



## Welcome....



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

- ☺ Ms A Dalziel, who joins the Social Subjects Dept.
- ☺ Ms A MacDonald who joins the Curriculum Support Dept.
- ☺ Ms L Reid, who joins the Art Dept for her probationary year.
- ☺ Mr E Nind, who joins the Science Dept for his probationary year.
- ☺ Ms K Hanson, who also joins the Science Dept covering a maternity leave.
- ☺ Paul Lorvellec joins us as the French Language Assistant.
- ☺ Emanuel Blaich joins us as the German Language Assistant.

## Congratulations....

- ☺ Mrs F Norris who is our new Acting PT of Art & Design.
- ☺ Ms M Phillips who is our new Acting Co-ordinator of Curriculum Support.
- ☺ Mr S Woodrow who joins the Guidance Dept as PT (Dingieshowe House).
- ☺ Mr A Harvey has a secondment as a Development Officer at OIC for a year.
- ☺ Mr P Casey who is our new Acting PT of Guidance (Waulkmill House).

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## Facebook & Twitter

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. In a bid to get the news out to you, we are proud to announce the launch of our 'Kirkwall Grammar School' Facebook page and @KGSOrkney Twitter account. The links are as follows:

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

## KGS Former Pupil Concert—Thurs 4 Oct 12 at 8pm

As part of the New Build, we are planning events to celebrate our time in the present KGS. The first of these events is a 'Former Pupils' Concert to celebrate many of the fantastic musicians who have passed through the Music Dept over the past 40 years. A few rehearsals are planned to shake the dust off and it is not too late to get involved.

Contact Mrs Harvey at KGS or via the KGS Former Pupils Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/KGS-Former-Pupils/157701464363947>

Tickets will be on sale from the school office, priced £5 (£3 school pupils) and from Grooves on Albert Street. Come along and have a great time!!

## KGS Photo Exhibition—3 & 4 November

Another event to celebrate school life in the present KGS is the Photographic Exhibition which will be held on the weekend of 3 & 4 November in KGS. We are gathering images of classes, performances and artefacts from the last 40 years of the school. The exhibition will run from 11am-4pm on the Saturday and 11am-3pm on the Sunday. Further details will be in the local press soon.

If any parents have images of the school and would like them included in the exhibition, please hand them into the school office where they will be copied and returned.





# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## September 2012



### Trips and more trips....

#### UNESCO Youth Summit—London 2012

A group of four students from Orkney travelled to Greenwich, London to take part in the largest ever UK UNESCO Youth Summit in June. The focus of the nation-wide summit was to emphasise the role of young people in sustaining and developing the knowledge and preservation of their World Heritage Sites whilst engaging the wider community. Ross Clark and Janet Holland of KGS were joined by two pupils from Stromness Academy as Orkney's representatives at the event which was held in the breath-taking historic surroundings of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage site. The three day programme was crammed with stimulating activities and those chosen as representatives for the summit were surprised and delighted to find that they were to be interviewed by Zara Mir for short programmes to be broadcast along with their digital scrapbooks on the big screens around the Olympic Village during London 2012. You can see the Orkney video on the KGS Facebook page.

#### Big Green Challenge Debate in the Scottish Government

Kirkwall Grammar School has claimed the Big Green Challenge Debate title at an event in the Scottish Parliament in June. Rhiannon Walters, Thorfinn Moffat and Branwen Bourn held off the challenge from seven other schools to claim first place at the debate, focussing on Renewable Energy issues. The Highlands and Islands Enterprise competition has seen the pupils researching and debating issues related to renewables before presenting their work in front of industry experts in Edinburgh. Very well done to the pupils involved.

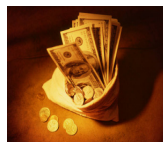


### RAGBAG Appeal

KGS has recently started a new 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. We have just received our first cheque from them for £66 which will go towards other recycling initiatives.

### 'The Big Dig' Fundraising



KGS pupils and staff, led by Waulkmill House have raised a staggering £332.18 in just two days. These funds will be matched by the UK Government and will be used to provide clean water to people struggling to survive in Malawi. In basic terms, that's 45 lives saved by KGS! A huge well done to all those involved and thanks to all who donated.

### Education Secretary Visit



There was a short visit to KGS by Education Secretary, Mike Russell in August as part of the visit to Orkney of the Cabinet of the Scottish Parliament. Mr Russell met with a pupil focus group and representatives of the staff and parents. We would like to thank the pupils, staff and parents who volunteered for this. Mr Russell has since written to KGS thanking us all for our effort and input.

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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## September 2012

### Sport at KGS



#### Octopush

KGS sent it's top U-16 team all the way to Plymouth in June to compete in the British Octopush Association UK Age Group Championships. The Orkney Vikings were defending the Championship title gained in 2010. They played six full matches during the day where they won 5 and lost one giving them their silver medals, a cup and second place in the UK for 2012. Well done to the Vikings!!

There is likely to be a tournament here in October and all S5 & S6 players should be involved in this. Some of these will be travelling to Stirling for Scottish Squad training in October, others will take part in the Nautilus competition in Sheffield in November.

The school club is running from 3.35pm-4.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays this term for S1-S4 players. It should continue on the same days from 3.35pm-5pm when the new pool opens. All new players welcome!

#### Swimming

Orkney swimmers were in Shetland for this year's Midsummer Meet recently. Ami Garriock competed in the 200m Breaststroke and swam an excellent race bagging her the gold in the 15 & over age group. She swam again in the afternoon in the 200m Backstroke and won the silver medal in the 15 & over age group. Leah Garriock swam a well paced 400m Free, knocking an outstanding 22 seconds off her best time, to scoop the Bronze in the 9-12 yrs age group. Very well done girls!!

#### Rugby

The U-16 Squad have had two trips to Shetland postponed due to weather already this year but hope to get there soon to fulfil our first fixture in the Brewin-Dolphin Plate competition. At U-15 level we have been given a home tie against Gordonstoun School which will be played in the near future. The good news about coaching is that Ms K Hanson has joined the staff from Loretto School in Edinburgh and is keen to be involved with rugby at all levels.

Training is underway on Wednesdays after school on the KGS Astroturf. We really need to get decent numbers from S1 & S2 in order to continue the excellent progress made last session with school rugby in the Pentland Challenge. If you are interested in playing Rugby just come along on Wednesdays and listen out for announcements in the bulletin.

#### Athletics

Many KGS athletes have done very well in local and national competitions this season, gaining new personal best performances as well as district and national titles. Many thanks to the coaches from Orkney Athletics Club who do so much for the pupils from KGS and throughout Orkney.

#### Hockey

There has been a massive turn out for Miss Irvine's Hockey on the Astroturf at Picky on a Wednesday after school. Last week an impressive 65 pupils turned up for the first session and as a response to this, extra help will be provided by members of Orkney Hockey Club. Will KGS have teams in the league next year?? If you are interested just go along on Wednesday!

#### Basketball

Mr Bennett runs an after school club at Picky on Tuesdays—all pupils welcome!

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# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## September 2012

### KGS and the Science Festival



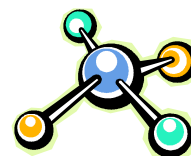
A number of highly qualified scientists came in during the Science Festival to speak to classes:

- ☺ Professors Mike Gore and Sue Stocklmayer from Australia demonstrated, discussed and inspired S2 and S5 classes about unexpected things and the discoveries of Michael Faraday.
- ☺ Dr Tom Todd, on the staff of the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy told Higher and Advanced Higher Physics pupils about Nuclear Fusion.
- ☺ Peter Wadhams, Professor of Theoretical Physics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Cambridge spoke to S5 and S6 pupils about the Arctic ice, climate change and mathematical modelling and challenged them to take their ideas further.
- ☺ Nick Johnston, now researching at Nottingham University but an ex-pupil of Stromness Academy, came in to tell senior classes about the electronics in digital imaging.
- ☺ Marin Hendry, Professor of Astrophysics in Glasgow, inspired S1 and S4 classes with things we know and lots we don't about the Universe.
- ☺ S5 & S6 Higher and Advanced Higher pupils attended talks on 6 & 7 September by the international researcher Jane Goodall, who described her fifty years of researching chimpanzee behaviour in Gombe, Africa. She also described her global 'Roots and Shoots' programme which encourages young people to be aware of, and address conservation issues within their own communities. Alice Fairnie in S6 hopes to set up a 'Roots and Shoots' programme (affiliated with the Jane Goodall Research Institute) within KGS this year as part of her Scottish Science Baccalaureate project.
- ☺ Paul Beaumont and Tricia Geraghty from the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre ran a workshop in KGS on 5 September for S6 Biology pupils and staff from KGS, Stromness Academy and the Junior High schools. This practical workshop on new Biology protocols ran for the whole day, where participants were actively involved in:
  - \* Making a micro syringe
  - \* Calibrating a colorimeter
  - \* Preparing an Algal Tube
  - \* The use of carbon dioxide probe to measure the rates of respiration and photosynthesis in plants
  - \* New Advanced Higher practical protocol using the enzyme Tyrosinase (found in bananas!)
  - \* Discussion of materials provided in DiabetesPhotos of the workshop can be seen on the KGS Facebook page.

### Science Baccalaureate

The Science Baccalaureate in KGS is going from strength to strength in KGS with a record 11 pupils doing the course this year. They are:

- Steven Johnston—Use of Graphene and Smart Materials
- Alice Fairnie—Conservation of Primula Scotica
- Tansy Branscombe—Seal Conservation Debate in Orkney
- Charlie Cameron—Cause and Effect of Asthma
- Eilidh Baikie—Effectiveness of Alternative Medicine
- Hannah MacDonald—Effect of Music on Learning
- Thorfinn Manson—Teaching Molecular Biology to Primary Pupils
- Jack Siderfin—Flatworms in Orkney
- Jamie MacLennan—Computer Literacy in School Pupils
- Sarah-Jane Falconer—Eczema, Asthma and Hayfever—The Link
- Michael Norris—Effect of Mechanisation on Farm Animals



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# Kirkwall Grammar School Newsletter

## September 2012

### New Build Update

#### Building Progress

Building work is continuing apace and the new school is now watertight. Much of the scaffolding has been taken down around the school and the grass pitch that was seeded during the summer is growing very well. In the interior of the school most of the internal walls are in place and landscaping work around the new school has also begun.



As the new pool isn't expected to open until November/December time our pool will continue to be open until then. The new school is due to be finished by 1 April next year, however we will have a better idea by Christmas exactly when and how we will be moving.

#### Bus Pick Up Lanes

The next stage of building work that will impact upon pupils will be work on the bus pick up lane during the October Holidays. New bus parking spaces are being created and the bus layby will be reduced in size. Works will be carried out during the holidays and pupils will be informed of the changes nearer the time.



### 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

You are warmly invited to the KGS Annual Parent Forum meeting on Tuesday 25 September at 7pm in the Conference Room. 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

Baldy Bane Theatre Road Safety Performance (S1, S5/6)	Monday 24 September
Annual Parent Forum	Tuesday 25 September
Driving Ambition for S5	Wednesday 3 & Thursday 4 October
Former Pupils Concert	Thursday 4 October 8pm
End of Autumn term	Friday 12 October
Staff Inservice	Thursday 25 & Friday 26 October
Start of Winter term	Monday 29 October
S4/S5/S6 Raising Attainment Information Evening	Tuesday 6 November 7pm-8.30pm (to be confirmed)
S4 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 20 November 5pm-7pm
S5/6 Parents' Evening	Monday 10 December 5pm-7pm
Carol Service	Tuesday 18 December 7pm
End of Winter term	Friday 21 December



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