

Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

December 2015

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Welcome.....

We have welcomed a number of members staff this term:

- Miss J Latham joined the Maths Dept.
- Ms R Ortiz joined the Modern Language Dept.
- Ms A Lidwell joined the Social Subjects Dept.
- Ms L Wilson will be joining the Social Subjects Dept after the Holidays
- Ms I Sandor will be joining the Curriculum Support Dept after the holidays.

Annual Carol Service

Don't miss our Carol Service in St Magnus Cathedral on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm.



Christmas Prom

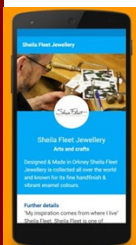
The Christmas Prom takes place on Thursday 17 December from 7.00pm-10.00pm. Tickets are on sale for £4 at break times and lunchtimes in the Foyer.



KGS Young Enterprise

This year there are 2 teams taking part in Young Enterprise at Kirkwall Grammar School, both of whom are developing products of extremely high quality.

"Norden" are producing an Orkney Colouring Book, with artwork supplied by local artists and celebrating Orcadian culture and heritage.



"Orkanna" are producing a mobile app, which can be downloaded by locals and tourists. The app will be available on both android and apple devices.

The teams will go forward to the local finals with Stromness Academy in April. Before the competition, they will benefit from workshops run by the local Orkney Young Enterprise Board and the support given by Lynne Allan, Business Advisor from Clark Thomson and Miss Warman and Mr Sommerville from Business, Technology and Enterprise department.

KGS Winter Fair

On the last Friday of term we ward off the dark cold days with a celebration of light and vibrant excitement. Students have come up with outstanding ideas and are working hard to bring to life a magical Winter Fair. It will feature regulars such as home bakes and Nail in a Bale, some with winter twists like Snowball Themed Coconut Shy's and a few more elaborate activities such as Mini-Golf, Gladiators and a Remote Control Car Race Track. Junior years are taking center stage to show off their organisation, team work and leadership skills not content simply designing and building the stalls, they will be setting up and managing them on the day.

Each House is submitting five stalls to the Fair and competition is fierce. Students will be issued house points to spend on the day with each house hoping their activities will attract the most customers, allowing them to win the most house points, collect the rosettes and lift the coveted 'Best of Fair' shield. Other tutor stalls and clubs such as Fair Trade, Film Club, Duke of Edinburgh and this years Young Enterprise teams will be hoping to attract customers too and raise some money to support their activities and trips throughout the year.



This pupil led initiative has been made possible by the Student and Staff's hard work and enthusiasm and will hopefully be the start of an annual tradition.

Football Success

On Friday 27 November KGS hosted their first ever home tie in the Under 15 Scottish Cup where KGS welcomed Alford Academy from Aberdeenshire.

After a close match where the score was 1-1 at fulltime, KGS then went on to eliminate their oppositions from the Cup winning 4-3 on penalties.

The boys have a home tie in the Forth Round against Harlaw Academy from Aberdeen which will take place On Friday 15 January. Good luck boys.



Monaco Trip

26 Pupils, staff and volunteers have recently travelled home after spending 5 memorable days in Monaco. Having impressed Prince Albert when playing for him at the Balfour Castle in Shapinsay in June, they then accepted his invitation to travel to Monaco to perform for his guests at a Gala Dinner

Highlights of the trip included; Singing and Playing to Prince Albert on the steps of the Oceanographique Museum, enjoying the splendor of the Hotel Heritage, including the fantastic meal at the performance itself (with a gold leaf dessert!), where the audience seemed to really appreciate the skills of the pupils and eagerly joined in with Billy Jolly's audience participation songs. Another highlight was a visit to the amazing Jardin Exotique Cave with its spectacular stalagmites and stalactites, 60m below ground.



Performing and sightseeing in such a historical and geographically breathtaking country has given everyone memories that will last a lifetime, with bright sunshine and 16 degree temperature being an added bonus.

Fairtrade at KGS

The Fairtrade Steering Group has held and is planning to hold a list of events and campaigns to continue to raise awareness for Fairtrade. These events are a brilliant way, we hope, to continue to raise awareness and introduce pupils and staff to Fairtrade and the people who grow food we eat every day. These events also provide pupils with the opportunity to learn new skills and have fun along the way, but most importantly taking part will empower them to make a difference to the lives of marginalised people in poorer countries.

Last year KGS achieved the final step in the Fairtrade Schools Award- becoming a FairAchiever school. Next year our task is to assist some of our feeder primary schools starting the journey towards achieving Fairtrade status.





- Dates for your Diary**
- 15 December
Annual Carol Service
- 22 December
End of Winter term
- 5 January
Start of Spring term
- 11 January
Start of S4 Prelims
- 22 January
End of S4 Prelims
- 25 January
Start of S5/6 Prelims
- 05 February
End of S5/6 Prelims
- 18 February
In-service
- 19-22 February
Mid-term break
- 25 March
End of Spring term
- 11 April
Start of Summer term

Under 18 Youth Bowl Winners

Orkney and Caithness Under 18 rugby side secured a historic victory on Sunday 29 November when they beat Dundee Eagles in the Under 18 Youth Bowl Final at Murrayfield. Orkney and Caithness opened the scoring in the match before Dundee hit back, however Orkney managed to take back control of the game, winning 21-12, with KGS' Sam Croy being named Man of the Match. Well done boys.



S4-S6 Prelims

The prelims will get underway on Monday 11 January until Friday 22 January (inclusive) for S4 pupils. S4 pupils will not be going on Study Leave but instead will study in school except for the day of their exam. If pupils wish to stay in school after an exam and study they should re-join normal timetabled classes.

Like Last year pupils will continue attending normal classes throughout but will use subject time to study for that particular subject or, if that exam has taken place, to study a subject of their choosing. National 4 pupils can focus on added value units or USAPS as required.

S5 & S6 pupils prelims will be from Monday 25 January until Friday 5 February and pupils will be on Study Leave for those dates.

Pupils who wish to study in school can do so but must sign in and out at normal times ie. Break and lunch.

When studying 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 set 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. Our pupils and staff are working hard in preparation for these exams. Pupils should consult staff about any area with which they are struggling and we 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 their prelims—your hard work will pay off!!

*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*

