

GRAEME HIGH News

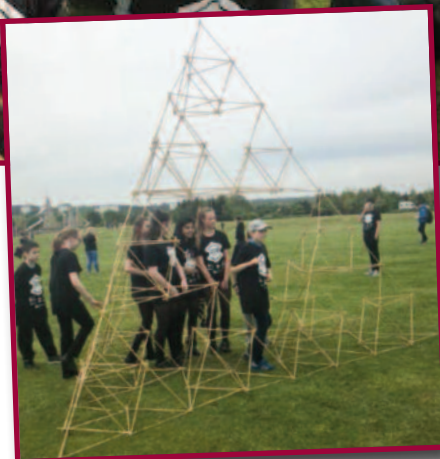


Issue 24 - June 2018

STEM @ THE HELIX



In May, 30 pupils from S1 joined pupils from all other secondary schools in Falkirk for an exciting event at the Helix Park. STEM @ THE HELIX is an event designed to encourage pupils to engage more with STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and learn about possible career paths. Many different workshops and experiences were on offer both to our pupils and the public on Saturday 19th May (over 5000 people attended!). Industry partners who delivered stimulating workshops included Glasgow Science Centre, RSPB, Balfour Beatty, Cala Chem & Dynamic Earth. Pupils had the opportunity to get hands on, be creative and learn new skills as well as get a taste of the many job



opportunities that are available with the help of picking STEM subjects. While 20 pupils actively engaged with what was on offer at the Helix Park, 10 pupils from every school took part in the Bloodhound Challenge at Forth Valley College. This global challenge, backed by Guinness World Records, had pupils creating, racing and modifying model rocket cars in attempt to get into the record books. Building on the skills and knowledge the pupils gained for this event, pupils are now working on a STEM project in school. This project includes meeting requirements from a set of briefs, developing ideas, and presenting their overall project to a judging panel.

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GHS Authors in Print!

A group of our ESOL (English as Another Language) pupils have been involved in a Personal Identity project with a writer in residence, author Mary Turner Thomson.

School librarians in Falkirk bid to the Scottish Library Improvement Fund for a project with young people with English as an additional language and used the money from this to fund the Writer in Residence and buy resources.

Szandi Lodi S4; Ayan Haji and Malaika Fida Nisar of S2 and Blagovesta Nikolova, Abeera Fida Nisar and Sabrina

Argachof de Souza of S1, have all come to Scotland and Graeme High School very recently from countries across the world ranging from Hungary to Brazil.

Mary worked with the girls over four sessions to help them write a story about their experience of moving from their home country to a completely new country and culture. The stories, some factual and some fictional, some in English and some in the pupil's native language have been published in a book which will be available for other young people in the same situation to read and take advice from. The book launch took place at the Falkirk Wheel on the 19th of June where the pupils and their families celebrated their achievement and received a copy of the published book.



RUN – LADIES – RUN!

Picture the scene – it's 9 am Sunday morning on 10 June 2018 and women from all over the Scotland are travelling to Kelvingrove Park. Why? To join in with another 8,000 women to



take on the challenge of the Ladies 10K. Ladies of all shapes, sizes and fitness levels gathered together on the streets of the city to walk, jog and run the event. Some did it to improve their fitness levels, some for fun and in our case we did it to raise money for a charity close to our heart.

This year Team GHS took on the race to raise funds for Strathcarron Hospice in memory of both Marianne McCafferty and Helen Russell, 2 former teachers. Between money raised at the staff BBQ and our Just Giving Page we raised over £1,000. We did them proud!

So next year if you are looking for a challenge why not join us? We are looking to swell our ranks with more staff, senior girls and their mums. What we can promise you all is that the feeling when you pass over the finish line is amazing!

Learning Cafe

2018 saw the launch of our new Learning Café. Senior pupils have had the opportunity to study with friends on a Wednesday after school. Tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and cakes have all been provided. We received great feedback on how beneficial pupils found this in the preparation on the run up to their SQA exams. We hope to continue this next year so watch this space for more news on the Learning Café 😊



G in the Park - It's Great To Be Eight!

On Wednesday 30th May our annual G in the Park festival took place. The sun was shining as the two week S2 interdisciplinary project drew to a spectacular close.



With thanks to a professional stage provided by SoundSense Academy, pupils and staff were entertained with a variety of live musical acts such as the S2 project band, Deep Indigo, our staff band, S3 band 'The Formulas' and our S2 Dance elective group wearing their t-shirts designed with help from our S2 Textile Designers. Our school show cast also serenaded us. We were lucky enough to have two visiting acts this year. Mrs Buchanan discovered the talents of Robin Ashcroft and Connor Fyfe who impressed the crowd with their amazing performance. Our headline act was the fantastic, Ella Shaw who appeared on Britain's Got Talent in 2015. She was a big hit with the crowd; even getting a few of them to join her on stage! Our S2 Media team of presenters, editors and filmmakers ensured the stage management ran smoothly.

Most S2 pupils got involved in running stalls on the day. Our Lifestyle Gurus gave pupils and staff the chance to make their own smoothie on a 'smoothie bike'. The Sweet Thoughts elective provided a variety of sweets, popcorn and drinks to festival goers. Our Product Designers sold boom boxes, all designed and manufactured during their elective week. The 'Splash the Teacher' stall offered by our Charity Ambassador elective proved to be very popular! The Music Researchers sold a variety of music-themed crafts from their stall and our Textile Designers sold screen-printed bags. And the Cycling Promoters showed off their skills on an obstacle course that festival goers could try. There was plenty of food on offer from our hardworking band of Caterers, and the Environmental Explorers provided toasted marshmallows and Fair Trade hot chocolate.



The festival day was a great success; overall we raised £1883.04 for our four house charities: Teenage Cancer Trust, Strathcarron Hospice, the Falkirk Foodbank and FDAMH.

Whilst the festival day was a huge success it did follow inventive planning by our staff and two weeks of learning, hard work and enthusiasm from our S2 pupils. All learners took part in lessons which looked at the impact of music festivals on the environment and the contribution they make to both the local economy and the Scottish tourism industry. They undertook the role of band managers, learned about festivals in other countries, the impact of music on our lives and the dangers of drugs and alcohol on the body. At the core of their learning pupils were given the chance to develop their skills in enterprise, leadership, communication; all skills that will help them in the world of work. From catering to marketing, animation to first aid, presenting to pond dipping, orienteering to cycling, filming to fundraising to few mention just a few. Yet again our pupils gained valuable experiences and created lasting memories.

A project like G in the Park helps our pupils to access their rights. Through their core and elective classes pupils can be creative, work with others, relax and have fun while learning outside of subject boundaries. As a Rights Respecting School, this is very important to us.

Miss Mooty, *Festival Director*

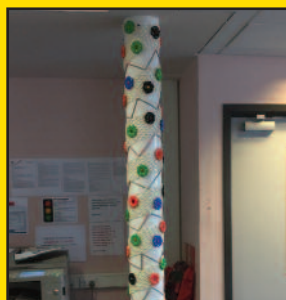


The Woolly Warriors Strike Again

If you go into the library today you'll find that it looks a bit different. The Yarn Bombers from the Woolly Warriors Club have been at it again. They've brought a bit of colour into the school by decorating the pillars in the library.

Yarn bombing is a form of non-permanent graffiti where groups knit and crochet to decorate objects to make them look more interesting. Yarn bombing is believed to have originated in America and it has since spread worldwide and has now reached Graeme High.

Last year a yarn bombed bike mysteriously appeared at reception one night. I wonder what the Woolly Warriors have planned next. Watch this space.



Seasons for Growth in GHS

Seasons for Growth is a programme which aims to build the resilience of children and young people who are dealing with significant loss or change.

The death of a loved one, parental divorce or separation, the experience moving house or school... big changes like these can cause confronting and confusing emotions. Seasons for Growth helps children and young people to develop the language needed to express their feelings, and gives them a safe place to talk about them.

A group of GHS pupils who have experienced such a loss or change have been involved in the programme this term which was delivered by the Personal Support department and a representative from the Council's Educational Psychology service.

If you think this programme would benefit your child please contact their Depute House Head.

Pupil Comments

"Seasons for Growth helps you think about different ways to deal your emotions"

"I feel way better and free. I know I can talk to anyone about either my worries or difficulties"

"I know about other things I can do when I'm upset"

"It has taught me that change isn't always a bad thing"



SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS!

This year every S2 pupil in Business Education took part in the "Sweet Thoughts" project. This involved them in putting the theory they had been learning about entrepreneurs in class into practice by running their own business. Each class came up with sweets to sell at key times throughout the year – Christmas Carol Concert, Easter Treats in the Social Space and a Sweets Stand at G in the Park. I am delighted to say that all classes involved all managed to make enough profit to have a Pizza Lunch.

So watch out Richard Branson and Lord Sugar



G in the Park Elective - Sweet Thoughts

This year's G in the Park saw four S2 classes work on their Sweet Thoughts enterprise project with the aim of selling their products at the music event.

During class time pupils had been involved in researching products and making decisions in terms of their marketing mix – deciding on a product (including creating a brand identity), calculating an appropriate selling price and creating some promotional materials. The products on sale included Sweets, Ice Cream Smoothies and Popcorn. A fifth group of pupils took responsibility for selling the refreshments.

During the G in the Park elective lessons, pupils from each class were involved in looking further at the merchandising of their products and customer service as well as spending some time considering the importance of ethics in business.



Music Department

As ever, this has been a busy year for our music pupils. Going all the way back to January, two of our multi-talented pupils, Greg and Ross McCulloch went back to their roots, performing bagpipes at Hallglen Primary School's Scottish Assembly. But their musical year didn't end there, they were also heavily involved in our S2 interdisciplinary project at the end of May. Our G in the Park band 'Deep Indigo' (wonder where they got that name from?!), took to the festival stage in front of the entire junior school after bringing their individual skills to the table and only a few days intensive rehearsing together. The band worked incredibly hard, performed amazingly and enjoyed it so much they are going to make a go of it for the future. Their next gig was to play to all the P7's in June as part of a transition event along with a whole host of other music department items.

Also in June, Higher music pupils Elle Black and Lauren Morelli formed a duet and performed one of their exam pieces as entertainment at Prizegiving. The school show cast performed two songs as well, and the staff band will close out the school session on the last day of term in the assembly hall – always worth a look!

Another band, The Formulas, have really clicked this year and have been practising hard in their own free time as part of the School of Rock project. Every time they perform they seem to get better and better and they're only just

going into S4 so their potential is huge. They performed at the Christmas concert this year and really impressed the G in the Park crowd. They were also brave enough to perform at Bo'ness Academy talent show where they were very well received and immediately invited back for next year.

Our samba band continues to grow in numbers and stature performing once again at the Falkirk Council Instrumental Service concerts in March at the Town Hall, as did a good number of GHS pupils in the various council ensembles. There have been some other notable individual performances and achievements including Keira Tracey and Samantha Gordon performing in NYCOS and Darren Mulligan passing Rockschoool Grade 4 Guitar with merit!

During 'school hours' the department were pleased to welcome the P7's for the transition days in May for an 'identity' lesson. Many of our junior pupils enjoyed a music/drama excursion to see Wicked at the Playhouse in Edinburgh – educational AND fun. And finally, in the last week of term, a number of our senior pupils will go to London on the Creative Arts Faculty trip before everyone enjoys a well-deserved holiday to refresh and go again in August.

If you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on as the year progresses please follow us on twitter @GHSMusic1

Hospitality

Hospitality pupils in the Home Economics department have completed another busy year.

Skills developed in the Home Economics Department through passing NARs at N4 and N5 have enabled pupils to play an active role in providing hospitality at a number of high profile school events including Prize Giving.

The department also hosted visits from a group of pupils from St Margaret's PS to assist their skills course. Pupils made a Smoothie and Nachos with tomato salsa.



7 Days of Easter Family Learning Photography Competition

Congratulations to Megan Richards S1 and her dad Mr Richards who won the '7 Days of Easter' Family Learning Photography Competition. Pupils had to submit photographs in collaboration with a family member (7 photos each) reflecting their Easter holidays and what Easter meant to them. Below are a selection of Megan and her dad's winning entries.





Miss Bell's S2 class, along with one class from each secondary school in Falkirk, took part in the 12th RED Book Award. The pupils read 4 shortlisted titles and then voted for their favourite. Each class also had a visit from one of the four authors, so Dan Smith visited Graeme High and spoke to pupils in the library in May about his book "Boy X".

The following day the pupils attended the Award Ceremony in Falkirk Town Hall where they watched book trailers each class had created, had a question and answer session with the authors and the chance to get books signed, before the winner was announced.

The winning title this year was "Welcome to Nowhere" by Elizabeth Laird. Perhaps on your summer reading list!

Uniform Bank

As part of our ongoing work as a Rights Respecting School, some senior pupils visited INEOS FPS and O&P UK who have been supporting us by donating essential

items for our school clothing bank. The equivalent of more than one dozen boxes of clothes and toiletries were collected this term including a generous contribution of hand sanitizer and sun cream from INEOS catering/FM contractor Aramark.

The support from our local community is invaluable in our quest to promote visible equality through the provision of good quality school uniform for every one of our pupils. Current research shows that having a quality school uniform is key to children feeling confident about themselves and this in turn leads to improvements in attendance and achievement.

Well done to all pupils who have helped with the uniform bank through organising stock, collecting donations and designing our store. Your efforts are directly improving the lives of your classmates.

Mrs McCormack



Prizegiving

This year our annual S4-S6 Senior Prize-giving took place on Thursday 7th June – it was a swanky event with red carpet, cabaret-style seating, centre-pieces and fancy table settings, with award winners sitting beside proud family members and friends.

Entertainment on the night was provided by the talented pupils from our Music Department – there were songs from our School Show Cast and a performance on the Glockenspiel from Lauren Morelli and Elle Black.

Our amazing pupils won awards for attainment and endeavour across all subjects in our curriculum and, in addition, there were prizes and trophies for outstanding achievement and for service to the school and community.

Our premier award winners were two S5 pupils:

The James B. McHardy Medal - Proxime Accessit: Jamie Stuart

The Graeme High School Medal – Dux of the School: Heather Richards

Needless to say we are very proud of the achievements of all of our award winners and wish all our senior pupils the very best of luck when their SQA Exam results arrive in the summer.



THE CLOUD

After a very busy first session in Nurture, we are really looking forward to our Summer holidays. We've had another busy term which has seen us; discussing feelings, improving our cooking skills, looking after a pet and much, much more. We all started our new timetables in June which meant that our original S1 group have now cut their time in The Cloud in half in order to prepare for S2 after the holidays. We look forward to welcoming our new S1s in August and wish all the staff, pupils and parents of GHS a happy and relaxing holiday. Thank you all for your support in our first year.



The day we tried to break a World Record!



John and Bella.



Jon practising his peeling!



Kyle and his Ready Steady Cook homework.

Wider Achievement in Business Education - ECDL

In a joint venture with Forth Valley College, Louis Ainsley, Eilidh Davidson, Lauren Kirk and Charlotte Wright have successfully gained their ECDL qualification. The ECDL Certification is the fastest growing IT user qualification in over 125 countries, with many UK companies setting the ECDL as a mandatory requirement. Well done Louis, Lauren, Charlotte and Eilidh.



ECDL
European Computer
Driving Licence

Graeme High SuperSavers account

Miss Chalmers and a group of S1 leadership pupils are in the process of setting up a collection point in the school for the Falkirk District Credit Union – known as the 'Graeme High SuperSavers Account'. Opening a SuperSavers account gives you the convenience of being able to save money in school, be it small or large amounts, knowing that your money is safe. The S1 pupils – Brodie Mina, Ryan Martin, Hannah Wilson, Muskan Khalid, Mia Hughes, Alanna Gallacher and Casey McDonald – have recently been promoting the Super Savers account to all of the cluster primary 7 classes and have made a 'Super' job of this!

All pupils are welcome open a SuperSavers account and begin saving with the credit union. To find out more, visit our collection points on Friday lunchtimes in the reception area, or follow us on Twitter @GSaversavers.



Strathclyde Business School's Young Enterprise Scotland Exam

After successfully running their Young Enterprise company, Craft Creations, this year 5 S5 pupils took part in the Strathclyde Business School's Young Enterprise Scotland Exam where they were asked to reflect on their experience. Well done to Tazmin McCormick, Chloe Fraser, Jessica Thomson, Katy McLean and Kerys Buchanan who all passed with flying colours!



Personal Finance

For the first time this year, we offered a group of S4 pupils the chance to study for a Personal Finance qualification. This gave pupils the opportunity to gain valuable skills for life and work as well as achieving an SQA qualification. 17 pupils gained an award at level 5, with a further 8 gaining an award at level 4. Well done to these S4 pupils!



Oceans of Plastic – S1 Social Subjects



As part of their Social Subjects lessons, two S1 classes spent time researching the impact of our use of plastic on the oceans of the world. These lessons were led by the issues that the students themselves raised and much of the content was personalised to each class. As well as looking at how plastic moves around the oceans and how it impacts on marine life, both classes expressed an interest in how usage of plastics can be reduced or how recycling can be encouraged. One class wrote letters to their MPs and MSPs to encourage the UK and Scottish governments to adopt the Scandinavian approach of deposits on plastic bottles. As a result of these letters, several of the politicians wrote back to the class to let them know what the governments were considering doing or to inform them that they had passed onto their comments to the relevant government department. The second class decided to take a more local approach and to encourage students in Graeme High School itself to recycle their plastic. The class held a competition and the winning poster, by kind permission of Ms Carroll, will be made into a poster which will be displayed in classrooms. Both of these classes were able to access their right to have their views and opinions heard and taken seriously as laid down by Article 12 in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Mrs Wallace



Graeme High Scottish FA Performance School Pupils Excel

S6 pupil Taylor Hamill recently made her U17 national youth team debut for Scotland against Sweden in a European qualification tournament held in France. Taylor currently plays for Glasgow City and will be hoping to build on her experience with future national team representation.

Performance School graduates Daryl Meikle and Scott Banks will shortly start their first pre-season training as professional footballers. Daryl signed a three year deal with Hamilton AFC and Scott is contracted to Dundee United for the next two seasons.

"This highlights the hard work and commitment the pupils have undertaken over the past four years at the school which has been rewarded and hope that they continue to make further progress in their future careers."



Daryl



Taylor Hamill



Scott Banks



Graeme High – SFA Performance School Fundraiser



Session 2018-19 proved to be another hugely successful one for the SFA Performance School at Graeme High School. In addition to the significant development of each individual player on the football pitch, our class of 2018 worked hard to ensure that the key values and principles of the programme were central to their experiences. This went a long way in the success of our S4 group, in their final year of the programme, as they strived towards becoming better players, achieving better grades and developing all-round to better people.

The culmination in the work of the class of 2018 was showcased in their planning, organising and promotion of our first SFA Performance School Fundraising event in aid of Anthony Nolan. Held in March at Ochilview Stadium, all S1-S4 pupils within the SFA programme took part in a Champions League inspired tournament. Impressively, the event went on to raise over £450 with all pupils heavily involved in collecting sponsorships for and rising awareness of Anthony Nolan.

More information about this charity can be found by visiting anthonymolan.org.



Summer Message from our Headteacher

I hope that having read through this summer newsletter and followed us across the year on Twitter you will be extremely impressed with all that our pupils and staff have been up to this year. Impressive as this is, it's just a flavour of the enormous amount of work undertaken by our fantastic pupils, committed staff and supportive parents. We will continue to aspire to be the very best we can be, individually and as a community.

This summer, 5 very experienced and influential teachers will retire: Mr Levey, Mrs McLeod, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Faill and Mr McCansh. Together they have given over 100 years of fantastic serve to the school and we wish them every happiness on the next phase of their lives. Mr Ruddy has been promoted to DHT in Glasgow, Mrs Heeps to Principal Teacher in Edinburgh and Mr Dyle moves to a new post in Special Education. However, as these colleagues move on, we will welcome some excellent new staff and I am certain that they will build on the legacy left by others.

Whatever your plans, World Cup or Wimbledon, I wish you a happy, safe and relaxing summer. I look forward to seeing our pupils back in their full school uniform, including blazer, on Tuesday 21 August at 8.35 am.

