



### SQA Exams—Some Advice

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.

If your son/daughter is ill during the SQA exams diet, please telephone the school to let us know and obtain a medical certificate from your doctor which can then be submitted to the SQA if preliminary evidence supports an appeal.

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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 pupil is coming into school to study they must sign in and out at the Office.

### Study Leave

Study Leave for pupils is as follows:

- S4 students will go on Study Leave from Monday 29 April until Friday 31 May (inclusive).
- S5/6 students will go on Study Leave from Monday 6 May until Friday 31 May (inclusive) except RMPS students who return to school on Tuesday 4 June.
- Int 2 & Higher Art & Design students return to school on Monday 3 June but are on study leave again on Wednesday 5 June for their exam.



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.

## Fairtrade Bakeoff

An astonishing 54 Fairtrade cakes were submitted to the competition with prizes supplied by the Co-op. Fairtrade logos decorated a number of the submitted cakes, some were small and some were not so small. Mr Ogbhemhe, Mr Ewing, Miss Dalziel, Liam McArthur and Gill Smee from the Orkney Fairtrade Committee were all involved in the tasting. It took some time to whittle down the 54 submissions to a short list and the winners announced:

3rd place—Alice

2nd place—Dylan

1st place—Esme & Betty Andrews



## Fairtrade Flashmob

Mr Ogbhemhe and the S3s urged the school to 'Go Further for Fairtrade' through the medium of music and dance. Their chicken dance flashmob had the school foyer in a bit of a flap over Fairtrade. You can see the video on our KGS Facebook page.



## Scottish Youth Parliament Election Results

Samuel Murray, Iona Torbett, Hamish Auskerry, Ewan Loudon and Thorfinn Moffat were the candidates for the Scottish Youth Parliament. Community Learning Officer, Ernie Skea, who is also Orkney's SYP Election Co-ordinator got the proceedings underway with a thank you to everyone who had been involved in the election—including Kirkwall Grammar School for hosting the candidate debate and acting as a polling station along with Stromness Academy and Orkney College. Steven Heddle, OIC Convenor made a short speech to congratulate all the candidates on a hard fought election, adding that he was looking forward to the successful candidates.

Chief Executive, Alistair Buchan performed the duties of Returning Officer and announced 'Iona Torbet and Samuel Murray are duly elected as Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Constituency of Orkney'. Congratulations to both Samuel and Iona and commiserations to the other three.

## Congratulations!

To Mrs Balfour who has successfully secured £10,000 worth of funding from Awards for All, the Big Lottery Fund for the KGS Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



## 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.**

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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## Netball Success

S4 pupil, Sarah MacPhail was selected for the Scottish U17 Netball squad. The squad competing in the European U17 Netball Championships in Malta at the beginning of March and came third overall. Sarah is pictured above with her first Scotland cap.



## Athletics Success

Very well done to Chris Mackay who has been accepted to Glasgow School of Sport after a competitive interview process. He will be starting in August.

Congratulations and very well done Chris!



Congratulations and very well done Sarah!!

## Swimming Success



Three KGS swimmers took part in the North District Age-Group Championships recently. Jordan Munro lowered his 200 meter Backstroke time by an incredible nine seconds. Member of this years' island games squad Ami Garriock notched up a time-drop in her Breaststroke and Jack Duncan rounded off the teams performance with personal bests in Freestyle, Backstroke and Individual Medley.

Very well done to all three!

## Roots and Shoots Group

This month the group invited Kate Walker from Orkney Sustainable Fisheries to visit the school and give a talk on the work she is doing towards maintaining the sustainability of the fishing industry in Orkney. Kate was as fantastic speaker and provided a wealth of information on Orkney's crustacean population in particular, for example the work she is doing to tag and track the movements of Orkney's brown crabs. Hopefully this was a great inspiration to all our budding biologists! Other than this, the group are currently planning a tree planting/maintenance day for some time in the next few weeks so keep you eyes peeled for posters with more information on taking part.



## Dates for your Diary

Easter Concert	Wednesday 27 March	7.30pm
End of Spring term	Friday 29 March	
Start of Spring term	Monday 15 April	
S4 Study Leave begins	Monday 29 April	
May Day Holiday	Monday 6 May	
S5/6 Study Leave begins	Tuesday 7 May	
S1-S3 Activity Days	Wednesday 29-Friday 31 May	
S1 Reports issued	Monday 3 June	
S2 Interim Report issued	Friday 14 June	

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