



KGS Photo Exhibition

Former pupils young and old descended upon KGS at the weekend to enjoy a trip down memory lane.

The school celebrated 40 years on The Meadows with a photographic exhibition featuring pictures and objects from across the decades. Current pupils and staff were on hand to take folk on tours around the building and the Parents' Council was there to keep the reminiscers refreshed. Some of the pupils who came along to help enjoyed hearing the stories of their predecessors so much that they wanted to stay on.

Matthew Reid, one of the S6 helpers, was particular interested in the stories shared with him by a former pupil who came all the way from Stonehaven to have a look around the building. "The lady hadn't been here in years and it was really interesting to hear how the school had changed. I didn't know that the college used to be in the school".

Sheila Dick, the school's Head Teacher said, "It was a fantastic event and a roaring success. Thank you and very well done to all staff , pupils and parents who were involved. I was delighted to welcome Mr William Thompson, the first Head Teacher in this present building, to the exhibition with Mrs Thomson. Dr John Ireland, Acting Head Teacher in the lead up to my own appointment was also able to attend. Good wishes were sent by Mr Eric Sinclair, Head Teacher from 1990-1999. I hope that all former Head Teachers will be able to attend our opening ceremony in the new build. The exhibition was a real focus for the KGS community - there will be no building to remind us of the present KGS and the archive which is planned from this exhibition will be an valuable record for future generations attending Kirkwall Grammar School.

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The organisers would like to thank all those who donated photographs, letters, objects the exhibition over the last few months or filled-out "memory cards" over the weekend. To make sure all the effort has a lasting affect, everything will now be archived and current pupils will help the Archivist as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award before the originals are returned to their owners. Teacher, Alma Balfour, who was one of the many organisers behind the event, said "It was a really good event. People were coming in steadily all day and it was very nostalgic, bring back lots of memories for folk who were walking round and reminiscing in groups. The refreshments laid on by the Parents' Council were well received and there was a real community feel to the weekend. We want to have more of that in the future so watch this space!"

Were you at KGS in the 80s?

There was a wealth of stories brought together for the exhibition, but the organisers noticed relatively few photos from the early-1980s. If you were at KGS in the early 80s and have some photographs you would like to see included in the archive, pass them into the school office with your name and address and they will be returned to you once they've been duplicated.



EMAIL ALERT!!

We are now sending information to parents via email (as well as letters and texts).

Please let us know if you do not want to receive these emails or let us have your email address if you do!!

The Great Space Race

Remember, remember the 5th of November...and the pupils and staff of Waulkmill House certainly won't forget this 5th November in a hurry. During Tutor Time the 6 house groups of rocketeers were launching the water rockets they had made as part of the house's activities during Science Week. The event started with a brief safety briefing by Mr Johnston in which he outlined best practice when launching rockets (be they water-rockets or fireworks) before the groups were given the opportunity to inspect their rival's designs.



It was a chilly afternoon, so without any hanging around, they got on with the launches. Air was pumped into each rocket, the pressure eventually forcing the water out and propelling the crafts up into the air. Judging was based on the height reached and distance travelled, with additional points for style....



After much hilarity and only one failed launch, there were three clear winners: Waulkmill A's mega-rocket was deemed the most stylish and "The Jamie" soared high above the rest to win Best Launch. In the end though, it Waulkmill B's blend of style and substance that was voted

the overall winner (see the all the photos on our Facebook page). The session was a real success. Well done to all involved for their efforts and teamwork, and congratulations to the winning teams.



Micro-Tyco Challenge

Pupils from Business Management and Waulkmill house have been challenged to test their entrepreneurial skills and compete against teams from across Scotland this month (November). Once the clock starts on 1 November they have one month to turn seed capital of just £1 into as much money as possible. On 30 November the team with the most money wins. There are only two rules: teams cannot gamble and transactions must be legal.

The results of the challenge will be posted on the school's KGS Orkney Facebook page. The money created from Micro-Tyco will then be invested by WildHearts in micro-loans to help the world's poorest people work their own way out of poverty with dignity and self respect. As a result participants will go from becoming dynamic wealth creators to global ethical investors. Micro-Tyco's gift to you will be the knowledge that once you release your talents the whole world benefits.

Facebook & Twitter Reminder

Here at KGS we aim to keep parents/guardians up-to-date with what is happening at the school. We think it is very important to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and to spread the word about the many events that they organise and take part in each year. Our 'Kirkwall Grammar School' Facebook page and @KGSOrkney Twitter account links are as follows:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Kirkwall-Grammar-School/410051129035787>

<http://twitter.com/KGSOrkney>

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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Orkney Young Ambassadors at the Paralympics

After being selected to be Young Ambassadors for their school and attending Young Ambassadors training last year, Claire Johnstone and Alastair Scott from Kirkwall Grammar School and Young Ambassador David Porteous from Stromness Academy embarked on a trip of a lifetime. Here is their story:



As part of the Olympic Young Ambassador Team, we got the opportunity to head down to London to see some of the Paralympics events. After much organisation of travel and accommodation, we set off on Wednesday 29th August. Our trip went smoothly and we arrived in London on the afternoon of Thursday. Our first event was the wheelchair basketball which took place at the O2 arena. We were there good and early and we had the opportunity to savour the atmosphere of not only the Paralympics but the O2 arena as well. It is quite an enormous place! We headed into the arena and selected our seats. Very soon after that, the music was blaring and the compare was getting the crowd all geed up in anticipation of Team GB playing Germany. To a huge roar of the crowd, and music blasting from the speakers, the two teams entered the arena. We were soon entering into the spirit of the game and enjoying the thrills and spills that is 'wheelchair basketball'. In great Olympic style the crowd all around were friendly and supportive of both teams. Germany took an early lead and retained this right up to the last quarter. Team GB made an incredible come back, and we couldn't believe when the final whistle/music and roaring went up, it was a draw - we were in for extra time and this really made things exciting. Unfortunately, the end result was a win for Germany on this occasion, but the whole event was so enjoyable and fun, we weren't too disappointed that Team GB lost. It was a late night but the atmosphere of being in the stadium is very unforgettable.

The next day saw an early start and off to the Olympic Park - along with thousands of others! The sun was shining and, again the crowds were in great spirits. The infrastructure of the Olympic Park was phenomenal. We grabbed some breakfast and coffee and headed into the Olympic Stadium only to be amazing by the size and capacity. While the stadium was enormous, it still felt enclosed and as if you were a part of the enthusiastic crowd that cheered on the astonishing athletes. We supported team GB on different track and field event such as long jump, 100m sprint, and shot put. Seeing athletes with such extreme disabilities doing so well was truly inspiring and also very touching. It really made us appreciate what can be achieved. The event lasted for about 3 hours so afterwards we wandered around the park, visiting the food market and sunbathing on the grass in front of the big screens. Unfortunately the popular attractions such as the Coca-Cola Boom Box had very hefty queuing times as long as an hour and a half long so we chose to relax instead by heading back to the hotel. In the evening we made our way from the hotel out into some of London's biggest attractions, Leicester Square and Trafalgar Square where we really soaked up the true atmosphere of London. With its theatres, cinemas and restaurants it really was a fun filled night for everyone.

The next morning wasn't such an early start but after breakfast at Wetherspoons we did an open-top bus tour where we seen Buckingham Palace and Crossed The Tower Bridge as well as seeing other famous and well known places in London. We had already booked fast passes for the London Eye so we got off and headed toward the huge wheel. The views were magnificent looking over Big Ben, Ministry of Defence, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace and out as far as Wembley Stadium. A great way to end our London Paralympics experience.



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Roots and Shoots Group

This year KGS has organised its first Roots and Shoots group meeting every Tuesday lunchtime. Inspired by Jane Goodall, the group carries out green projects within Orkney to help its community, wildlife and environment.



Last weekend we carried out our first project; a 'Bag the Bruck' day along the Kirkwall foreshore. The turnout was fantastic and the enthusiastic volunteers from the group helped us to collect over thirty bags of rubbish. This term we plan to organise a workshop at Orkney Seal Rescue on South Ronaldsay where our members will hopefully get the chance to see some professional conservation in action.

International Youth Sailing Exchange

Earlier this year S4 pupil Amos Erdman took part in the International Youth Sailing Exchange. Here is his report:



On 21 July I boarded the 'Gulden Leeuw' a Dutch three-masted topsail schooner to begin my three week journey from Falmouth to Rostock via Amsterdam, Aalborg and Halmstad.

On board there were 52 trainees and 12 crew. At sea the crew taught us how to navigate, steer the ship, which ropes did what and how to control the sails. We had to do all the jobs on board from scrubbing the decks and cooking to climbing the mast and trimming sails. We had to climb out on the bowsprit to adjust sails. It was very good because it made the ship go a lot faster. On this trip I gained a lot of experience at sea which is good because it will help me pursue a career at sea. It will also help me get into nautical college or get a job. Next summer I am planning to sail with the 'Gulden Leeuw' as a temporary crew.



The highlights were climbing the mast; it was amazing up there as it felt like you weren't part of the ship. On board we had loads of fun. We went swimming when we were anchored, climbing when we weren't and sleeping whenever we got a chance. We arrived in Rostock on the 7 August and I flew home on the 9th and arrived back on the 10th.

Dates for your Diary

S4 Report issued
S4 Parents' Evening
S1 Interim Report issued
S5/6 Parents' Evening
Christmas Dance
S2 Report issued
Carol Service
End of Winter term
Start of Spring term

Friday 16 November
Tuesday 20 November 5pm-7pm
Friday 30 November
Monday 10 December 5pm-7pm
Wednesday 12 December 7pm-10.30pm
Friday 14 December
Tuesday 18 December 7pm
Friday 21 December
Monday 7 January



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