

KIRKWALL GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

Study Advice and Exam Information

As we get closer and closer to the SQA exams we would like to take this opportunity to look for your support in helping our pupils prepare to perform to the best of their ability but the hard work and dedication must come from the pupils themselves.

Having said that, there are a number of things happening in school that will hopefully support them. In particular, Supported Study classes. Teachers run these in their own time for no payment whatsoever. We are absolutely amazed at the number of individual sessions on offer in KGS. This dedication from staff provides pupils with the opportunity to get help and support either as individuals or in small groups.

We will also be publishing a programme of intensive study days that will be available during the Study Leave period. These Immersion Days have proved extremely successful to pupils over the last two years and hopefully good use will once again be made of them.

Also, during Study Leave, if pupils need a quiet place to study or would like help with a particular subject, we are more than happy to accommodate this. However, it is essential that pupils make arrangements with their class teachers beforehand. Pupils must not enter the school building unless they have an exam are attending an Immersion Day or have made prior study arrangements. If a pupil is coming into school for study they must sign in and out at the Office.

During the exams, please remind your sons/daughters to:

- Bring all the necessary equipment
- Arrive in plenty of time for each exam
- Check their seat number for each exam and sit in the correct place
- Bring their Scottish Candidate Number with them to each exam
- Mobile phones, iPods etc are not allowed in the exam room-even switched off!

If your son/daughter is ill during the SQA exams, please phone the school to let us know as soon as possible. You must obtain a medical certificate from your doctor which can then be submitted to the SQA.

We would like to offer our best wishes to every pupil involved in the exam period but would also like to emphasise that there is no substitute for hard work.

Health Week

From Monday 29 February - Friday 4 March, KGS held a "Health Week" event in school with the aim of providing information and opportunities for pupils to learn the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. This week long event was a huge success and saw sessions delivered during PE and PSE lessons by representatives from organisations around Orkney and the event culminated with a whole school Health Fayre at the end of the week.

During PE lessons we were fortunate enough to have a much wider selection of activities on offer for our pupils from climbing and archery to activities such as fitness yoga, spin and clubbercise! Most of these were delivered by specialist instructors or representatives from local clubs which ensured all those involved got the best experience possible and enjoyed the opportunity to try something new. During PSE lessons the focus was on various aspects of mental and emotional well-being with senior pupils focusing on stress management and S2 pupils participating in hydration workshops.



The health fayre proved to be a fitting finale for the week-long event as we had a fantastic 26 stalls open to pupils all of which were manned by representatives of the organisations involved with the event as well as a few which were run by pupils. Pupils were given the opportunity to browse the stalls and pick up flyers and freebies whilst having a chat with the representatives on hand. The pupils seemed to really enjoy themselves and took advantage of the event to gather as much information as they could about the organisations relevant to their needs. As well as the stalls we had 6 additional activity options available to pupils ranging from a body image video screening to an obstacle course challenge run by the KGS activities captains.



We have received lots of positive feedback about our Health Week and hope that this can now become an annual event at KGS. We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the organisations and representatives involved who very kindly gave up their time to deliver sessions or run a stall for us.

Congratulations Fin Siderfin

Congratulations are in order for S6 Higher Photography pupil Fin Siderfin, whose photograph, "Golden Solitude" came first in the "My Place" Photography Competition run by the Scottish Civic Trust. Fin has been invited to collect his award at a presentation at the Lighthouse in Glasgow in March. Well done Fin.



New House Names

The papers have now been counted in the second round of our ballot to decide what the new K.G.S. house names will be.

All pupils and staff voted on their preferences from a list of uninhabited islands' names, including Copinsay, Damsay, Eynhallow, Fara, Hunda, Rysa and Swona. We used a Single Transferrable Vote system, so that peoples' second and third choices also contributed to the final winners. Ms Wilson in the Social Subjects department put together a short powerpoint lesson, which was used in tutor time to give everyone an introduction to how the STV system works.

The names of the new houses will remain a closely guarded secret until April 22nd, when we are planning a big whole-school celebration for the end of the current beach name houses. Once we have said goodbye to the old names - by way of a fun ceremony involving everyone - we will announce what the new names are, and which of the old houses will be allocated to the three new names.

YPI

Last week we launched our YPI (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative).

The Wood group gives £3000 per year to a school to donate to a local charity. Our S3 students will

research a charity and at a grand final in May they pitch for will be participating in this and it will be run by the Guidance department with the help of the RMPS and English Department.



Police Scotland Assemblies

Recently Police Scotland were in KGS delivering Assemblies to our Senior Pupils. The assemblies covered information on New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs) which included information on the new legislation. They also included a session on Cyber Crime involving a very informative presentation from some Ethical Hackers.

Fairtrade at KGS

Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 (February 28th-March 13th) was marked at Kirkwall Grammar School with a list of activities spread through the fortnight. The organised activities were inline with the theme of this year: Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers.



The activities amongst other things were intended to let us think of those who grow the food we eat and as Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'.



The aim of marking the fortnight was as always to remind us and others that it is important to pay farmers and producers in the developing world a minimum 'fair' price for their goods, enabling them to maintain a basic standard of living while working their way out of poverty.

Over the fortnight we raised money by holding two Big Fairtrade Breakfast's, selling Fairtrade tea and Coffee in the Staff room, holding a Fairtrade non-Uniform day and selling a variety of Fairtrade foods and crafts at break and lunchtimes.

The KGS also held two Fairtrade assemblies and had a number of visits from Fairtrade representatives to educate the pupils on Fairtrade.

The activities were a huge success. A total of £552.11 was raised. (Fairtrade Sales: £122.41, Dress Down Day: £283.70, Big Breakfast/Staff Room event/Donations: £146). Thanks to everyone who helped in making the fortnight a success.



Dance Leader

55 pupils Ilona, Jocelyn and Tegan became qualified Dance Leaders in October 2014, as part of Y-Dance's, Y-Dance Active Programme. Since then the girls have been extremely enthusiastic and committed to delivering a range of dance opportunities within KGS and to other primary school pupils within Orkney.



The girls run after school dance sessions in KGS Dance Studio most Wednesdays after school. For more information speak to the Dance Leaders, Miss Currie (PE) or Cheryl, from Active Schools.

Young Ambassador

Ten pupil representatives from Orkney's Secondary and Junior High Schools attended the Young Ambassadors Conference at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness last September. KGS pupils Abbie Sinclair and Jack Harcus were joined by pupils from across the Highlands.



The sportscotland Young Ambassador Programme is for young people between the ages of 14 and 17. Their role is to promote sport, motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in school, local sports clubs and the community.

Abbie and Jack have been working with other pupils, Active Schools Co-ordinator - Cheryl Rafferty and PE staff in KGS, as well as previous Young Ambassadors, to drive forward the aims of the Young Ambassador programme.

Midnight League

The Bank of Scotland Midnight League programme was developed in 2003 in partnership with the Scottish Football Association to provide a fun diversionary activity for 12-16 year olds across Scotland at times of high social disturbance.

The programme has grown from providing three leagues to operating at over 100 communities across all 32 Scottish local authorities. Each year, we help keep the ball rolling on this community programme by providing funding for venues, kit and coaching.

We have been running this League at the Kirkwall Grammar School on a Saturday night from 6-8pm throughout January, February and March. 45 Pupils have attended over the last 10 weeks. This has been both beneficial for the Pupils and for raising money for the KGS team.



Young Enterprise 2016

This year the 2 companies have both launched their products - "Norden" have launched an Orkney-themed colouring book and "Orkanna" have launched their android version of their app for Orkney (with the IOS version following soon).



Orkanna held an information evening in the St Magnus Centre earlier in the year and have been busy populating their app with information for tourists and locals. Businesses are charged a nominal amount to have their profile hosted on the app. It is free for locals and tourists.

Norden's colouring book is being sold in different outlets, such as Kirsteen Stewart's, the Wellpark Garden Centre, Grooves and the Pier Arts Centre, with a presence soon to follow on Amazon. They were invited to sell their book to the tourists on board the first liner to arrive in Kirkwall.

Both companies are grateful for the support they have received from local businesses before and after the launch. As they are running a real business they face many challenges during the year. The local finals are being held on Tuesday April 19th in the King Street Halls, where all companies have to present their report, have a completed Trade Stand promoting their product and give a 4-minute presentation to the audience. The local winner will then go on to the Scottish national finals in Glasgow in June.



CELCIS

Patrick Fotheringhame, Shavon More and Emily Winters submitted art pieces to 'CELCIS' an organisation in Scotland which promotes positive opportunities for young people in Scotland.

CELCIS organised an art exhibition for young people to participate in if they so wished whereby they were asked to submit an art piece which could be in a variety of genres with the idea being to express the individuals wishes and feelings for their future, the title being; 'When I Grow Up'.

Patrick, Shavon and Emily's art work was exhibited in the famous Kelvin Grove Art Gallery. They all had the opportunity to travel down to see their work with the generosity of Loganair who helped make this possible.

KGS Visitors

Mr & Mrs Carter have kindly donated a large selection of Classical Music LPs and CDs to the Music Department.

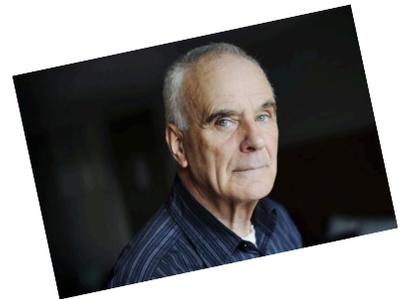
We have set up a 'Listening Room' where pupils can listen to the LPs.

The CDs will be created into a Listening resource for pupils to borrow. Mr & Mrs Carter were treated to a small concert by some senior pupils and were to a cup of tea and beautiful homebakes made by the pupils.



Sir Peter Maxwell Davies

Pupils and staff are saddened to hear of the death of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We are very proud of our long association with Max, and were delighted to have performed most recently for him on the occasion of his 80th birthday. He has composed many pieces over the years specifically for the pupils at KGS, and has provided many life-changing opportunities for them to perform. These are memories they will cherish forever. His inspiration and legacy will never be forgotten.



Dates for your Diary

End of Spring Term	Friday 25 March
Start of Summer Term	Monday 11 April
S4-S6 Study Leave begins	Monday 2 May
May Day Holiday	Monday 2 May
S1 Parents Evening	Tuesday 24 May
End of Study Leave	Friday 3 June
New timetable begins	Monday 6 June
End of Summer Term	Friday 24 June

Feel free to let us know what you think of our newsletter format or you can contact us about any aspect of education at Kirkwall Grammar School

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