



Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

October 2013

Welcome....

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

- ☺ Mr E Johnston who joins the Chemistry Department.
- ☺ Mr A McLean joins the Physics Department for his probationary year.
- ☺ Ms S Tonelli joins the French Department for her probationary year.
- ☺ Deborah Ondet joins us as the French Language Assistant.
- ☺ Kerstin Kasek joins us as the German Language Assistant.
- ☺ Mr D Watt who joins the PE Department.
- ☺ Miss S Hoggan who temporarily joins the Social Subjects Department.
- ☺ Miss K Glenn who also temporarily joins the Social Subjects Department.



Fond Farewells....



- ☺ Miss D Militaru who left to take up a place at University for further post-graduate study.
- ☺ Mr I Rubie who will be taking up a new post in Ardnamurchan.

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Annual Parent Forum & Internet Safety Talk

All parents are warmly invited to the KGS Annual Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 2 October at 7pm in the Dining Hall at KGS. 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 talk on Internet Safety and a Parent Council Meeting.

S4/S5/S6 Raising Attainment Evening

We will be holding a Raising Attainment Evening for parents of S4/S5/S6 pupils on Tuesday 12 November from 7pm to 8.30pm in the Dining Hall.

Research indicates that young people attain their maximum potential when there is evidence of sustained support at home. We hope you will manage along and perhaps find out some practical strategies that you can use to help your child 'be the best they can be' at KGS. There will also be updates on the new National courses given at the meeting.



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 or a white, black or navy shirt and school tie.
- * Plain dark trousers, jeans or skirts (shorts are not appropriate).
- * Plain navy, black or white layers are suitable under the school top.
- * School tops should not be worn under other clothing and should be seen at all times.

Unacceptable clothing includes:

- * Football shirts
- * Any clothing with prominent logos
- * Brightly coloured or patterned clothing.

School tops and ties are available from KT Sport in Albert Street.

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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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'.

Orkney Schools Debating Competition

KGS pupils Shani Patching and Lucy Broadhurst-MacGregor are the winner's of this year's Orkney Schools Debating Competition. The two travelled to Stromness Academy where they proposed the motion that 'Junk food should be banned in schools'.



Shani and Lucy faced some strong competition from the Stromness pupils who presented well thought-out arguments for what was to prove a difficult motion to oppose. In the end, the judges felt that the KGS girls had the edge and that their speeches were more detailed than those of their Stromness counterparts.

They were presented with a crystal trophy which will be engraved with their names. Well done girls!!



RAGBAG Appeal Reminder

KGS runs a recycling initiative called RAGBAG. The idea is to collect almost any type of textile which then gets transported South to be sorted, graded and, where possible, re-used. RAGBAG will take clothes in any condition, bags, hats, gloves (pairs), curtains (single or paired), sheets, towels etc. Shoes (pairs, tied together) are also needed but pillows and duvets are not acceptable.

There is a very large, hexagonal box in the foyer into which we need people to deposit as much recyclable textiles as possible. Things in good condition can be reused either in Scotland or in countries where second-hand clothing is needed. Things in poor condition get made into industrial rags, so it really doesn't matter what condition goods are in.

Not only will you be getting rid of unwanted things but KGS will get paid as well so it is a win, win situation for us all!

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KGS and the Science Festival

Sci-Fun Roadshow

The Scottish Science and Technology Roadshow from Edinburgh University set up a wide range of hands-on experiments for S1-S3 pupils during the Science Festival week. Around 275 pupils experienced the event during the two-day exhibition. The scientists from Edinburgh University were assisted by a group of 15 S5 & S6 science pupils, who were trained in the use of all the equipment and provided tuition and demonstrations for groups of the younger pupils. They all received a certificate to add to their personal profile acknowledging their training for the event, each personally signed by the Professor of Science and Engineering at the University.



Throughout the event, the University team commented on the enthusiasm and engagement of our younger pupils. They were particularly impressed with our senior science pupils and in a letter to Dr Drummond, the Roadshow Manager, Stuart Dunbar said 'The behaviour of all pupils reflected extremely well on your school, with everyone working well with each other and the seniors. Please pass on our gratitude to the senior pupils who assisted over the two days, their support improved the impact of our activities and without their enthusiasm our visit would have been nowhere as good. They are a tremendous group and your school is lucky to have them.' It is hoped that the Sci-Fun Roadshow will return again in the future.



Scottish Natural Larder Visit

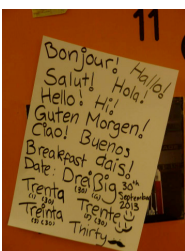
Pete Moore from the Scottish Heritage campaign 'Scottish Natural Larder' was in school during the Orkney International Science Festival to talk about sustainable wildlife management and how to eat local, fresh produce.

He gave a hands-on demonstration of some wild goose recipes.

S1 Big Continental Breakfast

It's bon appétit for S1 pupils this week as they tucked into a special continental breakfast on Monday 30 September. This event was held to mark the European Day of Languages on 26 September and during the week their lessons will be geared towards language awareness.

Alison Scott, PT Languages says 'we've made great use of the resources we have in school, with pupils and staff sharing their knowledge of European languages by offering taster sessions in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish'. Sheila Dick added 'at KGS we understand the importance of learning a modern foreign language and the Big Continental Breakfast is a super way of helping pupils to engage with the study of other cultures'.



You can read pupils' thoughts on why languages are important beneath some of the photographs on the KGS Facebook page.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to Tesco who generously baked and donated the croissants for the breakfast.

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New Build Update

Work on the new building is continuing with the new school edging ever closer to completion. There are some very recent pictures of the new build on the KGS website and these give an excellent view of how the school is looking.

Much of the building work has been completed on the first and second floors and many of the classrooms are already kitted out with tables and chairs. However, there is still work to be done in other areas especially in Music, Drama and the Theatre.

There are no firm dates yet, but parents will be kept fully informed when we know more.



Visiting Author

Keith Gray, a famous author living in Edinburgh visited KGS recently during English lessons. Some of Keith's books have been nominated for major prizes such as the Carnegie Medal, the Guardian Fiction Prize, the Book Trust Teen Prize and the Scottish Arts Council Book Award. He won the Angus Book Awards as well as a silver medal in the Smarites prize—coming second to Harry Potter!



The pupils were really interested in Keith's presentation and liked his enthusiastic attitude and joke telling. He also read a snippet of his next book which the pupils enjoyed immensely.

Clubs, Sports & Activities at KGS

We have lots and lots of clubs, sports and activities for pupils to take part in during & after school, some of these include:

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Anime Club | Windband | Rugby | Junior Choir |
| Consciousness Club | Hadhingaam | Hockey | Senior Choir |
| Fishing Club | Big Band | Octopush | |

Details of more activities and the days, dates and times can be found on the KGS website under the Pupil Info section—What's On.

Dates for your Diary

Annual Parent Forum
 End of Autumn term
 Staff Inservice
 Start of Winter term
 S4/S5/S6 Raising Attainment Information Evening
 S4 Parents' Evening
 S5/6 Parents' Evening
 KGS Christmas Dance
 Carol Service

Wednesday 2 October
 Friday 11 October
 Thursday 24 & Friday 25 October
 Monday 28 October
 Tuesday 12 November 7pm-8.30pm (to be confirmed)
 Monday 2 December 5pm-7pm
 Tuesday 10 December 5pm-7pm
 December (date to be confirmed)
 Tuesday 17 December 7pm



EMAIL ALERT!!

We send 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!!

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