

# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## June 2014



### KGS Official Opening

Tuesday 17 June saw the new KGS building officially opened by Alex Salmond, the First Minister of Scotland.

Mr Salmond addressed guests, staff and senior pupils in the theatre. He declared himself "absolutely delighted to join Orkney Islands

Council and the pupils of Kirkwall Grammar School to officially open their new school buildings" and added "I've been able to see for myself the high standard of the new buildings, and this has been recently echoed by inspectors as being 'outstanding'. Young people from Orkney and nearby islands will be able to develop their skills in top rate educational facilities, including a fantastic new theatre, state of the art classrooms and an abundance of social space".



The First Minister then visited several classes before chairing a Ministerial Cabinet meeting in the school.

Gurjit Singh, Media Manager for the Scottish Government emailed the school to say "Today's event was fantastic and the First Minister really enjoyed it. The pupils and staff were fantastic and a real credit to the school".

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Scott Rogerson, Senior Events Manager for the Scottish Government also emailed Saying "Just wanted to say thanks to all at Kirkwall Grammar for looking after us so well. First Minister was delighted with the visit and talked of nothing else on the journey back. Grateful if you could thanks all the staff and pupils for all the effort they put in".

### End of Term Arrangements

Traditionally, on the last day of the school year we have our Awards Ceremony, with shorter periods.

- Periods 1-4 will be as per usual timetable.
- Lunch will be from 12.20pm-1.10pm.
- Period 5 from 1.10pm-1.55pm
- At 1.55pm pupils will go to their period 6 class to leave their coats and bags before coming to the Whole School Awards Assembly.

At the end of the assembly pupils will return to their period 6 class to await the bell for the holidays.

Pupils may be dismissed half an hour early depending on the length of the ceremony.



### Cashless System Reminder

If you wish to use the online system log on to: [www.ipayimpact.co.uk](http://www.ipayimpact.co.uk) and use the information that was included in the letter sent home with pupils before the Easter holidays. Alternatively for log in details you can email the School Meals Service: [anne.harrison@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:anne.harrison@orkney.gov.uk).

Information letters will be sent out to new pupils and new S1 during the summer holidays.



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

Tel: (01856) 872102

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## Fond Farewells....

**GOODBYE!**

- ☺ Mrs S Dick, Head Teacher retires after 3 and a half years in KGS.
- ☺ Mrs C Harcus, Admin Assistant retires after 11 years in KGS.
- ☺ Mrs Fiona Norris, Acting Principal Teacher of Art retires 11 years in KGS.
- ☺ Mr A Maclean & Mrs S Tonini who have been on their Probationary year.
- ☺ Ms D Ondent & Ms K Kasek who have been our Language Assistants this year.
- ☺ Ms K Kemp who has been working in the Curriculum Support Department.

They will all be greatly missed and on behalf of the pupils and staff of Kirkwall Grammar School we would like to wish them all the very best for whatever plans they have in the future!



## And Warm Welcomes....

We welcome new members staff:

- ☺ Ms G Bayliss who joins the Science Department.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Congratulations

- ☺ Mr G McDonald who has been appointed as Acting Head Teacher for this year.
- ☺ Mr A Harvey who has been appointed as Acting Depute Head Teacher for one year.
- ☺ Mrs N Watson who has been appointed as Acting PT Art for one year.
- ☺ Mr E Johnston who has been appointed as Teacher of Chemistry.

## Best Wishes

Our thoughts and best wishes go to two members of our staff, Mrs G Dixon and Mr P Stephenson as they both recover from serious sports injuries. Get well soon guys!!



## Dress Code Reminder

We again ask parents for their support in ensuring a high standard of dress code is maintained. Pupils are to wear a top with the school logo. School tops should not be worn under other clothing and should be seen at all times. There are various styles available: Sweatshirt, Polo shirt, Rugby shirt or Zip top. Pupils may wear a white shirt and school tie. **Plain dark trousers, jeans or skirts (shorts are not appropriate) and plain navy, black or white layers are suitable under the school top.**

## Annual Parent Forum

All parents are warmly invited to the KGS Annual Parent Forum meeting which takes place in September.



We are always looking for new members for the Parent Council, so if you are interested please come along and see what we do.

This will be followed by a Parent Council Meeting.

## Dates for your Diary

End of Summer term  
Start of Autumn term  
End of Autumn term  
Start of Winter term

Tuesday 1 July  
Tuesday 19 August  
Friday 10 October  
Monday 27 October



## Contact Details

Please remember to ensure that we hold up-to-date details of home phone numbers, mobile numbers, emergency contacts and email addresses.



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## Trips, trips and more trips....

**Activities Day**—S1-S3 pupils took part in an Activities day at the end of May which were extremely successful. There was a wide range of activities on offer including: Outdoor Art, Sailing, Trout Fishing, Coastal Walks, Horse Riding, Crafts, Football and Cooking to name but a few.



**S1 Day Out** —This year S1 pupils were at the Birsay Centre in May. The focus of the trips was teamwork, enterprise and assessment of risk.

### S3 & S4 Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

With many more pupils taking part in Duke of Edinburgh this year it has been very busy trying to fit in their training expeditions and qualifying expeditions. Nevertheless these have been a great success and all the pupils have gained so much from these experiences.



**History & Modern Studies Trip**—40 pupils travelled to the Central Belt at the end of May. The trip started with a tough climb up the 246 steps of the Wallace Monument before heading just along the road to Stirling Castle for a photographic treasure hunt and 'selfies' with the new Kelpies statues in Falkirk. Edinburgh was the next stop and alongside a trip to the castle, the group got their wits scared out of them in The Dungeons and even more so later with a spooky ghost tour of The Vaults. The trip finished with a tour of the Scottish Parliament where pupils were given a chance to quiz their MSPs and they attended First Minister's Questions. The evening were just as packed with fun, a game of touch rugby in Princes Street Gardens on the first night was a great team building experience. The group enjoyed a screening of the new X-Men film and a trip to King's Theatre to see a fantastic performance of 'Hetty Feather' left everyone smiling and exhausted at the end of the week. The Social Subjects department are already planning their next trip, so watch this space!



## Sporting Success

A number of pupils recently took part in the Scottish Schools Athletics Competition. This year the purpose of these championships was to give the young athletes the opportunity of a lifetime to compete in the Commonwealth Stadium prior to the actual games in July.

Many of our pupils achieved successes and particularly Thora Cant who, for the 4th year in a row, won gold in the O17 Javelin. Alex Stevenson had a great O17 Javelin competition, securing his first Scottish Schools gold medal. Sarah MacPhail took silver in the O17 High Jump and Anna Tait took bronze in the o17 1500m whilst also smashing another 4 seconds of her personal best.



There were many other personal bests and gritty performances over the two days, very well done to all involved!

## More term highlights....

- ☺ Bridge Building Competition—this took place at Orkney College with KGS winning best overall design.
- ☺ The P7 pupils had their visits on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 June. A number of KGS pupils organised and ran a Metasaga tour for them which was a great success.
- ☺ The KGS debating team also came a close second in the recent Orkney Schools Debating Competition.
- ☺ Lauren Poke from KGS also came a close second in this year's Fereday Prize—well done Lauren.
- ☺ Five KGS pupils passed the Interdisciplinary Project element of the Science Baccalaureate this year. Very well done to all the pupils involved and also Dr Drummond for all her hard work!
- ☺ Gail Zawadski came a close second in the Marjory Linklater Awards this year—well done Gail!

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# It's Automatic, It's Systematic, It's Hydromatic.....

## Why it's Grease: The Musical!!

KGS was transformed into Rydell High School in June and winding back the clock to 1959 as Pink Ladies, T-Birds, cheerleaders and rock 'n' roll took to the stage for the KGS production of Grease. Top quality vocal performances from Camron Dowell and Jack Scott who took turns as 'Danny' were well matched by the beautiful vocals of Shevaun Rosie and Charlotte Wallhead as 'Sandy'. Each pair had the audiences tapping their feet and clapping their hands as they belted out the iconic songs 'Summer Loving' and 'You're the one that I want' in spectacular fashion.



The show's comedy was ably proved by Graham Low and Philip Matthews in their performances of 'Eugene' and Graham's run as 'Kenickie' on the Saturday had the audience in tears of laughter. There were also notable performances from Samuel Murray, Samantha Buck and Calum McArthur, while Gemma Harcus expertly blended strong acting with a powerful singing performance as 'Rizzo'.

An enthusiastic chorus, complete with cart-wheeling cheerleaders, gang fighting T-Birds, slumber partying Pink Ladies and swing-dancing sweet-hearts injected a real sense of adolescent fun to a show underpinned by the themes of love, friendship and teenage rebellion.

A round of applause too, to the musicians, backstage crew, set creators, costume designers and prop builders who, along with the expert lighting crew and sound teams ensured the performers could confidently give their all during each show.

The energy and professionalism of all the cast and crew was testimony to the long hours they had put in, led by staff from the Drama and Music Depts. Special mention has to be made of the choreography for the show, with dozens of dancer performing some complicated and visually stunning routines in near-perfect unison. So much so that at the end of each show, the audience not only left smiling and singing—many were still hand-jiving as they spilled out onto the plaza! Once again it seems that KGS and musical drama go together like rama lama lama ka dinga da dinga dong!!!



## And finally....

This is my last newsletter for KGS and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last three and a half years.

KGS is a great school with a long and illustrious history and also with a great future. I shall watch eagerly the developments that take place here as we draw the initial phase of the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence to a close in the next few years.



Providing the best opportunities for your young people is at the heart of CfE and the facilities and resources in our new building will fully support excellent learning and teaching. The staff and pupils here are second to none and together with the support of the wider community, Kirkwall Grammar School is certain to thrive.

Many thanks, once again, for the opportunity to lead KGS in these interesting times.

Sheila Dick

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