

N GRAEME HIGH ews



Issue 25 - June 2019

Message from our Headteacher

Summer holidays again, I think we all must have been very busy to come around so quickly?



With a quick read through this summer newsletter I'm sure, like me, you will be very impressed with all that our pupils have engaged with and everything that has been achieved. Whilst this describes a very impressive array of activities and achievements, these are just the tip of the iceberg.

With the removal of form time in the morning, it is vitally important that we have everyone's full support in eliminating late coming. All pupils must be in the school building **no later than 8.45 am** when the warning bell for first class rings. Every time a pupil is late it affects not only their learning but the learning of everyone in the class that is being disrupted.

For those who arrive early, can remind parents that our school kitchen are offering a £1 breakfast café. This runs from 8.15-8.40 am.

I would like to thank our fantastic pupils, committed staff and supportive parents for their ongoing dedication to our school community. We will continue to Aspire, Attain and Achieve to the very best of our ability, individually and collectively.

I look forward to seeing our pupils back in their full school uniform, with blazer, on **Wednesday 21 August no later than 8.45 am.**

G in the Park Festival Creators

This year's English GITP elective allowed pupils to create their own festivals. To do this, their projects blended theory, in areas such as finance, with practical experience. For example, they had to create a budget and plan what music, artists, technology and merchandise they would want at their festival, as well as create a practical model of what their

festival grounds would look like. After the initial planning stage, they were then given the chance to create their own event - a stall showcasing their model festivals; posters; tickets and advertising. This resulted in students practising and gaining a broad set of skills in events management. The highlight of the elective was giving students the chance to present their

work to the rest of S1, S2 and S3 and receiving peer feedback. Pupils voted on the best overall project. This year the winning project was by Chloe Glenn, Olivia Vasse, Alyssa Breen and Rachel Hunter. Well done girls! And well done to all those who participated in this year's English GITP elective.

Miss Homer.



Social Norms Project

S2 Social Norms project piloted through PSE lessons. The class voted with set questions about perceptions of social norms and used the evidence to design posters. These were the winners, Yakob Bak and Chloe Hopson.



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Fun on the Farm with Skills for Life and Work

The Skills for Life and Work employability class had a great morning at Glen Farm and The Milkbarn. The students enjoyed a tour of the farm, visiting the calves, and an opportunity to walk amongst the (very docile) herd. They learned lots about careers in agriculture and hospitality, and best of all had a delicious ice-cream!



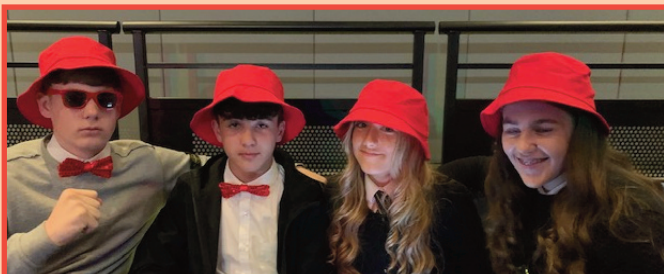
RED Book

Mrs McCormick's S2 class enjoyed meeting the author of Kick, Mitch Johnson.



The class have read Kick as part of their work for The RED Book Awards 2019. Mitch came along and spoke about his inspiration for the award winning novel. He also answered questions about his writing processes and how Amnesty International have endorsed the novel because it upholds and illuminates many children's rights.

On the awards day itself, Megan Forest was presented with the award for 'Best alternative ending' and Nathan Devoy won the award for 'Best Artwork.' Ruari Fraser and Ryan Duncan dazzled everyone with their creative outfits and won the award for 'Best red accessories.'



Social Enterprise in Business Education

As part of our G in the Park elective we have further explored the area of social enterprise with our S2 pupils. The pupils investigated areas such as fair trade and business ethics and took part in a field trip to one of the Social Bite branches in Glasgow. The pupils had a presentation from the store manager and had time to explore the branch looking at the products on offer, merchandising and many sampled the yummy products on sale. We really enjoyed learning about the work Social Bite do to try and eradicate homelessness in Scotland and how they support homeless people back into work and accommodation.



DANE BATES DANCE WORKSHOP:

On Friday 17th May, 14 pupils from S1-S4 took part in a Dance Workshop led by Professional Dance Choreographer from The Greatest Dancer, Britain's Got Talent and Ireland's Got Talent, Dane Bates. Workshops on offer throughout the day were Lyrical and Commercial. This was a great opportunity for the pupils to experience different styles of dance, as well as learning from a Professional Choreographer.

ART Department

30 S4 Graeme High Art & Design pupils enjoyed a trip to the Edinburgh College of Art to view their Degree Show. ECA students took pupils around discussing the work from different schools of Art.

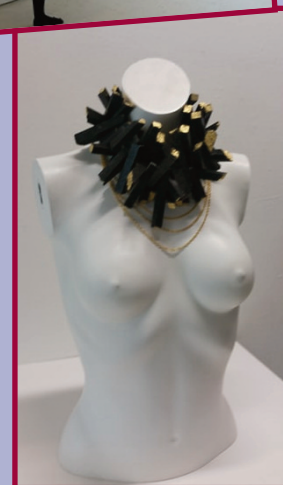
Students spoke about the wide variety of work that an Art qualification can lead to; some in areas that pupils had never thought about and how inspiring they found the work to be.

Great discussions were overheard between pupils and students discussing the reasoning behind ideas and solutions to briefs. Emma Watt said 'I always thought Art was made of fashion, jewellery and paintings but there is much more you can do, some of it is weird but it makes you wonder what is the artist trying to say.'

All recognised that the process used in class is the same as those in further education. This trip at the



beginning of the new term is beneficial in the research towards their own work for their National 5 qualification.



Inter house results

Just an update to say that as we have one more event taking place before the end of term.

The current Inter-house results are as follows:

1st Place - Lockhart 5500

2nd Place - Morrison 4800

3rd Place - Thomson 4650

4th Place - Steele 4350

Sports Day takes place on Thursday 27th June, who will be this year's Inter-house winner?!

Felix Ainsley

Felix Ainsley (new S3) has qualified for the prestigious UKMT Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Open to all secondary schools throughout the UK, Felix was placed in the top 1200 out of 300,000 entrants in the Junior Maths Challenge. The Junior Maths Challenge is a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematical Trust that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve problems. An exceptional achievement by Felix.

Transition Dance Competition:

Pupils from across the Graeme Cluster Primary Schools in P6 and P7 and pupils in S1-S2 at GHS took part in the Active Schools Transition Dance Competition on Wednesday 6th March. Our dancers were led by our Senior Dance Leaders, Darcy Cassells and Megan Goldie, who choreographed a fantastic Hip-Hop dance to the Lion King Remix.

All dancers worked extremely hard each week, as well as on the night of the Competition. The Graeme Cluster finished in 2nd place, which is an amazing achievement. Well done to all involved.

Music Department News

Our music department has had a busy year so far in 2019:

Huge congratulations to the following pupils:

- Charlotte Grey (S1) passed Grade 3 piano with Merit
- Emily MacDonald (S3) passed Grade 3 singing with Distinction
- Keira Tracey (S2) achieved her Silver NYCOS Musicianship award
- S2 pupil Bobby Maxwell has passed his Grade 2 saxophone exam

One of our School of Rock bands 'The Formulas' (S4 pupils – Jack Brown, Harvie Adam and Cameron Thomson) performed at Behind the Wall in March as part of a showcase event organised by Boness Academy. The boys were a credit to the school and received some fantastic feedback about their performance – Well Done to The Formulas!

Many of our young musicians were involved in the Falkirk Council Instrumental Service concerts which

took place in Falkirk Town Hall in April this year. For two of our S6 pupils, Ross Livingston & Lucy Davidson, this was their final concert with their groups that they have been members of for many years.



G in the Park was a fantastic success again this year. S2 pupils worked together to form a band – The Heart! The commitment, dedication and teamwork that these pupils showed was amazing. On the day 'The Heart' performed Lewis Capaldi hit 'Someone you Loved' and Jonas Blue 'What I Love About you'. We also enjoyed performances from our staff choir, junior choir and The Formulas. Our audience were fantastic – the rain did not stop them from having fun!

Our Samba and Piping group were recently invited to perform at the GTCS Probation Event held at the Marriott Hotel in Edinburgh. Pupils were a credit to the school and put on a performance which was enjoyed by everyone in attendance – Well Done to our Samba and Piping group!



Rights Respecting Schools

It's been a busy year for our Rights Respecting Schools team.

Following a campaign to limit single-use plastics within our school, our pupils have been successful in removing polystyrene containers and plastic cutlery from the canteen. Pupils are now served hot food in cardboard containers and can eat it with wooden cutlery. Both are much more environmentally conscious and help to provide cleaner drinking water globally, as outlined in Article 24 of the UNCRC. In addition, a recycling station has been set up in the canteen, and we hope to strengthen this initiative in the next academic session.

Are you interested in enhancing the understanding of children's rights at home? You could relate stories in the

news to the rights they hold, or discuss any rights-based issues that feature in books they read or movies they watch. You could ask your child about our Right of the Month or make a Fair Trade swap while shopping.

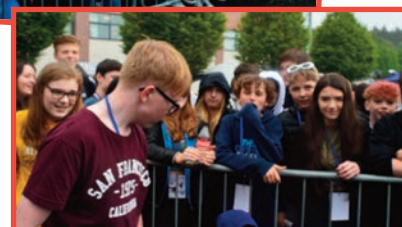
If you want to learn more about children's rights, please visit: www.cypcs.org.uk/rights

If you would like to learn more about the Rights Respecting School Award, then please visit: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

With many thanks,

Miss Mooty and the Rights Respecting Schools Improvement Team

G in the Park



Doing mighty fine at 9!

A lot of learning we can consume,
Outside of the regular classroom.
All we need is to be given the chance,
To help our education advance.

To meet this need and help provide,
The opportunities that our pupils wish supplied,
The staff of GHS formulated a plan,
And G in the Park so began.

For nine whole years we have been going strong,
Now part of our curriculum it does belong.
This two week project helps those who are yearning,
For some interdisciplinary learning!

This large project is only possible,
If you have staff who are unstoppable.
Without their commitment this would not transpire,
A massive thank you they do require.

Week number one is when our pupils explore;
Spending time in each faculty completing their 'core'.
Taking part in lots of lesson activities,
Discovering all of the learning possibilities.

With the music festival as our inspiration,
For this unique slice of education,
All departments have designed and refined,
Experiences to enter a festival state of mind.

How do band managers ensure their spending is not severe?
Some time in Maths made this clear.
How can we make festivals environmentally friendly?
With this the Humanities faculty helped immensely.

The ideal festival advertising; what would it be?
A lesson in English helped set it free.
And what about festivals that happen overseas?
Modern Languages assisted with these.

Festivals raise a lot of issues with health and welfare,
Some time in Science and PSE helped make pupils more aware.
With Art and Technologies they explored their creativity,
Among all of this G in the Park festivity.

The importance of performance cannot be underestimated,
With PE, Drama and Music they were very motivated.
By the end of week one, a lot of learning had transpired.
And many pupils had been inspired.

Week two began with our troops
In their own elective groups.
Becoming part of our pit crew,
Working to make their G in the Park debut.

From forming our bands and preparing our food,
To introducing the festival acts with attitude.
Learning about charity work and social enterprise,
And how to effectively market and advertise.

Choreographed dances and products designed,
Chess manoeuvres to mastermind.
Exploring the outdoors on bikes and on foot,
Or learning how to improve someone's cardiac output.

Our children have rights enshrined in law,
Protecting their right to learn to create or draw,
As Article 29 sets out without any ambiguity,
Children must have an education that develops their ingenuity.

Our S2 pupils have therefore engaged in lots rich learning,
While for our house charities doing some earning.
All leading up to the festival show,
Where our enjoyment did overflow.

The festival itself went off without a hitch,
The sun wasn't shining - who turned off the switch?
Our stalls were staffed by our elective students,
Working as very cohesive units.

Our acts performed like seasoned pros,
Culminating in our headliner, Chloe Rose.
A great day was had by all,
I declare G in the Park a success overall!

A vital part of this collaboration,
Is our total charitable donation.
In the end lots of money was raised,
For this all pupils and staff should be praised.

Miss Mooty, G in the Park Coordinator 2019

Credit Union Celebration Event

On 21 May our S2 Credit Union helpers visited the Falkirk District Credit Union office in Grangemouth for a celebration event to thank them for their hard work in running our collection point and let them meet the staff who do the work behind the scenes after their collection has taken place.

A massive thanks to Mia Hughes, Muskan Khalid, Ryan Martin, Brodie Mina and Katie Reid for all the help they have given to setting up and running our Supersavers collection point over the last 2 years.



Opening a Credit Union account is a great way to encourage our young people to develop good money habits and allow them to save regularly, whether they already have a bank account or not.



If your child is interested in opening an account they can visit us any Friday lunchtime in the reception area, or can speak to Miss Chalmers in the Business Education department.

Parent Helpers Wanted!

We would also like to hear from any parents who may be interested in helping us to run and expand our Credit Union collection point – this would be an ideal opportunity for anyone with some time to spare and who would like to develop their skills in communication, teamwork and money management.

Interested? Please contact Miss Chalmers in the Business Education department or Joanne Ellis, our Community Learning & Development officer.

Improvements to Graeme high school library

The library in Graeme high school was recently given a makeover. Pupils were given a chance to air their views on the library at the Pupil Voice Conference, and as a result of this the following improvements were made:

A new relaxed seating area complete with chaise longue sofa and cushions was added.

More past exam papers were purchased, old tables and chairs in the study area were replaced by attractive new pastel coloured ones.

New mini-i pads were purchased for use by senior pupils.

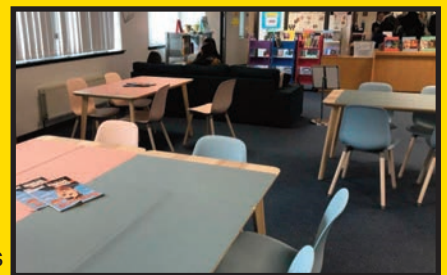


Pastel coloured book stands were introduced to create more interesting book display areas.

Book related decals were added to the walls to make them more colourful.

Lastly, lunchtime access to the library for pupils wishing to use the computer or study was introduced.

Feedback on these changes has been very positive and the library is now a bright and welcoming place to be.



Moon Landings

To mark the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, back in 1969, S2 students in the Humanities Faculty have been investigating human exploration of space. As well as learning about the moon landing itself they discussed moral issues such as should we have sent animals into space and political issues such as should we be spending money on space exploration when there is inequality across the globe. In connection with the our Rights Respecting Schools campaign to reduce the use of plastic across the school, the students also examined the problem of space junk from satellites and rockets and why we know more about what happens

on the Moon than we do about what is in the depths of our oceans. This short unit allowed students to develop problem solving skills as well as social and thinking skills. Connections were made across all the four subjects as well as to other subjects across the school. They even tried their hand at designing their own rocket.



My Future Convention 2019

As part of our commitment to fulfilling our Community Vision we strive to provide our young people with opportunities which encourage meaningful thinking and planning around life beyond Graeme High School. Earlier this year we held our second My Future Convention which aimed to inform and inspire our young people by bringing together representatives from around 50 organisations, subject teachers and ex pupils. In doing so we hoped to provide our community with the invaluable opportunity to seek advice on accessing further and higher education, training, employment, voluntary opportunities as well as getting expert guidance on the range of subject areas we have on offer at Graeme High School.

This event was a great success with 329 individuals signing into the convention and survey respondents rating the event, overall, as 4.5 out of 5. As well as rating the event highly in our survey, so many of you also got in touch to tell us about your positive experiences of the evening, for example one parent said:

"Just wanted to express my thanks for a fantastic evening tonight at school. Jack thoroughly enjoyed exploring some options which may be available to him in the future. It was also a great, informal



opportunity to chat to teachers about his options for S3. Jack came away from school really

positive and enthused about the choices he can make rather than being worried about it which he has been. Many thanks to all who organised and contributed to the evening."

It wasn't only our families who had an enjoyable evening, I was also delighted to hear how impressed the external organisations were with the engagement from our school community with many getting in touch to say how much they enjoyed the evening. One of the stall holders said:

"Thanks very much for having us along to the My Future Convention event last night. We were delighted with the response from pupils, parents/carers and partner organisations and very impressed with the vast amount of organisations that you had got along to showcase. It was very well attended."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending the My Future Convention as well responding to our feedback survey. We hope that this event supported our young people to think more about their future and we hope to see you all at the next one in 2021.

Miss Bradley

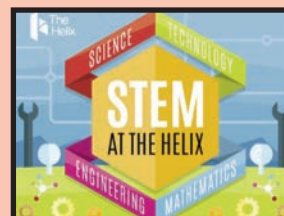


STEM @ THE HELIX

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 more about possible career paths. Many different workshops and experiences were on offer both to our pupils but also available to the public on the



Saturday (over 3000 people attended!). Industry partners which delivered stimulating workshops included Rooftec Scotland, RAF, and The Roslin Institute. Pupils had the opportunity to explore career opportunities, be creative and learn new skills all while having fun. 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. Now back at school, pupils have the task of using their new skills and knowledge to work as a successful team to create a project which meets a set of design briefs and present this to a judging panel.



PE Achievements

Football

Graeme High School achieved more success through our football teams this year. All 4 teams (u13, u14, u15 & Senior) were successful in progressing to the league playoffs. Unfortunately for the 3 junior teams their run ended in the semi-finals, however the Seniors went on to win their competition beating St Mungo's in the final.

Additionally, the u14 and Senior team both won their respective FVFA cup, with the u14s emerging victorious vs Dunblane after an enthralling penalty shoot-out. The Senior team again proved too much for St Mungo's in their final, giving them the honour of a league/cup double.

However, the most exciting part of the year was following the Senior team's progress through the Scottish Shield. Some wonderful performances saw them earn a place in the final at Hampden Park, where unfortunately they lost 3-2 to St John's High School. Despite the disappointing result it was a fantastic experience for the boys, and the school couldn't be prouder of them.

2 members of that team, Jack Hodge and Wilson Romanis, managed to earn themselves a call up to the Scotland Schools' team, and had the honour of representing the country in the 'Schools' International Trophy against England, Ireland and Wales.

Finally, this year Graeme High managed to enter a girls team into the FVFA girls' competition. This is the first year we have been able to do this for some time, and we are immensely proud the girls managed to win 3 out of 5 games in the competition. We are hoping the girls' game continues to grow moving forward!

Cross Country

In March, 11 Graeme High pupils from S1 - S3 set out to compete in The Fourth Valley Cross Country Championships at Bannockburn High School in Stirling.

Fortunately the weather conditions in Stirling were a vast improvement from the wind and rain in Calendar Park at the qualifying event and the course was certainly flatter. The competition from other schools was extremely tough with many club runners and athletes from various councils taking part. Despite not placing in their events the 11 participants from Graeme High School showed a great deal of resilience in completing the 1.5mile course. Megan Richards, Caoimhe O'Neill and Aimee Millar did particularly well in beating their time from the qualifying event, which is a credit to their hard work and effort to attend training.

Athletics

In May, a keen team of 28 pupils from Graeme High School arrived at Grangemouth Sports Stadium to compete in The Falkirk Secondary Schools Athletics Championships. The weather was fantastic, team spirit was high and the results were excellent!

Dean Wilson and Ruari Fraser were the first to compete and got us off to a great start winning bronze and gold medals in the S1/2 200m sprint. Throughout the day Hope Griffin secured both a gold and silver medal in the S3/4 Long Jump and High Jump. Neil Sharp also exceeded himself, running the 200m sprint in an impressive 26.1 seconds to secure a bronze medal, securing a gold medal in Shot Putt and impressively going on to run the 100m sprint in 12.8 seconds winning yet another medal! A huge congratulations to all pupils who took part in the event. The team spirit and enthusiasm throughout the day was excellent.

Swimming

Earlier in the session, Brooke Braidwood, Abbie McLenachan, Lewis Waddell and Alan Macaloney set out to compete in The Active Schools Swimming Championships. The team were hugely successful winning a numbers of medals throughout the day. Brooke secured a Gold medal in Butterfly, Abbie won a Silver medal in Freestyle, Alan managed to secure both a bronze medal in Freestyle and a silver medal in Butterfly and Lewis secured a bronze medal in Backstroke. What a successful day! Congratulations to the four participants.

In February, two teams of staff and pupils from Graeme High School set out to take on The Charity Swimarathon Challenge at Grangemouth Sports Centre - a continuous 50 minute relay race. The staff and S1/S2 pupils certainly had a challenge on their hands, competing against senior and club swimmers from others schools and clubs. Nevertheless their teamwork, determination and stamina was tremendous and led to both teams completing the challenge and swimming over 200 lengths collectively. Congratulations to both teams for their performance on the day and a huge thank you to all family and friends for their support. The teams raised over £150 for Strathcarron Hospice and thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Lots more Family Learning information coming your way at the start of the new session. Keep watching out for it!

Lights, Camera, Action!

The Personal Development class had a busy but productive day creating a film with a professional film crew. The film was written by and starred the pupils. The film will become part of an exciting new mental health resource for the local primary schools. All the students worked really hard and the finished film is a testament to that hard work and dedication.

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

If you applied for this support last year, you won't need to make a new application. You should have received a message to advise you of this recently from the Assessment Team.

If you have never applied before, you will need to apply.

If you need more information, or to apply online, visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm.