. This real-life business experience helped



to bring the Business Management course to life for the pupils and was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils! You can view pupil progress through this and other challenges on our departmental Twitter feed @GraemeHSBusEd.



Rights Respecting School

This year both staff and pupils have been working hard to help Graeme High become a Rights Respecting School.

This is an initiative introduced by UNICEF UK in 2006 that seeks to put the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child at the heart of school ethos and practice. Schools who are Rights Respecting have reported huge improvements in pupil self-confidence, well-being, learning engagement and pupil conduct. The benefits are endless!



Our first step is to be awarded with a Recognition of Commitment, and we are very close to achieving this. To reach this goal we have been holding assemblies, designing extended form activities, organising workshops and creating posters to display in our classrooms and corridors. All pupils have been given a copy of their rights in a handy booklet (as shown in the photograph). If your child does not have this, please ask them to visit Miss Mooty in Geography to collect one or pick one up at the school office.

Our journey to full recognition will take up to 4 years, so you can look forward to hearing much more about children's rights in the years to come.

If you would like some more information on this award, please visit: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>



A Final Headline

I can hardly believe we've reached the Easter break already. It has been a very busy and rewarding 2 terms and, as we reach the start of another frantic exam diet, I would like to wish our S4-6 pupils every success in their studies over Easter. Remember Easter school - staff are giving up their holidays to support our pupils to the best grades possible. Let's see every class full!

Thank you to all parents and pupils for their support for our full uniform policy and a particular thanks to those who have insisted on the wearing of our school blazer over the winter months. Can I ask everyone to keep up the high standards and as we are now officially in spring, let's see more blazers back on view, loud and proud.

I wish you, your family and friends, every blessing this Easter.



Parent Council – Tweeting Now!

The Parent Council has just “launched” their own twitter account to keep parents and carers as informed as possible about the work they are doing.

The Parent Council works in partnership with the school, particularly around school improvement and regularly provides a “parent voice” to the school on key areas of improvement that the school would like to take forward.

The Parent Council are keen to ensure they are representing the views of as many parents/carers as possible and are looking at a range of ways of keeping parents/carers more up-to-date on the things they are involved in, on their behalf. The new twitter account is a way of doing this as well as providing a means of sharing other information on the key topics that matter to parents/carers.

Please start to follow the Parent Council on Twitter at:

GHS Parent Council
@GHS parentforum

