



### Welcome...

We have welcomed a number of members staff at the start of this term:

- ☺ Miss S Hoggan who joins the Social Subjects Department.
- ☺ Mr I Rubie who has returned to the Maths Department.
- ☺ Mr S Sommerville who has been appointed as Teacher of Computing.

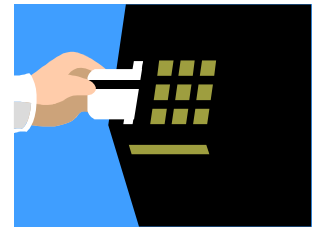


### Congratulations...

- ☺ To Miss H Bichan who has been appointed to the post of Acting PT English.

### KGS has gone cashless

Pupils have now been issued with their pin number, had a demonstration on how to use the top up machine and parents have received letters outlining how to go online to transfer money into their account. We have been using the new system for over a week now and after the holidays we will be completely cashless. So far it has been working very well.



### 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 and plain navy, black or white layers are suitable under the school top (PLEASE NOTE—shorts are not appropriate).**

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### Dates for your Diary

End of Spring term	Friday 28 March
Start of Summer term	Monday 14 April
Easter Monday	Monday 21 April
S4-S6 Study Leave begins	Monday 28 April
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 May
New timetable begins	Monday 2 June
End of Summer term	Tuesday 1 July

## HAPPY EASTER

On behalf of the pupils and staff of Kirkwall Grammar School we hope you all have a restful holiday and a very Happy Easter!

## SQA Exams



During the exams, please remind your sons/daughters to bring all the necessary equipment and to attend in plenty of time for each examination. Seat numbers have been allocated for all candidates for each exam and it is the pupil's responsibility to check the seat number for each exam and to sit in the correct place. Pupils are also issued with their Scottish Candidate Numbers and should also remember to bring this with them.

Mobile phones, MP3 players, iphones etc must not be in the exam room—even if switched off! This is an SQA rule and a pupil found in possession of such a device in the exam will have their paper forfeited. Please help your son/daughter to remember to leave their mobiles etc at home or they can hand them into Reception before the exam.

If your son/daughter is ill during the SQA exams diet, please telephone 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.

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

Study timetable proformas are available on the school website to help plan revision schedules. We are very pleased with the responsible attitude that all students are taking: preparing and using the study timetables to help focus their studies and seeking out additional help for their teachers where necessary. Please see the school website for additional information. The SQA website also has very useful information on studying including a link for a Study Timetable app which can be downloaded onto smart phones and ipods.

All teachers also support the students with study advice and information in class. We welcome the support our parents give our students. Plenty of fresh air, sleep and good food are all part of the learning process. Short frequent breaks built into study routines help to focus the mind. Gentle encouragement also helps students to see the benefits of working to achieve their potential.

A detailed letter has been sent home with S4-S6 pupils with more information on all of the above.

## Study Leave

Study Leave for pupils is as follows:

- S4-S6 students will go on Study Leave from Monday 28 April until Friday 30 May (inclusive).

## Fair Trade Fortnight

Staff and pupils at KGS have been involved in a wide range of activities promoting Fairtrade Fortnight 2014:

- \* Pupils have been learning across different subject areas all about Fairtrade and this year's campaign of sticking with Albeiro Alfonso 'Foncho' Cantillo (a banana farmer who is part of a Fairtrade co-operative in Colombia) to campaign for 'Fair Bananas'.
- \* On Monday 24 February the Fairtrade Steering Group mounted displays all over the school to publicise the 'Make Bananas Fair' campaign.
- \* On Thursday 27 February the Steering Group, in partnership with Take One Action, screened the documentary feature film 'Girl Rising' to 3D & 3S who are researching the Fairtrade 'Beliefs and Values in Action' unit.
- \* On Friday 28 February staff and pupils joined together at break time to stick with Foncho in taking a stand and making a noise for fair bananas. The school's Steering Committee made a case for Fairtrade bananas, offering every pupil and staff member a glass of Fairtrade banana smoothie.
- \* Saturday 1 March saw the Steering Committee take the campaign to the community. The event 'The Massive Banana Petition Signing' asked members of the public to join us in asking supermarkets to ensure banana workers and farmers are getting a fair deal. The event started at 12 noon with the KGS Fairtrade Band providing music whilst members of the Steering Group handed out petition cards and Fairtrade bananas.
- \* Monday 3 March saw the petition hitting KGS with staff and pupils coming out in numbers to sign the petition. Everyone who signed got a Fairtrade banana with a Foncho sticker.
- \* Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 March saw an internal appeal where all years added their signatures on letters to the Staffroom Committee, the Business Manager and OIC asking that we all continue to our commitment in Fairtrade.
- \* Friday 7 March was the day planned for KGS to come together and make noise for fair bananas. At lunchtime, a member of the Steering Group blew a whistle at which everyone stood up, counted to three and shouted 'Fair Bananas' in unison.



Members of the KGS Fairtrade Steering Group have written to local politicians, media and shops asking everyone to get involved with their campaign to protect Britain's favourite fruit. The MSP for Orkney, Liam McArthur attended a debate in the Scottish Parliament marking the one year anniversary of Scotland being a Fairtrade nation. There he informed members of Kirkwall Grammar School's new Fairtrade status award as well as our commitment to and promotion of Fairtrade and fair bananas. A recorded video of the event can be viewed at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/scotland-26469102> (we are mentioned 21:10 into the debate).



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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## Swimming Success

Very well done to Angus Blance who has been selected for the Highland Institute of Sport Performance Development Pathway. Selection for the programme is a very significant achievement as places are offered only to those meeting very stringent selection criteria designed to identify those with real potential to perform at Scottish National level as they progress in their swimming careers. Congratulations Angus!



## Writing Success

KGS pupil Beth Banerjee-Richards has been selected as one of ten winners of the Pushkin Prizes. The ten winners will attend a prize giving in the Archer's Hall in Edinburgh before heading off for a special five-day creative writing course at the Arvon Foundation Writers' Centre near Inverness where they will work with professional writers.

Congratulations and very well done Beth!!



## Football Success

A special mention to Ruth Clark who was selected to attend the North Regional U-16 Training Squad in August last year. Ruth has been travelling to Aberdeen regularly to attend these sessions. Very well done Ruth!



## International Runner visits KGS

William Sichel, Orkney's world-beating international ultra distance runner, was in school on Monday to talk to Scapa and Waulkmill houses. William, who is a multiple World Record holder from 12 Hours to 1000 miles, discussed the challenges, setbacks and disappointments that he has dealt with. William, who is a multiple World Record holder at distances from 12 Hours to 1000 miles, discussed the challenges, setbacks and disappointments that he has dealt with. He concluded his talk with the advice: "Never underestimate what you are capable of; say 'Yes' to opportunities, make the most of what you have, and remember, your life, like mine, is a mystery".

Pupils and Staff were inspired by his story and we would like to thank Mrs Balcombe for arranging his visit. Our thanks go to William for sharing his experiences and expertise, but we would also like to wish him all the very best for his future challenges, including Project 165 and the Adelaide 6 Day Road Race this autumn.

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