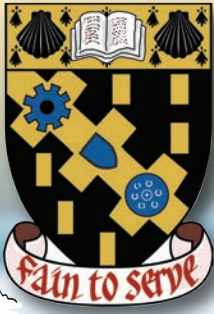


GRAEME HIGH News




Issue 24 - December 2018

Christmas Message from our Headteacher

I think we are all saying 'How did it get to Christmas already?'. A sign of busy lives I suppose. Pupils and staff have been working really hard on learning and assessments and in lots of new and supportive interventions to help our young people thrive. If you find yourself with some down-time over the festive period, perhaps you might take a look at what's on the website www.graemehigh.com. Our 'Review of the Session' presentation and our great new Vision, Values and Aims are worth a look. If you're really relaxed, you might find some interesting reading in the Parent/Carer, Family Learning tab. It's got to be better than the Wizard of Oz again!

I would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support and for strongly encouraging our young people to



be excited about learning. We also really want to see everyone at parents' evenings and school events to ensure that we build a strong sense of community to support our young people.



On behalf of us all, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair of our Parent Council, Mrs Rhona MacDonald. Rhona has been an amazing champion for our school, its pupils and parents – she really embodies our school motto 'Fain to Serve'. Our new Chair is Mrs Sian Balfour and we encourage you to come along to one of our Parent Council meetings and see how you can help take the school forward.

I wish pupils, parents, carers, staff and our local community a very happy, peaceful and fun-filled Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone rested and rejuvenated on **Monday, 7 January 2018**.

Future Chef



Future chef is a prestigious cooking competition for pupils aged 12-16.

Rebecca Bissett and Lewis Paton from S3 were selected from our school heat to represent GHS at Forth Valley College on the 2nd November.

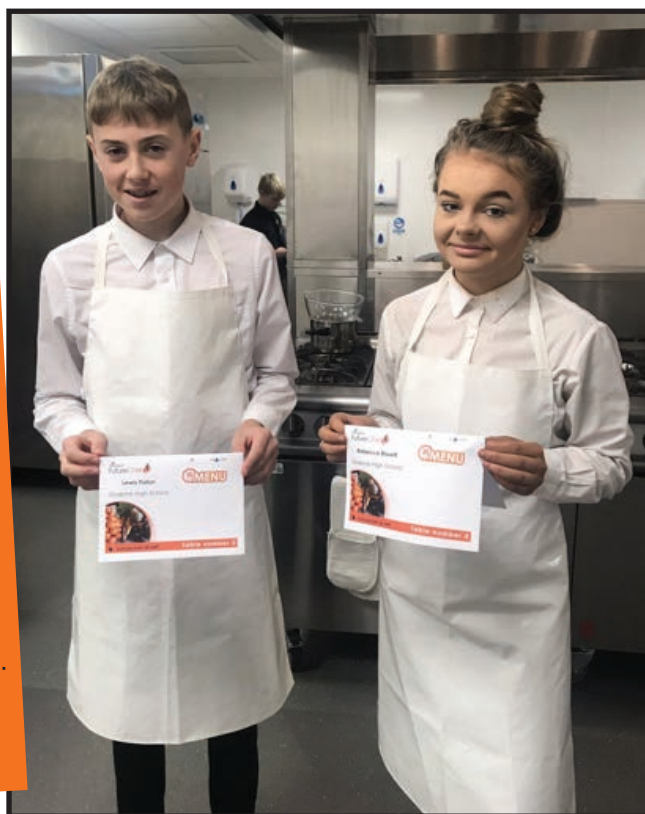
Pupils had to come up with a 2 course meal to prepare and serve at the college.

The regional final was the final 10 out of 4000 pupils from across Forth Valley and the winner from this day would compete against the rest of Scotland at Glasgow City College in the new year.

Both pupils were outstanding and although we had no winner we are extremely proud of both pupils and what they achieved.

Watch this space for next year !!!

Miss Walls will be on the hunt for more participants !!



**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

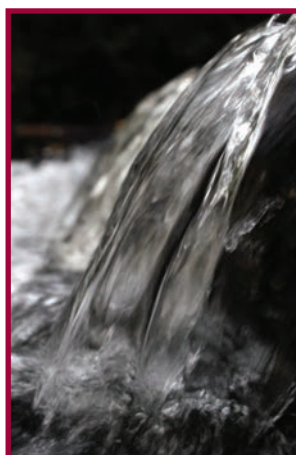
**Red Award
page 2**

**Primary 7 Project
page 4**

**Big Walk
page 8**

Fabulous Photos From The Higher Photographers

Since Higher Photography was introduced at the beginning of this session, the pupils have worked hard developing their skills and knowledge which has resulted in the pupils producing amazing photographs! The subject has proved very popular with 18 pupils taking the class! Each pupil has a very unique project and we can't wait to see the finished folios!



New Graeme High banner

The new Graeme High School banner was unveiled – thanks to Abby, Rory and Aiden for their work designing it.



RED Award

Mrs McCormick's S2 class are taking part in the RED Award this year.

The pupils have to read the shortlisted titles by March so that they can vote for the winner.

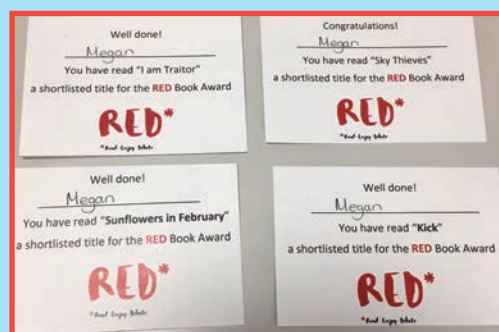
The winner will be announced at the Award ceremony in May and one of the authors will visit the school next term.

The shortlisted titles are

"Kick" by Mitch Johnson

"Sunflowers in February" by Phyllida Shrimpton

"I am Traitor" by Sif Sigmarsson,



"Sky Thieves" by Dan Walker

Well done to the pupils who have already read all 4 titles – Megan read them in two weeks!

The class are working hard and have produced some wonderful reviews and alternative endings.



Interhouse leaders

Welcome to our new Interhouse Leaders of 2018-2019. We have four houses within the school and leading them are: Lockhart – Rebekah Baxter, Saskia Liddell, Holly Robertson; Thomson – Darcey Cassells, Sarahjane Polson and Leah Wallace. Steele – Anya Dickson, Aimee McQueen, Eva Waugh; Morrison – Ellie Anderson, Anna Henderson, Poppy Hepburn. The House Leaders have been running and organising Interhouse events every lunchtime to gain points for each house. In October we had our first Interhouse afternoon event with Basketball, Dance, Fitness and Football on offer. We have one more competitive afternoon ahead of us before the Christmas Holidays, which house will come out on top?

D Fullard, Teacher PE.

SPORTS LEADERS TAKING CHARGE!

This year we have another fantastic group of Sports Leaders. Those involved have been developing their leadership skills through volunteering within our extra-curricular programme, in our cluster Primary Schools and in partnership with Active Schools. We have braved the weather to assist at Cross Country events and brushed up on our umpiring skills at our cluster Short Tennis event. Others have participated in additional training opportunities to further develop their knowledge and coaching abilities: Eilidh Donaldson, Hana Mackay, Tazmin McCormick and Ellie Ward all attended a multi skills course at Larbert High School in November and Chloe Barbour, Ben Brown, Poppy Hepburn, Jack Lapsley and Jake Telfer all attended a Coach Academy programme with Active Schools over the October holidays. Keep up the good work team!

Jennifer Faill, Teacher of PE



Rights Respecting Schools in GHS

In June we were awarded our Silver Rights Respecting Schools award from UNICEF UK. This means that we are well on our way to embedding the rights of all children in our policies and practices in Graeme High!

This year as we embark on our journey towards Gold, we are in the capable hands of two of our school captains; Hana Mackay and Jake Newton. They have already spoken to all pupils in assemblies and the first meetings of this year's steering group have taken place.

One big aspect of the Gold award is a campaign, both in school and the local community. Pupils have chosen

to tackle single-use plastics within GHS and in eating establishments close to the school.

Watch this space!

What can you do to help? Talk to your children about their rights, discuss rights-based issues in the news or ask them about our Right of the Month.

If you would like any additional information on the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award, please visit: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/getting-started/gold/>

GOLD
RIGHTS RESPECTING

SILVER
RIGHTS AWARE

BRONZE
RIGHTS COMMITTED

Poland Trip 2018



We visited Krakow in Poland, we took 30 S3 pupils who had studied the Holocaust as part of the enrichment course.

We visited: Schindler Museum, Auschwitz Birkenau, Galicia Museum

As well as taking in local sites and dining in traditional Jewish restaurants.

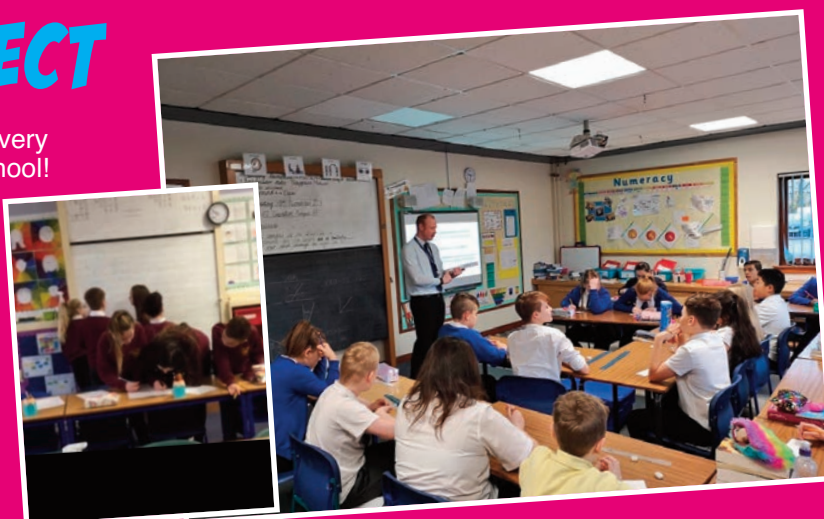
This gave us an insight into what Jewish people in Poland experience through the war.

The high point was meeting a survivor of the Holocaust and hearing her amazing story.



PRIMARY 7 PROJECT

All pupils should have two hours homework every night! Mobile phones should be banned in school! Schools should only sell healthy food! Controversial statements such as these have been the focus for a joint persuasive writing and speaking project between cluster primaries and the English Department. English teachers thoroughly enjoyed visiting the primaries and meeting prospective pupils who were more than able to argue their opinions using a range of persuasive techniques. We are looking forward to a cluster debating competition in the New Year.



KEVIN THE CARROT

some new members of the Home Economics department, Kevin has been seen around the school.



Learning Café.

This successful venture started again in November for pupils in S4-6 on Wednesdays from 2.45 – 4pm

It gives pupils a chance to do homework and revise, encouraged by cake, chocolate and hot drinks with staff on hand to give help and support.

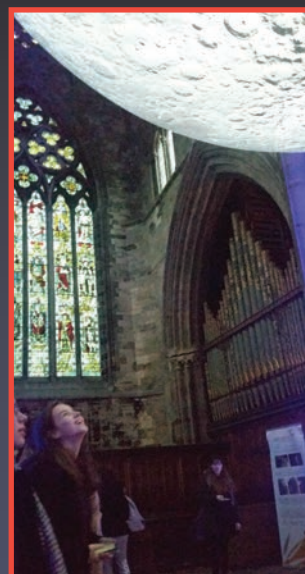


Strathcarron Coffee & Carols Night

Pupils from our Junior Choir were involved in the coffee and carols fundraising event for Strathcarron. They had an excellent night and enjoyed singing lots of Christmas songs! There was a great enthusiasm from our guests in the hall and the community singing sounded great.

Charlotte Bruce S5 received her NYCOS Gold Award (National Youth Choir Scotland)

Art & Design Doncaster Minster



Art & Design Advanced Higher students attended Doncaster Minster on the 22nd November to see the Museum of the Moon. This installation as pictured houses a 7m wide replica of the Moon showing, 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

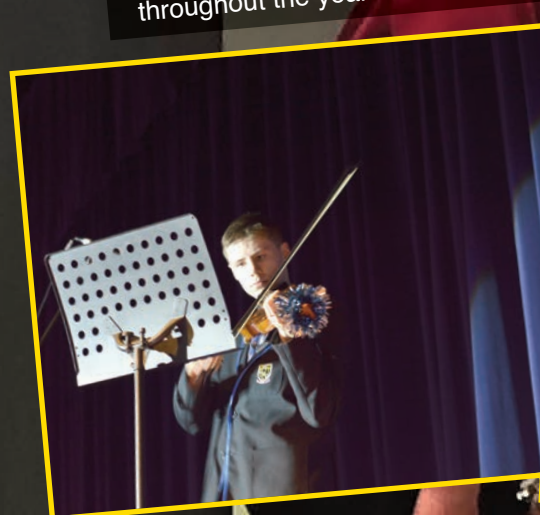
Museum of the Moon is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. His new artwork Earth is being showcased in Scotland at the Kelpies as part of the Fire and Light Exhibition at New Year.

After being inspired by the exhibition, students will work with Falkirk Community Trust and the artists Jane McNally and Pearl Kinnear at the Glasgow Sculpture Studios, to create alongside other students from Larbert and Braes High school solar system planet lanterns. These pieces will sit alongside fire performances, interactive light installations, breath-taking puppetry, enchanting sculptures, and animated projections depicting the zodiac signs. Make sure you get your tickets for this exciting event!



Christmas Extravaganza

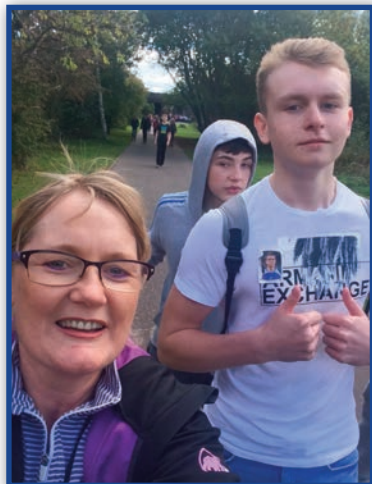
Our Christmas concert took place on Thursday 13th December and was a huge success. Every House was represented from S1-6 across the 12 acts which performed. Although the concert only lasted a couple of hours, it was the culmination of weeks and months of practice on the part of the pupils and their teachers, and all at lunchtimes/after school as part of the amazing depth of extra-curricular activities which are available to pupils here at Graeme High School. So not only did we have a huge variety of music acts provided by the music department and their team of music tutors, we also had dance and drama acts. There's also a team of staff and pupil helpers who take care of 'the rest' catering/programmes/front of house etc, without whom the show simply could not happen. It's hard to imagine how it could get any better but we say that every year and yet it continues to grow. Thanks again to all the parents who came to watch and for supporting their children in attending rehearsals throughout the year. See you all again, same time, same place, next year!!





Graeme Highs Big Walk

The weather was in our favour for our annual Big Walk this year! All 48 form classes took part, all to raise money for our school funds. A big thank you to everyone who helped contribute to our total of £4000. Well done to TH10 who were rewarded with a pizza lunch for raising the most in sponsor money!



Languages Clubs in Graeme High School

The Languages Department offers a range of clubs throughout the week.

The Spanish Club is on Wednesdays at lunch with Mr Baxter. If you're interested in learning more about Hispanic countries, culture, language and food, come along and have fun!

The EAL Club is on Fridays at lunch with Miss Vénuat. All pupils who don't have English as their first language are invited, as well as pupils interested in learning about other countries and languages; we learn more about traditions and cultures around the world, and sometimes, we also taste food from abroad.

The Mandarin Club is on Fridays at lunch with our Chinese teacher Mr Qin, if you're interested to learn more about China and want to learn some Mandarin, this club is for you!



Engineering Excellence from our pupils!

A fantastic group of six S5 pupils were part of a team from Graeme High who took part in the EDT, Balfour Beatty and Forth Valley College Construction and Engineering Challenge. Laura Brown, Callum Callahan, Peter Clarke, Ciaran Cunningham,



Wajeeha Naeem and Leah Wallace S5 worked together to produce a creative proposal for maintaining the temperature in the reception area of the New Forth Valley College Campus. They worked closely with their Balfour Beatty mentor Iain Connell, attended a site visit and presented their solution to members from industry and college. The team competed with Falkirk Secondary schools and were **OVERALL winners!** Well done to all involved! Future Engineers in the making!

Engineering the Future for Girls 2018 Success for Abby!

Abby McNab S4 successfully secured a place on the Engineering the Future for Girls BP Summer School 2018 at the University of Strathclyde. A large number of pupils completed a rigorous application process from across Scotland and Abby has done exceptionally well to be offered a place on the course. Abby participated in the course in June, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to pursuing her career in Engineering!



Waterstones

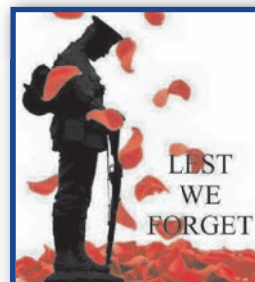
On a spooky Halloween, Mrs James' S2 class along with Mrs Sergeant ventured into Glasgow to visit the Waterstones store. These students had completed the fresh start course last year and as a result have developed a love of reading. While there students were able to choose two books each for the school library. It was an absolutely fantastic afternoon, students were given guided tours of the shop, discussed all things books, genres, etc. 'It was great to see the class so absorbed in their choices, making sure that what they chose was not just something they would enjoy, but also something which would be popular with their peers back at school.' Mrs James, English Teacher.

The main attraction was the Harry Potter common room where students were able to sit and relax, read a book and eat their lunch. Some even partook in a game of wizard chess!



Remembrance

The 11th November 2018 marked the Centenary of the end of the First World War. Students took part in a range of lessons commemorating those whose lives were affected by the Great War through various activities within each department. In PSE, students learned about Shell Shock and how we treat modern day PTSD. In Business, students learned about which products were used by soldiers and how they were marketed and in RE students learned how those who were opposed to war were treated. There were also four House assemblies lead by two former Graeme High Students, the House Captains, Mrs Cowan and one of our local school Chaplains.



Watersports Trip

In the summer a group of pupils and staff went to La Fosca in Spain to improve their skills and learn new activities.



Senior Early Learning and Childcare visits Laurieston Primary

This term senior pupils visited a P4 class at Laurieston Primary to put the knowledge and skills they have been learning so far into action. Pupils prepared Christmas themed activities where the P4's made a candy cane Rudolph tree decoration and played Christmas themed bingo. The seniors did themselves and the school proud and the school were very keen to have our pupils back later in the year.



Text Book Bank

If you are having a "Christmas Clear Out", please remember that any unneeded textbooks, toiletry items or school uniform/winter clothing suitable for school (hats, gloves, scarves, jackets), would be gratefully received from by our Equity Banks.

Items can be handed to the School Office.

Author Visit

All the S1 pupils heard a talk from author David Goutcher who also took part in the Falkirk Storytelling Festival in in October. He talked about his book "Spy Quest" which he described as "a modern day treasure hunt". The book uses Augmented Reality technology which can be used with a free app so that readers can also see movie clips while they are reading the book. Readers can become immersed in the story as they try to solve the mystery both by reading and with the extra information from the movie clips.

S1 Skills for Success

This year S1 pupils have been developing their confidence and leadership, teamwork and resilience with Mr Robertson, Mrs Chisholm and the Falkirk Community Trust. Pupils have taken part in Hillwalking, Canoeing, Rock climbing and team building activities at Muiravonside Country Park. We are very proud of the pupils progress so far and look forward to seeing how they will be able to transfer these skills back into school and their lives.

Blaine Robertson, Support Teacher.



CHALLENGE ENTERPRISE – 2018

This year two S6 Business Education pupils took part in the Rotary Club's – Challenge Enterprise weekend – Laura Beurskens and Amie Shirra. The weekend involved them getting together with other 17-18 year olds from across the country to complete a series of activities and lectures all centred around business and enterprise. The weekend included them coming up with a business idea for a product which they felt would take off in the market place.

Both pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experience and felt that it had impacted positively on them as it helped them to develop skills for work and life. All of the pupils talked about how it improved their skills in communication, team working, leadership and boosted their confidence.

Laura and Amie worked together to produce an excellent PowerPoint Presentation about the weekend and the impact it had on them which they will bravely present to the Polmont Rotary Club in the new year.

Well done to both girls, they were great ambassadors for the school and the Business Education Department!



Skills for Life and Work Cooking Challenge

Both the S3 and S5/6 Skills for Life and Work classes impressed during a 'Ready Steady Cook' challenge. The classes showed their team working skills when preparing an impressive array of dishes representing different cultures from around the world. All the finished dishes were eagerly sampled by the class teacher, who found it almost impossible to choose a favourite as both the quality of the presentation of the dishes and the fact that they were all delicious made the decision tricky. Highlights included a truly delicious curry, a wonderful bowl of chilli and an amazingly sophisticated panna cotta. The pupils were ably supported by Mr Alder Enhanced Support Assistant and former army chef who encouraged them to work together and to try cooking techniques that many had previously not attempted.



Business in Action

We have had a busy first term in Business Education again this year! Our department likes to give our pupils as many opportunities to show their entrepreneurial side and put their theory into practice as we can, so this year, our S3 Business classes have taken part in a 'Design an Ice Cream' competition set by the School of Marketing and sponsored by Walls. The pupils were asked to create a new flavour of ice cream, ice lolly or cone and had to consider their price, how they would promote their product and how they would make their product both socially and environmentally sustainable. With a years' free supply of ice cream up for grabs, the pupils were keen to be involved!

Our S1 classes have been hard at work on a course which blends both Admin & IT and Business skills where they build excellent ICT and researching skills. They will be creating a tourism leaflet for a local attraction at the beginning of next term and so far they have developed their knowledge of business needs and wants and sectors of the economy. They have also further improved their Word Processing, Desktop Publishing and Internet Research skills. The pupils will be challenged to put these skills to use for their tourism leaflet very soon!

Our S5/6 Higher Business pupils were treated to a Business Awareness day hosted at The Park Hotel in

September. The students heard from many inspirational business owners regarding their journey into business and learned tips for success. The businesses challenged the pupils to come up with new ideas around the areas of finance, operations and human resources. An enjoyable and educational day was had by all and every pupil was a credit to the school.

All Higher Business pupils also took part in the Fire Up Scotland event which was open to all schools across Scotland and took place at the SSE Hydro in September. The pupils heard from truly inspirational individuals including Alice Thompson, co-founder of Social Bite and Lucy Lintott, a young lady living with motor neurone disease who touched everyone's hearts. Again the Higher pupils were a credit to us all.

To all our S4-6 classes preparing for prelims. Remember that all PowerPoint notes and a range of tasks and revision material are available via GLOW and on our Teams pages. Happy revising!

If you are thinking about buying your son or daughter a new laptop you download all of the Microsoft Software (Microsoft 365) from Glow for free!

Merry Christmas from all of the Business Education Staff and best wishes for 2019!!