

Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

December 2014

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Welcome....

We have welcomed a number of members staff in August:

- Mrs N Watson who joined the Art Department as Acting PT.
- Miss D Currie joined the PE Department for her probationary year.
- Miss F Cuthbertson joined the Social Subjects Dept for her probationary year.
- Miss M Jager joined us as the French Language Assistant.
- Miss M Duchenay joined us as the German Language Assistant.
- Ms M Murray who joined the Curriculum Support Department.
- Miss L Berman who joined the Languages Department.
- Miss J Jurisivec who joined the Science Department.
- Miss E Cowsell who joined the Office as Admin Assistant.

Fond Farewells....

- To Mr J Leiper who retired in September from his post of Behaviour Support.

Annual Carol Service

Don't miss our Carol Service in St Magnus Cathedral on Tuesday 16 December at 7.30pm.



Christmas Prom

The Christmas Prom takes place on Thursday 18 December from 7.00pm-10.30pm. Tickets are on sale at break times and lunchtimes in the Foyer.



Fjara Jewellery

This year's Young Enterprise Company has launched their product recently. The company called 'Fjara', which is the Norse word for beach, foreshore or ebb-tide and the company are producing hand-crafted sterling silver sea glass jewellery using glass shaped by the seas around Orkney. For more information on the company and their products go to: <https://www.facebook.com/FjaraJewellery>



Fjara are holding a Christmas Shopping Evening on Monday 15 December from 6pm-8pm where their jewellery will be on sale. There will also be plenty of other stalls with lots of variety, you'll be sure to find the perfect gift!

Come along and enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and musical entertainment!

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 each House made wreaths to remember those from Orkney who lost their lives during WW1. Each poppy on the House wreaths included the names, ranks, regiments, dates of birth and death, places of birth and the location of their final resting places (where known and/or appropriate) of each of the 120 men from Orkney who lost their lives.



There was also an impressive whole school display of poppies that cascaded down the main stairway.

See more pictures on our KGS Facebook page.

Children in Need

KGS had another phenomenal fundraising drive this year. The S6 organised four days of activities including the sale of wristbands, Pie-a-Teacher, Mr & Mrs, Fancy dress and the leg shaving. A grand total of £2952.59 was raised by the end of the day.



Well done and thank you everyone!

Drama Trip

Despite a very hectic and stressful start due to inclement weather, 52 pupils and 6 members of staff finally set off for Edinburgh at the end of last term. With a later ferry crossing than was originally planned the group finally arrived at the Central Youth Hostel at 1.30am!

The trip consisted of going to see three performances, 'Sunset Song', 'Top Hat' and 'Jersey Boys' as well as visits to the Chamber Street Museum and the National Art Gallery and, as usual, was a great success!





- Dates for your Diary**
- 16 December
Annual Carol Service
 - 19 December
End of Winter term
 - 5 January
Start of Spring term
 - 12 January
Start of S4 Prelims
 - 23 January
End of S4 Prelims
 - 26 January
Start of S5/6 Prelims
 - 10 February
End of S5/6 Prelims
 - 11/12 February
Inservice
 - 13 February
Mid-term break
 - 30 March
End of Spring term
 - 13 April
Start of Summer term

Education Beats Poverty—Perth Conference

When free education is a human right, why do nearly 60 million children miss out? Ten pupils from KGS went to the Global Student Forum (GSF) in Perth recently to find out why. Along with 300 other students from 30 schools, they engaged with politicians, development practitioners and campaigners to look at ways to bring about change. The students looked at ways in which they can play a vital role in supporting the Millennium Development Goal 2—Achieving Universal Primary Education for All and have returned to Orkney with facts and figures that will enable them to teach other students, as well as speak out through the media. 'GSF taught me that everything changes and with the will-power, determination and drive we can make a difference' said Craig MacLennan.

The group have already discussed what more can be done to make education a right and not a privilege. Daniel Groundwater was in awe of finding out the effects of missing out on an education, he said the Conference 'really made me think about how lucky we are here in Scotland where we take for granted the education presented to us on a golden platter'.

S4-S6 Prelims

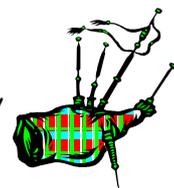
The prelims will get underway on Monday 12 January until Friday 23 January (inclusive) for S4 pupils. S4 pupils will not be going on Study Leave but instead will study in school except for the day of their exam.

S5 & S6 pupils prelims will be from Monday 26 January until Tuesday 10 February and pupils will be on Study Leave for those dates.

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!!

Piping Success

S6 pupil Michael Rendall has been selected from cadets all over Britain to play at the Basel Christmas Tattoo in Switzerland. The trip involves spending a week in Basel practising and then the next week is doing shows everyday.



What a fantastic opportunity and achievement—well done Michael!!

*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*

