

# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## December 2012

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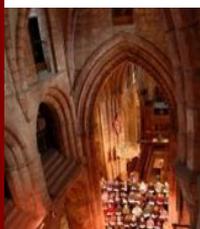
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### Farewell....

To Mrs C Hewes who retires at Christmas after 8 years teaching English at KGS. We wish her all the very best in the future.



### Annual Carol Service

Don't miss our Carol Service in St Magnus Cathedral Tuesday 18 December at 7.30pm.

### Last Day Activities

As usual, pupils will have the chance to choose from a range of activities on the last day of term. There will be KGS Variety Show, films, crafts, Dungeons and Dragons to name but a few. Lunch will be at 12.20pm and school closes for the holidays at 1pm.



### OIC Transport Facebook Page

Orkney Islands Council has launched a brand-new Facebook page for parents and pupils looking for the latest information on school transport. With winter upon us, the OIC School Transport Facebook page will be the first stop for information on any school closures or transport cancellations caused by bad weather. Updates will also continue to be provided via BBC Radio Orkney's morning programme at 7.30am. The new Facebook page will run alongside the existing OIC Updates Facebook page, which will now carry more general Council news and information as the Council increases its use of social media. You can find OIC School Transport via the Facebook search facility and through the Council Website [www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk). You can also follow OIC on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/orknycastle](http://www.twitter.com/orknycastle) and on the OIC Updates Facebook page.

### Lost Property

We have a large number of items in Lost Property. If your child has lost an item of clothing please have them (or you) come along to the office to check if it has been handed in. There are also a large number of items of uniform to be claimed.



### Christmas Dance

Thank you and well done to all those involved in the Christmas Dance which took place on Wed 12 December.

It was a great success!

## Remembrance Day at KGS

A number of activities took place at KGS in support of Armistice Day. S6 pupils went round all the classes selling poppies and S3 History classes created replica memorials from around Orkney and researching the names. See the pictures on our KGS Facebook page.



## Children in Need

KGS had another phenomenal fundraising drive this year. The S6 organised the sale of wristbands, badges, colouring sheets and word searches, a Staff sponsored Sing-off, Pie-a-Teacher, Mr & Mrs, Bushtucker Trials, Fancy dress and the shaving of Team Ginge. A grand total of £3195.30 was raised by the end of the day.



Well done and thank you everyone!

## St Andrew's Week -Celebrating Scotland's Cultural Diversity

KGS celebrated the many cultures represented in the school and marked Scotland's National Day with a host of activities - quizzes, music, Scottish-themed lessons, a Great Scottish KGS Bake-off, bagpipes, and poetry recitals.



A great week was had by all!





## KGS Motion in Scottish Parliament

Well done to our S3 RMPs pupils who have a motion supported by Liam McArthur going through the Scottish Parliament at the moment that calls on the Parliament to congratulate our pupils on their efforts to encourage World Peace. Motion-S4M-04663 Liam McArthur: Sadako Sasaki's Peace Cranes 'That the Parliament congratulates the S3 pupils at Orkney's Kirkwall Grammar School on their work to promote world peace; recognize that, in accordance with the Japanese belief that cranes are birds of peace and good

luck, the pupils made paper cranes; remembers Sadako Sasaki, who dies as a result of being exposed to the radiation that arose from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima; notes that Sadako aimed to make 1,000 peace cranes and that, although she was only able to make 644, her friends continued to make them after her death; thanks the pupils for reminding people of the story of Sadako, the consequences of nuclear warfare and misuse of such weaponry, and supports the school in its call for nuclear disarmament and world peace'.

The Peace Cranes made by KGS pupils have been sent to the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation in Japan where they were dedicated at the Children's Peace Monument.

## Councillors Grilled by KGS pupils

Pupils at Kirkwall Grammar School got the opportunity to put some questions to their local councillors recently. A group of elected members popped into the school on November 22 to meet with Intermediate and Higher Modern Studies pupils to chat about why they became councillors, what they hope to achieve during their time as a councillor and the challenges that the Council faces.



They also held a drop-in session for all pupils who wanted to raise any issues. Neil Ewing the Principal Teacher of Social Subjects said: "Making politics accessible to our pupils is one of our key aims. The work that the Council does impacts daily on the lives of our pupils and it is interesting for them to find out more about what the Council does and what it's like to be a councillor as well as putting their own questions to the members. It made for a very informative session."

Janice Annal is Chair of the Council's Education, Leisure and Housing Committee and one of the councillors attending the event. She said: "The previous events and surgeries I've attended have been very enjoyable. It is very heartening to speak to the really switched-on pupils coming through the school. I hope the pupils benefit from the experience as much as the councillors do." Councillors attending the event were: Janice Annal, Stephen Clackson, Russ Madge, Jack Moodie, Gwenda Shearer and John Richards.

## S4-S6 Prelims

The Senior Prelims will get underway on Monday 14 January and will be completed on Tuesday 5 February—just before the February break. A study timetable proforma is available on the KGS website and this can be adapted to suit each student's personal needs. It is helpful to identify a clear list of topics covered so far in each subject and then to break that down into further detail. Then a programme of study can be organised to work alongside the usual class and homework.

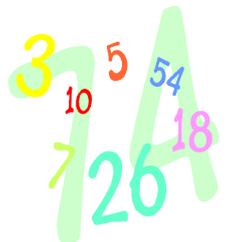


In S4-S6 the time which should be put aside each week for individual subjects is 2 hours outside school time. Each student's presentation will be reviewed after the prelims to maximise success. Prelim performance is the main indicator for SQA estimates and is also used in the SQA Appeals process in the Autumn. Our pupils and staff are working hard in preparation for these exams. Students should consult staff about any area with which they are struggling and I urge you to encourage your child to attend supported study and to study hard at home. We wish all our students in S4-S6 good luck in the prelims—your hard work will pay off!

## Number Ability Screener

All pupils will be taking part in a number ability screener evaluating pupils' understanding of number.

The responses will be discussed with the pupils and may aide their numeracy development to reach their mathematical potential.



## AIDS & HIV Awareness Week

Waulkmill A & F were raising AIDS & HIV awareness last week. They made posters, sold cakes and red ribbons and encouraged pupils to take part in an awareness quiz.



## Tuck Shop

Trúa, the KGS Young Enterprise Company have done a brilliant job of decorating and running the Tuck Ship this year. Do you have any questions for them?

Get liking their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/kgstrua>



# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## December 2011

### Dates for your Diary

18 December

Annual Carol Service

21 December

End of Winter term

7 January

Start of Spring term

14 January

Start of S4 Prelims

24 January

End of S4 Prelims

25 January

Start of S5/6 Prelims

5 February

End of S5/6 Prelims

6-7 February

Inservice

8 February

Mid-term break

29 March

End of Spring term

15 April

Start of Summer term

### Scottish Schools Badminton Success

The KGS Badminton team had a very successful trip to Inverness to compete in the Secondary Schools Badminton Championships at the beginning of November. The results were as follows:

Claire Rendall won the U-14 Girls' Plate

Liam Delday came 2nd in the U-16 Boys' Singles

Victoria Linklater won the U-16 Girls' Singles

Owen Reid won the U-19 Boys' Singles

Rhian Mackay came 2nd in the U-19 Girls' Singles

Alice Scott & Claire Rendall won the U-14 Girls' Doubles

Liam Delday & Andrew Reid won the U-16 Boys' Doubles

Victoria Linklater & Emma Work came 2nd in the U-16 Girls' Doubles

Owen Reid & Thorfinn Miller came 2nd in the U-19 Boys' Doubles

Rhian Mackay & Claire Johnstone won the U-19 Girl's Doubles

Archie MacPhail & Alice Scott won the U-14 Mixed Doubles

Liam Delday & Emma Work won the U-16 Mixed Doubles

Rhian Mackay & Owen Reid came 2nd in the U-19 Mixed Doubles



We are very proud of all the pupils who took part and congratulations to all who won medals and did KGS proud!

### Roots & Shoots Success

The KGS Roots & Shoots group won an award from the Jane Goodall Institute in recognition of the environmental work they have been doing in the county. The two S6 pupils, Alice Fairnie & Tansy Branscombe, responsible for setting up the group picked up the Silver Award at a ceremony in London Zoo where they met Dr Jane Goodall in person and other prestigious guests. The award is for their 'Bag the Bruck' project which saw them clear rubbish off the Mills shoreline in Kirkwall.

They are currently working on building bird feeders and making Christmas cards with the proceeds going to Orkney Seal Rescue. Tara Golshan, Executive Director of Education at the Jane Goodall Institute said 'We are so proud of what the girls have achieved in such a short space of time. Their award is extremely meaningful and highlights the fact that great things can be achieved on very limited resources and every individual can make a difference every day through simple actions that ensure the future protection of our planet'.



*On behalf of the pupils and staff of Kirkwall Grammar School  
we wish you a very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy and Prosperous New Year*